

# newsletter

Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association



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## Council pollution threat to school-kids

In our January edition we reported on proposals for creating a safer route for walkers and cyclists - a "Quietway" - between Hornsey and North Finchley and how Barnet Council was seeking to include restrictions - "reconfiguration" - of the Ashurst Road/ Buxted Road junction, an objective that had been originally an idea to slow careless drivers but which has now evolved into a plan to reduce rat-



*Schoolchildren gather at the Friern Barnet Town Hall intersection at end of school day*

running. Things have moved on. In March a group of local residents, the "Horsham Group", who were seriously unhappy with the proposals contacted FBWRA for assistance. We arranged a meeting between two local ward councillors - Cllr. Barry Rawlings and Cllr. Geoff Cooke (representing

**FBWRA SUMMER SPLASH 2019**  
**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August 3.00-5.00 p.m.**  
**Friary Park Bowling Club, Friary Park,**  
**N20 0NR**

**Members are invited to our free Summer Splash Social at the Bowling clubhouse in the park. Inside if wet. If dry, you can try your hand at bowling!**

**If you have email RSVP to**  
**fbwra@btinternet.com**

local residents and FBWRA members plus FBWRA officers, to brief the Councillors on residents' views prior to a presentation made to councillors by Council officers and we provided funding to the Horsham Group to conduct a survey of residents' opinions (see below).

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## 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' Associations of Barnet
- The Finchley Society
- Friends of Friary Park
- Open Spaces Society

- The Friern Barnet & District Local History Society
- Coppetts Wood Conservationists
- The London Green Belt Council
- Love Whetstone

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The Horsham Group survey of residents' opinions shows very substantial opposition to the council's plans - 96% against with a 30 % response rate. The high response rate gives "democratic credibility" to that opposition. Late in May we met with Council officers and highway advisers. At that meeting (our comments below are in italics) -

#### Consultation process

1. it was confirmed there will be a further public consultation in mid-July . Responses will be evaluated and then the scheme (or a modified version) will be introduced on an experimental basis for 6 months. We were also told that if the results of the new consultation show a high level of opposition then Council officials would re-think the plans. *Concerned residents (and others) need to be sure to submit an on-line response to the consultation giving their objections and giving appropriate responses. We understand the on-line consultation will be available until 10 July under "Barnet Cycleway" at [engage.barnet.gov.uk](http://engage.barnet.gov.uk)*

#### Do we need a Quietway?

2 . we made it clear that both FBWRA and residents were not opposed to the principle of a Quietway, but that we were concerned about the route and other issues. We were told that it is the Mayor of London's strategy to promote Quietways, although it was confirmed that there is no specific evidence of real demand for a Quietway from Hornsey to North Finchley from a significant proportion of residents in the area and not merely from special interest groups. *So will it all be a "white elephant"?*

#### What are the Council really up to?

3. we were told that, for the Council, the primary objective was to remove rat-running by stopping most through traffic currently going through the Ashurst/Buxted "box". Creating an improved route for cyclists is a secondary objective. *Yet publicly the proposals are being pushed as a cycle Quietway". Disingenuous? Our Council? Surely not!*

#### Will Ashurst and Buxted Roads be hit hardest?

4. the detailed proposals include reconfiguring

the Ashurst/Buxted junction by closing it diagonally - stopping through traffic going to/ from Friern Barnet Lane and making Horsham Avenue "no entry" from Woodhouse Road. It was accepted these changes will inconvenience residents in some roads and increase journey times for them. *The need to include the junction and other changes to roads demonstrates both that perhaps there is actually no suitable route locally for a Quietway and maybe also the determination in some quarters to push through their agenda regardless of the impact on residents.*

#### What is the plan to reduce heavy congestion on roads around Woodhouse and Friern Barnet Road

5. the Council accepted that the road changes would result in traffic being displaced from the local roads onto the already heavily congested main roads (Woodhouse Road and Friern Barnet Road) and that this would cause more congestion. However, the Council has no specific proposals to address the congestion in these roads, and has not carried out any studies to understand the causes of that congestion. *Why not?*

#### Is the Quietway the answer to anything?

Understandably, local residents are worried about the impact of the proposals on their daily lives, but there is another issue, which causes FBWRA considerable concern - pollution. The Council accepts that its proposals will result in more congestion in Woodhouse Road and Friern Barnet Road, near the Town Hall junction . With congestion comes pollution. This section of these main roads is where many school students gather to wait for buses, whilst others walk along the pavements.

