

Camden Residents' Association

Newsletter November 2016

An invitation to Camden Residents' Association Annual General Meeting 7.30pm Tuesday 15 November 2016 in the Methodist Church (east end Camden Rd opposite the health centre)

Agenda: 1. Welcome and apologies 2. Minutes of the last AGM 18 Nov 2015
3. Chairman's report 4. Treasurer's report 5. Wild Camden update
6. Discussion of the proposed changes to the waste collection services
7. Discussion of pollution, speeding, traffic volume etc on Camden Road (and the roads leading into it) and any possible changes that could be made to road layout, parking and traffic calming measures 8. Any other business



An unexploded WW2 bomb brought traffic in Camden to a full stop for two days in May

A recent survey of Belgrave Crescent residents by CRA revealed unsurprisingly that traffic management is a high priority for Camden residents. A majority wanted to see more speed restrictions and action by the council to stop rat running through our area. Over 7000 vehicles a day use Camden Road and the surrounding streets and yet there has been little investment in measures to slow down or reduce the number of vehicles. Residents experience frequent damage to their cars and even face abuse from passing motorists impatient to complete their journeys. CRA believes it is now time to secure a comprehensive commitment from the council to a plan to limit the negative impact on our area. Other areas of Bath have received investment and priority from the council in recent years and it is time Camden received support as well. We want Camden to feel more like the residential area it is, rather than a convenient short cut for drivers on their way to somewhere else.

What has your residents' association done this year?

CRA has achieved some modest successes in 2016. White lining has been repainted, speed cushions have been replaced, and we have been active in tackling littering, although this is a constant battle. We provided comments to Curo on their plans for replacing the roofs at Snow Hill and responded to the consultation on the proposed extension to the duration of the Christmas Market. We also lobbied Councillor Clarke and other councillors about local air pollution targets.

We welcome comments from residents as well as suggestions for improving our area. Contact details are on page 4.

Richard Samuel

Introduction of wheelie bins/gullproof bags



There has been a proposal by the council to introduce gullproof bags or wheelie bins for non-recyclable waste. Collections of non-recyclable, non-food waste will also be reduced from weekly to fortnightly. The aim is to encourage everybody to recycle more and to ensure that all food waste is stored in the caddies provided by the council. As these can be closed firmly they can't be opened by gulls or foxes.

There will be consultation on this over the coming months: the new system is likely to be introduced next autumn. We will have a representative from the council at the AGM so that residents can ask questions at this stage.

A note from Nexus Methodist Church: Claremont Pioneer Community Project

Nexus Methodist Church have recently appointed a new Community Worker, based at Claremont Methodist Centre, to facilitate events and activities in the Camden Road with the aim of serving and supporting the local neighbourhood. We want to be a positive presence, welcoming to all, and we're really open to ideas and suggestions for using our building. Many of you will know that we run a drop-in coffee morning every Thursday from 10.30-12 which everyone is invited to; we're a friendly group who like to chat and meet new people (and we have biscuits!) This Christmas we are also running the following events; please feel free to pop by and join us!

- 3 Dec 10.30-2.00 Christmas Fayre: Stalls, music, hot food and lots of activities for children (including Father Christmas!)
- 11 Dec 6.30 Christmas Spectacular Concert with the Beckford Singers: £5 on the door with complimentary hot spiced apple juice and mince pies
- 17 Dec 4.00 Christingle Party: Informal family service to celebrate Christmas with crafts and songs

Do email jessica@nexusbath.org.uk with any queries or ideas.



Our Camden snowwarden team are again preparing to spread salt on pavements should ice or snow arrive. If snow comes, it will be a great help if all residents will help by shovelling the snow from the roadside pavements against the fence or into the gutter at the edge of the road.

Wild Camden update

This year the wildflower meadow in front of Camden Crescent was allowed to run a little bit wilder than usual, as we decided to miss out the spring cut. We have also now come to an arrangement with the council where they will cut the meadow a couple of times a year and we will organise a group of volunteers to clear these cuttings off the meadow; we need to do this to gradually reduce the nutrient levels of the soil to improve the conditions for the wild flowers. With dwindling council resources and willing volunteers, it's a more pragmatic solution for the longer term stewardship of public land like this, and also gives us more time to manage the rest of the area. If you would like to be added to the list of Wild Camden volunteers then please email wildcamden@gmail.com. If you are able to help out on occasional litter picks or ground clearance, your help would be greatly appreciated.



Having cut back some of the overgrown trees in the spring, the council is now hoping to come back and undertake the further work that is required before the end of the year. This will entail some coppicing, felling all sycamore and ash trees, and cutting down the buddleia growing out of the walls - quite a significant cut that will

help to improve views generally, and specifically to open up some of the sightlines between Upper Hedgemoad Road and Camden Crescent.

The CRA is also continuing to look into installing railings along the southern boundary of the site adjacent to Upper Hedgemoad Road, and is still very keen to take forward a project to restore the railings on the southern side of Camden Crescent: funding ideas would be welcomed. **Stephen George**

Photograph of Camden Crescent from Hedgemoad copyright Bath in Time

The **Museum of East Asian Art** is recruiting Visitor Services Volunteers to join the Volunteer team, particularly volunteers who can help on weekday shifts 10-1 or 1-4 and join the regular volunteer rota (weekly, monthly or occasional shifts). No specialist knowledge or language skills are needed - just plenty of enthusiasm! The museum is open Tues-Sat 10-5 and Sundays 12-5 with free entry for B&NES Discovery Card holders, students and children.



Unveiling of plaque at 15 Camden Crescent

A plaque was unveiled at 15 Camden Crescent on 19 July 2016 to commemorate Adela Breton – artist, traveller and explorer, who lived at 15 Camden Crescent from 1849 till her death in 1923. The installation of the plaque was sponsored by the previous

owners of no 15, Pascale Reymond and Andrew Langton.

The Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of Mexico, Minister David Najera, was invited by the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution (BRLSI) to unveil this plaque to complement its exhibition, 'The Remarkable Miss Breton: artist, archaeologist, traveller'. The ceremony was attended by the Minister, his entourage, and Betty Sucher, Chair of the Management Committee at BRLSI, and there was a champagne reception given by the new owners to mark the occasion, followed by an interesting talk by Minister Najera at the institution in Queen Square.

Adela's drawings and paintings from her travel to Mexico preserve for us an accurate record of Mexican antiquities and monuments, some of which now provide the only record of what existed. These were on display at the exhibition that ran until the beginning of October at BRLSI and is now at the Bristol Museum until 2017.

Deepali Gaskell

Residents' Association Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the CRA under our constitution conducts the business of the CRA. Members of the Committee hold office for one year and are available for re-election in following years. If you wish to stand for election to the Committee please forward your name with a seconder to the Secretary. Please include your name, address and contact details, also for your seconder, and send this in writing to the secretary by email or by post by 11 November 2016. It may be necessary to hold an election at the AGM if more than ten people wish to be on the committee.

Contact details: Chairman: Richard Samuel, 15 Lower Camden Place, Camden Road (938804) Email: richard.samuel1@btinternet.com
Secretary: Janet Anderson, 31 Prospect Place, Camden Rd, BA1 5JD (429574) Email: janetandtonyanderson@talktalk.net
Treasurer: Nigel Pollard, 6 Leopold Buildings, BA1 5NY (461842) Email: nigel.e.pollard@zen.co.uk

You can also contact us on our website at www.camdenresidents.org.uk

Our thanks to Andrews Estate Agents for printing this newsletter. Andrews has branches across Bath including the branch on Camden Road and in the Centre on George Street. Visit www.andrewsonline.co.uk/branches to find your local branch.

