

Views from the Hill

NEWSLETTER OF THE TEWKESBURY LODGE ESTATE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Summer 2019



Greening the Hill

Welcome to the Summer edition of our newsletter which we send out free of charge to every household in our area. We do this so everyone is aware of what the Association is doing to enhance and improve our area to benefit all who live on the Hill.

In 2017, we launched our campaign to make the Estate a cleaner, greener, safer place to live. One of our concerns was the state of our pavements. We conducted a survey and concluded that street trees planted many years ago were much too big for our pavements. Their roots were pushing up paving slabs and tarmac making it hazardous for pedestrians and, in some cases, causing damage to garden walls and pathways. There was little we could do about the existing trees, but we could become involved in the Council's newly introduced sponsorship scheme managed by Street Trees for Living (STfL): residents could contribute to the planting costs of suitable street trees and water them for two years until they were established. The Association agreed to fund 50% of the cost of six new trees with the other 50% being raised by individual residents. Since then, under the leadership of Stuart Checkley (the Association's co-chair) the scheme has gone from strength to strength and by the end of this year at least 40 new trees will have been planted around our streets.

The small, colourful trees chosen by sponsors will make our area visually more attractive and provide valuable habitats for wildlife. Not only will they make the Estate greener but will also help to make it cleaner by filtering out potentially harmful pollutants from vehicle emissions. Although we would need to plant a small forest given the volume of traffic 'rat-running' though our streets to avoid the surrounding main roads.

This traffic adds a road safety element to the environmental issues, particularly when rush

hour coincides with children walking to and from school. Using statistics obtained from Lewisham Council that showed the extent of the problem, our Traffic sub-committee has been considering traffic calming measures that



could be introduced, particularly in Canonbie Road, Westwood Park, and Langton Rise. Some of the options would inevitably increase traffic flow in roads adjacent to our area, merely moving the problem on. With this in mind, the Association has been working with Councillor Sophie Ellis, who has facilitated meetings with the Head of Highways and Transport at Lewisham Council to come up with viable solutions. You can read more about this in the 'Traffic calming' article.

A more recent initiative is to literally clean up the Estate by organising a group of residents to clear an area of rubbish dropped by pedestrians or thrown out of car windows. You can read more about their first litter picking session as well as updates on other aspects of our Cleaner, Greener, Safer campaign elsewhere in this newsletter.

Meanwhile, enjoy your Summer!
Valerie Ward & Stuart Checkley

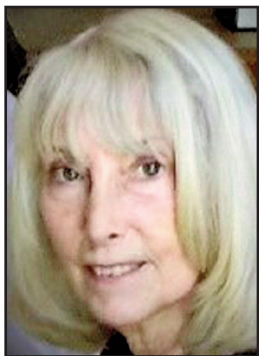
Dates for your diary

Autumn Harvest Lunch – Sunday, 13 October, 1-4pm at 28 Horniman Drive.

Carols by Candlelight – Saturday, 13 December, 5-6.30pm in the Triangle, Horniman Drive.

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*Valerie Ward
Chair*

Chair's report

It has been a busy year for the Association. We once again organised six very different social events for members and were very lucky to have good weather for all of them – that is until the very end of the Carols by Candlelight when the organisers had the thankless task of dismantling the equipment and taking down hundreds of fairy lights from the trees in a sudden downpour of rain! My thanks to the Committee who, with the support of many of our members, worked so hard to make the events so successful, once again raising almost £6000 for various charities. In addition, we were able to help with the second Three Peaks Challenge that raised a much needed £3000 for Horniman Primary School.

As you will have read our Cleaner, Greener, Safer campaign is continuing to make progress

thanks to the continuing efforts of Committee members who are leading on the various aspects of the campaign. It is a real joy to see the new street trees growing well: we were able to enjoy seeing them blossoming in the Spring, and some are already beginning to show the beginnings of their Autumn colour. Our thanks to the members who have sponsored the new trees and/or are continuing to water them – particularly in the soaring July temperatures.

I hope you enjoy reading more about the Association's activities in this edition. Do let us know if you have any suggestions for how we can continue to enhance and improve the area in which we live. Or if you would like to take a more active role in the Association, we will be delighted to hear from you!

Valerie Ward

Keeping in touch

Do you want to know about the latest developments or get a recommendation for a good plumber? Our members-only Facebook group will put you in direct contact with a vibrant community of neighbours. Ask a question, let us know about something of interest, or find a tradesperson who has given good local results. Simply search for Tewkesbury Lodge Residents

Association and we will welcome you to the group.

Do you want more local updates? Follow us on Twitter @TewkesburyLodge for loads of news from the Estate and beyond.

John Hudson

Crime & Policing

Just a reminder that if you are a victim of crime, or you know someone on the Estate who has been, please drop me a quick email (christinem.noon@gmail.com). Something you might think is minor might be part of a trend.

Attempted crime or suspicious activity is always worth noting too. If there is anything that would be helpful for the membership to know, I will send an email out.

