



Highams Residents' Association

Founded in 1955 for the residents of The Highams Estate

NEWSLETTER - Oct 2009 No.2

We have been busy during the Summer !

The new web site that everyone wanted is now up and running and has had almost 500 visitors. The site will only be as good as the use we all make of it to communicate issues and local problems. Please let us know what is happening and share your concerns. Please also visit my blog...I have always wanted to be a professional blogger! With this newsletter you will have received a pen reminding you of the web site..don't leave home without it!

www.highamsra.org.uk
email: highamsra@me.com

The **traffic management** proposals are now being built from Tamworth Avenue down towards Handsworth Avenue. My first impressions are not very favourable and I understand the work carries on until March 2010. We have all had correspondence from the local authority regarding the proposals for our roads and I still feel they have not found the right proposal and solution for the bends in The Charter Road. We will continue to press for the correct answer.

Domestic burglary increased during the early part of the summer and there is information elsewhere in this newsletter on how to better protect your home. Please pay special attention to patio doors. Overall we live in an area of very low crime. However, I burglary is I too many.

Highams Park continues to provoke a lot of comment. Thank you to the dog-walking community for letting me know their views especially! The redecoration of the old Council shed is a big improvement and seems to have solved the graffiti problems. What use can we put the shed to?

The traditional **afternoon tea** in June was very well attended, hopefully to meet the new Committee. I would like to thank everyone who helped to organise the event and anyone who donated some food. We are now thinking about next year and is it time for a change? Should we have a picnic in the park which would certainly be better for families? A different venue? What about our own version of Britain's got Talent...Highams Got talent? Please let us know via the web site.

Finally, if you have not visited **www.highamsra.org.uk** do so right now and tell us what you think of the newsletter

Have a great Autumn!
Peter Larkin, HRA Chairman.



DESIGNER Profile:

Name: Hazel Gadsby **Age:** 38

Status: Housewife and part-time graphic designer

Partner: Craig, also graphic designer

Children: Edward aged 4yrs and Matthew 15months

Address: Nesta Road, Woodford Green

Personal Blog: We moved here 2 years ago, previously living in Chingford. We feel very lucky to be living in such a lovely area with the best neighbours you could ever wish to have. I have a great interest in community and communication and would like to do all I can to make the HRA an ongoing success.



TESCO

**The Highams Park
Tesco development
which has divided a**

community has been given the go-ahead.

The plan, which includes a 24-hour superstore and 250 homes on empty industrial land in Highams Park, was narrowly approved during a heated meeting of the council's planning committee on Tuesday 13th October 2009.

Residents opposed to the development said the approval was motivated by fear of losing out on £1.5 million Tesco has promised to contribute to health, schools and local amenities.

Opponents claim the development will ruin the area by destroying independent shops and causing traffic congestion. A consultant hired by Tesco conceded there will be an increase in traffic, but said there would not be gridlock in surrounding roads. Tesco insist the development, which will create an estimated 182 jobs, is the only way to regenerate the area. A letter signed by a number of local businesses supported the plan, saying it will revive the 'virtual ghost town'.

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS EVENT

We have been asked by several residents if there is going to be some form of Christmas event for the children? The answer is yes...but we need a few volunteers to decide what is needed and make it happen! Please let me know if you are keen to organise this event - peterlarkinpgel@aol.com

Its only 3 months away!!

Highams Park Lake

We have met with Jonathan Preston from the Corporation of London who are responsible for the lake. Many residents have expressed concern at the state of the lake and the green slime now covering most of the water.

The good news is that the green algae will disappear in the next couple of weeks. It is caused by atmospheric conditions and is totally harmless to children and pets.

There are currently 3 options to clean up the lake, none of which are likely to be popular or affordable!

1. Dredge the lake and take away all the wet silt-very expensive, access very difficult
2. Dredge the lake and let the silt dry out around the edges of the lake; expensive, unsightly, at least 2 years to dry out, smelly and access very difficult
3. Reduce the size of the lake where the silt build-up is worst; likely to be very unpopular, access difficult, not environmentally friendly but is cheap!

These are not proposals but are the suggestions made by a specialist team who were asked for their view. In the short-term nothing is likely to happen.

We will be part of the imminent consultation by the Corporation of London as they design their 3 year plan so we will ensure we ask you your ideas.

In the Spring we will be asking for volunteers to work with the Corporation to tidy the lake area and trim some of the trees and bushes....you could call it a **'Spring clean!'**

Other News...

Ransom Strip

Report from Paul Dobson on the ransom strip at the side of The Charter Road.

June 8th 2009. Inspected. No action needed.

July 8th 2009. Inspected. No action needed.

August 8th 2009. Inspected and foliage cut back where needed - at the top end mainly. Have a look as you drive past!

HRA's very own Early Warning System...

Would you like to know if there's been a crime in your road or suspicious activity in the area?.

To do this we require your email address - Send your email address to highamsra@me.com. Any information we receive by the police or residents about burglaries or suspicious behaviour can be sent directly to you.

AGM party for 2010

Look out for news about next years 'Tea Party' - and other family fun events that we are planning, roll on Summer!!



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbourhood Watch

Now we have merged Neighbourhood Watch with HRA - at our last meeting in September, Bill Nisbet, our Crime Prevention Officer has been able to give us some figures for the association area from 16 June to 16 Oct, they are;

5 Burglaries

1 School boy robbery

7 Motor vehicle crimes

2 Theft of copper cable from BT underground covers. (This is becoming quite prevalent over the Redbridge, Waltham Forest, Enfield area) If you see anything please contact us.

General warnings; now the dark evenings are here, leave lights on to make your home looked lived in. Make sure you do not leave Christmas shopping goods on display in your car or house.

We hope to be arranging a day to come to the area with the Crime Prevention vehicle to give out FREE products. Keep a look on the HRA web site for more news on this.

Our Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator Alison Ring writes; Overall, the Highams Estate is relatively crime free, although if you have been a victim of crime it may not feel that way to you! As a victim of a night time burglary myself, I know this. However, there are some very simple precautions we can take to prevent burglaries and we were reminded of these recently by our local safer neighbourhoods team:

1. If you have a burglar alarm, then set it.
2. Close and lock all doors and accessible windows when you are out or at night time.
3. If you have UPVC doors lock them at night as otherwise these can provide easy access for burglars. (Turning the handle upwards does not prevent access it needs to be locked with a key).
4. If you are going away please leave lights on a timer, cancel milk/newspapers and ask a neighbour to keep an eye on the house.
5. When recycling make sure personal details are not left on papers in the black boxes.

Other criminal activity to be aware of: In other parts of London there have been attempts to get peoples' bank details by someone pretending to be from the police/bank ringing up. Never give your bank details to anyone unless you are certain of their credentials.

For non-essential crime or if you have seen something suspicious and would like to report it, please phone 0208 721 2646 and you can speak to a PCSO.

To email a member of the Neighbourhood Watch residents committee please contact: alisonring@ntlworld.com