

The Community Magazine for the
Sudbury Court and Pebworth Estates

June
2019

The Courier

88th
Year



Let's Talk Parking
Saturday 29th June 2-4pm

- join us at St Cuthberts for a residents' meeting
Q&A with Tea and Cake
(see page 17)

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Dear Neighbours,

Amongst our local news from regular contributors, we seem to have a couple of themes running through this issue, it wasn't intentional! —one is parking, and the other is horticultural/environmental.

Our Councillor mentions a couple of parking issues amongst his comments—pg 8-11. You will find a supplementary bit of information on pg 33. By popular demand, please see pg 17 for brief details of our residents' meeting on parking issues. This will be an informal meeting, and is mainly for you to highlight the main issues, and see if we can have some constructive conversation around solutions.

I attended one of the Northwick Park Community Garden workshops a few weeks ago—meeting new neighbours over a mushroom log—it was lovely. I do highly recommend getting involved, the garden is going to be a great addition to our community when it's finished; somewhere to rest and meet. In the meantime you can learn all sorts of interesting and practical gardening tips and even join in with the Permacult planting—the last planting day saw around 60 people of all ages, including children, get stuck in. The next planting day will be in a couple of weeks. See pg 19. The SCHS also have their Rose and Early Summer Show coming up, and if you're a member, you can show off your own plants and blooms—see page 27.

There seem to be many more local activities and events as the weather improves—and I draw your attention to a couple of events in early July that you might want to get into your diary early—see pg 17, especially if you're a fan of ITV's The Chase, and pg 21. If you haven't booked your seat on the Senior's Outing yet—what are you waiting for? See pg 30.

There is a welcome return of Batman this month—and if you're interested in a Bat Walk, please see pg 21, 23.

If you have any interests or hobbies that you think other residents might be interested in, please do let me know so that we can put something together in future issues—who knows, you might make new connections with neighbours.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting,

Kaye

If you don't have email and you would like to contact the SCRA, please call:
07933 958 166

(available Mondays and Thursdays 9-5pm,
or leave a message/text and we'll get back to you)

Northwick Park Safer Neighbourhood Team

PCSO Charlie Charalambous,
PC Finn Kennedy (author of this article)
PC Hobday
Sergeant Yu Zhang



Dear Residents:

I will repeat some of what I put in last month's Courier as it is relevant - Summer is practically upon us so please be aware, as the weather gets hotter, of leaving your doors and windows open even if you are in the house – in summer we get an increase in burglaries through open doors/windows both in the daytime and at night. Many an occasion on patrol during the summer, I have seen people leaving their front garage doors open when they are not in their front drive – you never know who is passing by so please don't give an opportunist thief a chance. If you want to leave a window ajar, please ensure that your window has a restriction device on it so it can only be opened a certain amount and a person cannot climb in. For full crime prevention advice please read the burglary crime prevention advice on the Met police website.

Attempted Robbery Blockley Road:

On Wednesday 30th April, there was a terrible attempted robbery on an elderly resident. The resident was walking to his car when a male from a group of three teenagers asked him for a cigarette, he then was about to get into his car when the males have attempted to jump in the car. He was punched in this terrible attack; the males ran off towards East Lane.

Aggravated Burglaries:

In another terrible attack, there was an aggravated burglary at an address on Watford Road (in 160s, odds side) on Saturday 4th May 2019 at about 23.30hrs. The occupiers heard noises at the rear of the house, next the rear window was smashed in and intruders gained access. Once inside, the burglars have attacked and threatened the occupiers in order to burgle the house. According to my records this is the fifth aggravated burglary that has occurred in the Northwick Park Ward area since the start of 2019. There is

an increase of this type of burglary throughout Northwest London. A lot of the burglars involved in these types of crime are forensically aware and have been wearing masks, hats and gloves in order to limit the avenues of investigation for police, and the vehicles that they have been using have been on false number plates.

Despite this there have been some slip-ups by them and some forensic results, however, I would urge residents to beef up their home security particularly in the evenings when it is dark – put your house alarm on a partial set in hours of darkness when you are inside, have motion activated lights both in the front garden and rear, ensure that your outer front door and inner front door, rear doors are locked with sturdy locks and double locked in hours of darkness. All of the victims of these aggravated burglaries in the Northwick Park area have been Asian and the burglars have threatened the victims and demanded that they show them their gold; if you are Asian I would recommend that you remove all visible signs from your house that might indicate your religious/cultural identity.

Of particular note regarding the above, research on the person who came back on a forensic match for a recent aggravated burglary states that he was involved in cold calling and leaflet dropping so please let us know about people leaflet dropping and cold calling – email me with any intel you have of persons, vehicles and leaflets:

***Fionnuala.kennedy@met.police.uk
Or p199114@met.police.uk***

Vehicles involved in crime:

A white FIAT ABARTH has been involved in a theft from a van on Pebworth Road on 24/04/2019 at about 10.54hrs when it was on a false number plate, the vehicle and the white male thief returned on the 30/04/2019

to the same area, again on false plates. The same vehicle is believed to be involved in other thefts whilst also on false plates. The car is a hard top with a sun roof on it.