Christine Noon

Horniman Update

Some residents expressed concerns about the ideas for the development of the Horniman Museum & Gardens recently displayed in Gallery Square and posted on our Facebook page. Most accepted that an improved entrance

roofed CUE building by the main gate has exceeded its design life of 20 years, requiring increased maintenance and repair. It was therefore proposed that the site should be redeveloped and incorporated into the main reception area, with the main entrance being directly from London Road. Less popular were the plans to link and enhance under-utilised areas of the Gardens, particularly those involving the old boating pond site and the nature trail.

I arranged to meet with a senior executive at the Horniman to discuss these concerns. Our feedback was well received as the main purpose of publicising the proposals was to get the views of users at the beginning of the process so they could be used to inform the development of these very early ideas. I will continue to liaise with Museum staff and keep Association members informed of any progress.

Valerie Ward

*Proposed new
entrance to museum
(Studio EgretWest
architects)*



was needed to avoid the congestion and queues that form, making access to the galleries difficult, and the café and other visitor facilities were inadequate at busy times. The grass-

Easter event



Our fourth Easter egg hunt was another very enjoyable morning and got Easter off to a good start. While the adults relaxed over tea and cakes, the children collected as many eggs as they could find, as well as saying hello to the

newly hatched chicks. They then sat down to make Easter cards or decorate the boxes they were taking their eggs home in.

£166 was raised and sent off to Demelza Hospice Care for Children, thanks to the generosity of people on the Hill. Thanks to everyone who baked cakes and came to contribute to a lovely morning.

Frankie Locke



Hunting eggs and drawing bunnies...

Three peaks challenge 2019

I wish to say a huge heartfelt thank you to the TLERA volunteers who signed up once again to be marshals at this year's Horniman Primary Three Peaks Challenge. Through sponsorship and ticket receipts we raised an incredible £3000, all of which will now be put towards very worthy enrichment causes that help to make the School such a special and amazing place for the children within our community to learn, develop, and grow.

This year, with the sun shining, the event took the intrepid walkers up the hills in Canonbie Road, Ringmore Rise and Westwood Park, then onto an extension into Horniman Gardens. This added a sense of adventure and interest to the walk and takes advantage of the jewel in the crown our local area has to offer! A special thanks goes to the Horniman staff for allowing us to take our route into their beautiful Gardens.

The event culminated in a traditional May Fair at the school where the children all enjoyed Maypole dancing, home cooked food, and music. All in all, through both the Three Peaks Challenge and the May Fair we were able to raise well over £4,000 of much needed funds.

Having so many residents volunteer to be marshals again meant that many families were able to walk together, and really helped to make the event feel like it was part of a much wider supportive community, which of course it is! I received an abundance of positive feedback about the event from people, many of whom specifically highlighted the involvement of the marshals as helping to make the event supportive, safe, and fun. Quite literally, we could not have done this without you!

Adam Jones

Garden Opening 2019

Summer is here and the gardening social season has well and truly begun, with one of the highlights being our very own Tewkesbury Lodge Open Gardens event for the National Garden Scheme (NGS) which was held on 19 May. Six gardens participated in this, our 20th year, and the "eclectic group in Forest Hill" was recommended by The Telegraph in it's choice of London Gardens to visit.

"Eclectic" - what on earth could gardening expert George Plumptre mean? Could it be the many inventive ways introduced to tackle the steep hill location and challenging terrain? The huge range of plants selected and styles followed? The wonderful colour palettes? The different views of London and out to the North Downs? The varied activities on offer:

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children's story trail, chicken observation, art and sculpture, al fresco music? Topiary? Wildlife gardening? Water features? Wildflower meadow? Well, perhaps George has a point!



The "Open Road" live

Once again, the weather was kind, and it remained dry and warm all afternoon enabling people to linger and fully appreciate the skill of the garden designers and plantswomen. It had been another unusual start to the year but the recent warm spell had resulted in some wonderful displays including tulips, alliums, gladioli, clematis, geums, wisteria, euphorbias, foxgloves and roses galore, all set amongst backdrops of green in a myriad of hues. The plant stalls at 7 Canonbie Road and 27 Horniman Drive were in high demand, with the carefully propagated and nurtured plants flying off the stands as gardeners were clearly eager to replicate some of the stunning planting schemes on view.

The many and varied seating areas were admired and utilised fully in all the gardens. The new decking at Westwood Park drew lots of admiration but a favourite spot seemed to be 53 Ringmore Rise, possibly due to the teas, coffees and magnificent cakes on sale. A lovely place to rest weary feet and to listen to live music from Open Road, some very talented local

musicians. The stunning sculptures and art on display at the Coach House were a big draw, as well as the inventive use of pots in the courtyard. Children loved the Hilltop story trail, eagerly ticking off the titles as they spied the likes of the Teddy Bears' Picnic and the Owl and the Pussycat amongst the undergrowth. A spontaneous additional activity of gathering the box caterpillars to feed to the chickens also proved very popular!

