

STREETREPS

DECEMBER 2010

Dear All

It is cold – if not snowy – and we're feeling festive. Harrow Road Neighbourhood Partnership would like to wish all residents a joyful festive period and a happy New Year. To help you celebrate we'll be hosting a sackful of events, activities and opportunities right into 2011, starting with the Winter Festival on December 4th.

Most importantly, **we hope that all of you will be joining us at our wintery Posh Do on December 16th.** We've changed venue for this one, so make sure you head down to Emmanuel Church, 389 Harrow Road from 6-9pm to start the festive season in style. As always we'll be offering some festive tunes, free wine and nibbles. Everyone is welcome so please bring friends, family and neighbours to join the fun.

As the Partnership is due to end in April 2011, this event is themed around resident action, so we'll be hearing from local tenants and residents associations and offering information on how you might get involved or work with them in the future. If you would like to speak or bring along any information please let us know. This will be the first of a few opportunities to firm up local relationships and set up networks which will work into the future.

Finally, if you haven't yet done so, **please fill in and return the Harrow Road Exit survey questionnaire** you received in last months StreetReps. We would really value hearing what you have to say and need as many responses back as possible. You can pick up a new copy from 421 Harrow Road, at Maida Hill Café, on the Community Stall or by calling 0208 968 5543. Alternatively, fill it in online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YNMTG37>. All responses will be entered into a prize draw to win one of 3 £20 Marks and Spencer vouchers, and there are two competition questions which offer you the chance to win a meal at recently re-launched local eatery, The Chippenham.

Thanks very much for reading – we look forward to seeing you in 2011!
Julie Bundy and the HRNP team

Maida Hill Market

Come along to the great switch on at the Maida Hill Market Winter Festival on Saturday December 4th from 2-6pm. We'll be offering free festive kids crafting, carol singing, free mulled 'wine' (suitable for all ages!), festive food and gifts from Maida Hill Market – and Santa will be making a special guest appearance offering gifts to good boys and girls.

Carol singing will be provided by the Harrow Road Community Choir, who have now become a well established community group meeting each week at Paddington Academy. The choir has bought people from across the area together, and has awakened some amazing musical talent – so make sure you come down to listen and hopefully join in! If you have a good time why not join the choir in the new year? Ask for details at the Festival.



The free mince pies and mulled juices will be provided courtesy of Harrow Road Neighbourhood Partnership and the Maida Hill Café – which will be open throughout the festive season with warming treats. The café also keep a good range of local information and will be storing the Maida Hill Piano through the rainy winter. Everyone is welcome to have a go at chords and coffee!

Residents' Table Top Sale

Do you want to get rid of some stuff cluttering up your home? Come and join in for a fun day out Maida Hill's own second hand market, together with other Timebank members! Every Tuesday 10am-4pm at Maida Hill Market, Elgin Avenue / Harrow Rd junction. Please book your place, with Paola on 0208 968 5543 – and pay with your Timebank credits (1hour = 1credit, so a day at the market is six credits). You will be able to repay the balance by helping out other people in the community or volunteering to set up market tables.

The table –top market is also celebrating - on Tuesday 7th you'll be able to enjoy a special Christmas market. Look out for the mince pies, tinsel and fairy lights!

Health

This month at the Maida Hill community stall a diabetes awareness event was held. 'African Joy' also held a breast cancer awareness event at the stall. There will be more health events held at the community stall in the New Year. For now here are a few basic tips to keep you safe over the festive season:

- Beware of how much alcohol you consume, as it can reduce your sense of judgment.
- After a party empty any alcohol from used glasses, as children might drink the remains if they get up early to play with their toys.
- Remember don't drink and drive.
- To avoid food poisoning, please make sure poultry is thoroughly cooked. Always follow manufacturers instructions, If not it could lead to salmonella. Children, the elderly and people who are already ill are more likely to get a serious infection.

If you do find yourself feeling unwell over the festive period help is at hand. The Half Penny Steps Health Centre, 427 -429 Harrow Road, W10 is open seven days a week from 8am to 8pm (Includes Christmas and New Years day). They also operate a drop-in service during these hours for anyone – whether you are a Westminster resident or not and whether or not you have another GP. The surgery is also taking new patients on at the moment – so if you're not currently registered with a GP head down and sign up!