On 08/05/2019 there was a burglary on Sudbury Court Drive: a dark grey Audi A3 was involved, and it looks like tinted rear windows; three white suspects involved in the burglary. The car was seen to be going up and down the road a number of times, then parking opposite the house that they intend to burgle, then the car is seen to park a little up the road whilst one of the suspects got out and checked out the house; two other males came from this car and then burgled the house.

OWL is now live in NORTHWICK PARK:

I am aware that some residents have tried to register with OWL but were unable to do so, there was a glitch when it first went live but I am now assured by the police contact for this scheme that it has indeed gone live and there is already a good take up from Northwick Park residents.

If you're not aware, OWL is an online neighbourhood watch platform - Online Watch Link. The website is www.owl.co.uk

We, in your neighbourhood police team, will be using this platform to send out alerts to residents about crimes happening in our area and other information of benefit to local residents. We will also be sending out the same alerts on the various What's App groups and from time to time on Twitter.

We urge you as local residents to register on OWL in order to receive these alerts, to use this service is completely free of charge and there is no joining fee whatsoever.

Well, what has your team been up to? – here are a few of our recent activities:

16/04/2019: your team attended an address to carry out a routine arrest enquiry, which was a 'wanted on warrant' enquiry for a theft case – meaning that the person didn't attend court for a theft charge. Hmm, this arrest enquiry was far from routine. We went to the address in question, and made enquiries. We asked for the name of the woman who was wanted (let's say the name is Jane Doe) and the woman who answered the door confirmed her name as that of the wanted woman but claimed never to have been involved in any theft case. I asked to see her passport to confirm her identity and at this time she broke down and said that she isn't Jane Doe but is only using that name for work purposes as she is illegal – that work was as a carer for elderly and disabled people. Needless to say, she was arrested for fraud, the care agencies she works for advised and the matter is still being investigated, but she wasn't the wanted on warrant woman!

09/05/2019: officers from your team conducted a Drugs search warrant at an address in Priory Crescent after suspicions arose that the address was a cannabis factory. We indeed did find it to be a cannabis factory: there were two men on the premises, 120 plants and a drying room with approximately 6 bin liner full amounts of loose cannabis in the process of being dried – a street value in the tens of thousands of pounds. The men were arrested, interviewed, charged and remanded in custody for court in June. Other enquiries are ongoing in relation to this. Please, residents, can you read up on how to spot a cannabis factory as these are organised crime networks involved in drug and people trafficking, not to mention the risk of having a cannabis factory in the area with the electrics being overloaded.

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Blockley Road - Sudbury Court Estate

08/05/2019 your team also assisted in a search warrant for a Department of Works and Pensions housing fraud case.

Your team continues to try to patrol as often as we can in amongst dealing with our investigations.

Catalytic converter thefts:

Honda Jazz cars and Toyota Prius cars are still being targeted for their catalytic converters. Please if you own one do some research online as to how best to park your car and what measures you can take in order to limit the chances of this happening to your car, speak to the manufacturers. The men involved in this are a group of white men in their 20s, with Irish accents, wearing baseball hats. They jack up the car and remove the catalytic converter in a matter of minutes. They are using a variety of cars as their vehicles, these cars are all on false stuck on plates.

Cold callers:

The problem of cold callers is a persistent issue in this area. There are a number of retired people who live in the Northwick Park area and they frequently get targeted by scam and con merchants both on the phone and in person. **DO NOT GET ANY GOODS OR SERVICE FROM SOMEONE WHO RANDOMLY PHONES YOU OR CALLS AT YOUR DOORSTEP!!** *I am astounded with otherwise sensible people giving "work" to cold callers because by doing so you are encouraging them to come into the area!*

Remember cold callers is the term given to people you don't know who knock at your house asking for work / or to provide a service for a fee – driveway washing, gutter cleaning, laying driveways, roofing. Why on earth would you give someone you don't know, never met before, don't know their real name, where they live or anything else about them access to your property! It beggars belief, if they are on your driveway or doing your gutters do you not think that they will get to find out who lives at your address and the general layout of your address, don't be surprised if you get conned or burgled if you give someone who cold calls on you "work". Bottom line do not, do not engage with cold callers.

How to spot a Cannabis factory, the tell tale signs:

1. A cannabis factory will nearly always be a rented property.
2. A lot of loud noises when the new occupants move in (drilling holes in walls, etc) but you won't see them or they won't introduce themselves
3. Windows blacked out at front of house certainly upstairs and at the rear
4. No one seen coming or going from the address at regular hours.
5. A lot of compost being delivered at the beginning, typically a lot of vans going to the address at night time at the beginning
6. Smell of cannabis on occasions – if you don't know what that smells like then it is similar to fox pee.
7. High powered lights on occasion, sound of fans in the address.

