

# ANNUAL REPORT 2005



Mapesbury  
Residents'  
Association

## Chairman's Letter

Welcome to the MapRA annual report for 2005. Since our last AGM we have held five committee meetings all well attended. The Committee have been tackling issues such as: Doctors surgeries, and Anti-Social Behaviour (including graffiti), Kilburn & Willesden Green underground stations, street cleaning, street lighting, parking and parking enforcement, problems raised by filming, planning applications and planning contraventions. As you will have seen in our recent newsletter our Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday 26th April; we are as usual keen for a good attendance to give a strong indication to the Council that the Association is representative of the residents in Mapesbury and that residents are enthusiastic about their community. We will have refreshments and we, as usual, aim to ensure that the AGM is a useful event as well as being an enjoyable way to meet your neighbours. It gives you a convenient opportunity to gather important information about local services, and meet the many Brent Council officers, politicians and police who make the decisions about your life in Mapesbury. There will be a short MapRA official business meeting with opportunity to quiz us about MapRA. However, as this is local election year, at the end of the official business meeting of the AGM we will host a snappy hustings meeting giving the various candidates a minute each to introduce themselves. All Mapesbury Residents are welcome to join at our AGM.

Bring your neighbours along. There is also information in this annual report on how to join for new members, or how to renew for 2006. On Saturday 18th March actor and Mapesbury resident Elizabeth Proud presented her 3rd MapRA Concert, "Upon a Ring of Bells". Elizabeth wrote, produced and directed the production, and, because of her professional reputation, she was able to attract well-known talented performers who were delighted to be part of the production. I would like to thank Elizabeth for her three years of hard work which has brought our community together every year for a magical evening. We are very pleased that the Mapesbury Dell is now open for residents to enjoy. This achievement represents many years of effort and commitment by local residents. With the strong support and work by Brent Parks Department the transformation has been remarkable. However, this is just the beginning of exciting community events in the Dell. One of the great strengths and attractions of Mapesbury is Community Link; this brings together people in the area who share common interests and quickly cements friendships within the community. There will be lots of information at the Community Link and Membership stall at the AGM. This year's AGM promises to be the most interesting, sociable & informative yet, so make sure the 26th April is firmly in your diary. See you then.

*Gerry Weston  
Chairman of  
Mapesbury Residents Association*

## In this issue

### Safer Neighbourhood Launch

As of 20th March residents of Mapesbury now have their own dedicated Police Team who will be spending all of their time dealing with crime priorities set solely by the residents of the Ward. Come and meet Sergeant Patrick O'Hara and Constable Phil Pask on 26th April when they will formally announce the priorities and explain how the concept of Safer Neighbourhoods is going to revolutionise Policing on the ward. The police inspector, Ian Vincent who is in charge of both Brondesbury and Mapesbury Safer Neighbourhood teams, will be at the AGM because the two teams will be working together on many crime investigations and combined responses.

### Local Election Hustings

Don't wait for the candidates for the Council Elections on May the 4th to visit you The AGM will provide a quick way of identifying all your candidates and deciding which 3 of the 10 candidates you will entrust to look after your interests for the next 4 years in Brent Council.

### Mapesbury Dell

Find out about the future exciting events in the Dell ([www.mapesbury-dell.org](http://www.mapesbury-dell.org)). If you would like more information or to be involved in the coming activities, email: Tom Putnam at [tomp@mapesbury-dell.org](mailto:tomp@mapesbury-dell.org) or telephone 8438 2958 (voice message only).

### Front Garden Competition

Judging is to take place in July so get gardening!

## Gardens' Open Day

The 2005 event was a great success, giving many residents the opportunity to explore the delights of 14 local gardens and raising over £1800 to be donated to local charities. On behalf of the MaPRA committee Gerry Weston thanks Margaret Mann and the Community Link Gardening Club for their hard work.

## Street Trees

Brent Council has very expensive subsidence claims confronting them, so they have decided to replace street trees. A pilot is being done in Keyes Road and at present residents and Experts are being consulted to help the decision process. Following this, Mapesbury residents will be consulted on a street by street basis. There is an obvious need to have a coherent Ward wide plan.

## Front Garden Competition

Judging for this will take place during July 2006 and the winners will be announced at next year's AGM. The four categories are: best front garden (incorporating car parking space), best front garden, best window box and tubs display, and best newly planted garden.

## Street Lighting

MapRA would like to thank Brent Council for the new and improved brighter street lighting.

## Anti-Social Behaviour within the Community

Anti-social behaviour embraces and arises from a number of complex and often related problems; drink and drug dependency, prostitution, crime, threatening street groups, noisy neighbours and graffiti.

