

Views from the Hill



NEWSLETTER OF THE TEWKESBURY LODGE ESTATE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

June 2013

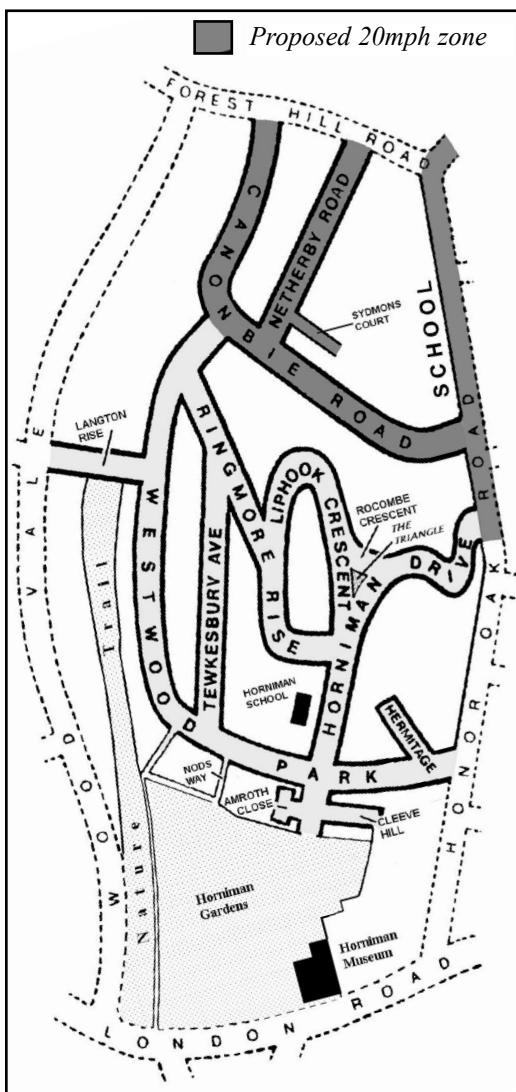
20 mph zone?

For some time now residents have been trying to reduce the 30mph speed limit that currently exists on Canonbie Road and Honor Oak Road. Honor Oak Road is a busy through road with vehicles reaching considerable speeds, and at busy times there are long traffic queues at its junctions with Honor Oak Park to the north and Forest Hill Road to the south. To avoid these queues, drivers are using Canonbie Road as a rat run, making crossing the road difficult and sometimes even dangerous. The humps that exist on the road do little to slow traffic and result in vehicles speeding and slowing, creating excessive noise and pollution. The road and pavements around Fairlawn School are very narrow in places with poor visibility, and parents walking their children to school are especially concerned as the pavement on both sides of the road is especially narrow, with bins and overhanging plants blocking the path.

Four years ago, Lewisham had run a consultation on a 20mph zone in the whole area to our side of the railway line. Such zones require extra physical measures to slow traffic down, and there was a lot of concern from residents living in Ringmore Rise, Tewkesbury Avenue and Horniman Drive about adding speed humps. The result was that traffic calming measures were introduced only to those roads on the lower side of Honor Oak Road. Given that the road goes past an old people's home and a primary school, with another primary school at the north junction, the exclusion of Honor Oak Road itself from the original plan was surprising.

Our Councillor Philip Peake with the help of TLERA committee members has started a petition to try and get the speed limit reduced on Honor Oak Road, Canonbie Road and Netherby Road. With the help of several Association committee members, a petition was put together requesting that the 20mph zone be extended to include the northern half of Honor Oak Road from the junction with Horniman Drive, as well as both Canonbie and Netherby Road. So far 271 signatures have been

collected from people who live in the area and from parents of children at Fairlawn School. Only about eight people were reluctant to sign the petition, which should give the council an indication of the balance of feeling. Please take the time to sign and support this campaign as the more signatures we have, the more likely the council is to take action. You can do this by going to <http://bit.ly/honoroak20mph>. Do forward this link to your neighbours and ask them to support the plan – we didn't manage to find everyone in when we called, so not everyone may have had the chance to have their say.



Inside this issue:

<i>Speed Restriction:</i>	1
<i>Summer Picnic:</i>	2
<i>Chairs Report:</i>	2
<i>Why Join TLERA:</i>	2
<i>Perspective:</i>	3
<i>T.L. Mystery:</i>	3
<i>Garden Opening:</i>	4
<i>School News:</i>	5
<i>Hospital Campaign:</i>	5
<i>Transport:--</i>	6
<i>Recipe:</i>	6
<i>Horniman Update:</i>	6
<i>Wildlife:</i>	7
<i>Filming:</i>	8
<i>Policing:</i>	8
<i>Street Lighting:</i>	8
<i>Planning:</i>	9
<i>Dancing:</i>	10
<i>Green Waste:</i>	10
<i>Edible High Road:</i>	11
<i>Slugs and Snails:</i>	11
<i>Committee List</i>	12

Annual Summer Picnic – now to be the Coronation Festival Street Party!