WhatsApp Groups:

There are two watch groups functioning in the ward – Pebwatch and the SCRA Residents Watch group. For people like me that didn't know what 'WhatsApp' was till a year or two ago, it's a mobile phone messaging group. In these groups residents communicate with each other about suspicious sightings: vehicles and people seen acting suspiciously. It is a brilliant facility for residents to look out for one another, alert each other and confirm/eliminate whether someone is in the area for criminal activities.

Overview of offences 10th April- 13th May:

1 Robbery personal: Northwick Park Playground area (1930hrs on 22/04, victim pushed and iphone stolen by two teenage white suspects);

1 Attempted robbery: Blockley Road (30s evens side, 1645hrs 30/04, elderly victim was walking to his car, when one of the three suspects asked him for a cigarette, victim has opened his car and suspects have attempted to jump in car and drive off, have punched the victim, suspects have ran off towards East Lane, suspects described as black mid to late teens)

1 Aggravated burglary: Watford Rd (in 160s odds side, rear window smashed, occupants threatened and attacked by 4 white burglars).

9 Burglary Residential: Spencer Rd (in 40s, odds side, on 11/04/2019, between 0800-1445hrs, entry via back door), Blockley Rd (in 40s, odds side, on 13/04/2019 between 0001hrs – 0800hrs, entry gained via opening kitchen window via small window); Aspen Drive (in 30s odds side, btw 0900hrs on 12/04 – 0840hrs on 14/04, patio door forced, jewellery, laptops phones believed stolen); Pebworth Road (in 20s evens side, btw 1800hrs on 17/04 – 0840hrs on 18/04, house under renovation, hoarding removed, door to address smashed, builders tools taken); Littleton Rd (in 20s, evens side, house under renovation, 17/04, fixtures and fittings stolen in burglary); Kenton Road (in 60s odds side, btw 0830hrs – 1330hrs on 25/04, window of rear pvc door smashed, jewellery and cash stolen); East Lane (in 190s, evens side, btw 1145- 1645 on 28/04, back small window point of entry, bank cards stolen); Sudbury Court Road (in 10s odds side, 1248hrs on 11/05, via small window near front door, cash stolen amongst other belongings, dark grey Audi A3 believed involved); Elmwood Court (low odds, 0800-1930hrs 8/05, unknown entry method, antique coins, jewellery, passports stolen)

2 Attempted burglary residential: Watford Rd (in 200s evens side, btw 2300hrs – on 17/04 – 0700hrs on 18/04, back door glass cracked); East Court (in 40s evens side, front door window smashed in an attempt to open the door);

4 Theft of motor vehicle: Sudbury Ct Rd (in 40s odds side, between 2224hrs 13/04 – 1200hrs 14/04, 67 plate Land Rover stolen); Northwick Park Hospital (btw 0845 – 1600hrs on 30/04, victims car keys stolen from jacket in hospital and car stolen); Watford Rd (in 200s odds side, motorbike stolen btw 1930hrs 08/05 – 0820hrs 09/05); Northwick Pk Hospital (motorcycle stolen, btw 1900hrs 11/05 – 0815hrs 12/05)

3 Theft from motor vehicle: East Lane (in 230s evens side, btw 1030 – 1200hrs on 18/04, catalytic converter stolen from Prius car); Norval Road (in 70s odds side, 1730 hrs on 01/05hrs, tools stolen from van); Northwick Pk Hospital (btw 1451- 1945hrs on 06/05, catalytic converter stolen from Toyota

Prius);

1 Attempted theft from motor vehicle: Black Horse Harrow Rd (2045- 2150hrs on 25/04, rear window of BMW smashed)

Your team would welcome any information on anti-social behaviour or criminal offences occurring in the area—please contact us:

020 87212 969 or

07920 233 752

NorthwickPark.snt@met.police.uk

Please consult the websites listed for crime prevention tips or, if you do not have access to the internet perhaps speak to us and we might be able to arrange that you obtain a crime prevention pamphlet.

Useful numbers:

Dial **999** in the case of an emergency, where a crime is in progress or where life is in danger.

For non-emergencies, ring **101**

To give information anonymously call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**

Useful websites:

Find a whole host of useful info: e.g. crime prevention, crime statistics, identity theft!

www.met.police.uk

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www.cifas.org.uk

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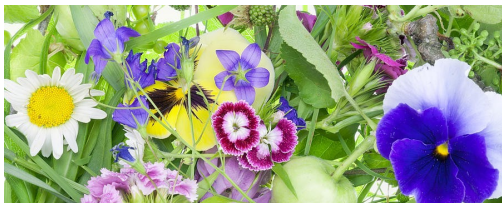
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Councillor's Comments

Cllr Robert Johnson - Northwick Park Ward

Email: cldr.robert.johnson@brent.gov.uk



Into early summer, the flowers are blooming and I hope everyone is enjoying the recent mild weather.

