



# STREETREPS

NEWSLETTER - MAR 09

## Activity update : Jan-March 2009

This newsletter only goes out to people who have signed up to be Streetreps. This means that it is hopefully not just a way of us telling you what is happening in the Harrow Road ward, but also a way of you 'representing' – your street to us. That's why we'd like to invite you to take advantage of some new opportunities to get involved. In the future, we'll be sending posters for local events out with these newsletters, so that you can display them in your window or local venue to ensure that people on your street get to take advantage of everything locally. Other opportunities will be promoted over the next few months.

We're also extending an invite for interested residents to join a local forum to direct our work. The feedback we would most appreciate this month is:

"What events would you like to see at the new Maida Hill market?" The market is due to open in mid-May but we would like to provide opportunities for local residents and businesses to use the space even when the market is not operating. We think the market will probably run three or four days a week, including Saturdays, at the moment. But as this is a new venture we will continually assess how things are going and change opening times as necessary. Geraud Markets, who are the market operator, have managed to sign up a number of stallholders - including local business people - already, and are open-minded about what may or may not succeed in this brand new venture. What are your views and those of your neighbours on this? Please do let us know what you think by calling, writing or emailing, or simply drop into the office at 421 Harrow Road.

Finally, do you know somebody who would like to be involved in volunteering – either to get work experience or provide support to those who might need it? If you think you'd like to take a more active role, please contact me or any of the team at the Neighbourhood Centre. More information about all these opportunities will also be available at our next 'Meet the Neighbours' event at the end of April.

Thanks, Julie

## The Neighbourhood Centre

We are lucky enough to have a team of volunteers supporting our work in 2009. This includes two young people from Paddington Academy and three volunteers completing NVQs with City of Westminster College. This means that we will be able to offer even more drop-in services at 421 Harrow Road, and also have the capacity to get even more involved with the local community.

Our first new services are advice and support sessions for BME lone parents from Wings of Hope – running on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday – and a CAB debt and benefits advice service operating on an appointment basis. This is in addition to continued sessions run by Queen's Park Bangladeshi Association Monday to Wednesday, and the HealthCheck drop in available Thursdays. Call us on 0208 968 5543 if you would like to get more information on any of these services.

A number of organisations in the area are interested in looking at ways to recognise and reward local residents for supporting their neighbours or participating in their community. We're helping them to look at how we might use 'TimeBanking' - a system where individuals can earn 'time credits' for each hour they spend helping others or volunteering, and then use these credits to 'buy' help from other people or get free access to local facilities. If you have any experience of TimeBanks, or would be interested in learning more, give us a call or visit us at the neighbourhood centre.

## Older People

HRNP is supporting a local resident in creating a CD detailing the history of the local area. It is hoped that the Partnership will be able to add to the project for wider community benefit by raising the money to create opportunities for young people and local residents to learn from it through resource materials and distribution of the final CD. If you have memories you'd like to share, you can get in touch and we'll link you up with the recording team.

HRNP was successful in bidding for some money to work more closely with socially isolated and vulnerable residents locally. We won't have a worker in place to take this work forward until early May, but will be working in the meantime on determining what the new worker will do and making sure that all available information on services and support in the area is collated by then. From April we'll be visiting houses and residents groups to make sure that an active social life is an option open to all local residents. More information on the project is available in the current issue of Paddington People – Harrow Road Edition.

For more information, contact Kierra on 0208 968 5543/kierra.box@ghg.org.uk

## Housing

Harrow Road Neighbourhood Partnership is working with the Safer Neighbourhood team and local Social Landlords to improve security for estates and street properties locally. We have helped to develop a set of guidelines which should improve the way that Housing Officers, Environmental Health and local Crime Prevention services work together to identify and fix issues which make houses and housing estates vulnerable to crime or anti-social behaviour. This will include holding joint databases on contractors, conducting joint visits to assess issues, and looking for temporary solutions to deter criminals while funding is sought for more major improvements.

Together with Queen's Park and Westbourne Forums, we have been developing a new resource for local residents and those moving into or temporarily living in the area. A booklet of local services – right from schools to community groups to employment services – will be available from the summer, and we are looking for the funding to put this online as part of a searchable website to help you get the most out of your local community.

For more information on projects around housing or employment running locally, or to get support with your own housing needs, give Naomi a call on 0208 968 5543, or email [naomi.jordan@ghg.org.uk](mailto:naomi.jordan@ghg.org.uk)

## Employment

The 'Westminster Works' programme is a borough-wide initiative to improve employment opportunities for residents. From April, HRNP will be supporting the Octavia Foundation, who will be employing a new Learning and Employment Adviser as part of the scheme. The Partnership will assist Octavia in linking effectively with other Housing Associations (to make sure this support is available to everyone) and identifying good venues to hold employment surgeries over the coming year.

There is an ESOL information event on Wednesday 18th March at the Stowe Centre. All local colleges and providers of English language education and support will be there offering information on courses and helping residents to enrol. Benefits advice from Job Centre Plus and childcare information from the Family Information Service will also be available. The event will run from 10am until 3pm and refreshments and childcare will be provided free of charge.



## Children/young people/education

We're working with other Local Area Partnerships (Larps) and regeneration workers to support young people to volunteer and participate in local structures. This includes initiatives like befriending older people, helping to consult young people on local issues, and presenting their views to the partnership. Additionally, Church Street LARP are through to the second stage of a funding application to expand the Young Advisors project across the north of the borough, including Harrow Road. More information on options for involvement will be set out in the next edition of this newsletter.

