

ANNUAL REPORT 2009



Mapesbury
Residents'
Association

Chair's Report

One important aim of MapRA is to foster and facilitate community spirit, so it was heartening to see how residents helped out less mobile neighbours in the recent snowy weather. It helps everyone if you clear the snow outside neighbours' houses and remember it is not only the elderly or sick who may really appreciate help with errands; mothers with several young children may feel trapped by the time it takes to prepare for a quick trip to the shops in icy weather.

We have included a membership form with this Annual report and I do urge you to include/update your email address and join the MapRA email network if you have internet access. I realise not everyone has email, but the price of success is that the size of our membership has grown to the point where hand delivery of notices is slow. E-mail provides a speedy and efficient way of spreading information about planning and parking consultations and vital police announcements, as well as social events like the Open Gardens Day. There have been many cases where people with e-mail have passed on important information or police warnings to vulnerable neighbours without e-mail facilities.

If you have any questions that you would like to raise at the AGM please send them to me in writing not later than 24 hours beforehand. Then, if we don't have time to answer at the meeting we will be happy to reply in writing afterwards. We would also welcome any nominations for Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee.

We are looking for new energetic Committee members, particularly those who are interested in strengthening community spirit by organising more activities and social events, so do consider volunteering before or at the AGM.

MapRA believes that we can help our community best by building positive relationships with Brent Councillors and Brent Police Officers. In this way, if you communicate your serious concerns to us, we can support you and work with Brent to solve your problems.

Gerry Weston, Chairman of MapRA

Geoffrey Hewlett's Retirement

Geoffrey Hewlett, who has just retired after 41 years in the Brent Planning Department, created the Mapesbury Conservation area in 1982. MapRA is presenting him with a plate at the Annual General Meeting in gratitude for his dedication to Mapesbury. The plate has been designed and lovingly made by our Deputy Chair, potter David Gee.

Important Events

Annual General Meeting 2010 and Hustings for Parliamentary & Council Elections

**The AGM will be held on Monday
19th April at St Gabriel's Church
from 7.00pm.**

**Stalls manned by Brent Police, Fire
Brigade & Officers from Brent
Planning, Streetcare &
Environmental departments from
7.00pm to 8.00pm followed by a
short formal MapRA meeting. After
this you will have a chance to hear
all your Mapesbury prospective
candidates for Parliament speak as
well as the Brent Council Party
Leaders who will talk briefly about
what the future holds and how
their Party plans to tackle the
difficult times ahead. Also meet and
chat to all the Brent Council
candidates so you will be able to
make an informed decision on how
to vote.**

Front Gardens Awards 2010

**Now is the time to create, renovate
or perfect your front garden. Early
June is the time when Ian Brownhill
and Michael Hirschl, our gardening
experts, will be walking around
Mapesbury to choose their
favourite front gardens.**

Open Gardens Day

Financially 14th June, 2009 was the most successful Open Gardens Day. We sold 749 tickets and about 800 people visited the gardens. Through the generosity of our sponsors (who provided £1000 of money & goods in kind), ticket sales and Margaret Mann's plant sale, we raised £4100; our costs were £1200 giving us a surplus of just under £3000, the largest we have ever achieved and a tribute to the hard work and effort of everybody involved, not least the organising committee and gardeners.

Apart from the thirteen wonderful gardens, highlights were the organised trips up St Gabriel's Church tower and the Mapesbury Dell Tea Garden, which looked enchanting and gave a real feeling of community.

Donations to charities were as follows:

- £500 to St Gabriel's Church (for the clock renovations)
- £300 to Cricklewood Homeless Concern
- £250 to the Mapesbury Dell (towards the Carol Concert)
- £1400 to the British Polio Fellowship, in celebration of their 70th Anniversary.

The next Open Gardens' Day will be in 2011 but preparations will start this September, so now is the time to think of showing your garden or to let Margaret Mann (8459 5419) know about other beautiful local gardens.