The combined ticket (£8) represented fantastic value and our Hill was peppered with eager visitors clutching maps as they unearthed each



gem. At the final count there were approximately 430 visitors over the afternoon and £5,270 was raised – the third highest total raised since joining the NGS scheme 20 years ago. While most goes to support the cancer and caring charities supported by the NGS, a percentage goes to St. Christopher's Hospice and the Marsha Phoenix Trust.

The success of the day was entirely down to the hard work and dedication of the talented gardeners and volunteers. The preparations start early (they have already started for 2020!) and involve lots of long hours and late nights with the watering can, so a big thank you to everyone involved. The Association is very proud of its "eclectic" gardening collective!

Tina Hildrey

Summer Picnic & Street Play

*"And I love to live so pleasantly
Live this life of luxury
Lazing on a sunny afternoon
In the summertime". The Kinks*

The Association's event calendar has been known to attract some rather extreme, and not always congenial weather patterns, so it was with some trepidation that organisers of the Summer Picnic watched the temperatures rise to record levels across Europe in the last week

of June. The storm-battered gazebo was hastily unearthed from storage to provide additional shade, if required. However, there was no need to panic as temperatures dropped a little and the last day of the month turned out to be dry and warm, with a gentle breeze – picnic perfect.

Once again, a section of Horniman Drive had been closed off to traffic to form a car-free, mini play street for children during the event. And, as always, the Triangle itself was resplen-

dent, with its trees in full leaf to provide a natural, green canopy under which to set up the tables and chairs, and to create plenty of cool



places to sit and relax. This bucolic scene was further enhanced by a stunning display of flowers brought from the cutting garden at Hilltop – a riot of colour and perfume worthy of an RHS floral show marquee. Frankie Locke, in the guise of Eliza Doolittle, was on-hand to encourage youngsters to put together delightful posies of flowers for jam jar arrangements to take home (for a small charitable donation).

The jugs of Pimms took pride of place on the stand from the start but they were rapidly supplemented with an impressive array of picnic fare, as no-one arrived empty handed. Salads, savouries, cheesecake and strawberries were the headliners, but all offerings were welcomed - not a cucumber sandwich in sight! With the refreshments sorted, residents retired to the

shade, with laden plates and full glasses to chat with neighbours old and new. Children made good use of their reclaimed street, free to ride bikes, invent games and create improvised chalk drawings in the traffic-free space.

And, to round off a very chilled afternoon perfectly, there was live music: John Jessel on the keyboard and Neil and Carole Abrahams on the ukuleles. They played a selection of popular songs which had plenty of people with voices well-lubricated with Pimms joining in to create a very mellow sound. No one went as far as dancing though. Maybe next year? *“Wouldn't it be lovely?”*

Tina Hildrey

Street art on the Hill



Street Tree update

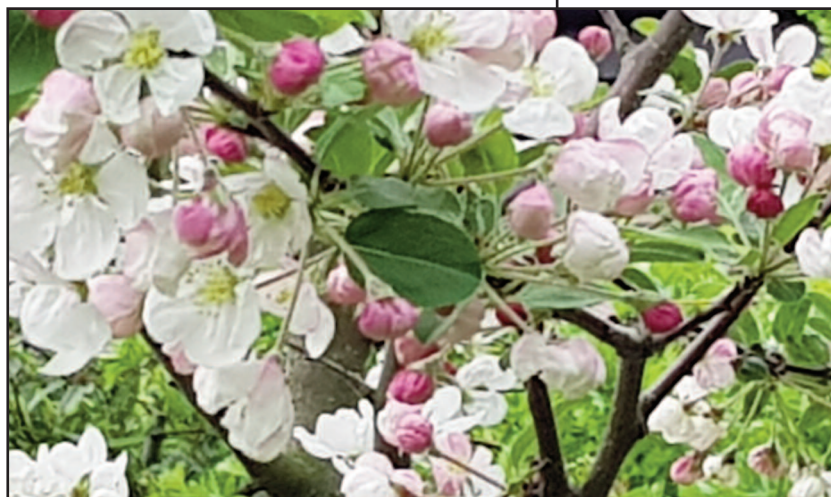
This was the second Spring of our tree planting project and the hot weather brought out a magnificent display of flowering Ornamental Pears, Amelanchiers, Crab Apples, Rowans, Liquidambar, a Magnolia and a Tamarix. Later in the summer we expect our first Chitalpa ‘Summer Bells’ to flower and then Autumn will show off the leaves and fruit of our Japanese Scarlet Rowan and Liquidambar

Have you seen the white flowering crab apple Malus ‘Evereste’ on the grassy verge at the top of Ringmore Rise? It had three large orange crab apples when it arrived from the plant nursery and these stayed on all through the Winter. Light green leaves opened in March, followed by the appearance of cerise coloured buds that opened to reveal white petals streaked with cerise. The tree is clearly happy with its new home, and in the last month several

hundred crab apples have set. These are small and green now but will turn orange and then yellow through autumn and winter.