Just in case you didn't manage to get tickets to the Coronation Festival or Evening Gala at Buckingham Palace on 11-14 July 2013, the Association is organising an alternative event on Sunday 14th July!

*Up a bit, up, left a bit,
a bit more, oops,
down now, a touch to
the right...*

We had already planned to hold our annual Summer Picnic on that day so, in addition to

everyone bringing a dish to share and the Association providing the liquid refreshments, we will be bringing out the bunting sewn by volunteers for last year's Jubilee party, and asking the Council if we can close off the sections of the road around the Triangle at the junction of Horniman Drive and Liphook Crescent.

While the adults are busy eating and drinking, activities and games for the children are planned, including three-legged and egg and spoon races – perhaps for the adults as well as the children. Any comments or suggestions would be most welcome, so please let us know your ideas either via your road rep or by e-mail to secretary@tewkesburylodge.org.uk

Footnote: In case you are wondering, last year's Jubilee celebrations marked the anniversary of the Queen succeeding her father King George VI to the throne in 1952. Her coronation took place in 1953 to allow a period of mourning for her father - the four-day festival this year is when the nation officially celebrates that occasion.



Chair's report

After a very long winter and cold, wet spring, the past few weeks have finally marked the onset of summer. And with that we had the annual Tewkesbury Lodge garden opening for charity. This year we had so many gardens opening (another first: my garden was open too!) that we decided to open on two separate days. You can read more about the event in this newsletter. Congratulations to all involved for helping to raise a large amount of money for charity.



From gardening to technology matters. Recently we have been making more use of the Association's website by trying to keep it up to date with the latest news and success stories. The website allows members to post comments on articles, and is a great opportunity for local residents to let the Association know their views and discuss local issues. So if you were at the garden opening and want to let everyone know about the bargain selection of plants you bought, or have something to say on any issue covered

in this newsletter, just log on to <http://tewkesburylodge.org.uk>

Continuing with the technology theme, we've recently been conducting some trials into collecting membership subscriptions online. Unfortunately, we won't be rolling it out for this year, but we do want to hear from you about whether or not you would make use of such a facility, so we have put together a questionnaire. Again, more details on what we've been researching into, and the questionnaire, can be found on our website.

And finally, the new membership subscription envelopes are included with this newsletter. Please return these with your £5 subscription to your road rep. To help us keep you up to date with the latest news and information, don't forget to provide us with your current email address.

I wish you all a pleasant summer - and hopefully we'll get some more sunshine!
Dave Lowe

Why join TLERA?

- Help maintain and improve the character of the area.
- Get involved in improving the character of the area by liaising with key stakeholders.
- Make new friends at social events including the Fireworks Party and Summer Picnic.

- Stay informed via our print and email newsletters.
- Help enhance the strong sense of community and social cohesion within the area.
- Just £5 per household per year.

A membership perspective

It has been a year since I offered to help the Association (TLERA) with its membership operations and as I reconciled the records for 2012-2013 and cued up the database for the new membership period, it felt like an opportune moment to reflect on the past 12 months.

Whilst TLERA has, at times, been drawn into difficult situations, there have also been many positive activities that have taken place. The examples that spring to mind include the well-attended summer picnic, the ever popular fireworks event at the Horniman School, the very successful garden opening event that raised money for charity, the roads remaining open during the snow (thanks to liaison with the gritting teams at Lewisham Council), and the revamp of the TLERA website at www.tewkesburylodge.org.uk.

TLERA's membership remains healthy with 318 members during the 2012/13 year. This means that roughly half the households within the Tewkesbury Lodge Estate are members, a significant proportion for a residents' association and no doubt partly why the area has a cohesive voice and a unique sense of identity. The Association welcomed 47 new members last year, the majority of whom were newcomers to the area (you may have noticed how many houses have changed hands recently!). I've enjoyed listening to the new ideas that many have had with regard to the Association. However, one recurring theme has been how

time pressured people are, especially (but not exclusively) the DEWKS (dually employed with kids - I can relate to that!) and SILKS (single income lots of kids).

This presents TLERA with what is in my view the biggest threat to its existence. TLERA is run by volunteers - local residents who give up some of their time to help organise events, act as road representatives, undertake committee duties and liaise with local bodies and other stakeholders. Unfortunately, but understandably, people are finding it harder than ever before to find the time to help out. I sense people are fearful of getting embroiled and feeling over obligated, but this needn't be the case. It would be a shame if TLERA slowly wasted away, as it has acted for years to maintain and improve the character of the Estate and I believe that this role is just as relevant today as it ever was.

As the saying goes 'many hands make light work', and that is what we need - many more residents getting involved and giving just a few hours of their time each year which, collectively, can make a big difference. If you're able to spare a few hours a month - or willing to give a block of time annually to help out with various tasks, or if you have any good ideas you would like to share, then please get in touch with me. And finally if you're not members, but would like to join then email me at membership@tewkesburylodge.org.uk

Daniel Bailey



The folly at Liphook Crescent, all paid for by selling bras.