Police Matters

Mapesbury's Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) has made burglary their number one priority and the team is currently visiting every household to give crime prevention advice and encourage residents to report suspicious behaviour and any crime, so that a pattern of local crime can be built. Email contacts and alerts remain an important way of helping the SNT obtain intelligence and distribute information effectively. There is an 'Adopt a burglar' scheme where a close eye is kept on known active burglars and this is leading to arrests and court cases.

The team continues to work closely with Cricklewood Homeless Concern (CHC) over alcohol and drug-related crimes. There has been a vast decline in street drinkers in the Cricklewood

Broadway area as a result of enforcement operations combined with encouraging drinkers to seek help and advice at CHC. Regular visits to off-licences, together with a ban on the sale of single cans, have resulted in a reduction in the number of groups loitering near shops and street corners.

Regular enforcement, supported by Brent Council, has not only led to a decline in fly tipping in the Mapesbury area, but also the apprehension of many illegal fly tippers without appropriate documents. These projects will continue next year without detracting from normal ward patrol work; suspicious vehicles being stopped, wherever possible, and the necessary action taken.

Front Garden Awards

MapRA wants this to be a really good area to live in and visit. Our awards for front gardens are intended to help achieve this aim. In May, members of the MapRA Gardening Club will be looking out for attractive front gardens, well laid out front parking and handsome window boxes, and Ian & Michael will make a final selection in early June. Certificates or garden centre vouchers will be awarded to those judged to have done a lot to improve the neighbourhood.

Recycling News.

We would like to congratulate Brent on their successful recycling last year. The recycling rate now stands at 31%, up from 28% last year. Last year has seen a 5% drop in the amount of waste that is being sent to landfill and a 2% increase in the total amount of waste that is recycled or composted. So it is certainly worth redoubling our efforts to recycle. Did you know that you can get as many green boxes as you want – free – from Brent Recycling? Or a composting bin for £5 including a free guide? Or an additional bin @ £13 or £16 depending on size. If everybody requests their green boxes and compost bins before the end of April the council can save petrol by doing a single delivery for Mapesbury.

The Brent website can tell you how to do this plus answer questions such as "What happens to my recycling?" "How is it re-used?" "What should I put in each bin/box?". It also tells you how to reduce, reuse and recycle waste, including electrical items, and lists charity shops wanting old furniture.

Brent is in the process of redeveloping its recycling pages on the website, but at the moment the place to go for all the answers is <http://www.brent.gov.uk/nv/LBB-2?OpenDocument&pid=200084>. Alternatively ring Brent Recycling on 020 8937 5050

MW & GA Parking Consultations

Brent Council carried out review consultations of the MW & GA controlled parking zones to find out whether people wanted a change in the restricted parking hours and days. Residents were generally satisfied with the current system, some residents in MW felt that their visitors had problems parking, and both areas felt that Saturday parking restrictions should be dropped. MW decided to retain 8.00am to 6.30pm, and GA wanted a change to 10.00am to 3.00pm which has already been implemented. MapRA will work with Brenda Skews, Senior Engineer at Brent Transportation, to improve the number of parking bays where parking is difficult in MW.

CHC & Faith Groups' Winter Shelter

CHC's Winter Shelter is now in its second year and has proved a big success: an excellent example of a local charity and faith groups coming together to resolve an unfortunate reality of today's society. The Shelter is open for four months in the year, from December to March. A number of churches take it in turn to offer an evening meal, a bed for the night and volunteers to support single homeless people. These people then come in to CHC in the morning where specialist workers try to find them permanent accommodation as well as trying to resolve the problems that led to their being homeless in the first place. Lunch is provided as well as access to the many services. This is the only Winter Shelter of its kind in the country and the charity is very proud that Brent is leading the way in providing imaginative solutions to homelessness.

Cricklewood New Town Project

CHC's main work with the local community for 2010 is to lead a plan to provide a town centre management resource for Cricklewood Broadway because this is where three different boroughs (Brent, Barnet and Camden) meet, and it is therefore at present under the administration of three different Police SNTs and Councils. The primary aim is to create active partnerships and broad networks in order to develop a unified and sustainable town centre environment. This will benefit everyone - the public, private and voluntary sectors, the local residents and visitors. CHC is developing a steering group which will involve all the communities. This promises interesting negotiations between the boroughs of Brent, Barnet and Camden, and CHC wants them all to support the Town Centre Management Project.