Often the only way to actually solve a problem is to develop a coherent approach. MapRA has endeavoured to support victims, and empower them to help themselves, by bringing together the various Brent Agencies who need to work efficiently

together to find a complete and caring solution.

Cricklewood Homeless Concern is tackling some of the fundamental situations – homelessness, substance dependency, and mental health difficulties. Supporting them is one way MapRA, the Police and Brent Council is helping to improve the general health and safety of the area.

Speak to all the people who can help and support you through these difficult and complex situations on the Anti-social behaviour stall at the AGM.

## Mapesbury Dell

Derek Forsyth, Tom Putnam, and Shaun Faulkner organised a splendid opening of the Dell with Bill Oddie, followed by a successful Carol singing evening around a Christmas tree donated by Cameron Stiff in memory of Geoffrey Stiff who was always extremely supportive of MapRA.

The Mapesbury Dell Trust is now planning many exciting community events for their first summer.

It is a tribute to everyone involved that the Dell has already been nominated for a Queen's award for "services to the community".

## History & Architectural Group Street Clutter Audit

After a recent Walk-about, members of the History and Architectural Group had a follow-up walk to identify

Street Clutter and produce a Report for Mapesbury. Brent Council found this Audit helpful in identifying

problems and Preben Hansen, Mapesbury's Streetcare Officer, is working hard to tackle the list.

## Safer Neighbourhood Launch

Over the last month your new local Police Team have been carrying out crime surveys, door to door, in all areas of the ward. They have been compiling a list of the concerns and fears of the residents of Mapesbury and will be planning several strategies to address residents' immediate priorities. This concept is very different to previous 'community police' projects launched by the Met, where community officers have been frequently re-deployed elsewhere, leaving no community Police cover. No distractions will be allowed on this scheme enabling the Team to stay on Mapesbury full-time. In the coming months you will also see the introduction of

## Police Matters

Community Support Officers providing high visibility and reassurance on the ward. Pick up full contact details at the AGM.

## Brent Community Safety Board

The Brent Community Safety Board has been set up to replace the Brent Police & Community Consultative Group. This Group is unique in allowing all groups in Brent to query not only the very top ranking Police Officers directly but also discuss community safety as a whole. Organised by the Metropolitan Police Authority, Brent's Borough Commander and Brent's Community Safety Board,

this fledgling group is designed to bring together all organisations needed to solve the communities' complex safety problems. A meeting was held in March with some of Brent's Community leaders. This was attended by our Deputy Chair who felt that the organisers were trying hard to listen and work together with the community to develop an effective structure allowing real two way communication. It was thought important to include a well balanced borough wide Community Team to represent the many diverse communities, businesses and organisations who live and work in Brent, to help solve the critical situations the police are faced with relentlessly day after day.

## Planning and Conservation

### Watch Subcommittee

The new Planning and Conservation Watch Subcommittee was set up to help residents navigate planning rules and provide information about appropriate conservation area materials. Major issues are brought to the main Committee for discussion or action. Brent has been extremely supportive of the Subcommittee, with a Councillor and main Planning Department Officers coming to meetings on a regular basis, and taking account of our suggestions and objections. The sub-committee, on its side, has tried to help with information, evidence, and approval when specific objections have been met, or

developments are good. The Brent Department recently reported that they are now insisting on detailed landscaping plans (and, in the case of Conservation areas, planting plans) before they approve Planning Applications. In addition they are insisting on detailed section and elevation plans of windows etc. This will avoid expensive enforcement proceedings. The Planning Department has said that they find themselves increasingly able to persuade people to modify their plans in line with Conservation Guidelines. Residents were often actively pleased to feel they were improving the ambience (and, of course, the value of their property).

### Resolving Parking Issues

#### Parking Signs

For a long time Residents have been pressing for the removal of the parking signs on long poles at the edge of pavements, far too high to see easily from a car. They present a cluttered unpleasant appearance in any street, particularly those with many crossovers and separate bays. The good news is that Brent has verbal approval from the Dept. for Transport to begin a plan to replace this aggressive forest of signs with low-level smaller parking signs on the house-wall/hedge side of the pavement. They will either be on short poles or, with the agreement of householders, placed unobtrusively on suitable walls. Brent is sending letters to the first area to be piloted, but come to the

AGM and look at the proposals.

#### Businesses whose work is hindered without flexible parking permits

Some Brent businesses, including people working from home, need to move around to function in their work e.g. gardeners, builders, surveyors, architects, estate agents, planners etc. They are often visiting empty houses/buildings and, on many occasions a visitors' scratch card is not available to them. This only applies to a small number of people during the working day. We are lobbying for flexible permits for these people. Such permits may well encourage the best Brent businesses to work in their local area.

