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# 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

November 2010

## CHRISTMAS IS COMING . . .

As if you hadn't noticed! Did anyone see anything earlier than the stuff which started to appear in Sainsbury's in September?

But EVTRA wants to give you early notice that **you are all invited to our annual Carol Event**. This year it will be in Christmas week, on **Monday 20 December**. It will be on the same lines as last year, in the Constitution Cellar Bar, with free mulled wine and mince pies and songs led by Jan North. The Cellar door will open at 6.30 and the singing begins at 7.0 (you don't have to sing unless you want to!). Then there will be a chance to socialise until 8.30. We stress that this is not a religious event – just a chance to keep up some of the old traditions and to meet your neighbours. You can't lose – admission is free.

We are also asking the Garden Centre if they can provide a tree – in the past they have generously donated one. It brightens the Crescent Green on those dull short days. Last year the Garden Centre trainees decorated the tree. However, **we strongly urge people with young children to bring or make decorations of their**

**own and add them to the tree on the Green**. If you do this on 20 December, you are then invited to come on to the Cellar Bar, where children will be welcome.

### Elm Village becomes even greener

The redevelopment of the gated spaces is now very much a reality, and residents are starting to get the benefits of the greenhouse and the allotments. An official opening took place in September, the weather was kind, and excellent vegetarian dishes were enjoyed by all who attended. The Secretary, certainly no vegetarian, was heard (when his mouth was not full of the delightful dishes) to say "Yum, yum, wonderful" – or sounds to that effect.

### Are you a customer of Virgin Media?

If so, you may have had problems in getting service because there have been problems for Virgin engineers in gaining access to a control box in one of the gated areas. If you need to ask for service, you are advised to check that the engineers know the procedure

agreed with the Garden Centre. If they need access to the gated area they should always contact the Garden Centre, who hold keys and are open at the relevant times.

### Are you the victim of a clothing scam?

Some residents have asked us to draw attention to the leaflets which now appear to come through our doors weekly, requesting you to "spare" clothing which is "sold to developing countries". Clearly EVTRA fully supports helping the less fortunate and we cannot make allegations about particular organisations. But we can report that some residents have been looking into this matter, and have given the following advice:

- (1) Recent media investigations have shown that certain organisations have been using people's charitable impulses to get a supply of clothing which is then sold on, with little or none of the proceeds going to the worthy cause.
- (2) Surprisingly, the fact of being registered as a charity does not guarantee that an

organisation is to be trusted.

(3) Our informants feel that the reliable way to help is to give to the local charity shops or to use the bins provided by Sainsbury's and by the Regis Road Recycling Centre.

If you have evidence of fraud of this kind, you are advised to notify the Charity Commission (tel. 0845 300 0218, [www.charity-commission.gov.uk](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk)) or Camden Council through Councillor Robinson.

### Fido strikes again!

Residents of Barker Drive and users of the spaces opposite are again finding themselves having to play hopscotch to avoid the presents left by our Oldest Friend. We know that most dog owners are not only considerate – they would be ashamed to allow their dogs to use others' space in ways they would not allow at home. Typically, though, people are rightly hesitant about confronting the culprits – and their animals – who are often aggressively anti-social. But you can do something, by contacting the Council re dog fouling (020 7974 6914) and/or by asking Councillor Robinson ([roger.robinson@camden.gov.uk](mailto:roger.robinson@camden.gov.uk)) to do this for you.

### Keep your area looking beautiful

Visitors always say how lucky we are to live in such a lovely environment. So it is sad to hear that on Barker Drive rubbish is regularly being dumped. This is not only unsightly; the

current batch is also clearly unhealthy. It attracts vermin – foxes and rats have been seen to show an interest. We don't know whether the people leaving the mess don't care, or just don't know what you can do about rubbish. The Council recommends that you leave stuff out the night before (unless you are an early riser) and they collect as follows: **early** Monday mornings for recycling boxes and bags; and mid-morning on Tuesdays and Fridays for the rest. Make sure that you tie up plastic bags to stop the contents falling out. And if you see stuff that has been dumped, you can draw the Council's attention by contacting them at 020 7974 6914/5 or 020 7974 3293.

### Constitution FC

Our local Camden Sunday League football team has recently brought in some new blood and has become revitalised, having had some successes already. We wish them well. If you want to support them (or buy them a drink after the match!) you will be welcome. You will find reports of their matches in the Sports Section of the *Camden New Journal*. And of course, if you are an experienced (preferably fantastic) player, go along and join them at the Con.

### King's Cross Development

At intervals we receive information about proposed developments in both the immediate locality (another one is in the pipeline for St Pancras Way) and around King's Cross. It is

very desirable that we should keep a watch on what is happening, as it is bound to have an impact on our area. We do our best to monitor these matters but it would be really helpful to have a volunteer who is interested and could do this. It would only be necessary to report, by email or in person, as convenient. If you are interested and willing, contact the Secretary (note new email address, below).

### 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**