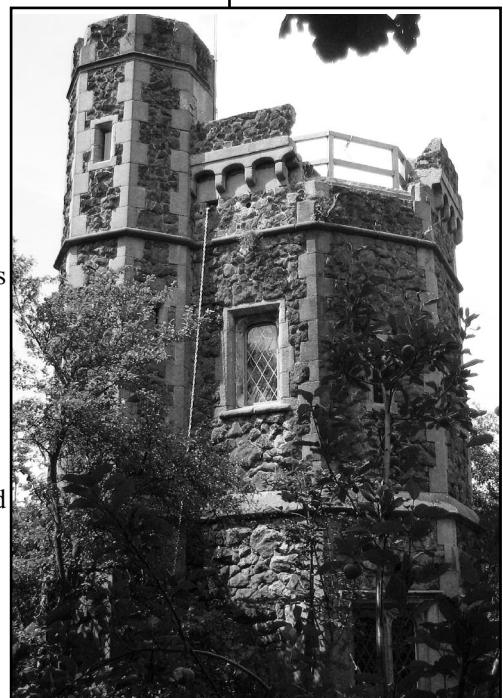
The history, or mystery, of Tewkesbury Lodge

The Association gets its name from Tewkesbury Lodge, a large house in Honor Oak Road that had an extensive estate covering part of the hill that gives Forest Hill its name. It was built in 1855, with a folly at the highest point of the garden of the Lodge added in about 1880. It is now in the back garden of a house in Liphook Crescent.

Thanks to Steve Grindlay, a well known local historian, we knew something about the last owner of the Estate, Charles Bayer, a renowned Victorian corset manufacturer. On his death in 1930, the Estate was sold and the developers moved in, demolishing the Lodge and building the houses that form most of our area. However, very little was known about the previous owners – until now! We have been able to trace the other two owners of the Estate, and

uncovered some very interesting facts about their lives. Maps of the original Estate have also been located.

Steve has agreed to put all this information together for a presentation to members at our AGM (to be in September this year). He has previously given two fascinating talks about Forest Hill to members, which were very well attended – in fact there was standing room only so we probably need to find a larger venue this year! More details will be given in the next newsletter.



NGS garden openings

In the 14 years that the Association's Garden Group has been opening their gardens for the National Garden Scheme (NGS), this year was possibly the best ever – certainly in terms of the money raised for charity. For the first time last year they managed to raise more than £3000, but this year the grand total was £4004! As seven members were opening their gardens this year, probably too many gardens to visit in one afternoon even for dedicated gardening enthusiasts, some opened in May and others in June. This year there was a new garden opening and a new activity for young visitors.



Fun in the sun

This was the first time Rowena had opened her garden and, with the long cold winter that we had, she wasn't sure what would be in flower by the time the garden open weekend came. The garden was landscaped in Autumn 2011 and the planting was slowly taking shape. As Spring came round the tulips burst into flower and held on just long enough for the opening. The weather stayed dry (albeit a bit windy), and now she is hoping for a good summer, to be able to enjoy the garden and think about next year's opening!

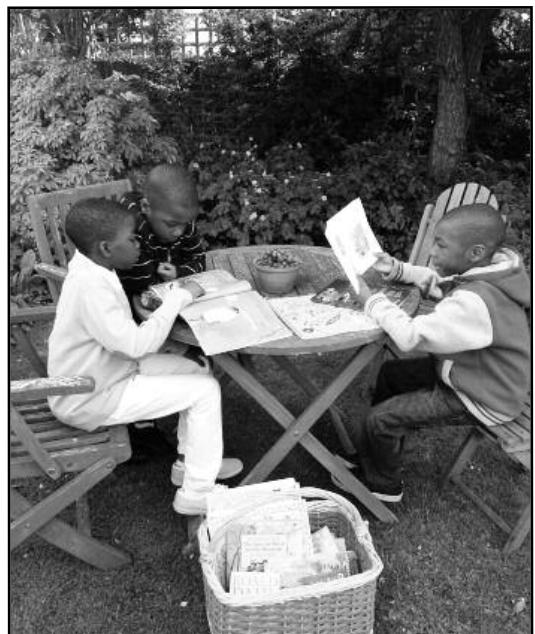
The weather for the May weekend may have been sunny and warm, but the day of the June opening was grey and overcast, and by the afternoon the intermittent showers of rain turned into a steady downpour - the prospect of any garden visitors turning up looked very bleak. Then, as if by magic, five minutes before gates were due to open for the evening event, the rain suddenly stopped, and the visitors arrived! The following morning the weather was still unsettled, but the sun was well and truly out by the afternoon. What was new this year was a Story Hunt in Frankie's garden that was designed to encourage families to visit. Children were given a sheet of illustrations from popular children's stories and nursery rhymes and then had to search the

garden to find the spot that matched the picture. It kept children (and adults!) engrossed for quite some time. Some children then settled themselves down with the books which were left out for them to read.