For more information about any of the events mentioned above please contact Aramide - who will be at the community stall on Thursdays or in the HRNP office, if you need advice about any health or social issues.

Out and about

The Maida Hill Gardening group is off to a flying start, having already set out some areas for planting, determined the resources needed, and begun to take action. HRNP recently bought a



A bit of planting....

variety of bulbs (daffodils, crocuses, irises and anemones) for local residents to plant in community spaces and estates. We've had a great response and so far have reports of gardening in estate planters, around trees, with local nurseries and along roads. We'll be adding to our online gallery at www.harrowroadblog.com as we get more photos in – so if you have made a difference to your street please email your 'before' and 'after' pics to hrnp@ghg.org.uk.

Meanwhile, residents have spoken to Clifton Nurseries in Maida Vale about the work they're doing, and have been offered a number of donations, including plants, seeds and expertise. It is really great to see a local business supporting residents to improve the neighbourhood, and we would like to express our thanks to both staff and residents for making this happen.

In addition to all this great greening, we've been helping to promote Groundwork sessions providing free gardening support sessions in Lydford estate. So far we've seen Mary Paterson Nursery children planting bulbs in the estate planters, Groundwork classes on 'how to garden' and a great session where residents made up and took home their own free windowboxes!

Local schools have been invited to encourage their pupils to design the logo for Clean Up Maida Hill campaign. The winning logo will be used for window stickers in shops and shopping bags to spread the message within the neighbourhood. Other prizes include £100, and iPod Shuffle and gift vouchers. To get your school or youth group involved, or if you know a young person who would like to enter as an individual, please get in touch. The closing date for submissions is December 16th 2010.

If you would like to get involved, share your knowledge, donate resources or just get gardening, give us a call or email hrnp@ghg.org.uk and let us know. Alternatively, just come along to a meeting – they're held from **6.30 to 8pm on the first Tuesday of every month**, and the next one will take place on the 7th

of December at the Prince of Wales Pub, corner of Harrow Road and Great Western Road.

The Waste Action Group is also continuing to meet on the first Wednesday of each month (second week in December!) from 7-8.30pm at The Neighbourhood Centre - and everyone is welcome to join. After a great meeting with Veolia some residents have been working with the council and local waste collection services to point out problem areas and work out ways to improve them.

In the New Year we will be beginning to run some Clean Up days, so that Maida Hill can begin 2011 in a positive way. If you're interested in setting up or taking part in a Clean Up of your street or local space please get in touch or come along to one of the meetings.



Table-top sale gets bigger and bigger!

Timebank

Timebank will be holding a very special festive celebration on Friday Dec 10th from 4-7pm at St Peters Hall (corner of Elgin and Chippenham Rds).

Members and those wishing to join are welcome to come along to celebrate a whole year of the North Paddington Timebank, set up future exchanges, join the Christmas-present swop-shop and meet your fellow Time-bankers. We'll also be holding a Christmas-card making session for young and old and stuffing everyone full of free mince pies and mulled wine! If you would like to join the swop-shop please bring along one present to the event and you'll be entitled to swop it for something different! Call Paola with any questions or come along – it's completely free and we would love to see you there!

SKILLS OFFERED: computer skills, massage, gardening, driving, bike repair, child-minding, school runs...

Skills Needed

- Help needed for Timebank stall – Tuesdays 12-2pm @Maida Hill market
- Help needed with cooking / serving / cleaning at St. Peters' Saturday Lunch
- Stewards needed for Christmas party at St. Mary Magdalene - 20th November
- Literacy teaching - for adult classes at the

Learning Store – Mozart Street

- English speaking/writing – to help the Timebank Language group – flexible days

For more information, please call Paola at the Timebank on 0208 968 5543.

Young People

The report from the recent Tell it Like it is meeting 'It takes a community to raise a child' is now available at www.harrowroadblog.com. Have a look and let us know your thoughts by commenting or emailing hrrp@ghg.org.uk! More news will come in the New Year.