The red flowering Malus ‘Rudolph’ can be seen

Street Tree Malus ‘Everest’



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on Liphook Crescent, Canonbie Road, Netherby Road and Horniman Drive. There was red in the buds and petals, there is always red in the opening leaves and there is red on the small crab apples: the bark is reddish throughout the year. The balance between green and red is changing all the time which makes this an attractive tree. The third Crab Apple, Malus 'Royalty' is similar



*Street Tree Malus
'Rudolph'*

to M. 'Rudolph' but has a different more columnar shape, pinker and earlier blossom, and purple crab apples. The question of which is the fairest of the three Crab Apples is hotly disputed, and the views of the "Royalists" on Canonbie Road and Horniman Drive are not to be overlooked! All of us are agreed that it is a

good idea to have Crab Apples of different colour: red for 'Rudolph', purple for 'Royalty' and yellow/orange for 'Evereste'.

Several of you have asked if labels could be appended to the trees to identify the variety and species of each tree. Green labels will be appearing on tree stakes as this newsletter goes to press. These labels have been provided by Street Trees for Living (STfL) and its parent charity the Brockley Society.

Most of the trees we have planted so far have been funded by members of the Residents Association who are also watering the trees until they are established. But the scheme is open to everyone who lives on the Hill and shares our vision. The Council is reviewing the planting sites that we have proposed for this coming Autumn and we are hoping to be able to plant a further 15 trees to bring our total number of new trees to 41.

Looking forward to 2020, if you would like to choose and pay for, or to water a tree that will be planted in the autumn of 2020, please contact me now at stuart@streettreesforliving.org. Each tree costs £270. This price is subsidised by the Council in recognition of the work that STfL and its volunteers do to raise funds and care for the trees.

Stuart Checkley

The Big Clean up - a big success

Last year our son suffered a near fatal accident in the Horniman Play Park, when he tripped and fell onto broken glass sustaining a life-threatening injury. Luckily, he survived but, as a result, we decided to inspect the park and were shocked at the amount of litter and dumped rubbish, mainly in the undergrowth but also on the grass. It is a popular spot for fly tippers, who throw rubbish over the fence from Sydenham Hill. It's also our local playground so together with Cleanup UK and Greendale (the company that maintains the park) we organized a clean up.

Around 20 of us, including local schoolchildren, worked tirelessly for over two hours, scrambling around in the undergrowth and removing all the rubbish, some of it which had been there for some time. We recycled what we could and collected 30 bags of rubbish. By the time we left the park was spotless!

We have now decided to try and tackle litter issues on and around our Estate and will be

organizing regular litter picks in a bid to keep our environment clean. Litter is not only dangerous to humans but has a detrimental impact on our wildlife. So do come and join us on our next Litter Picks. Equipment will be provided, but please bring gloves if you have them. We will be meeting at the Triangle in Horniman Drive on Saturday 7 September at 2pm and Sunday 3 November at 2pm.

Dagmar Vesely



*Litterpickers taking
part in the Big Clean
up*

Traffic Calming

Excessive traffic on the Estate continues, bringing with it air pollution, noise pollution, accidents, and litter. Excessive speeding and engine revving bring noise misery to many residents and make our streets feel unsafe.

The topic at a recent meeting of the London Forum, which we attended, was *Improving our Streets and the Public Realm*. The discussion was based around a new approach to our streets - prioritizing pedestrians over traffic and making the streetscape more inviting in order to encourage people to walk rather than use their cars. Our Councillor, Sophie Davies, has been outstanding in instigating meetings with the Council and bringing our cause to their attention. Most recently she arranged a meeting with Simon Moss, Head of Highways and Transport at Lewisham Council, that involved a two hour in-depth walk and talk around the Estate, onto Devonshire Road, the Francesca de Cabrini School, and the South Circular from

where much of the traffic stems. Simon is currently looking at holistic ways to approach the issues and come up with viable and effective solutions to this toxic state of affairs.

This would not have been possible without Sophie's commitment and diligent hard work.
Maynard Firth and Dagmar Vesely



Rat-running on the Hill

Transport Links

The airports around London are all healthy in terms of profit and are all therefore trying to expand. To start with one of the lesser ones, Luton Airport is building 'Dart' a driverless light railway from Luton Parkway to the actual airport building due to open in 2021 at a cost of £225m. Taking the Thameslink from London Bridge to Luton Parkway will be an easy option for us.

Stansted, meanwhile, is busy reworking its terminal buildings, mainly a new dedicated Arrivals terminal to open next year at a cost of £600m. I find the Stansted rail link via Liverpool Street a bit problematic to get to from Forest Hill, however a train and tube to Tottenham Hale via Highbury seems to work well enough.

