

# Views from the Hill

NEWSLETTER OF THE TEWKESBURY LODGE ESTATE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION November 2020



## Lockdown Slowdown!

During these difficult times, when many of us have been forced to stay at home and reduce the time spent travelling, shopping and going out, there has been an even greater focus on our local environment. Lockdown, with the quieter streets and skies, presented a unique chance to observe the vast array of plant and animal life on the Estate and to really appreciate our own homes, the local parks, and the street trees. The simple pleasures of listening to birdsong,

gardening, and walking or cycling along tree lined streets have provided a much-needed boost to the spirits. Many members have taken this time to be creative and productive and, as you can see, to take some wonderful photographs of nature on our doorstep. Some small positives to come out of the pandemic. Let's hope that this connection with, and appreciation of, nature continues and that our Estate can become even greener in the years to come.

### Street Tree scheme update

As part of the Association's Greener, Cleaner, Safer campaign, a street tree initiative was launched in Winter 2017. Last winter we planted 13 more trees on the Estate, bringing the total number of new street trees to 39. A further 7 will be planted this winter. These small trees have been carefully chosen to give colour and interest all year round: some with flowers in the spring or summer, some with colourful autumn leaves and berries, and others with an attractive bark.

Three small whitebeams were planted in Ringmore Rise that will not grow to the size of the common whitebeams elsewhere on the Estate which proved to be too big and caused damage our pavements.

With a small 'greening fund' grant from the Council, a dying tree was removed from the green at the top of Ringmore Rise and replaced by two different crab apple trees that, once established, should have heavy crops of red fruit in winter. Two more were recently planted at the junction of Canonbie Road and Forest Hill Road. Equally suited to the narrow pavements on Canonbie are two dwarf ginkgos, that have attracted much interest. Ginkgos are the only tree to have survived the extinction of the dinosaurs, so should be able to cope with anything climate change throws at them!

Another new tree to the area, the Tamarisk, has thrived wonderfully on the windiest spot on the Estate at the top of Westwood Park, with two more planted further down. A Himalayan Birch with stunning white bark that peels off each year so is always white has been planted in Horniman Drive, as well as a variety of Cockspur further down that should have golden

leaves and red berries in a few weeks.

However, the news of the moment is the success of our plan to plant some 'future-proofed' trees from hotter climates. The winter before



last we planted a crepe myrtle, a Mediterranean tree with grey bark and red leaves in autumn. Although this tree hasn't produce its purple-pink flowers in England in past years it is doing so now, at least in hot summers, it does - as can be seen in Horniman Drive. Another 'future-proofed' tree that did well this summer is planted at the bottom of Ringmore Rise. It is a hybrid between the Desert Willow and the Indian Bean Tree. It has produced two flushes of trumpet shaped pink flowers this year. It doesn't have an accepted English name, but I love its botanical name which captures the exotic mystery of its origins. Have you seen our Chitalpa Tashkentensis?

Thanks to the generosity of so many of you who have helped to fund these trees, and your commitment to watering them, our project is growing from strength to strength. If you would like to contribute to the funding or watering of more trees, please contact me at [stuart@streettreesforliving.org](mailto:stuart@streettreesforliving.org)  
Stuart Checkley

*I am delighted to say that Street Trees for Living (STfL) has been awarded the Forestry Commission's prize for the 'Best Community Tree project in London in 2020'. STfL is the Charity which organises street tree planting in Forest Hill and the rest of Lewisham. The Commission particularly appreciated both the involvement of the local communities in the care of street trees and the unusually high survival rates of our trees. So if you have helped this project in any way, a huge thank you. You are part of the best community tree planting project in London!*

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## **Chairs report**



At this time of year, I am usually pleased to report on a full programme of events and progress with all our environmental initiatives. Sadly, 2020 has been more about cancellations and restrictions. We were unable to hold the AGM back in March which was extremely disappointing and, unfortunately, all subsequent events, including the Open Gardens for the National Garden Scheme, had to be abandoned. Sadly there will be no Carols by Candlelight in the Triangle this year. However, as we approach Christmas, we are hoping to organise a seasonal event that will involve children, so watch for TLERA emails with the details.

On a more positive note, it is fantastic to hear that our tree planting initiative has continued apace. Many thanks go to our Co-Chair and

Street Trees for Living Trustee, Stuart Checkley, for all his efforts for the Estate and elsewhere in Lewisham.

Despite the restrictions, it is important to keep in touch and I hope that members are happy to receive updates and news by email. The Committee has grappled with technology to meet on Zoom and we are extremely grateful to our Road Reps and other members who have successfully organised local groups to keep in touch at this difficult time.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns or any ideas for the future for maintaining and improving our neighbourhood. Our work continues!

