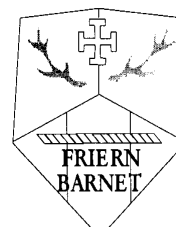


Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association

Friern Barnet and Whetstone Residents' Association

- We are non-political
 - We work for all residents in the area
 - We discuss issues with Local Councillors and Council Officials
 - Associated with the following bodies
- | | |
|--|--|
| • The Federation of Residents' Association of Barnet | • The Friern Barnet & District Local History Society |
| • The Finchley Society | • Coppetts Wood Conservationists |
| • Friends of Friary Park | • The London Green Belt Council |
| • North Finchley Local Agenda 21 | |



January 2011

Special
rebuilding
issue

Internet (trial): <http://friernbarnetresidents.website.orange.co.uk>

Incognito reopens on time, on budget "I want the best for Incognito's audience and members", says Director David Longstaff

Local residents missing their dose of theatrics will be glad to read that the Incognito Theatre in Holly Park Road is scheduled to re-open in early January 2011. A number of significant enhancements have been made, the most significant of which is the provision for disabled access. By obtaining a small sliver of land, the path leading to the theatre has been widened so that a full size wheelchair can gain entry. There is one level access across the whole theatre with the backrow raised to the same level as the stage. This means that wheelchair theatregoers have no impediments in their viewing of the plays; also, a disabled toilet has been provided.

The foyer has been rebuilt and is now four times bigger. Besides providing more room for the audience to circulate and take refreshments in the intermissions, it also means that there is space for the Company to rehearse one show while they have another in production. The workshop and lighting box have also been rebuilt.

The Incognito has undergone a number of enhancements in the last few years. Regular visitors will have noticed improvements to the seating, lighting, heating and stage. A couple of years ago the fire escape was installed. In the next few years there may well be new seating and Incognito Director, David Longstaff says, "I'd like to have the option for theatre-in-the-round productions".

The current re-building work will be completed on time and on budget at a cost of £135,000. As there was restricted access to the theatre building they couldn't bid for money from the disability funding bodies. The money had to



Scene from the Incognito's last production "Female of the Species"

be raised through donations, bequests and high profile fund raising events. The Gala Dinner with their Patron, Sir David Jason, raised £8,000.

David Longstaff says that the amount of time and energy put into the Incognito by the actors and backstage and off-stage is considerable. There are about 60 - 70 actor members and another 40 off-stage members who can be called upon for any one production. A new production will require 3 days (evenings) of rehearsals over a 6 - 7 week period, followed by a seven night performance run. This obviously requires considerable commitment by all.

The Youth Group, which was a dynamic organisation ten years or so ago, has slipped away but David Longstaff hopes to revive interest in the near future. The Friern Barnet Educational Trust has made a generous donation, which will help facilitate the new youth section.

The next production is "Port Authority" by Conor McPherson, starting Sunday 23rd January.

Roadworks on Bounds Green section of North

Friern Barnet and Whetstone residents know all about the effects of the roadworks currently taking place on the Bounds Green section of the North Circular Road. They see very clearly the congestion when they go to Tesco and wonder as the line of traffic stretches back towards Finchley Central.

Frequent users of the North Circular, who are heading towards Southgate or Winchmore Hill or Enfield, have learnt to exit at the intersection with either Colney Hatch Lane or the Finchley High Road.

Some drivers on their journey east wanting to skip a few hundred yards of crawling traffic, use the Tesco slip road, cross over Colney Hatch Lane and take the slip road towards the retail park before re-joining the North Circular.

For years the Bounds Green section of the North Circular has been an anomaly, as it went from six lanes at the intersection of Pinkham Way and Station Road (by the New Southgate gas holder) to three lanes along Telford Road. The next stretch east from the dog leg, at the intersection of Telford Road and Bowes Road, to the Clockhouse intersection at Green Lanes accommodated only four lanes in total.

The politicians dithered for years about providing funds for the road-widening. Over the years there have been many Ministers of Transport of different political parties, who as far as Friern Barnet residents were concerned were all useless. Houses along the North Circular were purchased, the occupants were moved on, the houses started to disintegrate. With a change of plan,



A view of the traffic jam from the Colney Hatch bridge.

these houses were refurbished are now being sold off.

The funds having eventually been found to provide three lanes in each direction, the widening road-works started in March 2010. One of the

first effects of the roadworks was to reduce this major arterial road, in certain sections, to just two lanes in total. This has inevitably caused even greater traffic chaos in Friern Barnet (and places beyond). Since the roadworks started even more

regular drivers of the North Circular have learnt to get off the North Circular and head towards their destinations via Finchley High Road, Colney Hatch Lane and the narrow roads of Friern Barnet.



A new footbridge at the Telford Road, Bowes Road and Wilmer Way intersection.