Parking and traffic issues are definitely on residents' minds, judging by the reports that we receive:

Parking Contraventions



A number of residents are reporting blatant parking contraventions, excluding the Byron Court School parking issue (which I will come to later), to all three Councillors. We have forwarded or received photographs from residents showing such situations to Council Officers. These incidents can be very infuriating.

To ensure these drivers are held to account, Council Officers/Civil Enforcement Officers must actually be present in order to take

action. Legally, they are not able to use photos or video footage to administer retrospective enforcement.

That means Officers have to act quickly and get Serco to the scene as quickly as possible.

The most efficient means of reporting unlawful parking to the council is to call our dedicated enforcement hotline:

020 8290 8300, option 5, option 1.

This hotline is in operation every day (except Christmas Day) from 8am to 9:30pm. The senior Civil Enforcement Officer will need the make, colour, registration and exact location of the vehicle. A Civil Enforcement Officer will then be dispatched either on a moped, car or removal lorry.

School Streets Initiative

The School Streets initiative is basically closing off streets around a school during the school run—pick up and drop off. The streets are only accessible to pedestrians and cycles at set times in the morning and afternoon. Vehicles are not permitted to enter the street between these times unless they have been granted an exemption.

You can register for an exemption if you're a



resident living in a school street zone, or in some areas, a blue badge holder.

Signs inform drivers of the restrictions before the entrance to the closed street. Non-registered vehicles entering the street during the times of operation will be identified by camera and issued a fixed Penalty Notice.

The good thing about this is that, once it's set up, it's not reliant on residents doing anything. It denies access of the road to parents, etc, without affecting the movement of residents, their guests and deliveries – a guest/deliverer just needs to 'prove' they're visiting/delivering to a resident. No charge to residents.

This initiative seems to fit in with what residents around Byron Court School were discussing previously - some sort of barrier to school-run traffic – the bonus here is that it's not something physical that we have to operate or have keys, or similar, for.

Brent has consulted with regards to pilots of the School Street initiative, and these are currently operational around two other primary schools. The two pilot schools are

smaller schools in cul-de-sacs and therefore easier to monitor. They will be monitored to 6 months, and then Byron Court School could be next on the list, subject to local consultation. Watch out for the consultation documents within the coming months.

Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy Bidding Round 2019/2020

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge levied on floor space arising from development in order to fund infrastructure that is needed to support development in an area.

Brent CIL was formally introduced from July 2013.



The NCIL Fund provides grants for community projects that support the regeneration of the borough. At least 15 per cent of all the money collected from new, eligible, developments in the borough must be spent on priorities that are agreed in consultation with the local community.

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Brent is divided into five 'CIL Neighbourhoods'; Harlesden, Kilburn, Kingsbury, Wembley, and Willesden. The value of NCIL grant funding available may vary between Neighbourhoods.

If you have a great idea for a project which could improve the Ward in one way or another, then you could apply for funding from the 2019/20 round.

Where Neighbourhood Priorities have been agreed, community organisations, residents, businesses, and other stakeholders are invited to submit proposals for funding that align to these priorities.

A scheme will not be funded unless it meets all 7 essential criteria. All shortlisted projects must demonstrate that they:

1. Meet the CIL Regulations (2010) as amended
2. Evidence community backing
3. Address the demands that development places on an area
4. Reflect the priorities of the council & CIL Neighbourhood
5. Be one-off projects that do not require additional revenue funding in their delivery or operation (or identify how additional revenue funding may be met)
6. Benefit diverse Brent communities
7. Offer value for money

NCIL project proposals may be submitted two times a year. The 2019/20 deadlines for submission are:

30 June 2019 (11.59pm)

1 December 2019 (11.59pm)

The NCIL panel score submitted project proposals according to how well they meet the shortlisting criteria. They consider the scores and the funds available to agree a collection of projects to fund. Projects that are not shortlisted will also receive notification and may request feedback. All project applications must be submitted by the application deadline using the grants portal.

Potential applicants can attend free training workshops at CVS Brent on the **2 and 6 June 2019**. Please contact ncil@brent.gov.uk for further information on how to reserve a place.

Windrush Afternoon Gala Celebrations

I brought a motion to Council in September last year to recognise the Windrush generation and their contribution to the UK, on the back of the Windrush scandal that was exposed last year. I am pleased to report that the Council has agreed to recognise the contribution of migrants who came to this country to support public services and businesses in Brent since 1948. Brent has agreed to hold an annual celebration starting from this year.