The garden owners had worked really hard to get their gardens looking their best, a fact clearly appreciated by the several hundred visitors that came. Other members of the garden group, friends and neighbours had baked a mouth watering array of cakes and then came along to help sell tickets and plants, as well as serving wine on the Saturday evening, and the homemade cakes and tea on the Sunday afternoon. Our thanks to everyone who helped to make the event a success and raise such a large amount of money for charities such as Macmillan Cancer Relief and Help the Hospices, including St Christopher's in Sydenham.

Footnote

There were many requests from visitors to come back at a future date with children and grandchildren, so Frankie will be opening her garden by arrangement this summer for anyone who would like to enjoy the Story Hunt and perhaps relax longer with tea, homemade cakes and books in the garden. All money raised will be shared between St Christopher's Hospice and Practical Action, a charity that has a practical approach to tackling poverty by using low cost, small-scale technology to help people to help themselves in developing countries (www.practicalaction.org). If you would like to arrange a visit please see our website for details, or e-mail francis_locke@yahoo.com



News from the Horniman School

It has been an exciting year at the School with our 40th birthday celebrations earlier in the year. In April the school won £5000 in the *Guardian* newspaper *School we'd like competition*. Our winning idea was for fixed bikes in the playground which can generate electricity. The electricity will be used to power film shows and a radio station. The prize money will also be used to fund building a Radio shed. The shed (complete with grass roof) has been



designed by a parent of one of our pupils, who is also co-ordinating a work party of volunteers to build it.

It has been a successful year on the football field as well, with our Year 6 team winning the Lewisham Mary Bennet Cup. It was an exciting final with the Horniman School team scoring in extra time.

*Julia Clark
Head Teacher*



They were going to send it by mail, but they couldn't find a large enough envelope.

Save Lewisham Hospital campaign update

Many Association members joined the estimated 25,000 people on a march earlier this year to protest against plans which would downgrade the accident and emergency (A&E) unit at Lewisham Hospital to a non-admitting urgent care centre, and could also see the closure of the maternity unit and the sale of much of the current hospital site.

These proposals followed on from recommendations made by a NHS Trust Special Administrator appointed by the Secretary of State for Health to make recommendations about the future of health services at South London Healthcare NHS Trust (SLHT) because of massive debts incurred by the Trust. Lewisham Hospital is not part of SLHT, and has the reputation of being very well run. A small deficit a few years ago had been turned into an annual surplus, and last year a brand new A&E Department was opened at a cost of £12 million. Yet the plan is to transfer emergency services to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Woolwich, leaving the boroughs of Lewisham, Greenwich and Bexley with one A&E for 750,000 people. Demand for A&E services at neighbouring King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is already high, and there are concerns that there is simply not the capacity at King's for the estimated 45% of residents who will go to King's if Lewisham's A&E services are downgraded. Additionally, women requir-

ing emergency services during labour will have to be transferred by ambulance to another maternity unit. This raises real concerns about increased risks to both the safety of mothers giving birth at Lewisham and their babies.

Legal proceedings against the Secretary of State for Health were issued in the High Court by both the Save Lewisham Hospital community campaign group and Lewisham Council. They both claim that the decision taken was unlawful. The Special Administrator did not have the power to make recommendations which would affect Lewisham Healthcare NHS Trust; his options analysis was flawed; there was a failure to recognise the cost-effectiveness of local partnership arrangements; and the proposals would have a negative and detrimental impact on the health and welfare of the residents of Lewisham. Both challenges will be heard in parallel in the High Court over three days from 2-4 July.



Transport and travel

London Bridge station is being developed as part of the £6 billion Thameslink programme. This will see more trains with more connections and a bigger, brighter station capable of accommodating around 66% more passengers by 2018. The station is the fourth busiest station in the country, bringing around 50 million passengers into London each year. The redevelopment will increase capacity by well over a hundred Thameslink trains every day. The concourse links rail platforms with the bus station outside,

and will unify the station for the first time so that passengers can access all platforms from one place.

As a result of this work, platforms 14, 15 and 16 have been closed from 19 May, meaning that Southern will be operating from six platforms rather than the current nine. So do check train times before travelling as some services will be retimed (<http://www.southernrailway.com/your-journey/timetables>).

Artists impression of the concourse at London Bridge.



Recipe corner

Chocolate coconut slice

These easy to make cakes went down very well with children and adults alike at the recent Open Gardens event for the NGS.

Ingredients:

100 g (3.5oz) butter
250 g (8.8oz) unsweetened desiccated coconut
220 g (7.8oz) caster sugar
2 medium eggs, lightly beaten
150 g (5.3oz) good quality dark chocolate, chopped (or use mixture of milk and plain).

