



The Wanstead Society

The small charity for Wanstead, Snaresbrook and Aldersbrook

Newsletter July 2016

The Wanstead Society Executive Committee

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Residents' Forum, Cleansing Department.

Geoff Horsnell: Newsletter Editor.

Summer / Autumn Social

You may or may not have noticed that we didn't hold a Spring Social evening earlier this year. Well, we are planning to have a Summer / Autumn Social instead to make up for this omission! We plan to hold the social evening on **Wednesday 21st**

September between 7:30pm and 9:30pm. The venue will be the **Nightingale Public House** in Nightingale Lane. All members are welcome and the first drink will be free! Nibbles will be provided, and it will be an opportunity for you to mingle with members of the Executive Committee and to raise any points you may have. We can't guarantee a positive answer in all cases, but we certainly will listen to your views. Hopefully by then we will also have more information on what is happening in Wanstead in terms of the London Development Plan (see elsewhere in this newsletter). Whatever your views, we want to hear from you!

Remember too that new members are always welcome, so if you know anyone who you think may be interested in joining the Society, please feel free to bring them along and introduce them to us!

It is your chance to find out what is happening in Wanstead; for us to hear your views and to explore what the Society can do for you, so please put the date of Wednesday 21st September in your diary and we hope to see as many of you as possible on the night. Note that this date is also only a few days after the Wanstead Festival (which is on Sunday 18th September), so you may also have views about that activity as well!

A Matter of Civic Pride?

So how do you feel about your local community? Are you happy with the general cleanliness of your streets? Does your refuse collection always happen on time? Have any vehicles been abandoned in your road recently? There are a number of factors such as these that, if things go wrong, can get us agitated and hot under the collar. But what can we do about it? Well, Redbridge council have recently been proving a possible answer. We all know (or should do by now) that a body exists that is known as Planning Enforcement. They exist to make sure that any planning rules are not broken when modifications are made or building rebuilt. However, this is the total extent of their remit.

However, another body exists with powers to look at areas of enforcement other than planning. This group calls themselves Civic Pride and consists of some 19 (nineteen) officers. Their remit is rather wide and it is likely that they may be able to help with answering any of the questions posed at the start of this piece and possibly others too. They can be reached through the Redbridge website (www.Redbridge.Gov.uk), by telephone (0208 478 4679) or by email (civicpride@redbridge.gov.uk).

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It will be a bit like a linear version of the Corner House Garden. An other Wanstead delight.

We hope you will enjoy all these burgeoning patches. Don't forget to look out next spring for the carpet of newly planted primroses in Christ Church Garden, in Nightingale Green and along the fence in Wanstead Place. That was another of our actions. Where did they come from? Now that's a story... maybe for the next newsletter.

Marian Temple



Election New Mayor and GLA Members

On Thursday 5th May London elected a new Mayor and Greater London Council (GLA). Wanstead, Snaresbrook and Aldersbrook are in the Redbridge and Havering GLA and the results are shown below:

What ever your political colour, the good news is that turnout across the whole constituency was up by 8% in 2016 compared to 2012 and that's a plus for democracy. However, overall turnout as still only

45%. With 55% of the electorate staying away, this is less good. Either people feel less engaged, or just aren't voting. Much more needs to be done to tell people voting means having a voice.

However, Wanstead and Snaresbrook remain some of the most politically aware areas with 50% and 53% turnout respectively, some of the highest in Redbridge.

London Assembly Election 2016 - Havering and Redbridge

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	Change
Conservative	Keith Prince	64,483	37.7	+ 0.1
Labour	Ivana Bartolletti	63,045	36.9	+ 2.1
UKIP	Lawrence Webb	26,788	15.7	+ 9
Green	Lee Burkwood	9,617	5.6	+ 1.9
Liberal Democrat	Ian Sanderson	7,105	4.1	- 0.4
	Majority	1438	0.8	- 1.9
	Formal Votes	171,038	99	+ 0.4
	Informal Votes	1,768	1	- 0.4
	Turnout	172,806	45	+ 8.1

Changes to Planning and the Local Development Framework (LDF)

In early June the Council will launch its consultation on the LDF, which is the primary planning document for Redbridge. This matters to all of us because the number of houses the Council has to build per year is rising, but the land available remains the same.

One option is to be build more homes in Woodford, Wanstead and Snaresbrook. However, the only option open to the Council is to build up, i.e. higher rise – as land is limited.