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Councillors' Surgery for Residents

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The Memory Cafe

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We have an amazing fundraiser coming up and I want to urge you to get in and get your tickets. On Saturday July 6 we have Shaun Wallace from ITV's The Chase here for a fundraising quiz. Shaun is a really generous man will even be providing a cup to present to the winning team.

It costs just £6 a ticket and children under 16 go free. We don't want you to miss out so why not pop by on a Thursday between 11-1 and pick up a ticket or email admin@stcuths.org. You can either form a team or join one on the night. If you would like to bring a bottle of wine with you, that will be fine. People should buy tickets for Shaun in advance as we are going to sell out! (see page 17)

I am genuinely excited about it. I love The Chase and a good old quiz really brings the community together. We need all the funding we can get and this kind of thing will be a great boost to us. It strikes me that that we so often hear of stories in the media about all that is bad in our world – but we don't often hear about things that are good.

From the very start Memory Café has been a good news story. I think that's why we get so many visitors and people who come to see how to set up one of their own. I think it is wonderful that there are now Memory Cafes starting up in pubs!

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I have been going through a period where I've been writing a lot. I've actually been writing since I was a teenager. It is something I love to do – even when it feels like wading through treacle.

At the moment I am half-way through a short book I am writing on Wonder. Wonder is when we are surprised by the beauty of something. It leads to amazement and when we feel wonder we somehow see the world afresh. What is familiar becomes unfamiliar. When we are children wonder is a regular occurrence – probably because so many of the things we come across are new. But we can become blunted as we grow older.

I think that we experience wonder in all kinds of ways as long as we are open to it.

Nature is a constant source of wonder. Some days I enjoy looking at the birds in my garden and go outside. Although my joy can be disturbed by the manic gardeners who get out their trimmers and leaf-blowers at the first sign of sun. (That's just me being a grumpy old fella!)

For years I wasn't a church-goer. But now I am and I regularly get a sense of wonder in our church. Sometimes I just sit in there on my own and soak up the atmosphere and the light. The quiet is beautiful and the sense of this being a sacred space.

Everyone is welcome at St Cuthbert's to sample some of the beautiful atmosphere. I find the place a total tonic – either full of people or with just me there and my cat.

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Hay fever—Part 1

Spring must be the very best time, unless you are one of the 20% who has hay fever! Seasonal allergic rhinitis is the medical term for those miserable cold-like signs and symptoms such as dripping congested nose, red itchy eyes, sneezing, itchy throat and pressure on the sinuses.

How do you know you have hay fever and not a cold? Hay fever starts shortly after coming in contact with the substance to which you are allergic, most commonly grass or tree pollen. Your nose will itch and have a watery discharge, your eyes will feel dry and sore, there is an uncomfortable scratchy feeling at the back of your throat and explosive sneezing. You don't have a temperature, there is no thick catarrh, but you may have a cough and wheeziness, and feel tired and unwell. A cold lasts a few days but unfortunately hay fever will go on as long as that substance to which you are allergic is around. Seasonal allergic rhinitis is caused by airborne allergens which are wind

pollinated, the birch tree pollen is highly allergenic and grass pollen is the most common trigger...that's why it's called hay fever. Grass pollen allergy causes symptoms from May to July, but tree pollen allergies start in February through till June; weeds and moulds are from June to September. Symptoms become more severe when the pollen count is high.

You can start treating hay fever yourself by looking cool in wraparound sunglasses, putting Vaseline around the nostril to prevent pollen entering the nose (less cool), staying indoors and keeping windows and doors shut. You should shower and change your clothes after you've been outside to wash the pollen off and don't smoke. The medicines used for allergy will help control the symptoms, not cure the condition, do visit your local Sudbury Court pharmacy for excellent advice.

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Residents' Meeting—All Things Parking



There's nothing quite like the subject of parking on our leafy streets to 'push the buttons' of residents. So please come and join us and let's see if we can have a **constructive conversation**, and maybe come up with a **solution**.

Before the meeting—please could you have a think about the issues that particularly affect you, and make a list, for example:

- * vans belonging to businesses (not residents) that are parked long term
- * commuter parking

to name just a couple.

Also, if you have heard of any schemes elsewhere that can help alleviate some of the issues, please bring along some information. We will discuss CPZ, I'm sure!

We're also inviting our local Councillors and Safer Neighbourhood Team.

This is your meeting—come along and join the conversation.



Saturday 29 June 2-4pm

St Cuthberts Church

214 Carlton Avenue West, HA0 3QY

Please join us

Shaun
Wallace
from
ITV's The
Chase
hosts
a Quiz
Night

Quiz
Night

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form a team or
just come and
join a team,
trophy prize.

saintcuthberts
on 6 July at 7.30pm.

214 Carlton Avenue West, HA0 3QY
admin@stcuths.org www.stcuths.org

In memoriam—Mrs Lena Jefferies



I'm sure many residents have noticed a couple of new benches on The Green, near the junction with Carlton Avenue West and Norval Road.

