

# ISLINGTON *news*

*The Journal of the Islington Society*

## **London elects a new Mayor**

This year's elections are not quite over, because we have a referendum on Europe later this month, but across the UK Britain has spoken. Like René Cutforth they have come to no very serious conclusion.

London is a bit of an exception because the mayoralty has changed hands. Sadiq Khan has broken the mould of White Anglo-Saxon males with the biggest mandate ever given to a British politician. His total vote and final majority was bigger than that of either of his predecessors in either of their successful elections.

On the other hand, there is very little change to the make up of the Assembly. In our "local" seat, Jennette Arnold secured a majority bigger than the entire electorate of a Parliamentary constituency. Labour took a seat from the Conservatives, and came close to winning another, but at the cost of a seat on the London wide list. It seems likely that success in the constituency seat would have cost Nicky Gavron her place on the Assembly. The Conservatives did drop a seat, UKIP benefitting from media interest in the referendum to secure two top up seats. The Green Party did well, retaining their two seats despite the retirement of two popular and hard working members. This means that our own Councillor Caroline Russell is now AM. The other UKIP place came at the expense of the Liberal Democrats,

although the Women's Party may have been closer to them in the battle for 11th place.

### **Results elsewhere**

There was very little change in the rest of England or Wales. Labour won the Bristol mayoralty. In Scotland Labour did badly, and were displaced by the Conservatives, but the SNP continued to hold around half the seats. There was little change in Northern Ireland either. Expectations were a minefield for commentators because some elections were to replace politicians elected in 2011 and others for those elected in 2012.

### **London Housing crisis**

Both main mayoral candidates agreed that housing is the number 1 problem. Both wanted to build 50,000 new houses a year but it is unclear where if tall buildings are to be curtailed and the green built remain sacrosanct. Sadiq has pledged to restore targets for genuinely affordable housing but the immediate concern should be to fill the housing we already have.

Transport policy needs an overhaul to address the housing issue as well. And the Housing Bill could undermine anything the Mayor might intend to do. Islington councillor James Murray has the task of addressing the housing issue: Sadiq has appointed him Deputy Mayor. Val Shawcross, who stood down from the Assembly, has been appointed his transport deputy.

## Islington Society News

### Islington in Bloom

The Islington Society is a Sponsor of Islington in Bloom 2016. It is an annual competition run to judge the best horticultural displays in the borough. We are sponsoring the category "Best Community Garden", defined as "a garden which is run by a non-profit organisation or charity for whom community gardening is a primary purpose". There are 14 categories for community groups, residents, schools and businesses. The closing date for entries was Tuesday 31st May.

The judging of entries takes place in June and July. The judging criteria vary with each category, but generally include:

- . Choice and use of plants
- . Health and maintenance
- . Wildlife-friendliness

All entries receive a free bag of compost, a half-price plant and a £5 gift voucher, all donated by Camden Garden Centre.

The winners of each category will receive certificates and prizes at an Awards ceremony to be held on Wednesday 14th September at 6.30 in the Islington Assembly Hall on Upper Street.

To find out more about Islington in Bloom visit their website at "<http://www.islington.gov.uk/inbloom>" [www.islington.gov.uk/inbloom](http://www.islington.gov.uk/inbloom).

### Annual pub crawl

The Bill Manley Memorial pub crawl this year takes place on Friday June 17th. Last year we crossed the north-south divide and this year we are moving even further into North Islington with five pubs never before included on the crawl.

We start at Hopsmiths in Crouch Hill at 6 p.m.. An hour later we are at the Old Dairy, a venue used for annual dinners but not hitherto on the pub crawl. Then, still in Crouch Hill, we reach the Stapleton at 8 p.m.

The White Lion formerly of Mortimer, is our 9 o'clock stop and then we end at the William Butler Yeats in Fonthill Road. We might even sneak into the Worlds End en route to Finsbury Park station. It was on the planned list but the live music might militate against conversation.

### Annual Dinner

The 2016 dinner date is October 18th, so please commit this date to your diary. The venue this year will be the Côte Brasserie and attendees will be asked to select their choice of meal in advance of the event. The three course meal will cost £25 with wine extra.

The Restaurant is at 4-6, Islington Green.

### Cricket at Sanderstead

The second anniversary of Harley Sherlock's death was marked by the visit of an Islington Society Invitation XI to Sanderstead. The home side took first use of a good batting track on the last day of April, which was considerably colder than the last day of March when the first class cricket season commenced in England.

The visitors bowled tidily, and the innings was in need of some momentum when the opening partnership ended at 82. Spin bowling from the visitors captain Ian Chapman and Ed Bayliss continued to ensure that runs were kept in check for much of the innings, before Sanderstead accelerated to reach 220 in their allotted 40 overs. The most economical bowler was the evergreen Jamie Ward, who regularly wins his clubs most improved player of the year award.

After a splendid tea in the Harley Sherlock Pavilion, the visitors replied and passed 100 with overs and wickets in hand. Kartick, batting at number 4, made 67 for the visitors. The dismissal of Dave Goldsmith for 37 turned the game, and Sanderstead went on to win by 60 runs.