When our Chairman, Scott Wilding, asked the Cabinet Member for Planning if all Metropolitan Open Land would be protected from development at the 17th March full Council meeting she would only say that “*all options are on the table*”

With the intensification of the Wanstead and Woodford corridor a possibility we would urge all members to look at the Redbridge web site and read the consultancy on the LDF.

At the time of writing (7th June) we have not seen the proposals, but we hope that the Council will protect the character of our area by promoting good quality design in any new buildings.

The proposals are due out around the 7th June, so please kee a look out for the LDF document and be prepared to comment on the contents.

New Conservation Officer

For the last two years or so, Redbridge council has lacked a Conservation Officer. The Wanstead Society have felt uneasy about this situation, as different rules and regulations apply within conservation areas. We have felt the need to be extra vigilant as a number of the designated conservation areas lie within our remit across the Wanstead area. In the absence of the Conservation Advisory Panel (CAP), there is little by way of checks and balances that can be done to reign in any excess or unsympathetic development within one of the areas. Hopefully, all this is about to change. Redbridge have now appointed a new Conservation Officer. His name is Bruce Edgar, and he may be contacted by email or telephone. His email address is bruce.edgar@redbridge.gov.uk and the general telephone number is 0208 708 5000.

The Wanstead Society has already contacted the new officer and invited him to visit Wanstead - especially the High Street - so that we can build up a positive working relationship with him in order to both discuss any issues as they arise and also to create a flow of information in both directions about general ideas and enforcement within conservation areas.

We look forward to meeting and working with Bruce in the future.

Wanstead Community Gardeners

Mid Summer News. And what a lot of activity there has been just in the last few months! First of all, I will be writing in future Wanstead Community Gardener news. The WCGdners is an off shoot from the Wanstead Society. In the past, all the work on sad patches of public soil was done on an ad hoc basis. Now we have formed ourselves into a group, sharing out all the responsibilities and going from strength to strength. We have a web page which can be accessed from the Wanstead web site. We're on the top bar on the Home Page. We also have our own email, wanstead.community.gardeners@gmail.com and can be contacted by anyone leaving a note at the library addressed to Wanstead Community Gardeners. It will get to us.

Phew! Now for the rest of the news.

Nightingale Green sprung spring flowers for the first time ever this spring. This was a result of our wonderful community bulb planting day in October. Since there was such a variety of narciss, they flowered over the whole season. We overplanted with old fashioned garden plants to avoid bare earth and weeds so the Green is taking on more of the look of a garden rather than a municipal area just with shrubs and grass. Our Wanstead Station patches were first started in April 2014 when we took over the patches (nine in all) where shrubs had died. These areas as is the way of things, had just become a repository for cans, bottles, dog ends and the usual suspects. They are now tiny patchwork gardens, all different, giving much delight to commuters on their back and forth daily station trundles. Much else has happened around the station since then. There are of course the Fountain Beds on George Green, the two beds around the old Victorian Cattle trough and drinking fountain. We started those in November 2014 and they have become such a Wanstead Favourite possibly nudging the much loved Corner House Garden from its position as Wanstead's jewel in the crown. (No, that's probably not possible) but everyone loves the Fountain Beds with their ever changing procession of poppies, cornflowers, and other old fashioned delights.

The last patch of sad public soil in the station environs was a sizeable non-descript patch to the right of the service road into the car park behind Wanstead Station. I had been keeping my eye on it the previous year to see how much sunlight it got at different times of the year, just in case we decided to adopt it. Of course we did. The council handed over this patch to us and in November 2015, we had our first working party. This was slow to get going, but we understand it much better now. (Always worth observing a patch for a year). There are some shrubs with a couple of empty patches now planted with the semi shade lovers. The real delight here is the larger piece, tucked in at the end against the car park wire fence and the permanently open wire gate (thank you National Car Parks) which form a nice little boundary to this square of ever improving garden.

We have included old fashioned purple irises from Billy and Jack Figg's garden and our Wanstead Community

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Gardeners sign is painted on an old spade from their garden shed. HOW they would have approved of this, being always so interested and intrigued by our patches of cultivation. This sunny corner is home to car park signs (do this or don't do that) all on convenient metal poles which can be used to support the taller plants with a stretch of netting between them for the sweet peas to climb. How generous of National Car Parks! We hope a climbing rose will be making full use of the NCP wire fence and give us a good show next year. This patch definitely worth looking at. One of its advantages is that it is tucked away and so the daffodils and wonderful alliums all remained in tact, not snapped off which can be the fate of flowers on a more well-used route.