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180C/160C fan/Gas 4. Line a shallow 20 x 30cm tin with baking paper. In a small saucepan or microwave oven, melt the butter and leave it to cool. In a large bowl, mix the coconut and sugar together, then add the melted butter and lightly beaten eggs and stir to combine. Stir the chopped chocolate through the mixture.

Press the mixture into the prepared tin and bake for 20 minutes until firm. Leave the slice in the tin for about 5 minutes after you've removed it from the oven, then cut into rectangles and transfer onto a wire rack to cool completely.

Chris Martyn



Museum of the Year 2013

Although the William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow won the prestigious £100,000 Art Fund Prize for Museum of the Year, many congratulations are due to the Horniman Museum for being among only ten museums

and galleries in the UK chosen by judges to compete for the award. This award celebrates the very best UK museums and galleries, highlighting their innovation and creativity in bringing objects and collections to life.

Garden wildlife on the Tewkesbury Lodge Estate - Summer

May is when bird song is at its peak. All of our resident songbirds are in good voice and sometimes some of the African migrants stay on to nest. Blackcaps are always here throughout the summer and you may have heard a chiffchaff singing through April and May as well, suggesting that a territory and a nest are being defended. There is less birdsong in June although another African visitor, the Garden Warbler, can be heard in some summers, and blackbirds, greenfinch as well as the occasional mistle thrush continue to sing well into summer. Song thrushes seem to do a little better in wet summers but, as with all our song birds, their nests are open and must be vulnerable to predation by magpies, jays, and squirrels. Towards the end of summer the autumnal song of the robin - more plaintive than the spring song - starts to be heard.

With all of our garden flowers in full bloom it is the insect life which makes the news in summer. We have two specifically woodland butterflies in some of our gardens. From a distance the Holly Blue looks small and grey, but close up it is an incredibly beautiful blue butterfly that lays its eggs, as its name suggests, on well-established Holly Trees. The Speckled Wood is a small brown butterfly that is at home in the dappled light of woodland edges. It needs areas of long grass in which it can survive the winter in its larval form. The male adults bask in the sun on bushes waiting for females to fly over their territory: visiting males are vigorously driven off and aerial dogfights between these aggressive brown butterflies are what usually draw them to our attention. One other small brown butterfly is sometimes seen - the triangular shaped Large Skipper - which takes up sunny positions on leaves from which it can solicit passing females.

Compared to woodland butterflies, we seem to have smaller numbers of the usual garden butterflies, although Red Admirals and Orange Tip Butterflies are common and we see the occasional Gatekeeper, Small Tortoiseshell, Large ('Cabbage') White, as well as the smaller Green Veined White. The migrant Painted Lady is present most summers and has probably flown from Spain to get here. In recent years what looks like a large red (male) or orange (female) butterfly has visited our gardens in August. It is well worth tracking one down at rest when its brown and cream striped upper wing will be seen to be truly beautiful. Called the Jersey Skipper, this once rare moth from the

Channel Islands is now establishing itself in Southern England as our climate warms.

Dragonflies fly over our gardens on hot summer days. The Emperor Dragonfly flies strongly and aggressively, as much as two or three metres above the ground or pond, and the Migrant Hawker is seen later in the summer. The Migrant Hawker is outstanding, first because of its spectacular colours (blue and brown in the male, and yellow and brown in the female), and secondly because of its habit of hawking for insects in the tree canopy. They are hunting for insects as - much higher up in the sky - are Swifts, which on a hot summer's evening patrol the up-currents which carry swarms of breeding insects such as Mayflies and Hoverflies.

To eat a meal under a tree in high summer is to discover, if not ingest, some of the amazing



*Painted Lady,
Vanessa cardui.*

insect life of our trees: this of course sustains much of our garden wildlife. The Green Shield Bug is a handsome beetle which never fails to appear at our table under a Silver Birch: the nymphs of this beetle must represent a limitless source of food for small birds. The countless caterpillars in that tree must, I think, turn into the nocturnal moths which I have yet to identify, but which often get into the house. And then there are the garden beetles of which the largest is the Stag Beetle: this feeds on the sap of leaves and is even a little intimidating in flight at the end of a summer's day!

Stuart Checkley

Filming on the Hill revisited

Following an article in our January newsletter about the filming of Christmas TV advertisements in Canonbie Road (when the houses directly opposite the junction of Canonbie Road and Westwood Park became a snow scene for the day!), a member reminded us that one of the Mr. Bean comedy television programme series was also filmed on the Estate.



