

# STREETREPS

SEPTEMBER 2010

Dear All

As autumn looms, we're here to cheer you up with Another Posh Do! Come and meet your neighbours, discuss the future of your area and enjoy some lovely complementary wine and nibbles with us at LondonPrintStudios, from 6-9pm on Thursday September 23rd.

Our big topics for discussion will be the new, resident-led Environment Strategy, and establishing the value of Harrow Road Partnership's work so far through an exit survey. As always, this is an opportunity for you to take an active role in our work, begin or promote your own community action, and take the time to speak to and socialise with your neighbours. Everyone is welcome – please bring your friends and family too!

If you would like to join us please let us know so we can make sure you are fed! You can RSVP by calling 0208 968 5543, emailing hrnp@ghg.org.uk, or visiting us at the Neighbourhood Centre, 421 Harrow Road.

For more information about the continued development of environmental action, and news about the rest of our work, please read on - and if you have any comments, thoughts or questions about anything contained within this newsletter, please get in touch. Thanks for reading!

Julie Bundy and the HRNP team

## Maida Hill Market

It has been a memorable summer at Maida Hill Market; In our family workshops kids have made masks, fabulous instruments, beautiful painted eggs, pictures, and one boy painted himself completely blue!

Everyone danced! The market has seen some moves this year! From the kids in Harlequin at Paddington Festival launch, through the amazing Irish Day party, the Carnival winding, the Brazilian Capoeira, the Tea Dance – every part of our community got involved and enjoyed the freedom of dancing in the street in their own way.

We have had all types of music, from Bashy and Akala to Bluebells over the White Cliffs of Dover with Bob Holloway. Fluffy the Maida Hill Bunny has been out a few times to dance with the little ones, and Fluffy certainly isn't camera shy.

We have had hundreds and hundreds of people attending events at Maida Hill Market this year, and there hasn't been a single problem. This proves that when we get together as a community something special happens - we focus on the positive.

Next year due to lack of funding we may not have the

same resources to run events in the same way – but that doesn't mean they have to stop! John Simmance, a local resident, proved how it can be done by organising one of the most successful events of the season – Maida Hill Goes Irish. He worked with local estate agents Westways, the Prince of Wales Pub and St Josephs Primary to raise the money, roped in volunteers and borrowed equipment to make the day possible. And it was the party of the Summer!

If you would like to find out more about how to organise your own community event, or simply how to help out at community events please come along to the events area at the Posh Do on September 23rd for more information. If you run a local business, please come along and find out what local events you can sponsor.

Maida Hill Market has continued to grow. We now have more traders, a varied selection of goods, and a small, but hearty Farmers Market section every Saturday morning. And we are making good use of our space! Have you tried the new Ping Pong table? It's free and we have some budding champions. We haven't solved all the problems of

the neighbourhood – but we are making headway in the right direction. We are also providing opportunities for local entrepreneurs to start a business, and a relaxed place for people to meet and chat.

The market is important in many ways; as well as what we sell, it's how we sell it. If, like us, you find markets in general a little bit daunting or question the quality of produce, we urge you to be brave and try out Maida Hill Market – you will be surprised. Not only are all the traders extremely friendly and welcoming, but the produce is much fresher than anything you will buy in a supermarket. The hot food is safe to eat – and delicious - and the traders all meet Food Hygiene standards (we monitor this carefully). It is a good opportunity to sit down and eat something you may not have considered before (the traders will be happy to advise you), and watch the world go by.

