
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

March 2011

MORE SAD NEWS

They say that winter is a time when the death rate rises. You may remember our tribute to Christie O'Sullivan. Sadly, we have to report the loss of two more residents.

Rosalyn Constantine

All deaths are tragic, but when a woman of 37 with two children dies, it is especially so. Rosalyn was one of the first children to grow up in Elm Village. She died two days before Christmas, after a long but stubborn fight against cancer. Her passing had special significance to the parents of the other children of that generation, and to those now adult children themselves. EVTRA would like to send condolences to Rosalyn's parents, who still live here, and to her family.

Margaret MacGowan

Margaret was the wife of Pat MacGowan, who has been the Treasurer of EVTRA since its foundation. She and Pat had known each other since their teens and had recently begun their career as a retired married couple.

She passed away peacefully at home on 3 March, after a long battle with cancer.

Margaret was quite a private and independent person, so it took time to get a real measure of her qualities. But they were many. She was utterly reliable in anything she took on. For many years she hosted EVTRA Committee meetings and delivered the Newsletter.

As a personality she was on first acquaintance rather reserved, but in fact this made her an astute observer and she could follow up what she saw with a sharp wit. For those close to her she had strong affections.

It will be strange and sad not to see her walking about the Village, or having a drink with Pat in the Con. To say that she will be sorely missed may be a cliché, but it is nevertheless true.

NEWS FROM SANTA CLAUS

Christmas is long past, but the memory lingers on. Once again there was an excellent carol event in the Constitution Cellar Bar in December. It is clear that the idea of taking the event indoors is really popular. So after the tree, given again by the Garden Centre, had been

set up by Mike Jackson and the trainees, people gathered for the mulled wine, mince pies and music, led by local singer Jan North. If you haven't been before, you are warmly invited to come next December.

There was a moment of drama. Ed Lee, who normally gives a boisterous if not always tuneful lead to the music, was stranded in Rome because of the closure of airports, due to snow. (He also missed his wedding anniversary the next day!) Fortunately resident Harriet Powell was present and was able to deploy her exceptional musicianship to great effect. (We are pleased to say that Harriet is one of the nominees for the Mayor's award for services to music on account of her excellent work in Music Therapy).

At the risk of being boring, we make our annual point that this is a social event, not a religious one. We have a few traditional carols but we also have a lot of well known Christmas songs. You don't have to sing, though plenty of people like to join in.

THEY'RE BACK!

We are again plagued by unwelcome visitors – not rats, mice or foxes, but a lower form of life – drug dealers. They tend to gather in the alleyway between Rossendale Way and Bergholt Mews. If you spot such activity, please report it (see below for details of how to do this). It works! Two residents did just that one day last month, the police arrived, arrests were made, and for now at least the dealers seem to have got the message that this is not a sympathetic place to come.

IF YOU NEED THE POLICE

In an emergency, ring 999. But for less urgent matters we may become a little more secure and certainly should have more direct contact with the police under the following scheme:

The Safer Neighbourhoods team is dividing St Pancras/ Somers Town into “micro beats”, each to be handled by one member of the team. The team is also planning to do door-to-door introductions so that they can get a better feel for community concerns.

Our area is to be covered by **Asad Saeed**, who is PCSO 7164EK. To contact him either **phone 020 8721 2810** or **email Asad.Saeed@met.police.uk**.

GREEN SHOOTS

The Garden Society continues to flourish. The allotment plots are oversubscribed but there is still room in the greenhouse for people who want to grow some

herbs or tomatoes that taste of something, or similar projects. Mike Jackson will be starting a drop-in session to give advice about your gardening concerns. The first was due to be held in the greenhouse on 17 March at 6 p.m. To join the Society or to be kept informed contact peter.mcginity@greenspangle.me.uk.

BIG LUNCH

David Powell (husband of Harriet, Saviour of the Carol Event) feels that the Big Lunch held nationally on 5 June would be a welcome addition to our social calendar. The Secretary attended one last year in which a friend was involved and said that it was both very pleasant and established links which the community have since found valuable.

If you wish to help in any way, please email David: david.powell@dpa-ltd.co.uk.

NEED A PLUMBER/PAINTER/ CARPENTER . . . ?

The Secretary gets regular requests from people who want to find a reliable tradesman. So in the near future the “Camden etc.” page of the EVTRA website (see <http://www.evtra.org.uk/Camden.html>) will have a new section giving contact details for recommended tradesmen, together with short comments by satisfied residents. If you have any suggestions for names to add to this list, please contact the Secretary, as below. Your recommendations can remain anonymous, if you want.

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**