
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

May 2011

CONGRATULATIONS, HARRIET!

It's spring but in Elm Village we get not only the flute-like tones of the magpies (deliberate mistake) but also lots of musicians. We are delighted to say that Our Harriet (Powell) was one of the successful nominees for the Mayor's Unsung Heroes Award, initiated to recognise the musicians who keep Camden's music heritage alive.

Though Harriet is now Saviour of the Carols, it was not for this act of generosity that the award was made. As some of you will know from an article in the *Camden New Journal*, Harriet is in fact a music therapist. This form of help not yet as widely known as it should be. Medical research shows that music therapy is not only a pleasant activity which brightens the lives of many vulnerable people but is also a way in which many people who have been rendered unable to communicate with others (for example because of brain damage after an accident) can find a route to begin to reverse such devastating situations. We offer Harriet our warmest congratulations.

More pleasant notes

In fact, Elm Village had further successes in the Unsung Heroes initiative. Wendy Clare of the Constitution and Ed Lee, EVTRA Secretary, were also nominated for their contributions to making our lives more pleasant through music. Though, unlike Harriet, they were not one of the ten award winners, we offer them our congratulations as well.

The Towers of Camley Street

Well, no towers yet, but there may well be within a couple of years. The Committee have been monitoring closely a proposal to develop the site at 103 Camley Street. This is the land between the Jubilee Centre and Camley Street, which is next to the bridge over the canal.

The proposal is to create student flats for 500 residents, together with a shop/mini-market, a café and a small leisure area, open to the public. The development will involve creating greater security, better street and canal lighting and better access to the new King's Cross development.

The Committee went to the exhibition about this proposal and also took advice from architects and surveyors. Basically the opinion was that the proposal would help to revitalise the area and would be beneficial to our residents.

Our only concern was that the tallest building would be 12 storeys high. On balance, though, it was felt that this would not overlook or overshadow our estate. We made our concerns clear, and a new proposal has been made for a building of lower height.

Gardeners dig in

The Garden Society continues to thrive and the Garden Society continues to thrive. For a second year members expect to be able to dig into the earth and then later into a pile of fresh vegetables. The Society continues to brighten the lives of some of our residents.

Though it is not a Garden Society initiative, residents are encouraged to go in for the Camden in Bloom competition (www.camden.gov.uk/camdeninbloom). If you decide to do so, Mike Jackson is willing to advise.

More eating and music – the Big Lunch

You will also be invited to dig in at the Big Lunch on June 5th. This is the first time that Elm Village has been involved in this event, and the initiative is due to David Powell (husband of Harriet mentioned above). The aim is not to be too ambitious on this occasion and to get people to bring things to eat. They also hope to get some musicians involved. Leaflets with details will be going round soon.

Springtime – when a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of...

easy cash obtained by burgling those who have been foolish enough to work for what little they have.

Many of you will know that there have been burglaries recently. We don't wish to say much in a document which might fall into the wrong hands (for more detail go onto the email list – apply to evtrasec@gmail.com) but we can say that you should always report anything suspicious (see below for addresses). We think it fairly likely that we have deterred one pair, and identified another. But your best option is to be aware of security – the crimes are usually opportunist – an open window and the like. And work with your neighbours to look out for each other. You'll hear more about this in the next few weeks.

AGM and membership drive

It will soon be time (again) for renewing membership and holding the AGM. More details will follow later, but Committee members will be inviting people to join or renew after June 20. This year we shall be stressing that becoming a member entitles you to be on the email list. One of the main values of this is that you are notified or can notify us about security issues. For example, a few days ago a resident spotted that one of the gates to the Triangle /Greenhouse area was unlocked and passed this on by email. We were able to secure the area and to press PFP to repair the lock.

The main topic of the AGM to be held on Tuesday 12 June will be security, with the aim of trying to find ways for us to help each other to beat the burglars and drug dealers. We are going to try the experiment of holding this meeting in the Constitution Cellar Bar, which may be more convenient for many people.

IF YOU NEED THE POLICE ...

In an emergency, ring 999. But for less urgent matters ring 0300 123 1212.

The Safer Neighbourhoods officer for our area is **Asad Saeed**. His number is PCSO 7164EK. To contact him either phone **0208 721 2810** or email: Asad.Saeed@met.police.uk.

OTHER CONTACTS

Crimestoppers: **0800 555 111** (to give information about any crime without giving your name)

Community Support Officers (blue uniforms): **020 8721 2810**

Street Wardens (yellow and red uniforms): **020 7974 5195**

Street Safe (rough sleeping, begging, street drinking, drug-related activity and sex working): **020 7833 7970**

COUNCIL CONTACTS

Noise problems: **020 7974 2090**

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

Parking permits and fines: **020 7974 4646**