Brent Community Safety Board

The Brent Community Safety Board (BCSB) allows representative of groups serving the community to speak directly to Police & Fire Brigade Borough Commanders and influential representatives of Brent Council. This is a unique opportunity to find out what's happening, raise our community concerns and discuss solutions with the people who make decisions.

The BCSB is always seeking new members who can convey the important concerns of their community to the authorities and give feedback to their community. This is particularly important for small groups who feel that it is difficult to get their views and problems heard. If you are interested in taking part contact Anita Jakhu, BCSB Co-ordinator, Community Safety Team, Quality House, 249 Willesden Lane. Telephone: Tel: 07986 760248 or E-mail: infobcsb@yahoo.co.uk.

CHC & SNT Working Together

Local residents contacted the Mapesbury Police team to request a dispersal order because of intimidation by a group of youths, who were hanging around a block of flats every day. The Mapesbury Safer Neighbourhood (SNT) Police Team began working in partnership with Cricklewood Homeless Concern (CHC) Outreach Team to solve the problem. They were keen to support the community but equally concerned for this young group who were being intimidated and bullied by more experienced criminals. The Police and the Outreach Team began, over a period of time, to gain these young people's trust, clearly identifying issues beyond the young people's control which resulted in their being on the streets and being part of a large street gang.

The police and CHC together developed the YES project to build these young people's self-respect and confidence; a project which is going from strength to strength. In February 2010 the project was awarded a Problem Orientated Partnerships Award in recognition of its achievement in reforming the lives of a group of young people who were originally heading towards a life of crime and destitution.

Many of the anti-social youngsters are now leaders of the YES project and are engaged almost full time in activities, successfully pulling other disruptive young people from the streets and into the project. The youngsters have also embarked on training for sports coaching and built a good relationship with Brent's Sports Development Team. This young group has now developed a continuing positive relationship with the Police and CHC. The YES project is a fine example of community partnership working well together.

Mapesbury Activities

Community Link continues to flourish. Here is an update on new groups and those actively seeking your support.

Mapesbury Singing Group

There MUST be more men in the Mapesbury area who would like to sing? Any abilities welcome, the only prerequisite is enthusiasm. There are 40+ of us who hire Emmanuel Church (on the corner of Lyncroft Gardens and Fortune Green Road in West Hampstead) on Tuesdays from 7pm to 8.30pm to sing for fun. Come and join us (women welcome too, of course).

More details from Jenny Thomas: jennythomas@gmail.com. 8450 7140.

MapRA Walkers

Come and join us. Fresh from a green trek through London, from Hertfordshire to Surrey, the MAPRA walkers are now about to tackle the Capital Ring, a 75 mile circular walk round London, in fifteen easy stages. Five or six miles once a month, Wednesdays 24 March, 21 April, 26 May, 23 June, 21 July - walk whenever you're free. Further details from John Mann, 109 Chatsworth Road, 0208 459 5419, or john.f.mann@btinternet.com.

New Book Club

Our second book group is up and reading thanks to the appeal for members in the last newsletter. Ten people are in the group, which has met twice already. Its "book-keeper", John Blandy, says there is still room for two or three more members, especially if they're male and are prepared to forsake their DIY directories and histories and read novels. So please hurry, hurry, if you want to share your bookish passions, and contact him on 8452-7978 or John.Blandy@ukonline.co.uk

Plans for the group include summer visits to writers' homes (Lamb house in Rye, once Henry James's home, has been mentioned) and invitations to local writers, and there is even talk of challenging the more established Mapesbury book group to a book quiz. One idea of the group is that the refreshment provided at a meeting should be in the manner of the book under discussion. China tea for Barbara Pym? Whisky for Graham Greene? Will they serve whale meat for Moby Dick? Whatever next?