Fernhead Rovers, a resident run football teams for all ages, is currently working with HRNP and WECH to secure funding for kits and coaching in the future. They're looking for the football stars of the future and have already made some impressive showings in local and London-wide leagues. We'll be looking to

support them to do more work locally and hold joint events with WECH youth club and London Tigers. For more information or to get involved with Fernhead Rovers, call Gina on 0207 266 6173.

You might have come across our new newsletter for young people – StreetNews. It aims to promote local youth clubs and services and to help us involve young people in developing Summer University courses and other activities over August 2009.

Lastly, we'd like to apologise to those young people who signed up to Re:Mix over the half term holiday. Due to a problem with the venue, we were forced to cancel the sessions. We're hoping to run them somewhere else over the Easter Holiday, so we'll be getting in touch with the original participants and re-advertising it then. We hope we'll see you all there when we're back on track.

For info contact Kierra on 0208 968 5543 or email [kierra.box@ghg.org.uk](mailto:kierra.box@ghg.org.uk)

## Health

We are continuing to send out monthly Healthy Futures calendars and to provide healthy Homes checks for local residents. 30 Healthy Home checks have been carried out so far, along with 6 site visits with the PCHA energy officer. Drop in to Weigh In is continuing at Emmanuel Church every Wednesday, and Thirza, our community nurse, will be expanding her Health and Wellbeing checks to three sites from March; Harrow Road Neighbourhood Centre, WECH tenants hall, and Westminster Drugs Project. You can call her on 07785 324 469 if you'd like to book an appointment or find your nearest drop-in. This means that there are loads of ways to make contact with the Healthy Futures team about the things that matter to you. Once you are involved with one element of the Healthy Futures programme, we are working to make sure that you'll be able to benefit further in the future by linking you into mainstream services and other sources of support.

In addition to this, there are a number of ways you can get involved in Healthy Futures as a volunteer. We're helping local residents get into Expert Patient courses, Health Trainer Programmes, and, eventually, to gain qualifications which will allow them to work in or with local health services. There are also opportunities to volunteer to help publicise local opportunities and events – like the fruit and veg van currently visiting Lydford Estate every Wednesday or upcoming 'wellbeing raffles'. We'll be drawing attention to ourselves over the summer, with several outreach sessions in development – details are currently under wraps, but don't be surprised if you bump into StreetNurse over the coming months....

For more information about Healthy Futures, contact Sarah on 0208 968 5543/[sarah.martin1@ghg.org.uk](mailto:sarah.martin1@ghg.org.uk)



## Communications

We are exploring new avenues of communication including developing the website, launching new newsletters and forming ongoing partnerships with local commercial papers. We'd like to make it really easy, not only for you to contact us, but also for you to find out about what other people in your neighbourhood are doing, and get in touch with them.

We're talking to the local papers about featuring some articles about the cultural and social history of the area, and also ensuring that news from Harrow Road is covered well in local media. An ongoing feature promoting 'Maida Hill' is also in discussion. A new newsletter - 'Maida Hill News' - is being designed which will have wider news and information coverage on our local area.

In association with WECH and London Tigers HRNP is producing a new quarterly booklet comprised of schedules of youth activities taking place at WECH, information on current services and signposting to other local youth events. The second issue of StreetNews is due out just before the Easter holidays - if you don't already know where to get one, let us know and we'll send a box of booklets to your school or youth club.

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## Shopfront development scheme

When we began consultation with local residents and businesses around four years ago, you told us that improving the look of the Harrow Road shopping centre was a priority for you. In response to those concerns our Shopfront improvement scheme is moving ahead.

Over 20 businesses have expressed an interest in the scheme with 75% of them having taken part in business diagnostic sessions. The business diagnostic sessions are run by a business advisory firm, ABI, to advise and support local traders and assess their eligibility for a grant to improve their shopfront. Two projects have come through the planning process and after the grant applications are passed these schemes will move into the implementation stage. Two other businesses are currently going through the planning process.

For more information, contact Andrew on 0208 968 5543 or email [andrew.lockhart@ghg.org.uk](mailto:andrew.lockhart@ghg.org.uk)

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## Maida Hill Market promotions/ Harrow Road Traders exhibition

A detailed project plan has now been drawn up to promote and support the forthcoming market, and to further support existing businesses in the Harrow Road shopping centre.

This plan includes; provision for additional training for existing traders, a working group to oversee the market; publicity materials to advertise the new space and plans to address the issue of empty retail units on Harrow Road.

An innovative community photography project is being planned with at the London Print Studio. This project involves photographing every shop on Harrow Road alongside those who run the business. These images, culminating in the "World's longest street photograph" will then be brought together in an exhibition running from April to June 2009 at the London Print Studio.

For more information, contact Andrew on 0208 968 5543 or email [andrew.lockhart@ghg.org.uk](mailto:andrew.lockhart@ghg.org.uk)

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## Community Audit of community space in North Westminster

HRNP is leading an exciting research project to look at community spaces in North Westminster. The importance of having a place for people to meet up and socialise is one of the themes running throughout the Area Renewal Plan. Working with Voluntary Action Westminster consultant James Murray, the issue of community spaces will be explored by speaking to all owners of community spaces - such as church halls and community centres - and interviewing local residents. The project will conclude in a written report and presentation to the City Council in March which will help provide evidence for the need of community space and how it can be accessed. If we haven't yet contacted you, and you would like to let us know of your need for local space or highlight your space as a community venue, get in touch on 0208 968 5543.