

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

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June 2008



Happy (25th) Birthday, Elm Village

Thursday 12 June

From 4.0 until 9.00 p.m.

CELEBRATE ELM VILLAGE'S 25th BIRTHDAY

FREE WALKING TOUR, REFRESHMENTS, DRINKS* (*existing members only), OLD TIME MUSIC

To those of us who have been here since the beginning, it seems more like 25 months, but the writer can remember clearly the week before Christmas, 1983, moving into the sparkling little house on the Crescent, and having to pick his way through the potholes and mud to go to work. To mark the event EVTRA have organised a little celebration at the Constitution on Thursday, June 12. This has been expanded by events organised by Places for People, who are also underwriting the refreshments.

Timetable for the day

2 p.m.–4 p.m. Lisa Hope and Sue Forsyth of PFP will go round Elm Village promoting the Garden competition and the Green Spaces project – see elsewhere

4 p.m.–4.45 p.m. **Feasts, fights and fatalities.** A guided tour of Elm Village by Edward Lee (City of London Guide), assisted by Mike Jackson (horticultural specialist) and James Gordon (reader and singer).

Everyone knows that London is a historic place – but do you realise just how historic this area is? What links a visit by the Emperor of Germany, a railway crash, trials for making beer illegally, wild marjoram and fornication in the fields? [Answer: Elm Village]. Find out loads of other interesting facts on this guided tour by Edward Lee (supported – or upstaged – by Mike (Black Orchids) Jackson and James Gordon.

The tour party will meet in the **car park of the Garden Centre at**

3.50 p.m. Alternatively, be at the bridge opposite the Constitution at 4 p.m. or go down Barker Drive and then into Rossendale Way to find us.

5 p.m. **Commemorative Tree planting** with Rt Hon Frank Dobson MP (who planted the big elm on the green, many years ago) and Cllr Roger Robinson –opposite 2 Rossendale Way.

5.30 to 9 p.m.

Refreshments at Constitution pub.

Vouchers will be issued at the venue.

Refreshments will be free to all residents; EVTRA members will also receive vouchers for drinks (so if you didn't join, you miss that!)

Old Time music by members of the Swing Dixie Five (courtesy of Robin Watters Management) with interjections by "Rocking" James Gordon.

A Spring (Summer/Autumn/Winter?) clean-up of Elm Village spaces

We have been provided with the following information by PffP:

Green Spaces for People grant for Elm Village

Places for People are delighted to announce that over £150,000 has been awarded to Elm Village as part of a £15 million Big Lottery Fund grant to improve access to high quality green spaces and provide environmental improvements.

The Lottery application was submitted in response to customer feedback from around the country and is part of the Group's ongoing commitment to providing Neighbourhoods of Choice.

The portfolio, called Green Spaces for People, will improve, regenerate and transform up to 75 neighbourhoods across England over the next four years, one of which will be Elm Village. Initial plans for Elm Village could include improvements to the green spaces and triangles around the

scheme, as well as the introduction of new planting. But these are just ideas and the Group needs you, the customers, to get involved with how you would like your green spaces to look.

As part of the Group's commitment to customer engagement, we have included customer representatives in the selection panels for landscape architects, who will be commissioned to work with local communities to develop individual project proposals. The landscape architect for Elm Village, when commissioned, will be responsible for organising consultation events and co-ordinating your input into the designs for the area.

But firstly some members of staff will be knocking on doors on 12 June, 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. , as part of the Elm Village 25-year celebrations, in order to provide more information about the Green Spaces for People portfolio and other forthcoming initiatives. Sue Forsyth, Green Spaces for People Portfolio Development Manager for Places for People, says: "The portfolio is beginning to gain momentum and we

are excited to see initial discussions with the communities take place. The selection of a national framework of landscape architects is the start of the customer involvement process and it is imperative that we continue to build on this approach to ensure that customers' views inform the development of local projects. We hope this effective relationship will continue to strengthen over the lifetime of the portfolio."

For more information on the Green Spaces for People portfolio please contact Sue Forsyth, sue.forsyth@placesforpeople.co.uk, 07501 225996.

Comment from EVTRA

EVTRA welcomes the initiative which is being taken, not least because greenery, like all other life, declines and has to be replaced. As you can see, residents will have a chance to talk to officers of PffP in a relaxed and informal situation on Thursday June 12. In fact EVTRA has known of this plan for some time and took initial soundings of residents' opinions. As we expected, the idea did not

meet with universal warmth. In particular, there was anxiety about security. In addition some residents are concerned about a possible loss of privacy.

The Committee therefore decided not to publicise the scheme until the relevant PfP personnel had been appointed, and first consultations were announced. It was felt that otherwise there could be unnecessary alarm about developments which in fact would never happen. However, that stage has now been reached, and so from now on we will keep you informed of developments. In fact, the Committee has considered the existing proposals in very great detail, in conjunction with various professionals. We are also in the final stages of preparing our own proposals to be put into the consultation process, to which we look forward.