At the Neighbourhood Centre

We're continuing to offer support with anything from getting a job to applying for benefits at the Neighbourhood Centre. Visit us from Monday to Wednesday, 10.30 – 2.30pm for advice and Information from the Queens Park Bangladeshi Association, on Mondays for the Somali Women's Group or on Wednesdays for employment advice from Westminster Works (call for an appointment). For general queries we are open Monday to Thursday, 10am – 5pm.

The Westminster Works Job club is still out in the community, currently meeting on a Wednesday Afternoon from 2-4pm at Portgate Hall in Lydford Estate (Off Ashmore Road). Head along to meet Wray and get one step closer to employment. As a special Christmas bonus, Wray is also offering £5 gift vouchers to his first 20 eligible appointments in December. Call and book on 020 8354-5576 and quote reference WWXMAS1 to find out more.

The Neighbourhood Centre will be closed from 5.30pm on Thursday 16th December to 10am Wednesday January 5th. If you need advice or support during this time please call the CAB helpline (0844 477 1611) or Westminster Council on 0207 641 6000.

The North Paddington History group continues to meet at The Neighbourhood Centre on the first Wednesday of each month from 4pm. They'll also be having a special meeting on Wed Dec 1st starting with a 2pm local walk. The group recently went on a local expedition taking a photo tour of Harrow Road, and are currently working on a research project with the London Transport Museum, which will be featured in an exhibition at the Museum in February 2011. They have also set up a few great trips and activities recently – including visiting Museum archives, watching the Soho Theatre play 'Tales of the Harrow Road' and holding a showing of the Blue Lamp at Ernest Harriss House. If you would like to get involved in any of this – or have a suggestion for another historical film you'd like to see – please get in touch by emailing hrrp@ghg.org.uk



Residents Enjoy the Blue Lamp...

Other activities:

Knitting workshop - crochet, sewing, embroidery... bring your suggestions & creativity! Tea, mince pies and festivity will be provided, along with opportunities to learn and socialise - Every 2nd Thursday of the month – next on 9th December. 3-5pm @ the Neighbourhood Centre. -To book your free place, call Paola at the Timebank on 0208 968 5543

Language group: English speaking/writing: ESOL & foreign languages & BSL for beginners. Every Thursday 1-2pm @ the Neighbourhood Partnership, 421 Harrow Road, W10 - To book your free place, call Paola at the Timebank on 0208 968 5543

Walking group: Thursdays 11.15am from Pickering Hall, Hallfield Estate, W2 - Everyone welcome!

And Finally...

In the New Year we will be holding a meeting for all local Residents Associations, to help you to meet other active residents and link up on important issues. You should get a letter soon if you are involved in a local Residents Association. If you don't - or would like to set up a new resident group - then please get in touch on 0208 968 5543.

Two steering meetings have taken place to develop the Neighbourhood Environmental Plan since we first wrote to you about it in June. We've also received a good number of comments and ideas for action. We've been working to develop these into one strategy for community environmental action, and have applied for the funds to support those elements of the plan which might cost money. While we are waiting to hear back on our funding application there are still a number of things we can support, and you can start working on now. A quick summary of the final actions and what we're getting started with is below. If you have any questions, comments, or would just like to get involved please email hrnp@ghg.org.uk, call 0208 968 5543 or visit us at 421 Harrow Road.