CHC Music Group

Our Monday morning Music Group is such a success we need more donated instruments such as guitars, keyboards or anything musical. Contact Danny - danny@chc-mail.org, 82088591

Bridge Players

Ten or a dozen regulars meet once a week for social bridge and would welcome new members. If you are interested please get in touch with Andrew Aiken at 164 Walm Lane, andrew.aiken1@btopenworld.com. or 0208 450 3936.

MapRA History and Architecture Group

2009/10 programme included Dick Weindling on the Shoot-up-Hill mills; Gerry Weston on the Jubilee line; John Acklaw on growing up in wartime Willesden, and finished with John Mann asking "Who was Walter Map?" Why was Mapesbury named after a man who died 800 years ago? As courtier, civil servant, judge, ambassador, and senior churchman, Walter Map may, John thinks, have had a house in Mapes Lane, better known now as Willesden Lane. For details of future meetings please contact John Mann at 109 Chatsworth Road, 0208 459 5419, or john.f.mann@btinternet.com

Local Fruit Trees

Last Autumn Michael Stuart organised volunteers to pick apples for owners who were unable to pick their own, and shared the proceeds between the owner, volunteers, and local schools. He saw it would be helpful if people learned to prune their own and neighbours' trees in order to increase the health and yield of some of the old trees. So this year, with Brent's help and MapRA support, he set up pruning training in the surrounding area. Several enthusiastic Mapesbury residents took part and are extending the scheme in our area. More information from Michael Stuart, 8451 4696, michael.stuart6@googlemail.com .

Three Honours for Brent Transportation

The Transportation Service has had a particularly successful year, winning three awards. Perhaps the most exciting was the award for best Management Systems at the 2009 London Excellence Awards.

The Service was also nominated for a "most improved local authority" award at the National Transport Awards 2009 and was then short-listed in three categories in 2010 for its innovative Wembley Stadium Parking Scheme; its continued strong improvement in road casualty reduction; and its successful implementation of sustainable transport projects.

At a local level, but no less prestigious, the Service received awards at the 2009 Brent Awards for major improvements to the Harrow Road/Wakeman Road junction, in collaboration with the Kensal Triangle Residents Association, and for an innovative road safety awareness project to tackle the disproportionately high risk of traffic injuries amongst children from minority ethnic backgrounds.

Not in Our Back Garden Triumph

The Chair of Planning, Sheelagh Putnam, is extremely grateful to residents for their wonderful response to the "Not in our Back Gardens" campaign, and would like to thank them all.

MapRA is happy to say that the campaign has been successful and that the joint application by Brent Council and MapRA to protect the rear gardens in Mapesbury has been granted by the Secretary of State. The new Article 4 (1) Direction means that large outbuildings in rear gardens will again require planning permission giving residents the right to object to applications they believe are inappropriate for Mapesbury.

This is thanks to the co-operation between Brent Planning & MapRA; the hard work of Sheelagh and her team, Eric Cliff, Michael Hirschl & Jacqui Pelham, whose beautifully presented submission (which will be available on the Planning Stall at the AGM) was a great help to Brent, and to the Members who, with great dedication, knocked on residents doors to explain the importance of the petition and collect their support.

We would like to say how much we appreciate the very professional and dedicated work of Stephen Weeks and his team of Brent Planning Officers who have worked very hard on the Council submission

Brent Cross New Town Development

The Secretary of State has postponed his decision about calling a public inquiry. Residents have been pressing for this and we would like to thank them for their support.

Jubilee Line.

The list of Jubilee line closures is available up to October, when the work should be finished.

Details are given at: <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/assets/livetravelnews/realtime/tube/track-closures.pdf>

Alternatively contact Gerry Weston at 8452 0649.

Mapesbury Dell gets Even Better

Our own 'secret garden' in Mapesbury has just got even better, with a huge upgrade to the children's play area which makes it more exciting and adventurous for our children. They love it.

Further improvements are planned for Spring and Summer, with the addition of a secluded 'nookery' bench and table where teenagers can find the space they so badly need. As well as this, Interpretation Boards are to be installed: these will illustrate the birds to look for in the Dell, for example "Long-Tailed Tit - watch out for flocks of these 'flying teaspoons'", and explain the Dell's massive and special Sparrow Tower sculpture. This is all happening thanks partly to generous donations.