*Valerie Ward*

## **The survival of the fittest – and the fastest!**

Small birds were the winners in our garden this Spring with blue tits, great tits and coal tits using feeders on one tree and nesting boxes hidden in another. The young of woodpeckers also visited the feeders. Spurning the nesting box, robins did very well, and blackcaps bred successfully in a thicket of Albertine rose, mahonia and camellia. But that was as good as it got.

Hedge sparrows (dunnocks) reduced, and the wren disappeared completely from the garden, as did the greenfinches which had visited our feeders all winter. Among the small birds it was the ground-feeders that fared the worst, with blackbirds failing to breed - and by the end of the season even the adults had gone. This is most likely due to an increase in the number of predators, such as cats, squirrels, and magpies that raid the nests.

But birds are also attacked from the air. The sparrow-hawk specialises in catching small

birds by surprise and will take them on the ground as well as on feeders, unless the feeders are protected by a tree. But this year we have seen little of the sparrow-hawk, as a larger and much faster predator has moved in. Often seen



on the radio mast in Horniman Drive, is the peregrine – the fastest bird in the country. It prefers to catch pigeons but will take anything of medium size. As you will see from the photograph where it may have caught a parakeet!

*Stuart Checkley*

## **Staying in touch**

Around 85% of our member households have given us their e-mail addresses. This level has risen steadily over the last few years – three years ago it was just 70%. If you are among the small number of members that haven't yet given an e-mail address to your road representative, we urge you to do so. It will only be used for TLERA purposes to keep members rapidly informed of any criminal activity on our Estate as well as forthcoming events.

The TLERA website is [www.tewkesburylodge.org.uk](http://www.tewkesburylodge.org.uk) and there you can

find information about events and campaigns, as well as previous newsletters and lots of useful links. We also have a Facebook Group which you can find by searching for Tewkesbury Lodge Residents' Association. This is a closed group which only members can join. If you want more information about our Facebook Group, including advice on security, please contact me. Members can also follow us on our Twitter account @TewkesburyLodge.

*Carole Abrahams, Membership Secretary  
Email: carole@abrahams.org.uk Tel: 020 8291 1312*

## Upbeat

Hello residents. My name is Police Sergeant Andy Cameron, and I am currently the Sergeant for Forest Hill Safer Neighbourhood Team. I have been in the role since January 2020 and am thoroughly enjoying it. I currently have regular contact from Christine Noon who updates me with local concerns. I am keen to get to know the rest of the community and create a strong partnership. My team consists of two Police officers and a PCSO, all of whom are extremely competent and proactive in problem solving and tackling crimes. We have recently worked on closure orders restricting people visiting a problematic address.

Additionally, we have also been granted a civil

junction from the county courts restricting people attending certain areas causing continued antisocial behaviour.

This has all been through integrated joint working with our partner agencies and residents. I am keen to expand and diversify our ward panel, so please do reach out to us if you are interested.

*Andy Cameron*

*Email – ForestHill.snt@met.pnn.police.uk*



## Traffic - back to normal?

Some long-term transport and travel changes are heading our way. Transport for London (TfL) was forced to turn to Westminster for funding as fare revenue dropped during the Covid crisis by 90%. This has meant new Government appointees to the TfL board, notably Andy Byford who is the commissioner. Some additional revenue measures have been put in place, most noticeably the change to the congestion charge operating every day and extended to 10pm, and the reduction to off-peak, plus the possible future scrappage of the Over 60 travel card (write to your MP or the TfL board, if this worries you!). Transport infrastructure projects near completion, most notably East-West Crossrail, and the Northern Line extension to Battersea, will no doubt be finished off, but it is likely that further improvements will be delayed or reconsidered.

Similarly, all airport expansion plans have been put onto the back burner for now, as numbers of flights have plunged downwards.

In October 2021, the 24 hour Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) will be extended as far as the South and North Circular



Roads. This will affect residents with diesel cars older than 2015, or petrol cars older than 2005. We asked TfL two questions:

- (1) Will there be any interim discount for residents with non-compliant vehicles?  
Answer: Not fully determined yet, but the existing discount scheme was closed to new applicants in August 2020.
- (2) Will the charge apply for all small trips, for example the ¼ mile from Tewkesbury Lodge to the South Circular? Answer: Yes. TfL added that even if parked on the public street outside a house, non-compliant cars would be subject to the charge (how would they know?).

Meanwhile, cycling and walking have been receiving additional government and council support (Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, or LTN's for short). The biggest new opening (October) is Cycle Superhighway 4 (fully segregated) from Tower Bridge to Greenwich. Lewisham introduced some local road closures in Deptford, Brockley and Lee Green. However, the Lee Green closures have now been temporarily reversed due to the 'back to normal plus' traffic on the South Circular. Meanwhile, down in Dulwich, the Dulwich Village intersection with Court Lane is closed off in an 18 month trial, as is Melbourne Grove running to the West of the East Dulwich shops. Over in Crystal Palace some of the side roads off Church Road are also now closed off to through traffic, and Silverdale is closed for access to Sydenham Road

*Dave Leslie, Traffic & Transport Lead*

*For owners of older motorcycles, your bike can be individually tested and even fitted with a additional cat at the "National Emissions Test Center" to make it compliant, an option unfortunately not open to cars.*

## Committee changes

Dagmar Vesely, who has been our Treasurer for nine years, is standing down due to other commitments. We would like to thank her for managing our finances so well during that time.