The market is a safe environment too. We have excellent support from the police, and the people who work there are all warm and friendly. They want you there. All of you. Everyone takes care of each other, because we live here, and we want it to be nice. You'll often find children playing the piano, people singing, the elderly gathering for a cup of tea and a chat. As the centre of our community it is vital that we continue to use the market, especially through the winter months. We are always looking for new traders, but new traders need you to buy their goods, so please continue to support your local market. It is an extremely satisfying way to shop, it is good for the environment, good for our community, and good for You! To find out more contact [Liz.tt@ghg.org.uk](mailto:Liz.tt@ghg.org.uk)

Also, discover W9's new pop-up coffee shop "the Art of Coffee", at 2 Fernhead Road until October 2010. If you are serious about your coffee, you will love Francesco and Leo, who have popped up at Maida Hill Café Gallery for the next couple of months. These Italian connoisseurs set up the Art of Coffee five years ago and have been supplying happy customers across London with espresso's, lattes and freshly roasted beans or ground coffee ever since, most recently at Broadway Market in the East End. They offer a unique yet reasonably priced, global menu of coffee blends, herbal teas and fresh pastries daily from popular local café/deli, Lisboa.

Finally, we'd like to thank Plaza Jazz people for their outstanding performances at the Market this summer! We were privileged to have some of the best Jazz players in London performing every Friday. They delighted the audience with some classic tunes. Jonathan has done a fantastic job of organising this event, but again this is an activity that needs external funding, which is why we have stopped for now. Later this year we hope to host a fabulous Jazz club at the new venue Maida Hill Place, which will be funded by a small entry charge. Watch this space Jazz lovers!

## History

North Paddington History Group recently held its second resident-led meeting. They will continue to meet at 6pm on the first Wednesday of the month at 421 Harrow Road - all are welcome to come along to the next meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup> to share, learn, and have a nice cup of tea!

The group will be taking a free trip to the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden on the afternoon of either Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> of September. If you would like to join, call Paola on 0208 968 5543 and let her know which date suits you. Details will be finalised by the 16<sup>th</sup>. The History Group also has the opportunity to join the Timebank team in visiting a performance of 'Tales

of the Harrow Road' when it is performed at the Cockpit Theatre.

Other ideas for the history group are to run a regular informal discussion session at a local pub - or maybe even set up a Pub Quiz! A programme of presentations, debates and information sessions is to be established.

## Timebank

Dear Friends of the Timebank! Check out our rolling programme of activities, provided free by members of North Paddington Timebank. To book your place on any of these, please contact Paola on 0208 968 5543 or [paola.pagliarin@ghg.org.uk](mailto:paola.pagliarin@ghg.org.uk)

At 421 Harrow Road:

- **Knitting workshop** - crochet, sewing, embroidery... bring your suggestions & creativity! Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month (next session Sept 14<sup>th</sup>) 11am-1pm
- **Language group**: English speaking/writing: ESOL and foreign languages. Every Tuesday 1 - 2pm
- **Guitar group**: Guitar workshop for all, beginners/intermediate/ experts! Every Tuesday 5 - 6pm
- **Gardening group**: Come and join in - FUN gardening around local street-level front gardens. Every Tuesday 6 - 7pm

Other groups:

**Healthy Living group:** walking, fitness & wellbeing. Every Wednesday 2.15 - 4pm @ Pickering Hall, Hallfield Estate, London W2. Walks are: Thursdays 11.15am from Pickering Hall, Hallfield Estate, W2 - Everyone welcome! OR Thursdays 1pm from Queens Park Library, Harrow Road, W10 - for over 50s young at heart!

Skills Needed:

- **Ebay:** how to set up an account and sell items.
- **Spanish language:** Conversational Spanish teacher needed – Computer Skills offered in exchange!
- **Ironing** - could you show a local resident a quick easy way to iron? Child-minding offered in exchange!
- **Volunteering at local event:** Healthy Futures – What Makes You Smile, Saturday 25th Sept, 1-4pm @ Hallfield School, Hallfield Estate, W2

**Timebank is organizing a FREE evening out at the 'Tales of Harrow Road' theatre show** courtesy of the Soho Theatre! Come along on Wed.4th, Thu 5th and Fri 6th November at 7.30pm. To RESERVE your seat call the Timebank on 0208 968 5543 by Tue 14th September.

### **Tuesday's Table Top Sale**

We often get asked if people can come to the market to sell stuff from their home they would like to get rid of, for one reason or another. We have always said this wasn't possible, as it isn't fair to existing traders and is confusing for the customer, who doesn't know if they are getting used or new goods.