The names of the umpires will probably be more familiar to our readership: Patrick Sherlock and Andrew Bosi.

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## **Islington Society: What we do**

- we support conservation planning work to preserve the borough's historic fabric and individual buildings of distinction
- we campaign for a high standard of design in new buildings
- we encourage best practice through awards for good architecture in new or refurbished buildings
- we organise a varied programme of events including talks, walks and site visits
- we campaign for better public transport and for priority for people travelling on foot or by bike
- we produce publications that celebrate Islington's history and its social and cultural diversity
- we publish neighbourhood walking trails to foster exploration awareness and pride of place
- we build links between residents officials and councillors
- we send advisers to Council groups dealing with development, the environment and transport
- we are represented on the London Forum of Civic & Amenity Societies, which takes up cross-borough issues and is a member of Civic Voice
- we publish a regular newsletter

The copy date for our next newsletter is October 3rd, 2016. The views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the chair, the editor, or the Society's adopted policy.

Our web site is [www.islingtonssociety.org.uk](http://www.islingtonssociety.org.uk)

### **CURRENT OFFICERS**

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***Society publications*** [available from the Society at 3P, Leroy House, 436 Essex Rd., London, N.1 or local bookshops]

*Twentieth Century Buildings in Islington*, by Alec Forshaw, £14.99, photographs by Richard Leeney, ISBN 0-9541490-0-9

*The Story of Day Flats in and around Islington*, by Andrew Bosi, photographs from C.F. Day Limited and Oliver Craxton, £5, ISBN 0-9541490-1-7

*An architect in Islington*, by Harley Sherlock, £14.99, ISBN 9-78-0-9541490-2-4

### ***Books from our President and Vice-President***

*Suicide of the West*, by Richard Koch & Chris Smith, £14.99 and available on Amazon, ISBN 0-8264 9023-9.

*A History of Islington*, by Mary Cosh, published by Historical Publications at £18.95, ISBN 0-948667-974

*53 Cross Street - the biography of an historic house* by Mary Cosh & Martin King, photographs by Pauline Lord, published by the Islington Archaeology & History Society



## Cally Park Visitor Centre approved

The Council has decided to proceed with building a visitor centre at Caledonian Park. The scheme will see the restoration of the Clocktower. Match funding from the Heritage Lottery fund was conditional on the heritage centre.

The scheme has attracted controversy from some local residents who believe it will fuel anti-social behaviour. However, nearly 30% of respondents supported the proposal and

councillors were unconvinced of the threat to public behaviour. In the course of consultation, some changes to the scheme had been agreed, but a suggestion that the centre should be at the south gate of the park, rather than the north, did not find favour.

As well as the Clocktower itself, the HLF money will restore the park railings to their original condition.

## Diarmaid Ward takes council housing brief

Following the appointment of James Murray as Deputy Mayor (Housing), reported on page 1, Holloway Councillor Diarmaid Ward has been appointed Lead Member for Housing on Islington Council. The post is full-time and gives Cllr. Ward a place on the Executive.

James Murray has also stood down as a councillor and a by-election will be held in Barnsbury Ward on July 14th. None of the candidates names had been published when we went to press.

## Highbury Fields barbecue row hits the National Press

Highbury Fields is one of the few open spaces to permit barbecues, and some Highbury Residents would like this changed. They believe that the particulates generated pose a health threat. There is as yet no call for barbecues to be banned from private gardens, although they presumably generate the same hazard and are

subject to similar prevailing winds.

So serious is the concern, it even displaced a little of the coverage of the EU referendum for a day in the Daily Telegraph. The Council favours retaining the permission, in order to provide the opportunity to hold barbecues to those without their own garden.

## Mayor Greening completes term of office

Following the fall reported in the last newsletter, we are pleased to report that Richard Greening was able to resume his duties as Mayor shortly after our last press date. He handed over the Mayoralty to Kat Fletcher in May and shortly

after that organised and compèred the very successful celebration of the life of Pat Haynes (see page 8).

Kat Fletcher's chosen charity is the Ben Kinsella Trust.

## George Orwell plaque unveiled

A well attended event on May 23rd, organised jointly by the Canonbury Society and Islington Council, witnessed the unveiling of an Heritage plaque to George Orwell at his former home of 27B, Canonbury Square. The new plaque details the correct dates of the author's time there, rather than those of his wife who predeceased him. The unveiling was performed by his son, Richard Blair. (Orwell's real name was Eric Blair). Richard also lived there during his formative years, but admitted they were too formative for him to have much recollection of

Canonbury. He was three years old when the novelist moved them to Scotland.

Orwell commenced writing *Nineteen Eighty-Four* whilst in residence, and it is believed that he wrote many of the chapters under the shade of a chestnut tree in the garden of the nearby Canonbury Tavern. So it was appropriate that the Canonbury Society should provide refreshments there after the ceremony.

In later years 27B Canonbury Square was occupied by Peter Powell.