In *Do-It-Yourself Mr. Bean*, Rowan Atkinson as the title character is filmed driving while sitting in an armchair strapped to the roof of his British Leyland Mini 1000. His route takes him along Ringmore Rise, past Liphook Crescent, turning into Horniman Drive, and then descending down Westwood Park into Canonbie Road. You can watch the three minute clip of this on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMW3Q7TQars>

Local policing

There are currently a few changes regarding our local police team. As you may have heard, the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, announced back in Spring that Forest Hill Police station would be one of a number of police stations within London that will close. No timetable was given as to when this would happen or where the local police team would move to, but it is likely that the team would re-locate to Catford Hill police station. The structure of our Safer Neighbourhood Team has also changed. The team previously operated with one sergeant, two PC's and two police community support officers (PCSOs), but this has changed to a permanent PC and a permanent PCSO. A sergeant is shared with Sydenham ward, and is able to provide proactive and reactive policing

by requesting additional officers on a day to day basis to support the permanent ward team.
Rowena Lowe

Stop Press

A considerable amount of lead was recently stolen from a property at the top of Canonbie Road. It wasn't attached to the property as far as we know, but hidden down a side passage. Luckily the police caught and arrested the thieves, but residents need to be vigilant. We get a lot of suspicious looking vans driving up and down the road and in this case a skip was an excuse for an opportunist to enter a property and take something. Skips, especially those on residents' drives, give opportunists an excuse to come onto their property looking for something to take so it is really worth covering them up with a tarpaulin.

Street lighting update

Skanska, contracted by Lewisham Council, have been replacing all our street lighting with more modern lighting columns, which are supposedly better placed and give more efficient light. Many residents were sad to see the old characterful swan-necked ones go, and feel that more could have been done in the design of the new ones, which are just bland, very tall, black columns. As the council gave us no warning that the columns were going to be replaced,

there was little we could do to save the old ones, or even replace them with similar style modern versions. We did try...

However, now that they are up most residents are more positive, as they seem to blend into the background quite well and are hardly noticeable. Their position away from the kerbside and against boundary walls seems to work much better as they don't block the pavements. We felt that the workmanship on



repaving after work had been carried out was of a surprisingly good standard, and flagstones were replaced, as promised.

The Association has been in contact with Skanska constantly in order to get the maximum benefit from the new lighting and iron out any problems that have been pointed out to us. We've had several tours of the Estate to check on the work, one with the customer liaison officer from Skanska and one without. We've also sent pictures and details of problems that we've noted, or that residents have pointed out, in order that they can be rectified as soon as possible. Skanska have been slow in their response due to needing the Council to approve the work, but on 27 June Skanska will be walking around the Estate with a Council representative to survey the work needed, and hopefully give the go ahead.

Problems that we noted were:

- columns and signposts in the middle of pavements, which we thought were hazardous.
- columns placed into trees, as this diluted the light and could damage the tree.
- lights now shining directly into residents' bedrooms.
- columns that had been placed right up against retaining boundary walls which might impede any work needed on the wall in the future.
- badly positioned signposts, which were installed as part of the street light replacement work.
- the seemingly random height of columns from one street to the next.

Any feedback or problems on the new lighting, signposts and/or columns would be very useful. Please pass any information onto your road rep or email us via our website.

Dagmar Vesely

Planning matters

Many of you may already be aware that the second planning application to demolish the existing building on 51-53 Canonbie Road and replace it with a block of six flats was refused on appeal to the planning inspectorate. Such a development, if allowed to proceed, could have set a precedent for the loss of other houses on the Tewkesbury Lodge Estate to similar developments.

One of the planning issues of increasing concern to members, and which was discussed in the planning inspectorate's report (see our web site for a link to it), was the impact of the flats' occupants having a viewing point over someone else's land – principally the neighbours. This is commonly referred to as overlooking, and is a significant issue that Council officers will consider when assessing any planning application. There are other recent examples where unacceptable overlook-

ing has been cited as the reason for the refusal of planning permission (and these cases had far fewer objections than the applications for 51-53 Canonbie Road). It is therefore a crucial aspect to any planning application, be it one you may be thinking of making, or one you've received to comment on. If in doubt, talk to neighbours who may be affected, or a planning officer at the Council.

On that note, the Association is looking for volunteers with planning experience to come forward to help us on a consultancy basis with planning applications made by local residents. There wouldn't be a need to attend any committee meetings, and we'd advise you of when help is required for review of an application. If you can help, please contact our Secretary (telephone on back page, or e-mail at secretary@tewkesburylodge.org.uk).

Dave Lowe

Put on your dancing shoes and head for the Horniman!

The Horniman Museum and Gardens have organised a Latin American series of dance and music events over the summer.

Latin Dance Festival

Sunday, 7 July 2013, 12pm - 4pm

An afternoon of dance performances and workshops to celebrate the start of the Horniman Summer Season. Enjoy professional and community dance performances, live music, craft activities and Latin dance workshops. These will include dance performances from three groups from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Dance and Music exploring themes from the current Amazon Adventure exhibition to create unique pieces of choreography to be performed in the Sunken Garden. There will also be music performances inspired by the museum and Mr Horniman as a collector, to be performed in the Horniman Conservatory, and live music and dance workshops near the bandstand with a mix of salsa, bogaloo, cumbia, funk, soul, drum & bass and funky 70's Nuyorican beats. Other activities will include craft workshops, face painting and food will be on sale



Weekday Participation Dance Workshops and Performance in the Gardens

Everyone is welcome to these free drop-in sessions (children must be accompanied by an adult), that will be held between 2pm - 2.45pm and 3.15pm - 4pm on the following dates:

Monday, 29 July. Samba Con Salsa. Join the Mandacaru Dance Theatre and learn some simple dance steps as well as enjoying a Latin American dance performance.

