

HHGERA NEWS

The Newsletter of the Hanger Hill
Garden Estate Residents Association
www.hhgera.com

This edition of News is kindly sponsored by Japan Services, our local Sales, Lettings and Property Management agency

The Residents Association exists to keep your views on the Estate heard and works to promote a strong community. The Committee members are all volunteers. If you would like to help out in any way please contact aleksandra@japanservices.co.uk. Enjoy this edition of your Newsletter.

80th Birthday Summer Fayre

West Acton Primary School Summer Fayre was an exciting, vibrant and colourful celebration that brought the West Acton



residents together for a day of fun: from stage shows to animal encounters, circus skills workshops to team games, bake off to face painting, bouncy castle to go-karts, there was something on offer for everyone. There was candy floss and ice cream, popcorn and sweets!



Japanese Nursery Summer Fayre

Many residents enjoyed the Japanese nursery festival this summer. The whole community enjoyed excellent



performances and games available and the many and varied food stalls offered outstanding catering.

Children played with their multi-coloured, water-filled YO-YO balls and they love catching the golden fish and taking them home. They wore a special attire called yukata which are worn traditionally only for the summer festivities. The proceeds of the festival were donated to charities.



Are You a New Resident?

If you are new or a current resident looking to refurbish your property please familiarize yourself with planning rules and advice before starting any project. These can be found at: <http://www.hhgera.com/conservation-and-planning>

Brand New Nursery on Saxon Drive

Monkey Puzzle West Acton will soon be opening its doors to the children and parents of West Acton. It will have capacity for 58 children with dedicated rooms for the different age ranges. Inesa and Shpresa both come from the childcare background and will be running the nursery together. They assure me that special attention will be paid to create a home from home environment for the children in carefully designed surroundings that will be stimulating and creative and at the same time provide indoor and outdoor play space where safety is of the utmost importance. They both take nutrition very seriously; menus were formulated with guidance from a paediatric nutritionist and the nursery cook will prepare high quality, freshly cooked, organic and locally sourced food when possible. They tell me that parents will be able to track their child's progress via their digital learning journals. The nursery can be found right next to Conway Chemist. To attend an open day contact Head Office on 0800 411 8500 or email info@monkeypuzzledaynurseries.com and you will receive an invite to their Open Day, planned for mid-October. For more information on opening times etc, please head to their website at www.monkeypuzzleacton.co.uk. Inesa and Shpresa will be hosting a stall at the Harvest Festival, so pop by and meet them - they would love to talk to you about their plans for what will be a fantastic children's day nursery



Cherry Tree Walk moves closer

It's been a busy Summer for your Association's project to bring new life to the Princes Gardens central reservation under the banner 'West Acton Cherry Tree Walk'. This long strip of land is owned by residents and we are responsible for its upkeep. But some 80 years after the Estate was built, many of the trees are dead or dying and it is badly in need of restoration.

The 'cherry trees' theme was chosen to celebrate the flowering cherries that make our Estate so beautiful in Spring. By ensuring they do not die out, the project reflects the history of the Estate, celebrates today's Japanese community and looks ahead to the next 80 years.

The Summer has seen extensive consultations, including an online survey and door to door visits to all the houses that overlook the area. A detailed tree report has been received and advice taken from local Police and the community safety team about road safety and security aspects. As a result, the initial plans have been refined to protect all the existing healthy trees, ensure greatly improved visibility for pedestrians, encourage biodiversity and discourage antisocial behaviour.

This is the biggest and potentially most expensive project undertaken by the Association for many years and is being crowdfunded separately from the annual service charge. We've raised a lot of money already, thanks to the generosity of individual residents, businesses and local councillors via the Hanger Hill Ward Forum. But keep those pledges coming as we need much more!

Learn more at the Harvest Festival on 30th September or at www.hhgera.com/gardens-project, follow us on Twitter @PGcherrywalk or go to www.spacehive.com/westactoncherrytreewalk to join in with your support.

