

## Useful Contacts:

**Rubbish collection / Recycling.** If you believe you need an assisted collection, please email [recyclemore@brent.gov.uk](mailto:recyclemore@brent.gov.uk) or 020 8937 5050. Every household is now entitled to three free collections of bulky waste of up to five items a time. You can still take normal household rubbish free to Brent Park Royal site, but have to pay for fixtures such as kitchen cabinets.

**Fly-Tipping.** The easiest way to report dumped mattresses etc is by downloading the new App "Love Clean Streets" to your smart phone. Alternatively email [chris.whyte@brent.gov.uk](mailto:chris.whyte@brent.gov.uk) or [customer.services@brent.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@brent.gov.uk) or call 020 8937 5050. Let them know registration of vehicle, time of incident, location and description of waste, description of people dumping the waste. Do not approach anyone who you witness fly-tipping.

**Visitors' Parking.** You can continue to use remaining scratch cards until they are all used. If you need help, please contact 020 8937 4972 or 020 8290 8300 from 9.00 am-5.00 pm Monday to Friday

**Planning enforcement.** If you see something that you believe may be an infringement, please contact 020 8937 5280. For general planning enquiries contact 020 8937 5210

**Environment.** Pests, Noise. Contact 020 8937 5252

**MapRA Guide to tradesmen and services.** <http://www.mapra.org.uk/tradesmen.htm>.

**Councillors.** Our Councillors for the Mapesbury Ward are:

Cllr Lia Colacicco.....07721 233 056 .....[cldr.lia.colacicco@brent.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.lia.colacicco@brent.gov.uk)

Cllr Ahmad Shahzad OBE .....0208 452 8380.....[cldr.ahmad.shahzad@brent.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.ahmad.shahzad@brent.gov.uk)

Cllr Helen Carr .....07721 233 048 .....[cldr.helen.carr@brent.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.helen.carr@brent.gov.uk)

**MapRA Community Clubs.** We have some 9 active groups.

**Bridge Club, History group, or Walking Group:** Contact John Mann on 0208 459 5419 or email [john.f.mann@btinternet.com](mailto:john.f.mann@btinternet.com)

**Theatre group** phone Jim Coakes 020 8208 0082

for others: **Singing Group, Book clubs, Gardening Club, Harvesting and Fruit Tree Pruning groups:**  
email [clubs@mapra.org.uk](mailto:clubs@mapra.org.uk) or ring 020 8452 0649

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## Communications: Website / Email network

We encourage people to look at our website [www.Mapra.org.uk](http://www.Mapra.org.uk) for information on local community events, MapRA clubs, local Police news as well as other local information. Join our email network (email [contact@mapra.org.uk](mailto:contact@mapra.org.uk)) for news, updates and security alerts.

**If you need to get in touch with MapRA please contact one of the following:**

Gerry Weston (Chair & Membership) 8452 0649 [gerryweston@btinternet.com](mailto:gerryweston@btinternet.com)

David Gee (Organising Secretary) 8452 0876 [david.gee123@ntlworld.com](mailto:david.gee123@ntlworld.com)

Sheelagh Putnam (Chair, Planning Sub-Committee) 8208 2075 [sheelagh@lending-law.co.uk](mailto:sheelagh@lending-law.co.uk)

**Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year!**

## How to Join MapRA

If you are due for renewal the address label on this newsletter will say so: You can join or renew (paying via PayPal) via the website (<http://www.mapra.org.uk>).

If you wish to join or need to renew (and aren't able or don't wish to do so via our website) please fill in and return the form below:

Surname: .....

Other names: .....

Address: .....

Telephone(s): .....

Email address: ..... (if you want to be on the network)

Membership is only £2 a year, or £10 for five years.

Amount: ..... Starting year .....