Now the good news is that Timebank have organised the Tuesday Table Top Sale – and everyone can join in! This isn't part of Maida Hill Market, and you don't have to be a member of Timebank, you can just come along, with a table, and things you want to sell, and join in the fun. We provide space and chairs. It costs £3 to take part if you are not a member of the Timebank - this covers costs and goes back to the community.

Some people sell to raise money for charity, others simply turn things they don't need into cash. The main thing is the friendly atmosphere, and enjoying a chat with neighbours. There is a really wide selection of things to buy, and everything is good quality, come and have a look, you may spot a bargain!

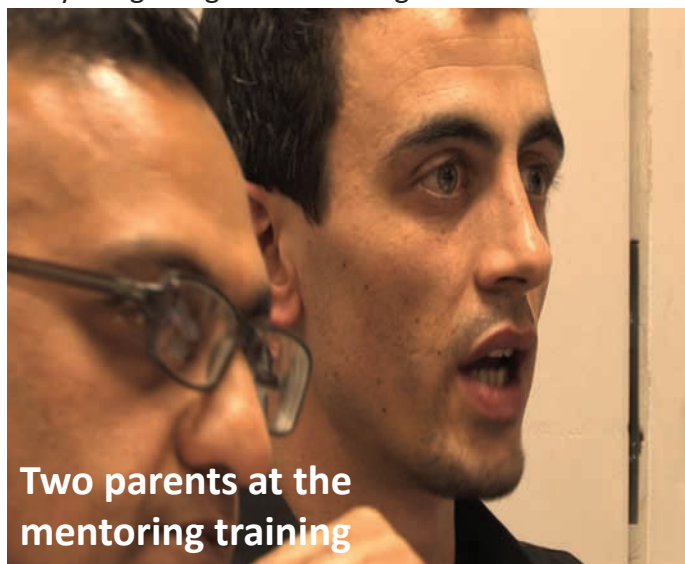
While it is still warm the Table Top Sale will be on the Market. When it gets colder we may move into WECH community Hall. But there is plenty of room for people to come along and get involved.

Tuesday's Table Top Sale: Maida Hill Market 12 – 4pm  
Pay Paola £3 and bring a table – set up shop!

### **Tell It Like It Is**

Community Mentor Training has been completed and mentors are up and running around the area! At schools, youth clubs, work places, homes.. Further training and placement of mentors in local schools to be organised from September. (K - pic attached)

**A large parent/resident meeting is now being organised (to be held at Paddington Academy in October) - "It Takes a Whole Community to Raise a Child"** - based on the concerns of local parents



**Two parents at the mentoring training**

around the safety of our young people and our streets. The aim is to bring together parents, youth workers, young people, ward councillors, schools, teachers, borough council officers, the police, mentoring groups, landlords and other representatives & networks, for an opportunity to engage in constructive dialogue, share information, and improve communication across all levels of our community, through a shared understanding of the issues and a collective action plan. **If you would like to get involved with the Community Mentor training or would like to attend the public meeting in October, please contact Melody on hrnp@ghg.org.uk or call 0208 968 5543.**

### **Young People**

In conjunction with WECH and London Tigers, we ran a whole range of Summer Activities for young people at WECH Community Centre this July and

August. We involved over 100 young people in activities including DJ-ing, Film Making, dance and employment support. Feedback from the workshops, events and support sessions was really positive, and the community centre has been buzzing with all the different activities on offer. The Community Barbeque at WECH open space was also a great opportunity for local young people to meet their adult neighbours and socialise over some gourmet free grub!

## Older People

As you may know, Lynn Daniel, our isolated and vulnerable people's worker, has now left Harrow Road Neighbourhood Partnership. This means that the services and support she provided for local older people are currently on hold until our new Health Worker begins later this month. You'll be able to meet her and find out more about her role and how she will be supporting older residents at Another Posh Do, on September 23rd.