London City Airport is applying to increase capacity by 35% by 2030. It is also applying for a new dedicated Elizabeth Line station to increase connectivity, and from our direction will also benefit from the new Silvertown tunnel in Greenwich. The downside in our area is increased low level air traffic when the wind is from the east.

Heathrow has big plans of course - a third runway, but also new Elizabeth Line connections from Maidenhead and Paddington and talk of a direct rail link from Southampton (instead of via Victoria). There is also some discussion of a link from HS2. They also plan a massive 50,000 vehicle new multi-storey car park. This plan will cost £14 billion altogether and involves (amongst other things) digging the M25 down so that the runway can go over it.

Gatwick is on the brink of using their emergency second runway for routine business. They believe this, plus an eventual third runway, will increase capacity by 50%. In terms of cost, their full plans are less than Heathrow - £9 billion - but also more staged, i.e. it is not one mega-project. Gatwick is, for instance, rebuilding its train station making it more user friendly, with bigger platforms and better stair-free access.

The main proposal I personally oppose is Heathrow - I believe the public is better served by competition between airports, and that better rail links can do much more to make the various options (including distant ones like Birmingham, Southend, Southampton) more reasonably accessible for everyone.

Dave Leslie

More about airports

If you are already part of our members-only Facebook group, you will have seen the letter written by our MP Ellie Reeves to the chief executive of London City Airport regarding their expansion plans. These will result in 110

additional flights a day; the scraping of the current airport closure between Saturday 12.30pm and Sunday 12.30pm; and increased early morning and late evening flights. Flight paths from both City and Heathrow

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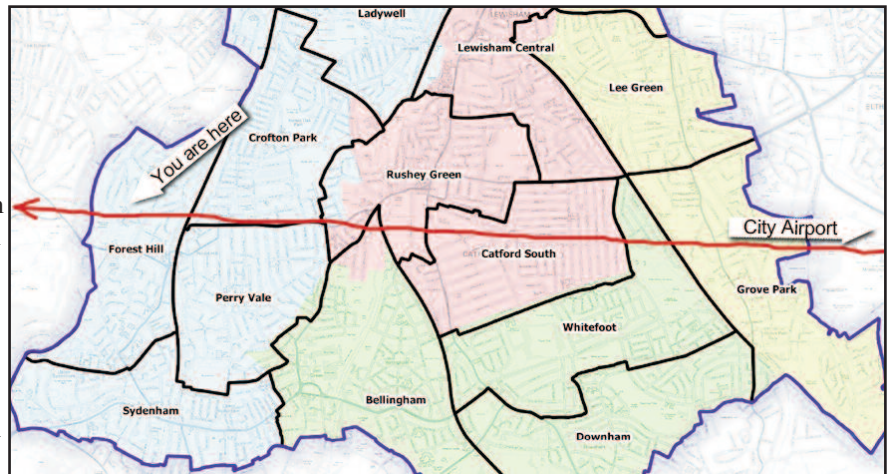
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airports go through Lewisham West and Penge. This means that Forest Hill already experiences significant levels of aircraft noise much higher than surrounding areas. Despite this, our constituency will not be included in the consultation. Ellie has therefore asked that this be remedied so that the views of residents in our Borough as well as other overflowed boroughs in outer London be considered.

The Association and many individual

residents took part in the recent consultation regarding Heathrow's expansion programme. We hope that we will also be given the opportunity to do so for City Airport.

Valerie Ward



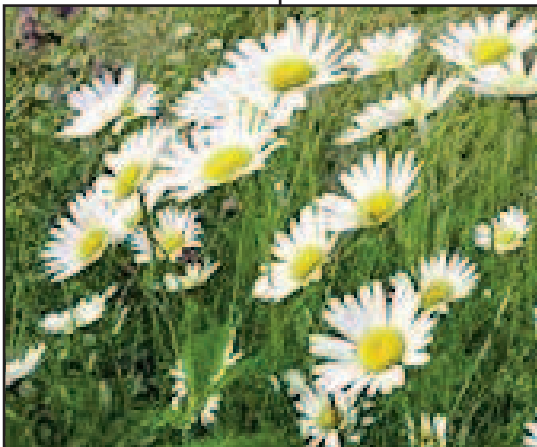
Stop press

Included in this newsletter is a postcard inviting the views of residents affected by the City Airport expansion. Do complete and return.

Summer in my Garden

As late spring flowers return to the soil to build up for next year, a real treat of absolutely stunning roses appeared. They seem to be

particularly large and beautiful this season. I am so happy about the scented *Rhapsody in Blue* rose (yes, blue flowers!) as it struggled for the first couple of years when I planted it in too much shade. Three ox-eye daisy plants that I put in a few years ago have since spread to areas of the garden that needed a lift.



Dainty flat white petals with yellow centres form 'clouds of loveliness' and last for many weeks. The bees think they are good too! The bronze fennel is growing tall and majestic with feathery leaves swaying in the breeze.