### Recycling and Green Issues

Brent is committed to recycling and we are very lucky that in the Mapesbury area there is already a green composting bin for every household, and a counter-top box for scraps and peelings. Apparently these little boxes are saving the planet from global warming, as the putrid

cocktail of gases emitted from these scraps in landfill are ten times worse than carbon dioxide. A big incentive to use them!

If you want to know what to do with different materials, come and meet Brent's Tony Talman on our Recycling stall at the AGM.

## Community Link Update

Community Link is continuing well, and popular with the members taking advantage of it. Suzanna Burford's great successes so far:

There are two groups currently **Walking the Thames** (a weekday & a Sunday group); the ever hard working **Gardening Club**, instrumental in making the MapRA's Gardens' Open Day such a success for the last two years, has co-operated with the **Wildlife** group in projects to attract wild birds, butterflies and hedgehogs to the Mapesbury Dell park; the congenial **Bridge Club** is actively enjoying its evenings; the **Theatre** group is organising its 20th theatrical outing and members meet a couple of days after their visits to discuss the production; the **Classical Music** group is also organising another trip; why not put your name down for singing with the **Pete Churchill Jazz Singers?** - they are always very keen for more members to join them; **Neighbourhood Watch** meetings are sociable and friendly in St Gabriel's and Chatsworth Roads with members who are always willing to support any other new developing Watches to augment the expert help provided by Brent Neighbourhood Watch Association; due imminently, we are looking forward to the **MapRa Cookbook** from some of Mapesbury's most talented chefs; the **Local History & Architectural**

group has proved to have been tremendously interesting for the many members who have joined; the **Book Club** members are hungry for their next book to read and discuss with each other; how about joining the **Mapesbury Dining Out** group who are looking for more members to join them?

Suzanna Burford does sterling work in starting up groups and is always a great encouragement to anyone planning to start a new one. Future interesting plans are 1) If you are a published or aspiring writer of prose or poetry, **Jenny Thomas** wants to hear from you to form a **Mapesbury Writers** group. She hopes the group will meet regularly and give one another feedback on work in progress. Contact Jenny on 8450 7140.

2) What about joining a **Multi-cultural cooking and Eating** group? - sounds quite intriguing doesn't it? 3) Another **Book Club** is also planned so bookworms join up soon.

Anyone who has put an interest down on the Datasheet and has not heard from Susanna, please contact her to discuss a way of kick-starting your interest. Telephone Suzanna Burford on 8452 1476 or write to 16 Teignmouth Rd. Alternatively email Gerry at westonj@supanet.com

*Come and find out more about joining any of the groups listed above on the Community Link table at the AGM.*

## National Gardens Scheme

### Sunday, 18th June

The National Gardens Scheme has been raising money for charity since 1927 and over the years has raised over £20 million for charities such as Macmillan Cancer Relief. The gardens on display through the scheme are amongst some of the best private gardens in the country and we are lucky to have three in Mapesbury. They are all opening on

Sunday 18th June and we do hope that you are able to support them. Treat yourself to a perfect Sunday afternoon stroll round Claudia's, Jane & Geoffrey's and Ian & Michael's gardens, and give a little to charity at the same time.

**64 Blenheim Gardens 2.30 - 6pm, 19 St Gabriel's Road, 2.30 - 6pm, 10 Hoveden Road, 4 - 7pm.**

# Mapesbury Residents' Association

	For the year ended 31 December 2005 £
<b>INCOME</b>	
Subscriptions & Donations (for 2005)	<b>628</b>
Sponsorship from local Businesses	<b>230</b>
Contributions at AGM	<b>48</b>
Bank Interest	<b>19</b>
	<b>925</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Annual report & Newsletter	<b>479</b>
AGM expenses	<b>371</b>
Photocopying	<b>11</b>
	<b>862</b>
<b>Surplus for 2005</b>	<b>64</b>

## BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 2005

### ASSETS AND LIABILITIES:

Bank balance on main accounts	<b>21,959</b>
Less Amount owing to Brent - St Gabriel's Road lighting	<b>(13,931)</b>
Less: Amount owing to Exeter Road residents	<b>(1,633)</b>
Less: Amount owing to St Gabriel's Road residents	<b>(594)</b>
Subtotal after deducting the amounts owing	<b>5,801</b>

Bank balance on gardens accounts	<b>4,260</b>
2005 Subscriptions paid in after year end	<b>62</b>
Sundry Debtors	<b>180</b>
Cash	<b>16</b>
Less: Subscriptions received for 2006 to 2011	<b>(1,208)</b>
Less: Sundry Creditors	<b>(248)</b>
Net Assets	<b>8,862</b>