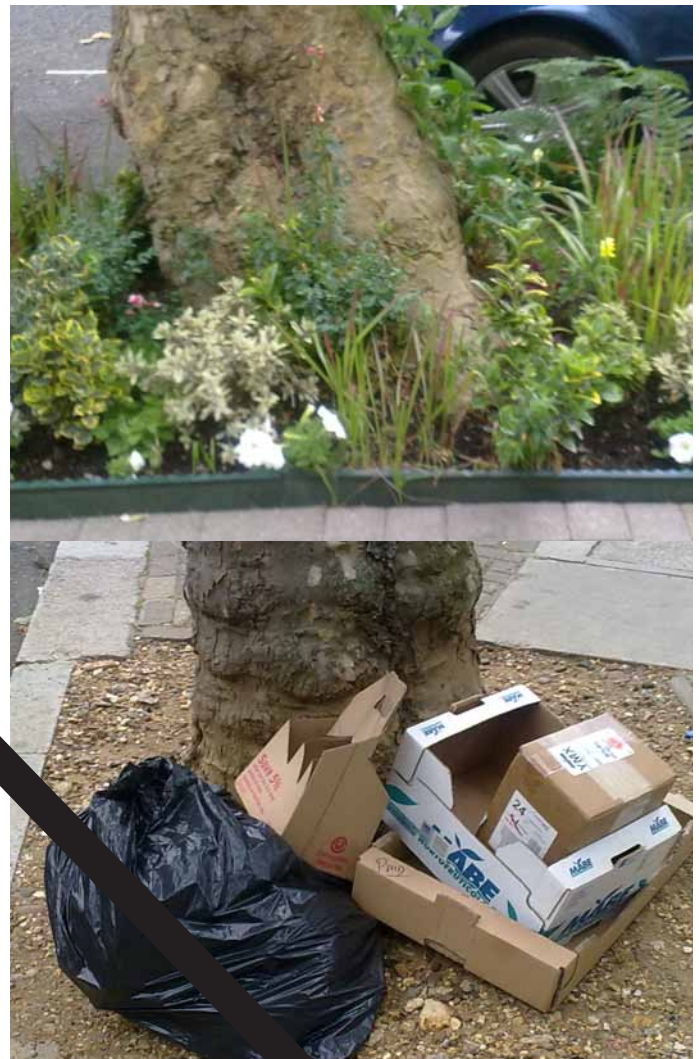
Developing the environmental action plan so far:

HRNP staff met with a number of interested residents to talk about what they saw as the biggest environmental issues locally. A range of comments were also received by email and letter. We also spoke to Police, City Guardians and council staff, and conducted two walkabouts of the area to look at problems like cracked paving, bad lighting, rubbish dumping and potential sites for planting or greening projects.

We will be helping to link up residents with similar concerns or interests and supporting you in taking action or meeting officials on the issues that are important to you. There will be a range of opportunities to get involved with actions outlined in the plan at our Posh Do on the 23rd – and if you have any further ideas or would like to speak to us about any aspect of the environment strategy, please get in touch!

Gardening and gardens:

We've already run a local gardening competition and entered Harrow Road ward into the London in Bloom competition. We've also run workshops and coordinated events to support the formation of a Harrow Road gardening club – although this will need a lot more development! Working with Timebank and WECH, we've helped a number of residents clear or plant their gardens, and we're continuing to link up green fingered residents with those who need a little help taming their shrubbery. HRNP have also applied for some funding to install more public planters around the Maida Hill Market area and at



other strategic sites around the ward.

Over the next six months we hope to support residents interested in gardening public green spaces through providing tools and seeds. We've already started to speak to estate managers and housing associations to find out where they have empty green spaces, unloved planters or dilapidated gardens – if you have a suggestion for an area that would benefit from a bit of care and attention, please let us know. We'd be happy to support you with resources and local expertise, and help recruit others to join you in some community gardening!

Rubbish and dumping:

HRNP are leading by example, as we have bought a steam cleaner for the pavement at Maida Hill Market and improved waste collection methods from the market. We're now hoping to support a Harrow Road residents' clean-up day later in the year, in conjunction with a bulk waste 'amnesty' in local estates. This would mean that local residents and workers would take to the streets to litter-pick, report local dumping grounds and give the streets

a bit of a clean; while local services would run a special collection for big items at a subsidised rate, and coordinate a focused clean up of the ward.

In the long term, we'd like to bring together interested residents with council staff, to improve the waste removal systems for the area, develop plans for future street cleaning or works and draw up strategies for targeted work in the future. We also hope to bring residents and local businesses together, to discuss and tackle issues including forecourt dumping, commercial waste collection and planning applications. We've already got some really useful information from local residents about problem areas where services should be focused, and specific retailers they would like to work with. If you have any information, or would be interested in attending a meeting, please let us know.