I am looking forward to my sweet peas producing flowers so I can pick some to radiate their scent in the house. I must start them off in the autumn this year to get an earlier crop next summer. At the front of the house pots of *Pelargonium 'Sidoides'*, that produce small burgundy flowers on long stems through summer to the frosts, are growing strongly to welcome us home, as is a pot of *Pelargonium 'Attar of Roses'* that popped up again after I thought I had lost it in the winter cold. The intense blue clematis is scrambling over a spirea in a summery carefree way, and the circular planter by my back door (so I can see it at close quarters) is a real joy.

The alpine plants are loving the gravelly soil and sun, and are exquisite miniatures of the plant world.

I am eagerly watching a Tiger Lily plant that I bought from one of our NGS Open gardens as it grows taller and taller with buds fattening up with much anticipation. Love the summer!

Alice Hutton

Triumph and tragedy in the wildlife garden

As our garden birds come towards the end of their annual cycle of courtship, nest building and feeding their young, we can see which have succeeded in passing on their genes to the next generation, and which have failed.

For most of them, the odds are heavily stacked against success. Blue tits and great tits are an exception. So long as there is a correctly situated nest box with the entrance hole of the right size for the bird and the wrong size for its



predators all should be well. And as can be seen from the visitors to our feeding station, this has been another good year for them. However, for birds that use an open nest box (like the robin) or have to nest in something like a bush (like the blackbird) there is no hiding from predators. Squirrels are the most dangerous, but if they don't get them the magpies, jays or crows will. And if any young do fledge, the local cats are lying in wait.

No blackbird has succeeded in our garden since I cut back a thicket of Albertaine Rose, mahonia and blackberry 20 years ago. Subsequent nests have been robbed in the tidied thicket. Coal tits, which were with us all Winter, and hedge sparrows who frequented the terrace are nowhere to be seen. I suspect the local cat.

Better news for the robin who follows me round the garden. He has survived and so have two juvenile robins. However, the best news of the year concerns a pair of blackcaps. These are beautiful grey songbirds with a black cap for the male and a brown cap for the female. For the last few weeks a pair of these birds has been flying furtively into the thicket near the place where the blackbirds last successfully nested. And then today they were accompanied by two juveniles. They were feasting on the berries of a mahonia and a berberis which must have given them a great start in life. Now that is something to sing about and the male, who has a musical voice, was allowing himself just a little time to sing.

Stuart Checkley

Horniman Museum

Summer is well and truly here, so we can forgive you if you've been spending your time in the Gardens, which are looking glorious, rather than the Museum! But there's plenty to see and enjoy indoors too.

You might also have seen the display in Gallery Square which laid out some of the ideas for the future development of the Horniman, and hopefully you've shared your thoughts with us. The feedback period has ended but the ideas are still on our website if you'd like to check them out, and we'll be updating on our progress in the autumn.

Two new exhibitions opened earlier this month. *Turn It Up: On Paradoxes* is a photographic exhibition by Nigerian photographer Jide Odukoya. 'Turn it up' is modern vernacular for lavish fun, and the series of photos present opulent Nigerian weddings, contrasting cosmopolitan affluence and extravagance with underlying economic inequality. You can find the exhibition on the World Gallery balcony for the rest of the year.

Described as a 'testing ground for a new vision of urban life', *My Model City* is an installation created by young people from Peckham Platform and the Horniman in collaboration with Muf Architecture/art. The display explores how cities could better serve their communities and enhance our shared culture and includes animations of future city life as envisaged by today's young people. *My Model City* is in The Studio until 1st September.

You can play a part in the next exhibition destined for The Studio by joining one of our workshops exploring thread, fabric, and recycled materials. Free and open to all, the

workshops are every Wednesday throughout the summer. Make the most of your midweek visit by taking part in Wonderful Wednesday free family days – with different themes and activities each week, from storytelling to family games.

And so we finish as we began, back outside in the Gardens. We hope you enjoyed the summer evenings at the South London Music Sessions on Thursdays throughout July and into August.



These weekly gigs featured some of the best young live music talents London has to offer, set against those spectacular views of the city. Here's to summer!

Alison McKay

Horniman Gardens

You may remember that last year we transformed the Sunken Garden bedding scheme into a giant colour wheel to accompany the Colour: The Rainbow Revealed temporary exhibition. This year's Brick Wonders exhibition celebrates those amazing LEGO® bricks so we thought it would be fun to use LEGO® as an inspiration for this summer's bedding design. We chose

Underneath our lovely olive trees we are growing a selection of edible plants from the Nightshade family (Solanaceae) including varieties of tomatoes, aubergines, chillies and cape gooseberries all edged with tobacco plants. We are hoping our friendly squirrels will leave them alone, compared to the damage they did to the corn varieties we planted there last year.



The children's bottle garden inspired by Matisse

six varieties of colourful annuals planted in squares and rectangles to give the impression of giant bricks. It has worked really well and is a glorious bright and fun display.