### Represented by:

#### UNRESTRICTED FUND

Accumulated surplus at 1 January 2005	<b>2,699</b>
Surplus for 2005	<b>64</b>
Accumulated surplus at 31 December 2005	<b>2,763</b>

#### RESTRICTED FUNDS

Net surplus – Gardens' Open Day 2000/2003	<b>2,132</b>
Surplus from Gardens' Open Day in 2005	<b>1,769</b>
Less: Donations made in 2005	<b>(100)</b>
Accumulated surplus at 31 December 2005	<b>3,801</b>

Polio Concert 2005 net surplus	<b>304</b>
Polio Concert 2006 - Funds received in advance	<b>1,355</b>

Community Link fund at 1 January 2005	<b>1,046</b>
Community Link income in 2005	<b>100</b>
Less: Donation to Mapesbury Dell	<b>(500)</b>
Less: Expenses reimbursed in 2005	<b>(7)</b>
Accumulated fund at 31 December 2005	<b>639</b>
	<b>8,862</b>

Accounts prepared by A. J. A. Aiken, Honorary Treasurer  
Certified a true and fair view D C R Drown, Auditor

#### Camerons Stiff & Co.

Estate Agents, Valuers, Surveyors and Auctioneers.  
275 Willesden Lane, NW2 5JA,  
020 8459 1133  
www.cameronsstiff.co.uk

#### Craig Thomson Chemist

70-72 Walm Lane, NW2 4RA  
020 8459 0833

#### Daniel and Harris, Solicitors

338 Kilburn High Road,  
NW6 2QN  
020 7625 0202

#### CMS Design Associates

Landscape Practice  
Catharina Malmberg-Snodgrass  
Imex House, Atlas Business  
Centre, Oxgate Lane, NW2 7HJ  
07050 050 813  
cms\_botanica@hotmail.com

#### Smooth Cuts

#### Gents Hair Salon

65 Cricklewood Broadway,  
NW2 3YR  
020 8208 3485

#### Annie Friedmann

Homeopath  
38 St. Gabriels Road, NW2 4SA  
020 8452 2946

#### Ms Lidia Amorelli

Piano Tuition  
020 8208 5009

#### Kilburn Flowers Ltd

Kilburn Station  
929 7328 5661/2

#### Elizabeth Dunn AGSM

Piano Tuition  
All ages and abilities  
020 8450 8419

#### Waitrose

Brent Cross Shopping Centre  
NW4 3FQ  
020 8203 9711

#### Maria Lancaster

Art Classes  
020 8450 9057

#### Kodak Express (Quality Photos)

One hour developing and printing  
Wilkesden Green Station  
020 8452 1766

#### travel corporation

7 Willesden Green Station  
Walm Lane, NW2 4QT  
020 8450 5354  
e-mail tony@travelcorp.co.uk

#### Lunarbac

The recently patented Back  
Care & Maintenance product  
www.lunarbac.com

#### Ken at Haircuts

Hairdressers  
6 Exeter Parade, Exeter Road,  
NW2 3UH  
020 8450 2981

#### Janet Prower

Osteopath and Naturopath,  
116 Dartmouth Road, NW2 4HB  
020 8452 7517

#### The Olive Tree

Organic Food Store  
84 Willesden Lane, NW6 7TA  
020 7328 9078

#### O'Farrell's

Traditional Family Butchers,  
80 High Road, Willesden,  
NW10 2PR  
020 8459 2840

## Database & Membership

The committee would like to record its thanks to Nick Langley for all his work in the daunting task of maintaining the huge database of members and their interests. This membership list is essential to both the Committee and Community Link.

To join or renew your membership, please put your name and address on an envelope (one year - £2.00 or five years - £10.00) and send your subscription to Nick Langley 47 Exeter Road. Nick would appreciate a five year subscription because it eases his burden.

*As a Summer project we would like to meet as many Members as we can in order to bring our membership up to date, and, if possible, collect email addresses as this can speed communication.*

## Committee members elected in 2005

Robert Afia, Andrew Aiken  
(Treasurer), Andrew Beckman,  
Susanna Burford, David Drown  
(Auditor), Chris Gear, David Gee,  
Nina Jayaswal, Judy Langley (Admin  
sec), Nick Langley, Sheila Lee,

Amanda Lewis, Cheryll Lewis,  
Margaret Mann, Sera Mendelsohn,  
Sharon Morreale, Jacqui Pelham,  
Sheelagh Putnam, Geoffrey Smith,  
Gerry Weston (chair).