They sport a plaque in memory of Lena Jefferies. Lena's husband, Tony, dropped us a brief note:

"I am delighted with the seats as are my family members and know Lena would have been so proud and so pleased with this recognition of the part she played in the Sudbury Court community.

Lena is of course sadly missed, not just by me, but by so many, both family members and community members and your generosity in arranging this memorial is greatly appreciated."

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Northwick Park Community Garden

www.northwickparkcommunitygarden.com



The power tools and gas hob were out at the Mushroom Log workshop in the Windermere Pub garden at the end of April. We all had fun drilling holes in oak logs, then inoculating them with mushroom spawn (Shitake,



Indian Oyster & Lion's Mane) and sealing with food grade wax – used to coat Edam cheese! The wax coating prevents pests and dehydration from destroying the spawn. The logs will be buried in the garden area at a future Permablitz and will

bear mushrooms in about 4 years' time.

Ahead of our Permablitz planting day on 12th May, we measured biodiversity levels in the garden area; recording the type and number of plant and insect species found. Increasing biodiversity by planting the permaculture garden is one of the key objectives of NPCG. We'll measure again next year and it'd be interesting to see the results. We used classic hula hoops to select areas for sampling. Afterwards children (and grown-ups!) had fun showing their hula skills!



And then . . . we started planting the permaculture food forest garden! On 12th May a fantastic effort was made by our dedicated team of supporters and volunteers. Thank you to everyone who generously gave up their time and planted some lovely plants, including apple, pear, plum and cherry trees. Go and visit the garden area to see how we're getting on—and get involved in our next 'permablitz' planting day

JOIN US in a couple of weeks and plant a tree! Please check our website for the date (mid-June), and to book your place.

www.northwickparkcommunitygarden.com

Thanks for the great support.
Eleri, Joanna, Rishil and Iris



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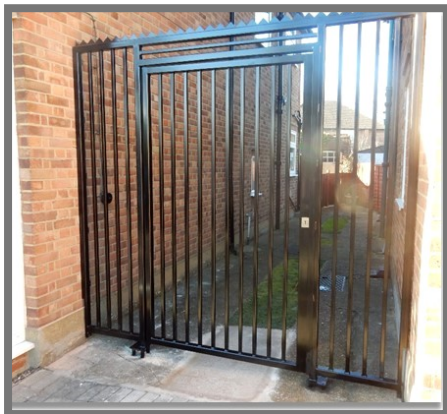
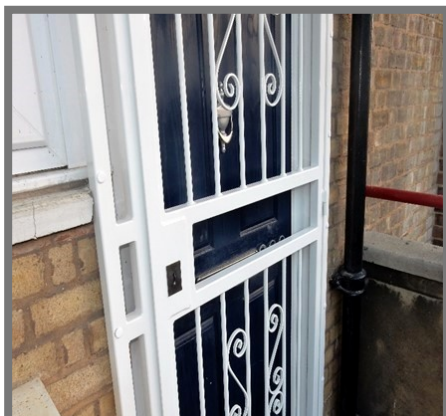
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Batman Returns!

This month brings with it an increase in activity for bats over our estate. Bats will have emerged from their winter hibernation, have formed summer maternity roosts and most of the females will now be pregnant. At this time they need to feed for long periods and catch sufficient insect food to sustain their developing baby. The two most common species observed over our gardens are either Common Pipistrelles or Soprano Pipistrelles. During June they will give birth to a single baby roughly one third the size of the adult female; about 1.5 grammes in weight. The adults average 4.5 to 5.0 grammes. From a human standpoint, this would equate to a baby weighing around 28 pounds or nearly 13 Kg. The babies grow rapidly and will be self sufficient within about 9 weeks from birth. They commence flying when only 3 weeks of age. The babies will be fed on their mother's milk and will start to receive insect food once they start flying.

Cont'd on page 23



South Kenton & Preston Park Residents Association (SKPPRA)

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Batman Returns, continued

We can expect to see the juveniles taking their first flying experiences alongside their mothers in July. If you watch carefully the adult will be seen flying with a slightly smaller youngster mirroring her flight, who will be trying to copy its mother. At first they don't have the stamina for long flights but they soon gain muscle strength and become competent flyers. During the next few weeks they learn all the acrobatics, the stalls, dips and turns that the adults use to chase and capture insects in flight. Soon they will become less reliant on their mother and become self sufficient. The adult bats will then start to disperse elsewhere and leave the young adults to their own devices. Watching the juveniles flying in synchronisation with their mothers during this learning stage makes for a wonderful viewing experience.