Kate Morris has taken over Dagmar's role of Treasurer and writes:

I moved to Canonbie Road in 2018 from nearby

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Underhill Road. I fell in love with the house immediately. It is quite quirky and was designed by a naval officer. It came with the original plans and a small suitcase of items that belonged to the original owner. I recently started working for Deloitte as a developer, but before that I ran my own kitchen build and design



*Kate Morris,  
the new treasurer.*

company, 102 Interiors. We still carry out handyman jobs on Canonbie and surrounding areas when we can. I moved in with my partner Stewart and my two boys, Zavier and Jared. I also have two older girls who also live locally. I knew Dagmar, the previous treasurer, and was happy to step in when she wanted to concentrate on other activities. Canonbie Road is a very friendly place and I am looking forward to meeting more people across the Estate.

Christine Noon is standing down as one of the road representatives in Canonbie Road to concentrate on her role as Police Liaison/Crime Cascade co-ordinator for the Association. We are pleased to say that Anne Bower has taken over Christine's road representative role.

## Committee List

### Officers

Valerie Ward	53 Ringmore Rise	Chair	8699 8432
Stuart Checkley	19 Liphook Crescent	Co-Chair	07709 578417
Kate Morris	22 Canonbie Road	Treasurer	07791 202350
Tina Hildrey	1 Horniman Drive	General Secretary	8699 6039
Carole Abrahams	24 Liphook Crescent	Membership Secretary	8291 1312

### Road Representatives

Beatrice Jackson	60 Canonbie Road	2-70 Canonbie Road ( <i>even No.'s</i> )	8699 7143
Ann Bowers	33 Canonbie Road	1-81 Canonbie Road ( <i>odd No.'s</i> )	07779 022538
Nano McCaughan	Flat 12, 108 Canonbie Road	83-105 and 72-120 Canonbie Road	8699 8438
Rose Agnew	27 Horniman Drive	1-63 and 2-36 Horniman Drive	8699 7710
Christine Martyn	8 Cleeve Hill	65-77 and 50-70 Horniman Drive,	8699 3010
Tony & Maria Branchini	10 Liphook Crescent	Amroth Close and Cleeve Hill	
Alice Hutton	12 Netherby Road	Liphook Crescent and Rocombe Cr.	8699 3078
Cathy Ruiz	29 Netherby Road	Netherby Road, ( <i>even No.'s</i> )	8699 3078
Valerie Ward	53 Ringmore Rise	Netherby Road, ( <i>odd No.'s</i> )	8699 3078
David & Rowena Lowe	6 Tewkesbury Avenue	Symonds Court	
Jim Hyett	20c Westwood Park	Ringmore Rise	8699 8432
Rita Zarvou	67 Westwood Park	Tewkesbury Avenue	8699 7390
Michael Levin	38 Westwood Park	1-15d and 2-20d Westwood Park	8699 4322
Jacqueline & Alan Priestley	104 Westwood Park	and The Hermitage	
Linda & Gabriel Porras	126 Westwood Park	15e-g, 15-87 Westwood Park	8699 2429
		(odd numbers)	
		22-76 Westwood Park ( <i>even numbers</i> )	8699 6251
		78-114 & 89-125 Westwood Park	3605 5017
		127-163 and 116-134 Westwood Park	8699 7895
		and Langton Rise/Moonlight Walk	

### Sub-Committee/Group Leaders

Crime / Police Liaison	Christine Noon	43 Canonbie Road	
Environment (natural)	Steward Checkley	19 Liphook Crescent	07709 578417
Environment (built)	Michael Levin	38 Westwood Park	8699 6251
Gardening Club	Beth Falkingham-Blackwell	25 Westwood Park	8699 2616
Newsletter	Valerie Ward	53 Ringmore Rise	8699 8432
Newsletter Graphic design	Michael Schlingmann	23 Liphook Crescent	8699 2927
Planning	Rowena Lowe	6 Tewkesbury Ave	8699 7390
Social Activities	Valerie Ward	53 Ringmore Rise	8699 8432
Traffic/Transport	Dave Leslie	38 Liphook Crescent	8699 1784
Webmaster	John Hudson	36 Tewkesbury Ave	07775 557880
Co-opted member	Sally Tuhami	10 Rocombe Crescent	8699 1628

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](mailto:secretary@tewkesburylodge.org.uk)