However, this doesn't mean that we've stopped considering the needs of local older people or supporting opportunities for them. This included a great Pensioners' Tea Dance in August at which we had three great entertainers who got the crowd moving – despite the free tea and scones providing everyone with ample excuse to remain in their seats with afternoon tea!

Lynn has also continued to work on our Walking Bus Consultation, which aimed to find out what prevented local older people from using local facilities or travelling on the streets after dark; and to ask whether a new initiative known as a walking bus might help. She contacted over 400 older residents, and received over 200 replies. Our results show that most older people do find walking on the streets after dark a concern, due to fear of crime or worries about trips and falls. A significant number of older respondents felt that a walking bus would increase their confidence and help them to travel locally after dark, particularly in the winter months. The consultation also found a lot of support amongst younger residents for the scheme, which they felt would make the streets seem friendlier and promote a more inclusive community.

If you would like to find out more about the results of this consultation or add your own views, please visit our website at [www.harrowroadblog.com](http://www.harrowroadblog.com) or visit the office to request a hard copy of the report.

We are currently drafting a proposal for funds to pilot the walking bus this winter, based on the positive feedback we received. We will let you know how this goes.

## 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 info from the Queens Park Bangladeshi Association, on Mondays for the Somali Women's Group or on Wednesdays for employment advice from Westminster Works. 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.



Tea Dance performers

## Behind the Scenes...

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](mailto:hrnp@ghg.org.uk), call 0208 968 5543 or visit us at 421 Harrow Road.**

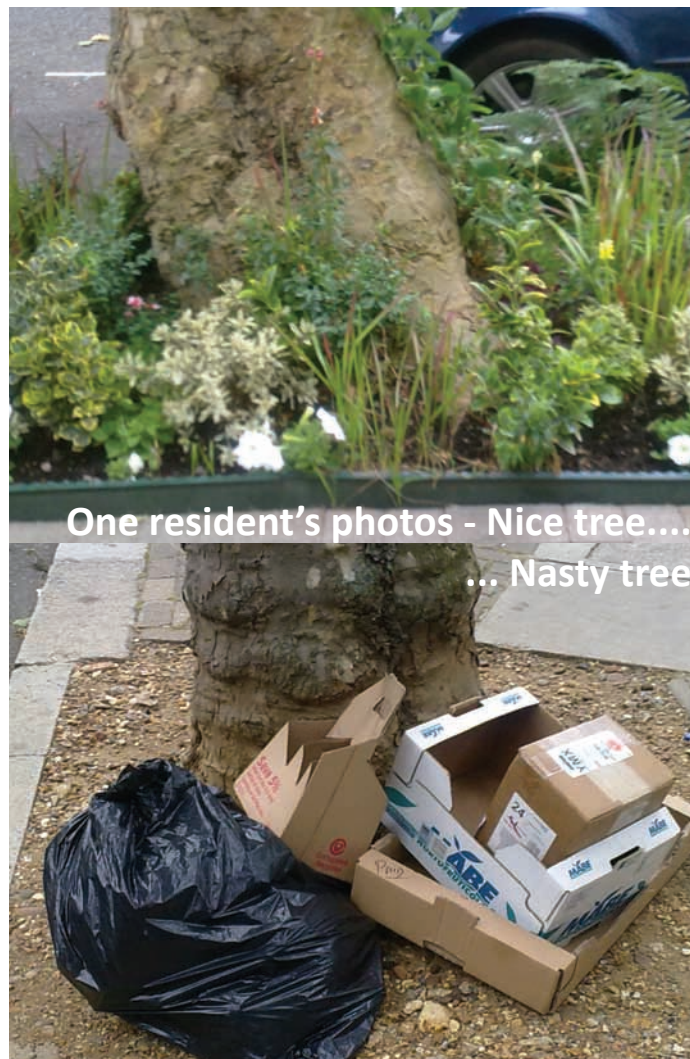
### Developing the environmental action plan so far:

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



One resident's photos - Nice tree...  
... Nasty tree

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, and over the next six months we would like to support some opportunities for community debate about the changes needed, and to link residents into council funding and planning process 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](http://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.**