THE FUTURE: membership of EVTRA

**“Whenever a stranger
knocks on my door, they
want money !”**

We have to plead guilty, as during the next two or

three weeks, friendly members of the Committee will appear at your door to invite you to continue your membership or, if you are not a member, to join. We hope you will do so, in order to help us to protect and advance the quality of your environment. As we foresee various issues on the horizon, especially with regard to the development of St Pancras Way, Kings Cross Railway Lands and our own green spaces, we are trying to build up our funds in case we need professional advice. For this reason we are raising the membership subscription from £2 to £3 per household.

We feel this is good value, as during the last year EVTRA has been very active. But we stress, as ever, that our members will explain who they are, will not try to pressure you, and will only ask for the £3 fee. They will certainly not ask you for personal details, other than a surname for our records, nor will they ask to come into your home. In the unlikely event that someone appears who does not follow the above procedures, send them away and report the matter to us, or, if you prefer, to the police.

ADVANCE NOTICE

The EVTRA AGM will take place on the evening of **Thursday July 10th** at the Irish Centre. Full details will be circulated nearer the time.

CURRENT ISSUES

**“I’ve got all this rubbish
I don’t need, so where
shall I put it . . . ?”**

Sadly, we have had another outbreak of dumping of rubbish on the street, or next to neighbours’ houses. Apart from the fact that this spoils an environment which inevitably makes visitors envious, anyone who does this should bear in mind that such dumping is against the terms of leases (and Places for People have said that they will take action). Furthermore it is illegal, as the Elm Village streets are public highways. It is also unnecessary except as a short-term measure, since the Council will remove rubbish if asked (020 7974 6914/6915: two collections a year free for pensioners; or a charge for others). Places for People, the Council and EVTRA therefore ask residents to report such offences to PfP and the Council if

they know who the culprit is.

Dirty Fido ! – or rather – Dirty Owner!

Most residents like dogs (even the cat owners!) and many own one. A dog has the double advantage of being a loving pet and a very useful contributor to personal and community security.

So we are saddened to report that dog fouling of the Barker Drive park has again become a problem. It makes this space unattractive to other users – including responsible dog owners. We stress that there is a real danger to children of serious diseases, especially as there is a playground next to the space.

A further issue reported to us (apparently not by an Elm Village resident, though) is the use of a dog to support behaviour ranging from impolite to openly aggressive.

Many of you may be hesitant about dealing with this yourself, not least because a badly trained dog can be very intimidating. You now have an answer – get in contact with the Street Wardens (020 7974 5195) or the Street Safe Scheme) which is devised to deal

with antisocial behaviour in our streets and public spaces (020 7833 7970; streetsafe@crinet.co.uk).

USEFUL CONTACTS

Police: urgent calls: 999
Reporting needles:

Drug Action Response Team (DART): 0800 032 3278 (do not move the needle yourself)

Reporting dealing etc.:

Safer Neighbours

Programme: 8721 2810

Camden/Kentish Town

police: 020 7404 1212

Camden Town street

wardens: 020 7974 5195

Street Services Team (help for people on the street):

020 7833 7970

Community safety team:

020 7974 2915

Borough Control Room (for reporting less urgent crime): 020 7404 1212

Crimestoppers (for anonymous information): freephone 0800 555 111; www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Places for People

0800 432 0002 or 0800 432 0003;

Neighbourhood Officer:

Mehz Omar 020 7520

7419; mehz.omar@

placesforpeople.co.uk

Camden Council

Recycling: 020 7974 6914

(for free collection of garden waste); recycling@

camden.gov.uk;

www.camden.

gov.uk/recycling

Guide for older people

(Getting on in Camden):

020 7974 4523;

www.camden.gov.uk

Healthy living activities and

events: 0800 068 2949, or

www.wellandwise.org.uk

Disability information

directory : 020 7974 2230

Community Safety Team:

020 7974 2915

Litterline (rubbish

collection,

graffiti, dirty streets,

abandoned cars): 020

7974 6914 or 6915;

street.environment@

camden.gov.uk

Blocked kerbside gullies and

drains: 020 7974 2005

Dog fouling: 020 7974 6914

Hole in road/uneven

pavement: 020 7974 2015

Street lighting: 7974 2006

Street sweeping: 7974 6915

Parking permits: 7974 4646

Noise (9.0 a.m. to 4 p.m.):

7974 2090; env.health@

camden.gov.uk

Weekend noise service

(Friday and Saturday, 10

p.m. to 4 a.m.): 7278 4444

General enquiries (Town

Hall): 020 7278 4444

Councillor:

Roger Robinson,

roger.robinson@camden.

gov.uk