The Grasslands Garden goes from strength to strength, this year winning 'best design' award in the Horticulture Week Custodian Awards. We are all obviously chuffed to bits with the result and think this James Hitchmough designed Garden thoroughly deserves its win. It is looking magnificent at the moment with yellow *Echinacea paradoxa* flowering amongst Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*) and the Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) to name just a few of the flowering plants doing their thing whilst I was writing this.

Earlier this year we worked closely with local floral designer Yolanda Chiamello and Horniman Primary School to take part in the annual Chelsea Fringe – the alternative garden festival – and create a Matisse-inspired Bottle Garden. The kids recycled plastic drinks bottles and, with the help of Yolanda and the Gardens team, they sowed the seeds in April and planted them up in May. They did an amazing job and the bottles looked great displayed down by the front of the Museum opposite London Road.

The Gardens look fabulous in the sun and should do so all summer. I really hope you come and visit and enjoy all the lovely plants and displays we have to offer this year.

Wes Shaw

Feeding foxes?



A young fox has just killed five of my hens - this year's chicks that a lot of children on the Hill enjoyed visiting when newly hatched. That is the natural order and I have to accept it. But my fear is that next time it might be a child that is attacked - since the natural order is changing. And that is happening fast, just like climate change, due to human activity.

The natural order used to be that foxes hunted by night and slept by day, when people are out

and about. And that foxes were frightened of humans, so would run away if seen. No longer. Foxes are now so unafraid that they are in our gardens all day long. They don't even move when approached and shooed away. They come into our houses if we leave doors open and mark our rooms as their territory by leaving their excrement. Yesterday a fox went into the bedroom of an elderly TLERA member and took her new sandals. She found one of them in the garden, chewed. The other is missing.

The behaviour of foxes has changed because some people on the Hill feed them and say they

enjoy taming them. You can tame them, but not change their nature. In other parts of London they have attacked small children. Will that happen on the Hill?

If you have small children playing outside, please warn them that they must not go near these young foxes, even though they seem like dogs. And if you feed the foxes, please, please, think about how you are changing the natural order of things and how your actions impact on neighbours. What will you feel like if your 'tame' fox attacks a child?

Frankie Locke

Our congratulations

Nano McCaughan has won the New London Architecture (NLA) Hidden Hero prize that recognises the significant contribution of individuals whose efforts often go unseen and unrecognised.



In May 2014, Nano, representing the South London branch of Citizens UK, successfully persuaded the Mayor of Lewisham, Sir Steve Bullock, to provide some land for a Community Land Trust project to build 11 genuinely affordable homes. There then followed many meetings with the Mayor, Councillors, and Council officials before a suitable site was agreed. A steering committee was gradually built up to help with the plans, and a community orientated architects team chosen. The team put the design together with local people through over 50 meetings, workshops, door-knocking sessions and other events. The plans went to the Council for approval and planning permission was finally granted for Brasted Court, Sydenham, in April 2019.

Nano played a key role in progressing and delivering the project, scheduled to be finished in the latter half of 2020. The Hidden Hero prize is therefore a well-deserved award for her five years of hard work, commitment and perseverance.

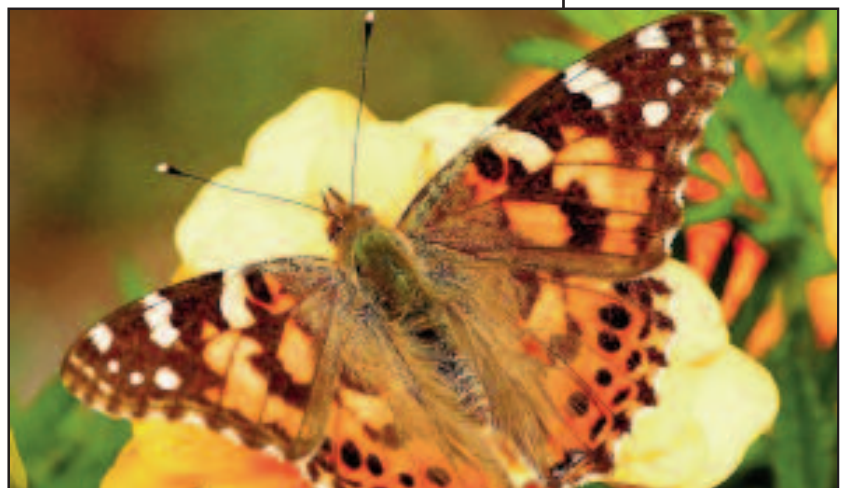
Butterfly count

Love butterflies? Butterfly Conservation has urged people to take part in their annual butterfly count. The painted lady butterfly commonly flies to the UK during the summer, flying at speeds of up to 30mph on an incredible 7,500-mile annual journey from Africa. This year millions are expected to arrive in a mass migration that happens every decade. Simply spend 15 minutes on a sunny day in August recording which of 17 species of common butterfly and two day-flying moths you spot. You can download a butterfly identification chart and submit your sightings online at <https://www.bigbutterflycount.org/> or use their free smartphone app to identify and record the butterflies you see. So if you receive this newsletter before the end of August, do take

time out to take part – and get the whole family involved as well!