Social and retail environment:

So far this year, we have secured funding for five community noticeboards to be installed around the ward and display useful information about upcoming events and local services. We have also been supporting the use of 2 Fernhead Road as a café space and continue to work to develop 4 Fernhead Road into a viable space for community action and local enterprise.

We've heard from residents that you would also like action to be taken on the area outside the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Edhi Foundation charity shop. So, over the next six months we would like to support some opportunities for community debate about the changes needed. We will also help to link residents into council funding and planning processes to provide you with the links to campaign for action on this or other issues. We'll also be continuing to support the market and look for ways to work with local businesses, outside retailers and community organisations to improve the usage and appearance of retail areas in and around the Harrow Road ward.

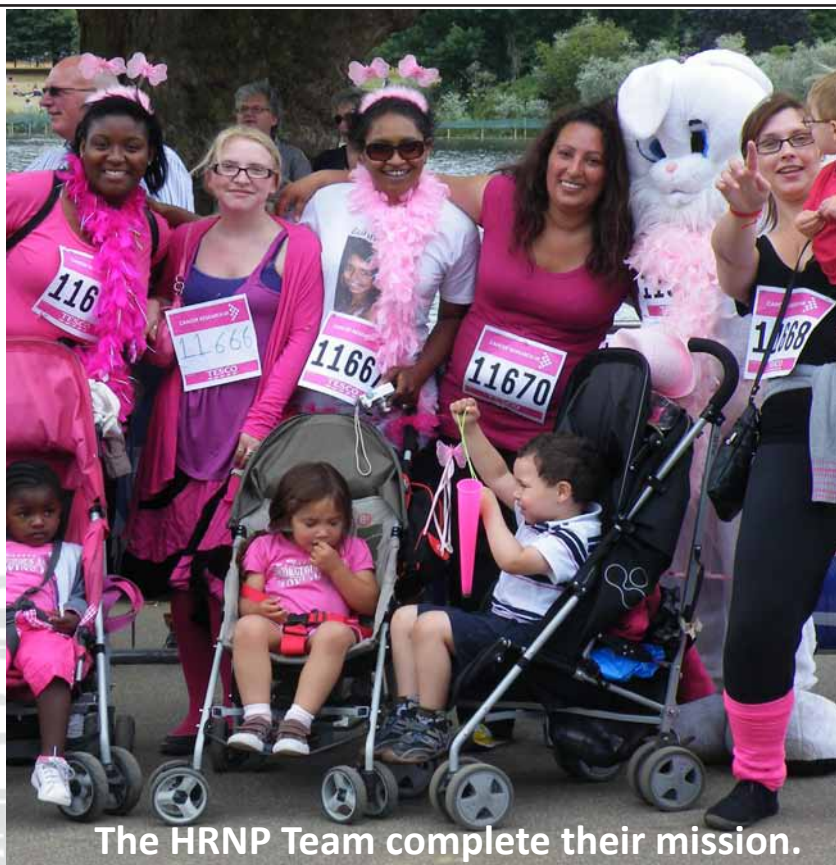
Other opportunities:

There are plenty of other opportunities for community action in the Environment Action plan. To comment on it please visit us or have a look online at www.harrowroadblog.com. From supporting youth groups and schools to participate in community art projects, to increasing awareness about council services around planning and streetcare, to producing local cycling & walking maps or even running a walking group; there are a wide range of opportunities for you and your neighbours to work together with us to improve the local environment and make Maida Hill a more vibrant place to live.

Race for Life:

Thank you to everyone who supported the Harrow Road Neighbourhood Partnership team, who joined thousands of women and children at Race for Life in Hyde Park on Sunday 19th July. The team exceeded their target and raised £435.00 for Cancer Research, and had a wonderful time being part of the "sea of pink" that descended on Hyde Park - including "Fluffy", our Maida Hill Market Bunny, who went down a storm with fellow participants and spent much of the time being "celebrity bunny", stopping for lots of photos with excited families along the way.

Fluffy said: "I couldn't have done it without the team. It was a fantastic day, rounded off with a lovely community picnic and games in Tamplin Mews as part of The Big Lunch. See you next year!"



The HRNP Team complete their mission.