If you are at the station having a look at all our patches, DO NOT MISS the Mansfield Road tanks. This all happened in April this year. The first road past the station in the direction of Redbridge is Mansfield Road. For some reason, the pavement there is very wide but it's an area of hard surfaces, paving, bricks, tarmac etc. and lots of traffic. To reduce the lack of green on this corner, we have placed two old water tanks rescued from skips as a result of loft conversions. With pipes sawn off and drainage holes drilled, they make perfect street planters. Here we had the help of Cllr Sheila Bain who is very supportive in all our doings. She arranged for the right person from the council to come down and check our proposed tankery. He gave it a resounding thumbs up. Filled with soil and seed compost, the tanks have been sown with the same seed mix used for the George Green Fountain Beds. The elderly residents of Mansfield Road are looking forward to "their tanks" flowering and to keep everyone happy in the meantime, we have painted them with cottage flowers, ladybirds and the odd spider. Little kids love counting the ladybirds and amazingly enough NO litter has been dropped in the tanks. "Seeds Sown" signs, put everyone in the picture.

As if this were not enough... After 3 months of emailery to various council departments, we finally got the ok to adopt another car park service road bed. This is the one to the left of the road into the council car park at the top of Grove Park. The story is the same as before. Bare patches where shrubs have died sprout weeds and litter. This strip fell well into our category for action ie. more than 100 people pass it every day. They trundle back and forth to the car park. Our thinking went, "Why should they walk past a non-descript strip of earth when they could be walking past a delightful herbaceous border?" It's a long strip and I had serious doubts as to whether we had finally bitten off more than we could chew. All I can say now, is that we must be good chewers!

After 4 working parties, weeds have been removed, soil dug over and the many donated plants put in their new homes. It will take them a bit of time to settle not being council instant plantery but once established, they will cover the soil and will put paid to all the optimistic weed seedling just raring to go on the newly cleared patches.

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Wanstead Playground - You Did It!

Well done you! On Thursday the 2nd June the Children's playground on Christchurch Green was finally completed. The community raised all of the £103,000 to pay for this community asset, with the Wanstead Society contributing £1,100 to its restoration. As a trustee of the Wanstead Playground Association, our Chairman Scott Wilding said *"I was lucky enough to use the playground as a child when I was growing up in Wanstead. Together we have secured it for another generation. This just shows you what the community can achieve when it comes together."*

There are a few snagging bits and pieces to do, but overall the play area will be fully up and running by the time the summer term ends. Its nice to have a bit of good news!



Redbridge Ward Boundary Changes

Redbridge as a London Borough is divided into wards, each with 3 Councillors representing their area. As populations change the boundaries of those wards alter to reflect the growing or decreasing population of each. In 2016 a review is underway by the Council and the Boundaries Commission to see if the current ward boundaries of Wanstead and Snaresbrook need to be altered along with those of the Parliamentary boundaries

Current proposal put to the Commission show a reduction in Wanstead and Snaresbrook Wards from 3 to 2 Councillors, and possibly the creation of a new ward within the existing area.

As such, it is likely that existing boundaries will change and possibly, new wards created - all to reflect the changing population density across the borough

Please note that the final report is scheduled to be published near Christmas. We will endeavour to keep you posted as and when we hear anything. In the meantime, further details may be found at:

http://forums.redbridge.gov.uk/yaf_postst1727_New-Boundaries.aspx

Payment Details

There are a number of different ways in which you can join the society, or renew your existing membership. These are:

- Cheque
- Paypal (online)
- Standing Order
- Cash

Please note that annual membership is now £10. We also have a Life Membership option at £150.

Cheques should be made payable to The Wanstead Society, and can be sent directly to the Treasurer Please remember to include your name and address for our records. It would also be useful to tell us of any preferences you have, such as how you would like to receive this newsletter. We are happy to send out the newsletter either by post or by email. Requesting the newsletter by email helps us to save money on postage. Just let us know when you join or renew your membership.

Join or renew via our website using Paypal:
www.wansteadsociety.org.uk

You can contact us by email:
info@wansteadsociety.org.uk

If you have a news item or letter to the editor, then email us at:
news@wansteadsociety.org.uk

You can also write to us at **The Wanstead Society, c/o Wanstead House, 21 The Green, London E11 2NT**

Or you can approach any member of the Executive Committee.



The Wanstead Society
www.wansteadsociety.org.uk
info@wansteadsociety.org.uk
news@wansteadsociety.org.uk

Printed by
Alan Rowett, Newnorth Press Ltd, Park Gate House,
100 Woodside Green, Great Hallingbury,
Bishops Stortford, Herts, CM22 7UQ
01279 210090
sales@newnorthpress.co.uk
www.newnorthpress.co.uk