Return to Gerry Weston: 64 Teignmouth Road



# CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2014

## Introduction

As I compile this newsletter, I'm struck by the number of very active groups we are working with: Mapesbury Dell, Willesden Town Team, Cricklewood Town Team, Ashford Place, Friends of Cricklewood Library, Kensal to Kilburn and Willesden harvesting group. A lot of these have strong representation by members of MapRA and we are benefiting from their collective energy. Of course, there are also our own internal key groups: Planning and Conservation, Open Gardens committee as well as the local clubs. We've tried to represent all these activities in this Newsletter.

Our AGM in May entered the political arena with a local Council hustings, which enabled residents to hear from the candidates. We are now working closely with the resulting councillors and are planning next year's AGM, which may include a parliamentary hustings.

A novel departure this year was the Cricklewood Open Studios event in September, organised by Angela Payne and local artists Alistair Lambert and David Gee, and was a great success – further details below.

Two planning decisions – 37 Lydford Road and 110 Walm Lane - became something of a marathon, with our Planning and Conservation sub-committee working hard to represent the area – details below.

*Gerry Weston, Chair MapRA*

## Important Events for Your Diary

**Tuesday, 16th December: Christmas Carols in the Dell – from 6.30pm.**

**Carols will start about 7.00 pm. Mulled wine and other refreshments, Father Christmas with treats for your children and enchanting singing from the St. Gabriel's Church choir. The Dell is magical when lit up - please come along. Everyone is welcome.**

**28 April 2014: MapRA Annual General Meeting 7.00pm at St Gabriel's Church.**

**Information stalls for Police and Council experts to help you with your day-to-day problems. It should be the usual social occasion with wine and refreshments. In addition we may have a parliamentary election hustings meeting.**

**Sunday 21st June 2015: Open Gardens Day**

**Please make a note in your diaries. Wimbledon starts on 29 June next year and the date also avoids the clash in previous years with the Open Squares weekend. Let's hope for good weather!**

**We are always looking for new gardens, particularly those with an unusual feature. If you feel able to volunteer to open your garden or can recommend one, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact Margaret - [margaretmann109@gmail.com](mailto:margaretmann109@gmail.com) or 8459 5419**

**This newsletter is intended primarily for members of MapRA. However, if you know someone locally who is not a member, please pass it on to them.**

## MapRA AGM 2014 report.

Over 100 members plus guests came to the Formal AGM, Hustings, Stalls and social. Gerry Weston was re-elected Chair, David Gee Organising Secretary and Jacob Sam was elected as Treasurer to replace Andrew Aiken. Three new committee members were elected. Many thanks to all who attended and all those who helped before and on the day.

## Planning and Conservation

**37 Lydford Road.** Three versions of the development were submitted over the course of more than a year. MapRA Planning and Conservation fought each application strongly on grounds of garden infill and inappropriate design and over 100 residents lodged objections each time. Despite this and other representation Brent finally gave permission for the scheme. There is serious concern that this will set a precedent in the conservation area.

**110 Walm Lane.** After more than 2 years of applications, the proposal for a 10 storey block of flats on the site of The Queensbury was rejected by the Council in March (despite recommendation from Council Officers for approval). However, the developer has appealed and this will be heard at a public enquiry on 27th January. MapRA initially adopted a neutral position to facilitate transmission of members' opinions to Council. But we ultimately objected, passing on our members' strong views about the height and design of the building, the demolition of an original building in a conservation area, the lack of affordable housing in the scheme and the loss of a community asset.



*Balloons showing height of 110 Walm Lane tower!*

**Design Guide.** Following consultation with MapRA, Brent Planning Department hopes to be able to finalise the new Design Guide for Mapesbury in the New Year, with a view to this being the subject of public consultation with residents in the spring of 2015.