I hope to arrange a few evenings of bat viewing using ultrasound bat detectors, on Friday or Saturday evenings locally. Unfortunately sunset occurs late during June/July with bats not usually seen until about 20 minutes after sunset. Children will be welcome but it may be a bit late for them to be out; I aim to repeat the evenings during August / September if there is interest. Watch out on the WhatsApp groups for arrangements because most are arranged at short notice to coincide with suitable weather conditions.



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Anyone for Bridge?

A resident contacted us about finding other residents to play Bridge with. But before we could do anything to help, it seems they've found someone.



prevents the rust from forming." - *Omar Sharif*

Universality: "No matter where I go, I can always make new friends at the bridge table." - *Martina Navratilova*

It made me curious—I've heard of Bridge, but don't really know what it is, other than a card game. So I 'Googled' it, and this is what some people say are the reasons they play:

Entertainment: "Bridge is the most entertaining and intelligent card game the wit of man has so far devised." - *W. Somerset Maugham*

Fascination: "Bridge is such a sensational game that I wouldn't mind being in jail if I had three cellmates who were decent players and who were willing to play the game 24 hours a day." - *Warren Buffett*

Mental Challenge: "Many games provide fun, but Bridge grips you. It exercises your mind. Your mind can rust, you know, but Bridge

Development of Skills: "For example, accomplished Bridge players seem to be adept at computer programming and equity trading; computer service corporations and financial institutions sometimes advertise for Bridge players." - *www.bridgeworld.com*

Socialisation: "Meeting people with common interests and spending time enjoyably is the single most frequently mentioned reward from playing." - *www.bridgeworld.com*

It seems as if we could be missing out if we don't play! If you have an interest that you think other residents would be interested in, tell us about it.

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CALLING ALL GARDENERS

Sudbury Court
Horticultural Society

Your local gardening club

June marks the crown of the gardening year - and for many of us the rose is the queen of blooms. Roses of all colours and kinds, flourishing in our heavy clay soil, come to a peak of perfection in June. Yet many roses now bloom in May - perhaps because the plants are long-established, or were lightly pruned last autumn, but maybe too because of global warming - or even the effect of Easter sunshine on a south facing wall. The picture taken on the Spring Bank holiday on May 6th makes this point.

Our Rose and Early Summer Show on Saturday 8th June

should see this queen of flowers at its best. Members, you are invited to bring your best blooms and join with friends and neighbours in friendly competition from 11am to 1pm. You can also show pot plants and hanging baskets, mixed garden flowers, summer fruits and vegetables, photographs, artwork, handcrafts and floral arrangements. Novice classes for those who have not previously taken part are there to tempt you to join in the fun of the show. If you do not have our 2019 Programme booklet please e-mail Robert Smith rts8904@gmail.com with your name and address and he will post one to you. All are welcome for tea, cakes and a raffle as we gather at 3.30pm to see the results and enjoy discussing the judges' comments. Come on! It's the crown of the year! Why not join in and celebrate?

The SCHS visit on Tuesday 18th June to **Sir Harold Hillier's Gardens and Arboretum**

near Romsey in Hampshire is proving very popular. If you have not yet reserved your seats on the coach you should contact Christine Lawton quickly on 020 8904 7851 or email clawton13@btinternet.com. The cost is £35 per person with a discount of £5 per person if paid by 4th June. However, cancellations after 11th June cannot be refunded. With an art and craft exhibition on view as an

added attraction at the gardens, this should be a rather special day out.

A cautionary tale to finish this piece! Visiting a garden centre on a sunny day in mid-April we were tempted by some well-grown tomato and runner bean plants. Thinking they would give a head start to the season we gladly

invested expensively in both. They were lovingly potted on in the greenhouse with especially deep pots for the runner beans. But now in early May the weather has turned too cold for planting out, so they sit there, tomatoes hopelessly in bloom, beans reaching lankily for the sky. A mistake! If we had ordered these items from the SCHS plant sale we would have been collecting them at the right time for planting out. I hope your treasures from the plant sale are now safely planted in your garden and will thrive and give pleasure all summer long, while you relax in a garden chair with a cooling drink and watch the bees at work ---- after weeding, mowing the lawn, dead-heading the flowers etc. and did you remember to wash up the flower pots?

Margaret Roake

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Sunday 30 June
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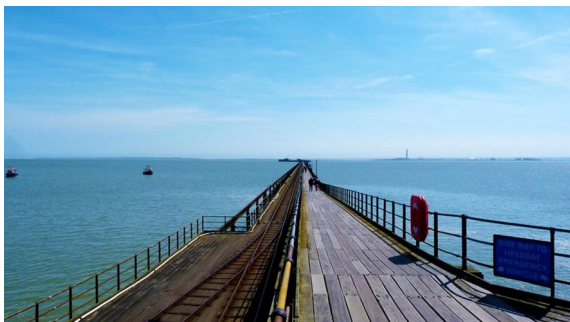
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Senior Citizens' Outing

August 7th 2019



The Senior Citizens' Outing this year will be to Southend-on-Sea; the first time we have been to this iconic seaside resort in many years. Far from its earlier rather seedy reputation, Southend is now a bustling venue with a High Street with enough well-known stores, local shops, coffee shops and restaurants to satisfy all tastes, together with a 7-mile sea-front promenade, and the longest pier in the world.