Circular to be completed by Spring 2012



Telford Road, during the roadworks, traffic is reduced to one lane in each direction.

Thanks to the North Circular Road congestion, local residents are familiar with the gridlock around Tesco's car park when it is difficult to get in and impossible to get out.

Along the roadworks from

the intersection with Station Road to the Clockhouse/Green Lanes intersection there is much building, rebuilding and modifications taking place at the same time. Most of the work is to widen the road but there are other projects—a new foot-

bridge is being built; existing electrical and water supplies are being diverted; and the culvert handling Bounds Green Brook is being modified.

The new footbridge is being constructed close to the dog

leg where Telford Road, Bowes Road and Wilmer Way intersect (see photo). It is near to the existing footbridge by Bowes Road school. There was talk of having a push-button traffic light system at this point to provide disabled access to the school. Such a scheme on this busy part of the North Circular would inevitably lead to one or two schoolchildren being flattened. Hopefully the on-demand traffic light scheme has been abandoned and access across the road will be provided by the new footbridge. Hopefully, sense has been seen.

The bridge carrying the Piccadilly Line is one of the "pinch points" on this section of the North Circular.

There are three arches to the bridge, the central arch can take four lane of traffic, and the two outer arches could take at least one lane each. It is not clear, at the moment, how the bridge may be re-configured to take three lanes in each direction.



The bridge over Bowes Road carrying Hertford North section of the railway line.

The railway bridge carrying Hertford North section of the railway line - is another of the "pinch points" - however, it is easy to see that by using the previous green space, as well as the second arch of the bridge, three lanes can be created in each direction.

Before Spring 2012, various sections of the roadworks will be completed and opened up, and so the days when the road can take only one lane of traffic in one direction will come to end. And, the lives of Friern Barnet residents, as far as traffic is concerned, should begin to improve.

HG

Friary Park House welcomes its new occupants

On Monday 29th November, the main part of Friary House was reopened. After years of doubt as to the building's long term future (and thanks to significant funds provided by Barnet Council) occupants who had previously been located at premises in Friern Park, moved in. These local non-profit groups are:

Barnet Lone Parent Group
Barnet Elderly Asians Group
Barnet Asian Women's Association
Oshwal Association of the UK
Iranian Community Centre
Gingerbread

Friary House has been made over to accommodate disabled access. A lift has been installed which will give a full size wheelchair access to the first and second floors. The refurbishment has been done in sympathy with the Victorian style—the old staircase and ceiling roses have been kept. The fireplaces are untouched albeit hidden behind plasterboard. There is now an elongated main entrance and a reception area has been created. As well as a new fitted kitchen, there are offices and a meeting room on each of the first and second floors. The meeting rooms, which can hold up to 50 people, can be hired by the general public for use after 5 p.m.

It was hoped that two of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams (the Woodhouse and West Finchley Ward local community police groups) were going to use offices in the building but this plan has stalled. Discussions with the Metropolitan Police are on-going.

The popular café at the side of the building remained open during the refurbishment of the rest of the building.

The Friends of Friary Park, the Friern Barnet & District Local History Society, the Whetstone Society, the builders



and your residents' association have clubbed together to refurbish the clock and have it re-installed in its original position above the main door. Barnet Council have undertaken to provide ongoing maintenance of the clock.

HH HG

Forthcoming Events

Friern Barnet Library: **Wednesday 19 January**
"The Adventure of Family History" A Talk by Sue Fifer
All coffee mornings are from 10.30 – 11.30

Friern Barnet and District Local History Society:
"Thames Sailing Barges" by Ken Cain: Wednesday 26 January
"Recycling & Waste Prevention" by Verity Jones Wednesday 23 February
All meetings take place at St John's Church Hall, next to Whetstone Police Station, Friern Barnet Lane. Starts 7:45 p.m.; cost £2 to non-members.

Incognito Theatre:
Port Authority by Conor McPherson **Sunday 23 January to Saturday 29 January**
£8 members, £9 non-members, £5 students
Sunday performance starts at **6pm**, all other performances start at **8pm**.

Church Farm Museum 9 October 2010 - 9 January 2011

'A Sin But Not A Crime': the Restoration and the Regicides

The Museum is also displaying (for the first time in London), an exhibition on loan from the Cromwell Museum at Huntingdon on the grim fate of those signatories to the death warrant of Charles I in 1649, after the restoration of Charles II in 1660.

Contacts

Correspondence
Chairman FBWRA
33 Holly Park Road
N11 3EY
axin77@dsl.pipex.com

Membership FBWRA
112 Oakleigh Road North
N20 9EZ
brucestanding@msn.com

Press Officer FBWRA
153 Friern Barnet Lane
N20 0NP
l.e.bull@hotmail.co.uk