Wednesday, 31 July. The Afro-Brazilian artform of Capoeira combines martial arts, dance steps and music first developed by Africans as an act of resistance against their colonial rulers. This

performance and simple workshop is suitable for all ages and will encourage you to take part in some simple moves.

Thursday, 1 August. Get into the Amazonian spirit with an event that mixes Celtic Ceilidh with the sounds and movements of Brazil. Everyone will be invited to take part in the famous Gaucho Handkerchief Dance, with lots of brightly coloured handkerchiefs provided so everyone can wear one and get into the spirit. Live music, traditional songs and exuberant dances will mix together to make this a summer afternoon to remember.

Series of free Summer Bandstand Concerts

Latin American music from Colombia to Brazil every Sunday between

3pm - 5pm

- 28 July: Mafua de Yaya plays a mix of traditional Brazilian music styles like samba and bossa nova with contemporary influences.
- 4 August: A fusion of Afro-Andean and Latin sounds with some of the best musicians from Peru and Bolivia.
- 11 August: An upcoming new ensemble brings the full-on experience of a Venezuelan folk fiesta, with a mix of Afro-Venezuelan and Caribbean traditional music.
- 18 August: Join Cumbia dancers and musicians for a real Colombian music party.
- 25 August: A fusion of Spanish and African rhythms, straight from the streets of Santiago de Cuba.

Latin Music Fiesta

Sunday, 01 September 12pm - 6pm

Celebrate the end of the summer with an afternoon of Latin music concerts and carnival performances in the Horniman Gardens. Other activities will include Latin American food and craft workshops.

Green Waste

We were really disappointed to learn that Lewisham Council can no longer continue with the satellite garden waste service that has been operating over the last few years between April and November. This really useful service allowed people to take any garden waste from grass clippings to tree prunings up to four inches in diameter to various locations around Lewisham on Saturday and Sunday mornings. The car park in Girton Road, Sydenham, was the most convenient for those living on the Estate. Several really helpful men helped you unload your garden waste and transfer it to a

refuse truck, whereupon the garden waste would be taken to a company in Bromley to be turned into compost. Now Landmann Way Re-use and Recycling Centre in New Cross is the only free green waste site available to Lewisham residents.

You can still purchase green waste sacks at £10 for a roll of 10 from Forest Hill Library and then contact the Council on 020 8314 7171 when you need a collection. However, members who have tried this option found it was not a very cost effective way to dispose of garden waste, especially for shrub and tree

prunings which are not suitable for home composting.

Rather than filling up your wheelie bin, perhaps the most convenient option for large amounts of green waste is to use the Churchill Road

recycling facilities in Beckenham. Although there is a £3 charge for non-Bromley residents, it is a far more environmentally friendly way of disposing of your garden waste.

The Edible High Road

During the last few weeks, anyone walking through Forest Hill could not have missed seeing fruit trees growing in attractive containers outside many of the shops and businesses. Organised by the Forest Hill Society in partnership with Shannon's Garden Centre and Lewisham Gardens, the Edible High Road was launched on 18 May as part of the Chelsea Fringe, a London-wide flower and gardening festival. The apple, cherry, pear, and plum trees were underplanted with herbs such as parsley, coriander and basil to show that even if you only have a small space you can still grow fruit and vegetables and herbs.

Almost a hundred people were at the forecourt of Forest Hill station to see Channel 4's Landscape Man, Matthew Wilson, cut the red ribbon to launch the event. Several hundred free tomato and runner bean plants were handed out as well as various packets of vegetable seeds – Sainsbury's even provided some fruit!

Although the Festival officially ended on 9

June, the fruit trees are still brightening up the centre of Forest Hill, as businesses that helped to sponsor the event were able to keep them.



Slugs and snails – it's a war

It happens every year. Spring finally arrives after a cold, wet winter –and with it the slugs and snails. We know they consume vast quantities of decaying vegetation and dead leaves, but unfortunately they prefer a more varied diet, particularly the young green shoots of emerging herbaceous plants and early fruit and vegetables. Overnight, the new leaves and stems are reduced to stubble. Slugs and snails use their thousands of tiny teeth to devour hostas, delphiniums, dahlias and sweet peas, and they can't get enough of beans and brassicas such as cabbages and broccoli. Apparently, some slugs are predators and eat other slugs and snails, but clearly there are not enough of this species around in our gardens...

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) confirmed that slugs and snails have been a major problem for gardeners. For the second year running, slugs and snails topped the list of gardeners' pests. They can never be eradicated, so protecting the most vulnerable plants has to be the priority. Earlier this year, the Association's Garden Group shared ideas as to the best way to stop slugs and snails eating their most precious plants.