Of course, all these things depend on support from us, the residents. The Mapesbury Dell Trust is currently appealing for any old mobile telephones that you may have lying about the house and don't know what to do with. If you'd like to help, just drop them off to 14 Keyes Road, or call or email Tom Putnam 0208 438 2951 tomp@mapesbury-dell.org.

The annual 'Mapesbury Dell goes Wild Day' will be on Sunday 27th June.

North West Two

North West Two Residents' Association has achieved a huge amount for their community in the last year.

We would particularly like to congratulate Carol Reeman, who is the liaison committee member between MapRA and North West Two, on receiving a 2009 Community Crime Fighter Award at 10 Downing Street. This award recognises people with exceptional energy and commitment in combating local antisocial behaviour and crime.

Look at its exciting new website (www.northwesttwo.co.uk) which lists the many achievements and will keep you in touch with the social events like pub quizzes, raffles, an Easter Egg Hunt and a Halloween Pumpkin Contest.

20 mile an hour consultation

Brent carried out a public consultation last November into whether residents wanted a 20 mile an hour limit in the area between Cricklewood Broadway, Walm Lane, Brondesbury Park, and Cavendish Road. The residents were overwhelmingly in favour of the scheme. Residents also wanted a new zebra crossing on Mapesbury Road and most people were in favour of bringing in a 75-ton lorry ban throughout the area.

The main part of the scheme (new speed cushions and speed tables) is scheduled to begin during summer 2010.

Mapesbury Residents' Association

For the year ended
31 December 2009

INCOME	£
Subscriptions (for 2009)	614
Donations by film companies	895
Donations at AGM	280
Other donations	152
Sponsorship of AGM	160
Bank Interest	1
	2,102

EXPENDITURE	
Annual report	344
AGM expenses	910
Newsletter costs	328
Other expenses	190
	1,772

Surplus for 2009	330
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BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 2009

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES:

Bank balance on main accounts	7,371
Less: Owing to Exeter Rd residents re lighting	(1,633)
Less: Owing to St Gabriels Rd residents re lighting	(97)
Subtotal after deducting the amounts for residents	5,641

Bank balance on Open Gardens Day accounts	3,359
Stock of food	89
Cash	17
Less: Subscriptions in advance for 2010 to 2019	(1,352)
Less: Sundry creditors	(47)
Net Assets	7,708

Represented by:

UNRESTRICTED FUND

Accumulated surplus at start	3,996
Surplus for 2009	330
Accumulated surplus at end	4,326

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Net surplus from previous Open Gardens Days	1,312
Surplus in 2009 from OGD	2,927
Less: Grants in 2009 by Open Gardens	(2,450)
Accumulated surplus at end	1,790

Polio Concerts in 2005 & 2006 net surplus	637
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Community Link fund	955
	7,708

Accounts prepared by A. J. A. Aiken, Honorary Treasurer

Committee members in 2009

Gerry Weston (Chair), Judy Langley (Organising Secretary), Andrew Aiken (Treasurer), Rana Jayaswal (Auditor), David Gee (Deputy Chair), Sheila Lee (Membership), Sheelagh Putnam (Chair, Planning), Suzanna Burford (Community Link), Robert Afa, Andrew Beckman, Claudia Evans, Lia Evans, Derek Forsyth, Chris Gear, Cheryll Lewis, Margaret Mann, Niall McGinley, Jacqui Pelham, Elizabeth Proud, Carol Reeman (NW2 Residents' Association), John Squires (Landau House Residents' Association), Belinda Syme, Ann Theato (Slade Court Residents' Association).

Honorary Committee Members:

David Drown, Charles Boucher, Charlotte Curran.

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stephen.tilcock@virgin.net

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NW2 3UH
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William M Gimmack

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020 8452 4702

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Sheila Lee (Membership & Database) 8452 1612 sheila.x.lee@gmail.com
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