## Mapesbury Dell

The Dell has had another very energetic and successful year. As well as being enjoyed every day by adults and children alike, it has again organised a succession of marvellous events:

- \* The Great Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, with children's book and toy stalls
  - \* The Wild Day in June – another wild success, crowded with children and animals
  - \* The Dell Midsummer Concert of Opera and Classical Music, also in June - the second year for this great innovation
  - \* Hosting a concert by the Park Life Singers in July
  - \* The Back to School Children's party in September
- And of course, still to come are the Carols on Tuesday 16 December – see front page.

The Dell deservedly won Gold at London in Bloom this year – the only park in Brent to do so. This is a real tribute to all the people who work so hard to keep the Dell looking beautiful all year round, especially the gardening team led by Jill Rixon, and the efforts of Darren and Paul from Brent.

## Ashford Place

We strongly support Ashford Place with funds from Open Gardens Day and many members help as volunteers. AP's regular work is with the homeless and rough sleepers, those with drug, alcohol, gambling and mental health problems, unemployed young people and isolated or lonely older people. Besides this AP has been energetic in seeking to improve Cricklewood.

Danny Maher, Director of Ashford Place, well merited his Brent Community Champions Award this year for his work with Cricklewood Improvement Project. They also run a successful music group and choir. The latter are keen to offer free concerts for about an hour to local residential homes.

In early November they opened their Winter Shelter for the sixth year. Working with various faith groups - churches, mosques plus local residents - they provide temporary overnight accommodation to rough sleepers in Brent. This valuable service will mean people living on our streets can access services that will move them towards being financially and socially independent.

AP is supported by various charities plus crowd funding as well as "Give as you Live". More information on: <http://www.ashfordplace.org.uk/>

## Cricklewood Improvement

Cricklewood now has its "Town Square" on Cricklewood Lane, lined with trees and hosting the Friday and Saturday Market. This has been developed through the Mayor's Outer London Fund project, along with the planting of street trees along the Broadway. Selected premises on the Broadway have had their upper sections' architectural details restored and shop-front improvements made, including smart shop blinds. A large Cricklewood sign has been placed so that it can be viewed from the Lane and an antique clock, manufactured at the Smiths factory in Cricklewood, installed as a focal point on the median island. A few items are still awaiting completion, such as a notice board for the Town Square and the 'Cricklewood' signage at the station railway bridge to complement the under-bridge lighting and Barnet has given assurance that the outstanding OLF improvements will be completed. Negotiations with Network Rail have been slow!

There is no doubt that the newly paved areas and the de-cluttering along the Broadway have brought benefits, and we now await the new dual rubbish bins. The removal of BT phone boxes has had a significant benefit and effort is now being put into reducing these boxes further and targeting the unpleasant black Aquiva boxes.

Another part of this project is the Youth Engagement Scheme, providing business support and help for young people to find apprenticeships and placements. The Cricklewood Town Team (CIP) will continue to address concerns in the town centre, such as cleanliness, safety, and a healthy local economy and lead on developments to make Cricklewood a better place to work, live and visit.

[www.cricklewood.net](http://www.cricklewood.net)



*New Cricklewood Square*

## Mapesbury Community First Programme

The Mapesbury Community First Panel has completed the 4-year funding of local projects. These have included gardening workshops for children, support for the 20th Willesden Green Scouts, an Age UK health and wellbeing day, an award winning Big Draw event by Creative Cricklewood at the Islamic Centre, projects to support young people into work through the development of recruitment skills, and workshops to encourage a more positive approach for adults and support them into work. The programme supported the Open Studios Day; see below. The final project will be workshops to provide social media and web development skills for local community groups, benefiting community cohesion and the understanding of our diverse cultures across the area.

A new event: Cricklewood Open Studios was held in September. This had 12 local artists who opened their studios to the public, combined with two walks around the area. It was well attended and may become a biennial event, alternating with the Open Gardens Day. Many thanks to the artists and all involved in organizing and to the sponsors; Winkworth and Community First.



