
EVTRA Newsletter

An occasional publication of the Elm Village
Tenants and Residents Association



Covering 11-111 Barker Drive, Bergholt Mews, Blakeney Close,
Rossendale Way and 44 St Pancras Way

June/July 2010

ELM VILLAGE GETS GREENER

As some of you will know, the long-planned environmental changes funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund are now a reality. The greenhouse holds an increasing number of thriving items and the southern allotment space beside the canal is also in operation.

The group of gardeners already cheered by these events send round a regular email bulletin, which also includes gardening questions and answers.

All residents are entitled to join the Garden Society. Even if you do not wish to become a member but just want to put a query you will find a warm welcome. To find out more, or to join, just contact the Society Secretary, Peter McGinty (peter.mcginty@greenspangle.me.uk). If you do not have email, phone the EVTRA Secretary on 020 7387 8960 and he will put you in contact with the gardeners.

AND WE GET QUIETER

Even before the current warm weather, a minority of residents continued their late-night parties outside. This causes inevitable problems for people who sleep lightly, have children,

have to get up early for work or are ill.

Through this Newsletter we have advised in the past that a polite approach will often do the job. If it doesn't, you should approach the Council. Both methods were used for some recent parties. In one case a polite note was all that was needed. In another, persistent noise was reported to the Council, who took action and seem to have ended the problem.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND AGM

Older readers will agree that the old cliché about how fast the time goes by is real, as we announce that it is already time for us to go around collecting EVTRA membership fees. For yet another year we are able to keep the cost fixed at £3. The money goes on publicity, the hire of venues for meetings, and social events such as the carol evening before Christmas.

If you are new to the village, please be aware that the people who call to ask for the fee will always identify themselves. **They will under no circumstances try to press**

you to join, and will at once accept a polite refusal. They will never ask to come into your house or flat.

There is no obligation to join, though naturally we hope that you will support our attempts to maintain or improve the quality of your area. The caller will only ask for a name (so that we can record the fact that you have paid) and no other details. You will be offered the chance to be on the email list, which you can of course decline. However, many residents find that being on this list is useful, as we are able to pass on news of burglaries or other issues promptly.

If you have any doubt about whether a caller asking for a membership fee is genuine, do not give information or money. Instead, report the matter to the EVTRA Secretary. (In fact we have never had this problem.)

The AGM will be held on **Thursday July 15 at the Irish Centre, Camden Square, at 7.0 p.m.** The meeting lasts an hour, but you will be welcome to stay and enjoy the Irish Centre bar (Irish measures of spirits!).

WHAT EVTRA HAS DONE OVER THE PAST YEAR

- Organized successful free Carol Event in the Constitution Cellar Bar
- Arranged for Christmas Tree on the Green, provided by courtesy of the Garden Centre
- Monitored and protected residents' interests (especially security) in the development of the Triangle greenhouse and the allotments. (We are still active in improving the security of the gate next to the Constitution.)
- Checked why an empty flat on Barker Drive was being boarded up
- Resisted re-opening the gates at the end of Barker Drive
- Pressed the Council for action on dog fouling and aggressive dogs on Barker Drive
- Continued to press for a bus service on St Pancras Way
- Finally got written acknowledgement from the Council that the roads (maintenance and cleaning) are their responsibility
- Investigated and publicized a possible asbestos hazard in the buildings (this worry turned out to be unfounded)

AND FINALLY...

We make our annual request for people to join the Committee, or to take on an issue which interests them and report to us. The present Committee members are not getting any younger and we would very much welcome new energy. We meet about six times a year, for about an hour. The meetings are informal, made more so by a glass of wine, which we take it in turns to provide (the cost of the wine doesn't come from your fees). People who take on an issue don't need to attend unless they want to, as they can report by email or in writing. Come and join us!

SECURITY CONTACTS

- (1) Emergency (fire, police, ambulance): **999 or 112**
- (2) Non-emergency police: **020 7404 1212 or 0300 123 1212**
- (3) Community Support Officers (blue uniforms): **020 8721 2810**
- (4) Street Wardens (yellow and red uniforms): **020 7974 5195**
- (5) Street Safe (rough sleeping, begging, street drinking, drug-related activity and sex working): **020 7833 7970**

OTHER CONTACTS

Noise problems: **020 7974 2090**

Noise problems at weekends: **020 7278 4444**