The coach will leave Tesco's at 9.00 am sharp, Bishop's Court at 9.05 am sharp and St Cuthbert's Church at 9.15 am sharp, arriving back by about 8.30 pm. Since the time taken to drive to Southend is shorter than our usual South Coast trips, there will be no comfort stop on the journey - but there will be appropriate facilities on the coach, if needed - all the more time in Southend.

COST: Senior Citizens who are members of SCRA - £15, will be given priority.

A number of seats may be available to other adults at full cost - £20.

Sorry! No refunds available for cancellations after 31st July. The price includes travel by coach, entry in the raffle and a gratuity to the driver. There are only 50 places available - so book early.

Any questions or queries please telephone 020 8904 3433

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(* State number or ** tick as appropriate)

Kids' Page



Hello Kids,

How are you all? Don't forget to write to me with your favourite jokes and pictures:

preeyaatthecourier@hotmail.com

RIDDLES

Q: Railroad crossing, watch out for cars. Can you spell that without any "r's"?

T-H-A-T

Q: What has a face and two hands, but no arms or legs?

A clock.

Q: What has to be broken before you can use it?

An egg.

Q: Lives in winter, dies in summer, and grows with its roots upward. What is it?

An icicle.

Q: It starts out tall, but the longer it stands, the shorter it grows. What is it?

A candle.

Q: What goes up and never comes down?

Your age.



Q: What belongs to you but is used more by others?

Your name.

Q: How can a man go 8 days without sleep?

He only sleeps at night.

Q: I'm full of keys but I can't open any door. What am I?

A piano.

Q: What has a thumb and four fingers but is not alive?

A glove.

Did you spot the deliberate spelling mistake?
thumb should be thumb






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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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SUDBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE—invite you to a Summer Garden Party, this year to be held on Wednesday 19th June 1.30-3.30pm. The event will be sponsored by Halifax Building Society who will match our takings on the door and provide tea and entertainment. There will also be plants and bric-a-brac on sale. The charge will be £7 per head; we look forward to welcoming you into our garden and are hoping that the weather will be kind, though there are contingency plans for indoors if necessary! The Centre is behind the Methodist Church, 809 Harrow Road, Sudbury, HA0 2LP. Phone 020 89081220.

We are also looking for volunteers in all areas of the Centre's work including an exciting new History project! Call in if you might be interested. www.sudburyneighbourhoodcentre.co.uk

HARROW PHILHARMONIC CHOIR—are presenting a 'Night at the Opera', for our Summer Concert. We will be performing a programme of famous opera choruses, at 7:30 on **Saturday 8th June, at Wealdstone Methodist Church, Locket Road, HA3 7ND.** Tickets: £12 (£10 concession, under 19 free). 020 8863 7009 or at the door.

CUTH'S TODDLER'S GROUP—(now **Dragon's Den**) Fun. Play. Stories. Support. **Every** Friday 10-11.30 (except school holidays) £2 (+50p extra child). St Cuthbert's, 214 Carlton Ave West, HA0 3QY 020 8904 1457 www.stcuth.org

BADMINTON – every **Thursday** 8–10pm in a local school, Sudbury Court Badminton Club welcomes League level/good club players. Contact Arvin 07748 642706, Alkesh 07956 453734 or Trevor 07771 998729

ST LUKE'S WALKING CLUB— informal group of supporters of St Luke's Hospice who meet regularly to walk and raise money for the Hospice. An annual long distance sponsored walk in May. The rest of the year we offer a variety of short and long day walks in the country and in the town for pleasure and to keep fit. Anyone can join us whether they intend to take part in the annual walk or not. The walks are free but small donations are welcome. Further details can be found at www.stlukestrainingwalks.org.uk

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The Times
May 10th 2019
Ben Webster, Environment Editor



"The health secretary is supporting the call by *The Times* for schools to be protected from poisonous exhaust fumes by banning traffic during drop-off and pick-up times.

In an interview with this newspaper, Matt Hancock praised parents who campaign for "school streets", which are closed to through-traffic for about 45 minutes in the morning and afternoon when children are arriving and leaving.

A temporary ban on traffic to reduce pollution around schools is one of five objectives of *The Times* Clean Air for All campaign. Mr Hancock also supported our call for much better pollution monitoring."

The parents at Byron Court School, as far as I'm aware from my meetings with the school, won't be campaigning for this. But residents in the surrounding streets are looking into it—mainly due to the disruption, safety and anti-social behaviour issues that occur daily during school term times. The environmental grounds are an added bonus.



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