*Bowl by David Gee*

### Front Garden Awards 2014: results

Best overall, 59 St. Gabriel's, Best, no parking, 26 St. Gabriel's; Best parking with planting, 169 Walm Lane. These have received certificates and vouchers. Winners of best in road and other categories are shown in note on [http://www.mapra.org.uk/front\\_Gardens.htm](http://www.mapra.org.uk/front_Gardens.htm) and have received certificates. Thanks to Margaret and Garden Group for all the initial work and to Ian and Michael for final judging.

### Local Fruit Harvest

At the end of the season the MapRA team harvested some 480 kg of fruit from local gardens. This has been donated to various local charities and at the Cricklewood Festival. Members have helped with the grand pick at Fryent Way, with juicing at Queen's Park Day and at the Gladstone Park run. In January / February they will be looking to prune members' fruit trees.

### Police Items

The Mapesbury Safer Neighbourhood Team has been working hard to reduce the incidence of Anti social Behaviour in relation to the migrant workers congregating on Chichele Road and on Cricklewood Broadway. A dispersal zone was again implemented, policed by officers from SNT and cross-border Barnet team. They continue to work on this with the UK Border Agency and local businesses.

The police mounted Operation Glacier in late August to counteract burglary and motor vehicle crime in NW2, with officers from the combined SNTs of Willesden Green, Mapesbury and Dollis Hill targeting vulnerable areas through the late evening and night. There have been excellent results to date - 24 arrests and 19 people caught in possession of drugs. The teams are in line with what their community ward panels specifically asked them to target and are having an impact on issues that directly affect people's lives. Since 2012 the team have also reduced the number of brothels on the ward from 11 to 3 and the remaining three should be closed within the next three months.

The team thank residents for their continued support - if there are any issues anyone would like to speak to them about, please let them know. MapRA thanks Sgt Rob Gibbs (who is moving on to another Brent project) for his excellent work and co-operation. We look forward to working with his replacement Sgt Jay Veeren. For any non emergency issues relating to Mapesbury, contact PC Jimmy O'Sullivan, Mapesbury SNT, email [Mapesbury.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:Mapesbury.snt@met.police.uk) telephone; telephone 020 8721 2962.

### Willessden Green Town Team

This has been a very busy year for the Willessden Green Town Team, with many changes and much activity.

Elayne Coakes had to resign as Chair due to poor health and Deborah Mahs took over in July. She has been very active since then, particularly with the Willessden Green Clean-Up. In July many local residents, supported by Veolia, Transport for London & the London Fire Brigade, made a big difference to the look of the street and had a true community afternoon.

The Team ran the pop-up university for several months, hosting Birkbeck, a student gallery and workshops, regular knitting clubs and other community activities. Recently a community mosaic workshop under Deb Collis produced the grand Louis Wain inspired psychedelic cat for the wall opposite Willessden Green tube station, which was unveiled on 15th November.

Members of the Team have also replanted the beds on Willessden Green tube station, with help from TfL, and a programme of greening Willessden Green is under way.

WTT would also like to thank MapRA, residents, and Chelsea Square Estate Agents for their sponsorship of some of the planters outside the station. If you would like to help sponsor more we are currently accepted for the GROW YOUR TENNER funding which doubles each £10 we are given until Jan 31st (for 6 months if by direct debit) see: <https://localgiving.com/charity/willesden-green-town-team>. Match funding by the Cabinet Office.



The picture is of a mosaic unveiled on Sat Nov 15th. The mosaic is based on the work of Willessden artist Louis Wain, designed by Debra Collis and worked on and created by the community of Willessden Green.

We still need active volunteers to propose projects and there is much more under discussion. Please do come and join us. Contact: Deborah Mahs [deborahmahs@gmail.com](mailto:deborahmahs@gmail.com)

### Rubbish Collection / Recycling

From April 2015 Brent intend to make a charge of £40 per year to empty the green organic waste bins – we await full details. Everyone will still be able to have a food waste bin and it is proposed to collect the Blue Recycling bin each week.