Thus the Council's policy will expose young people to increased levels of deadly pollutants, and whilst the Mayor of London is happy to fund a Quietway for which there may be limited demand, our understanding is that he is not prepared to fund improvements on our main roads to improve traffic flow, so that vehicles move more freely and create less pollution. Such are the priorities of our ruling elite!

## FBWRA- the way ahead

This is the first edition of our Newsletter to be published since our AGM on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and, as the new Chairman of the Association I would like to take the opportunity to set out what our Committee and I believe should be the way ahead for FBWRA.

The Association is strong both financially and in terms of the number of members we have. This is a good starting point. However, as a Committee we would like FBWRA to do more than we do at present. To achieve this we need more of you to be actively involved, both in what we do at present and also in new things. Put simply, FBWRA needs you!

So, we have set four objectives. First, to grow our membership; secondly to become more efficient in what we do; third to encourage you to participate in what FBWRA does and, finally, to be an active Association.

### First objective - widen membership

To grow our numbers we intend to "roll out" a programme that we have been trying out in recent months. "Join us" deliveries of additional copies of each Newsletter with a "sign up" flyer, targeting particular roads and also new build homes have proved to be fruitful. We have found this gets a reasonable number of responses and the cost of extra copies of the Newsletter is not that great, as a longer print run reduces the average cost per copy. We are also looking at how best to pick up when properties change hands. To help with this, please would you alert us if your neighbours move, so that we can invite as many new residents as possible to join?

### Second objective - more email addresses needed

To meet the objective of becoming more efficient is largely a matter of better administration. For example, we have email addresses for about 2/3rds of members, and, whilst not all of you have email we would like to have email addresses for all of you who do. If you are on email but do not receive our members' emails then please let us have your email address. Please send it to us at [fbwra@btinternet.com](mailto:fbwra@btinternet.com). Please include your name and postal address in the message.

### Third objective - more participation

Our third objective is "encouraging participation", which, of course, can take many forms. The use of modern methods of communication has been at the forefront of our efforts to engage with people and encouraging them to engage with us. We are still

developing our website at <https://www.fbwra.org> which we hope you will visit. We also have a presence on Facebook and would welcome suggestions for other electronic media where we might be represented.



David Thompson - new Chairman of FB&WRA

Since last December members with known email addresses have been receiving periodic emails from us. We know that too many emails from any one source leads to fewer being opened- so we promise not to "bombard" you with messages!

If any of you reading this article wish to have more active involvement in our activities, either regarding neighbourhood issues or social activities, please contact us. You might even wish to write an article for our Newsletter! Whilst not promising publication, it would be good to have new sources of material, in addition to the efforts of our Committee !!

### Fourth objective - more active Association

Our fourth and final objective is to be a more active Association. We see this as including improving and expanding our monitoring of what Barnet Council is doing ( or not doing!), expanding communication with other local groups and residents' associations and also co-operating with them on appropriate issues, continuing to hold members' meetings and also, on a lighter note, running the occasional social event. The key to achieving this particular objective will be getting more people actively involved- even if just for a couple of hours a month.

### A new direction

I do hope that you approve of the direction that we are planning to follow. If you have any thoughts or ideas on how we can better achieve our objectives, then please let me know. The best way to do this is either by using the comment form on our website at <https://www.fbwra.org/contact/> or by email to [fbwra@btinternet.com](mailto:fbwra@btinternet.com). If you don't use the internet then please write to me:

David Thompson, 14 Bethune Avenue, Friern Barnet London N11 3LE.



## Sound finances and how the jammy dodger was saved

A good number of you attended FBWRA's AGM on 2nd May, where we were delighted to hear that our sound financial position had allowed a number of projects to be carried out. These included the rolling out of a new website, re-planting a shrub bed in Friary Park, holding a second Summer Splash and a Members Meeting on the London Traffic Plan.

Kate Salinger, our outgoing Chair took the opportunity to share her most memorable experiences during her year as Madam Mayoress. She thanked all those, including the FBWRA Committee, who had worked so hard for the local community during the year in raising and monitoring local issues such as the Sustrans proposal, the Pinkham Way waste digester and all the planning applications.

Special thanks went to Ollie Natelson who had recently resigned for his contribution over the years on conservation, pollution and traffic matters. Kate remains on the FBWRA Committee.

David Thompson was elected as Chairman and Tim Smedley as Treasurer and Membership Secretary. The rest of the Committee remained unchanged.