Methods discussed included slug traps, such as scooped-out skins of half oranges or grapefruits laid cut side down; or jam jars part-filled with beer and sunk into the soil (slug pubs); barriers with a rough or sharp surface such as grit or crushed egg shells; and the ubiquitous slug pellet. Free range chickens are another possible option but although they might decrease the slug and snail population, they may well increase the fox population....

One member had found that copper tape around pots was effective – apparently slugs hate the feel of copper and avoid it. Several gardeners said that they had kept their gardens virtually slug and snail free by going around at night with a torch (especially in warm, damp weather) and picking the slugs and snails off plants with tongs or gloved fingers, then either beheading them with scissors/secateurs or dropping them into a bucket of hot or salty water. This may be the most environmentally friendly and effective way of dealing with the problem, but may have limited appeal.

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However, by chance, scientists may have discovered the solution to the problem. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's research service was testing caffeine sprays against a frog that infests potted plants. They were amazed to find that although the sprays were not effective against the frogs, they did kill slugs and snails. A further study found that coffee was remarkably effective at repelling them, with a 1-2% caffeine solution killing slugs and snails, and concentrations as low as 0.01% were enough to put them off their food. A cup of instant black coffee contains about 0.05% caffeine, and brewed coffee far more. Caffeine did not damage many plants, even when placed directly on the leaves. However, some yellowing did occur on ferns and lettuce

which might be reduced by mixing caffeine with another substance to produce a new generation of slug repellants.

However, gardeners might be killing off a potential money making opportunity. Other researchers in the U.S. are claiming that snail slime is the new miracle face-cream, treating acne, reducing pigmentation and scarring, and minimising wrinkles. Apparently, snail slime-based beauty products creams have been popular in some parts of the world for a few years. A cell renew snail sleeping mask can be had for \$22.99 and a premium time returning serum for \$54.

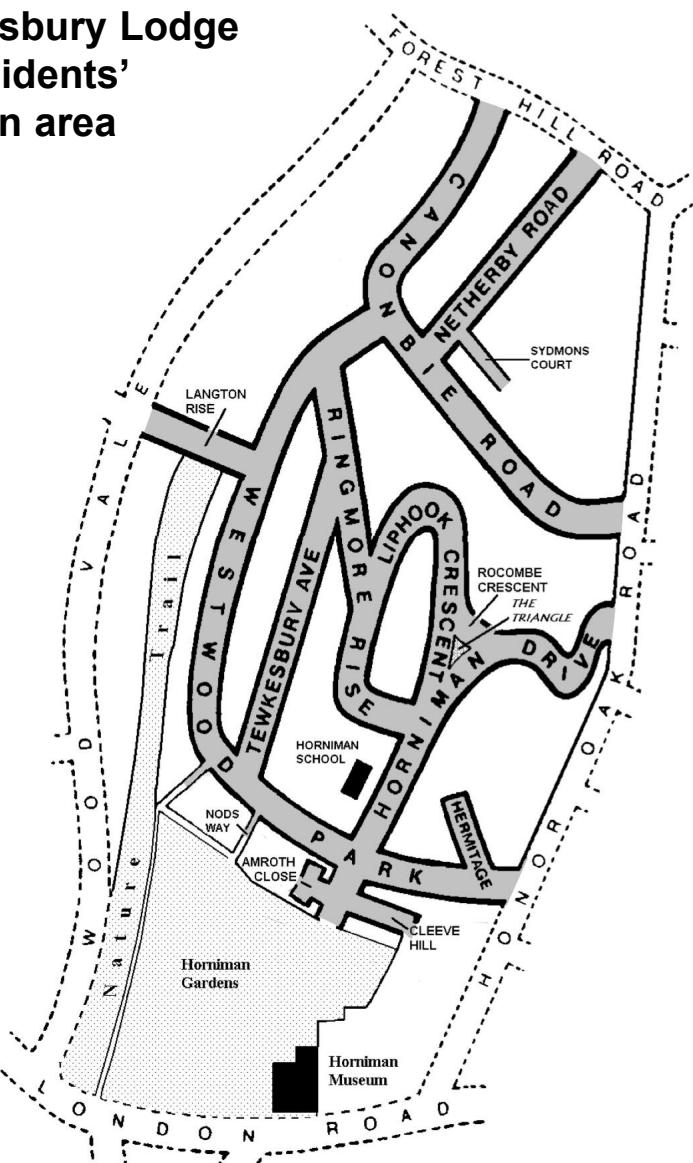
From garden to beauty counter? For some this might have even less appeal than donning waterproofs and going slug hunting on a wet night...



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The Tewkesbury Lodge Estate Residents' Association area



This newsletter was compiled and edited by Valerie Ward. Proof reader David Lowe Design by Michael Schlingmann. Contributions by members are very welcome and can be e-mailed to: secretary@tewkesburylodge.org.uk