Residents gathered at 11 Café in West Acton on 2 September to hear updates on the project. by Nim Maradas

Community Gardening Morning

Following our first successful community gardens work day on 14th May 2017, we are organising another community gardens work day for October. The plan is to complete the work started in May, clearing a couple of areas surrounding the Rose Garden at the top end of Princes Gardens loop. I invite you to join us:

Date: Sunday 22 October 2017

Time: 10am to 1pm but don't worry if you have to arrive late or leave early

Place: Rose garden, nearby 126-128 Princes Gardens

Bring: Gardening gloves, secateurs, rakes, loppers / pruning saw

Don't worry if you're not an expert gardener or don't have tools. And please do bring along anyone else you think would like to get involved, either on the 22nd October or more generally. Please wear appropriate clothing, as we intend to tackle areas comprising brambles and ivy.

As well as being fun, this will be a good opportunity to meet new neighbours. I hope to see as many as possible of you on the 22nd October.

Piers Mahoney - Gardens Co-ordinator HHGERA

Neighbourhood Watch Update

Dear residents, due to family emergency abroad, I was unable to attend the Ealing Consultation on Public Access and Engagement 14 September 2017 circulated by email on 7 September. This meeting had the following purpose:

'In Ealing the consultation will consider the effectiveness of the our front counter services at Southall, Ealing and Acton, in addition to the contact points that currently operate for two hours on a Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday across the borough at various locations. We will also be consulting on the efficiency and necessity of the policing estate across the borough, including the police stations and safer neighbourhood's bases.'

I SENT THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO THE BOROUGH COMMANDER AND THE MAYOR ON BEHALF OF THE HHGERA:

While the internet is providing more opportunities for sharing information and advice and reporting of certain types of crime, it will never replace the reassurance and opportunity to retrieve vital information and evidence which face to face contact with experienced police officers and experienced civilian staff provides. For many victims, this is the first time they are able to divulge the impact which being a victim of crime has caused in their lives and relate highly distressing details. Should we re-victimise them by having to have them attend the police station subsequently to make a formal statement? Meanwhile, that vital first account which should have been taken at the initial reporting of the crime, is lost, not to mention the opportunity to capture and record vital evidence. At a time when society is becoming more at risk through divulging sensitive personal and financial information in the social media and by cybercrime which intrudes into their homes on 24-hour bullying basis and seizes their hard-drive data to ransom, we jettison this human contact at everyone's peril. Recent rationalisation of the Metropolitan Police Services bricks and mortar (the 'policing estate') has enabled speculators to profit enormously -



more luxury flats! Is this what the public really needs? Moreover, front counter services offer the vulnerable in society who might not have access to 'computer reporting' to receive the help they need from the Metropolitan Police SERVICE. Having the local officers - known as beat officers - stationed locally, setting out daily, 'WALKING THEIR BEAT'; getting to know the people in THEIR communities, is one of the vital ways, to quote from Sir Robert Peel's 'Principles of Law Enforcement' 1829, by which the police 'secure the willing cooperation of the public in voluntary observance of the law to be

able to secure and maintain public respect.' To again quote from Sir Robert Peel, 'the police at all times should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police; the police are the only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the intent of the nity welfare.'

Let us not forget that the Metropolitan Police Service is, after all, a SERVICE, paid for by the PUBLIC. The public needs access to that service through local police stations in their own communities AND the police need their own local communities' trust, respect and assistance in order to police effectively and sensitively. More sell-offs of the 'policing estate' risk losing that crucial identity bequeathed to us in 1829 by Sir Robert and which made the Metropolitan Police Service a model for police forces elsewhere, namely that the police are the public and the public are the police. We lose that identity and service at our peril. G. M. Prescott PhD.

WARNING, PLEASE NOTE:

A flyer has recently been put through the doors offering 'immediate cash settlement' for antiques. Without in any way questioning the integrity, legality or professionalism of the business concerned, I can as a specialist in art law, offer some expert advice for your consideration: Please do take time to consider before parting with your property.

Take professional and alternative advice.

Always ask which professional association dealers belong to.

Ask them to re-attend at another time, if you are alone, when you can have another person present.

Don't make an immediate decision with cash on immediate offer.

Take your items to an auction house which will estimate its value for you, and give you a benchmark to compare the offering made by another party.

By Trudy Prescott, Neighbourhood Watch Organiser



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