A tribute was paid to Mel Hooper who sadly passed away in April for his contribution over the years to FBWRA and the local community.

### Theresa Villiers talk "My life in Politics"

Our guest speaker was Theresa Villiers, MP for Chipping Barnet reminiscing on her time in politics which formally began in 1999 when she was elected as an MEP. During her time at the



European Parliament she became intimately acquainted with the Fruit Jams, Jellies and Chestnut Puree Directive with the result that the Jammy Dodger was reprieved and included in the resulting legislation. She was elected as MP for Chipping Barnet in 2005 and became Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in 2012.

Her most memorable moments as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland included attending the G8 Summit in Enniskillen, the Queen's Jubilee visit to Northern Ireland, attending the St Patrick's Day celebration in Washington and the gruelling cross party discussions in Northern Ireland.

As a back bencher, she is particularly concerned locally about burglaries and knife crime, the need for the NHS to provide more doctors and GP services and protecting the local environment. She is particularly interested in local transport issues and took up the issue of the disastrous Great Northern Railway timetable change which badly affected our area and getting potholes repaired, getting money for Barnet for this purpose.



## Coppetts Woodland Festival 2019 gets a high turnout

Environmentalism and organiser of the Festival, Dr Ollie Natelson, expressed concern this year about those individual(s) who have been chopping down the ivy creepers which wrap themselves around the mature trees. Dr Natelson explained that this act of vandalism prevented

wild bees from gathering nectar in Autumn, before they went into hibernation. This lack of nutrition causes the wild bees to die off - with consequences for the pollinating the next year.



A family afternoon in the fresh air - away from the pixels



English folk music provided by the Dorten Yonder group. Julian Wooton in the background - behind the clay modelling table



The Coppetts Wood environmentalists give their time and energy in giving us a delightful natural open space



## True identity of statue in Friary Park finally revealed

On Friday 24 May a small group from the Friern Barnet & District Local History Society gathered in front of the statue in Friary Park to toast Queen Victoria's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. This was as a result of research by Nick McKie, a committee member, who eventually identified the statue as that of Queen Victoria, aged 42.

The statue was to have been displayed behind the Albert Hall to commemorate the Great Exhibition of 1851 but with Prince Albert's death in 1861 the Queen insisted that a statue of Albert was erected there instead.

So our statue disappeared from view and was discovered by Sidney Simmons, the donor of the



park, and was erected there in 1911, a year after the park opened.

Phillip Ward-Jackson of the Public Monuments and Sculpture Association confirmed the identity of the statue as being that of Queen Victoria, intended for the memorial to the Great Exhibition. On their website he said: "For a Londoner, who is also an art historian, things don't get much more exciting than this".

So Queen Victoria has been standing in full view in Friern Barnet for over a hundred years,

loved by many but unrecognised by all!

David Berguer

Chairman, Friern Barnet & District Local History Society

## SAVE THE DATE! - 15 October 2019 for the Members Dinner

We are hosting our first Members Dinner at the Haven in Whetstone.

We had a very positive response to our email asking whether Members would support such an evening.

We have, therefore, made a booking for the 15th October in the private room at the

**Haven Bistro and Bar, 1363 High Road, Whetstone, London N20 9LN at 7.15pm for 7.45pm.**

The cost will be £25 per person for a 3 course meal and will include a welcome drink before

dinner.

Numbers are limited so please register your interest by emailing

[fbwra@btinternet.com](mailto:fbwra@btinternet.com)

or calling *Maria Jordan* on 0208 445 3121.

She will send those who have indicated they want to join us a menu with choices in due course and will let you know how to pay. Please let us know as quickly as possible if you plan to come along.

It promises to be an informal way to get to know other Members and have the chance to chat about some of the issues affecting our area.

### Forthcoming Events

#### **Friends of Friary Park.**

Sunday 1 September at 2.30, Guided Tree Walk, meet at the Park café.

Incognito Theatre, Holly Park Road Performances are Sunday at 6pm, Monday - Friday at 8pm, Saturday at 3pm and 8pm.

Sunday 14 July to Saturday 20 July 2019 **"Strangers on a Train"**

Written by **Craig Warner** from the novel by **Patricia Highsmith** and directed by **Adam O'Riley**

#### **FRIERN BARNET & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

start 7:45 p.m. **Wed 26 Jun From Potage to Peacocks - Food in the 16th Century** (by *Maureen Poole*)  
North Middlesex Golf Club, Friern Barnet Lane, N20 0NL