Valerie Ward

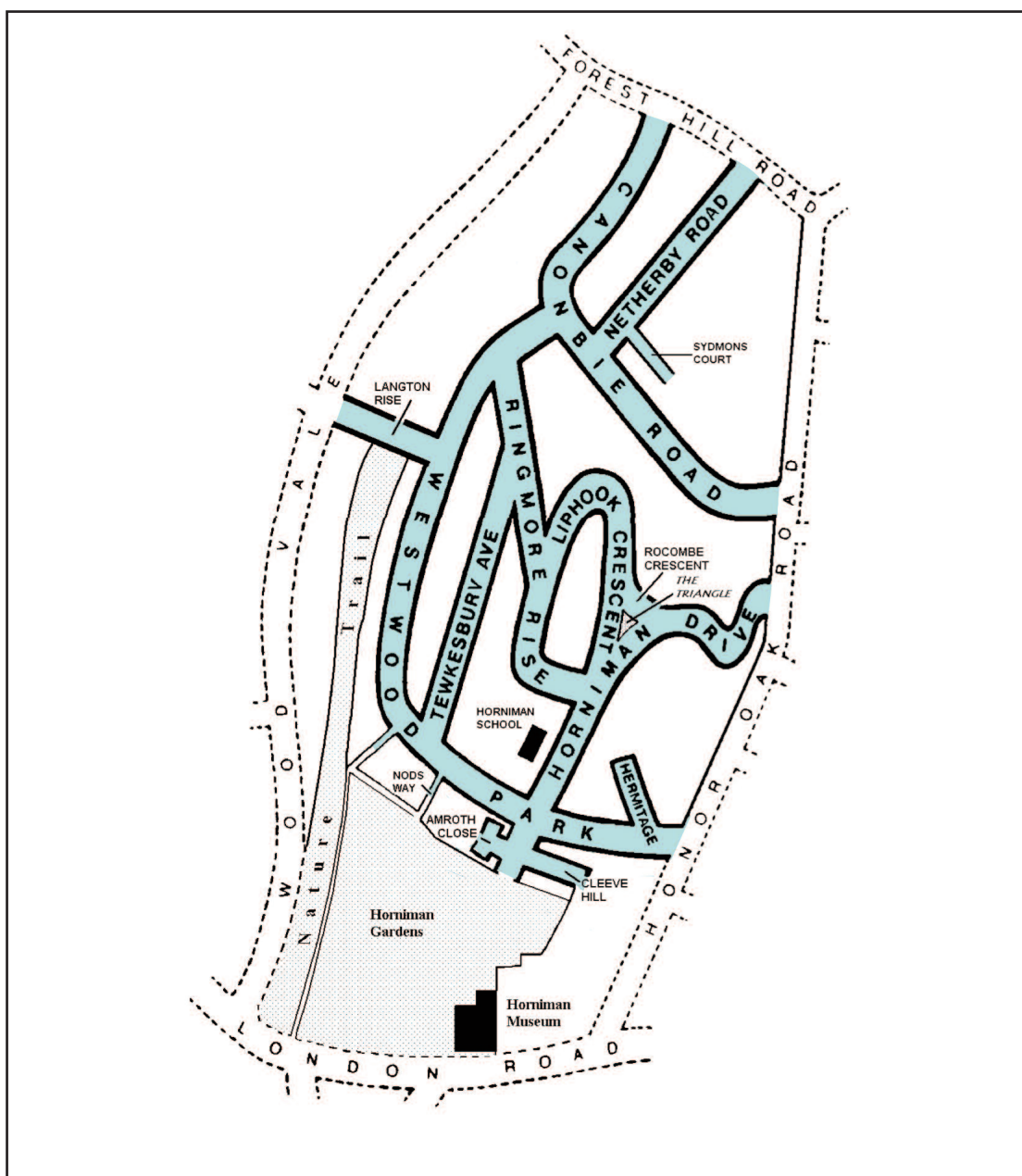
A painted lady butterfly, all the way from Africa



Annual Subscriptions remains at £5 per household

Enclosed with this newsletter is the subscription letter for 2019-20, together with an envelope to return to your road representative. The annual membership, which has remained at £5 for a number of years, enables us to maintain and improve our area. We also use this money to communicate with our members, as well as to enhance the strong sense of community within the Tewkesbury Lodge Estate by organising regular social events throughout the year. As this covers all members of your household we hope you agree it is £5 a year well spent!

Carole Abrahams



This newsletter was compiled and edited by Valerie Ward, and proof read by Carole Abrahams. Design and layout by Michael Schlingmann. Contributions from members are very welcome and can be e-mailed to us at secretary@tewkesburylodge.org.uk