## Council housing developments

Work has now commenced on the Dovercourt estate with the demolition of garages and the erection of numerous advertisements for the main contractor. The scheme will provide 72 new dwellings.

A similar scheme has been drawn up for Besant Court and Hathersage Court which are on the other side of Balls Pond Road in Mildmay ward. Consultation on this scheme runs until June 24th. The scheme envisages five new buildings and improved amenity space, but it is

at an early stage and a further round of consultation is planned for July 2016.

A scheme to build 18 two-bedroom properties on the Centurion Close car park, Ponder Street, is also out to consultation, in this case until July 7th. The proposed building is of four storeys. The neighbouring Day flats were increased from three to four storeys after the block was purchased by Union Railways, who needed part of the garden to construct the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.



### North London Synagogue

*In the third of a series on Green plaques, Robin Mabey turns to the North London Synagogue*

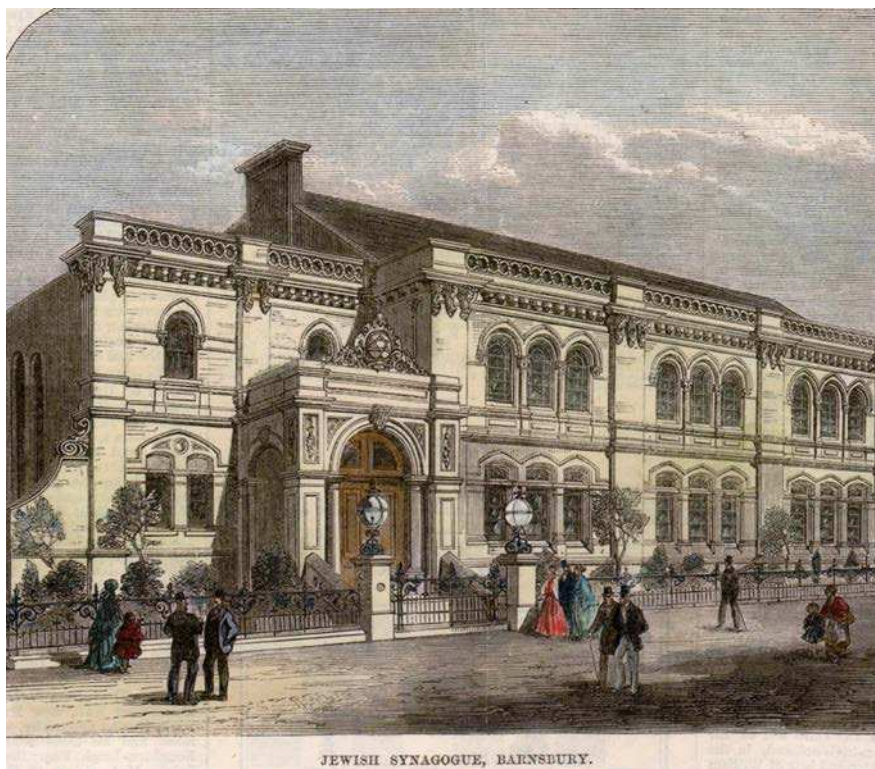
The runner-up in the 2015 Green plaque awards was the North London Synagogue which was situated in Lofting Road in Barnsbury. The Award celebrates Islington's rich Jewish heritage and commemorates the first significant migrant community to live in Islington but it also tells us about patterns of migration in London and reminds us of a fine building lost.

In 1655 Oliver Cromwell agreed that, following the mass expulsion of 1290, Jews should be readmitted to England and by the 1750s a significant number were living in Finsbury. During the latter part of the 18th century and the first half of the 19th century considerable housing development took place in Barnsbury, Highbury and Canonbury. The new buildings were of good quality and, with improved transport links, soon attracted, among others, better-off Jews keen to escape the crowded conditions of central London. By the 1850s the Jewish community in Islington was larger than that in the whole of Manchester or Birmingham and this created a demand for a synagogue. Initially worshippers met in a Hall in Barnsbury Street, but as demand grew funds were sought for a new building. Interestingly the leaders of the founding congregation were men who had migrated from northern and eastern Europe especially Poland.

The new synagogue opened in 1868 and it was a fine building reflecting the wealth of the

community. As the illustration shows it was elaborately designed in the then fashionable Italianate style with a fine portico. The architect was H.H. Collins. The inside was richly decorated with columns of rare marble and the decorative and symbolic plasterwork was modelled from examples of plants found in Kew Gardens and included, figs, vines, bullrushes, olives, palms and corn. The synagogue flourished until about the time of the Second World War, but by then Islington had entered a period of decline and many Jews had moved to the new outer suburbs such as Hampstead and Golders Green. This of course is a classic pattern of movement for migrant communities. The synagogue had been damaged during the war and as the congregation dwindled, with few members living locally, it fell into disrepair and was demolished in 1958.

The synagogue site was developed by the Council for social housing, and the Green Plaque is fixed to the façade of Barnes Court, not perhaps the most elegant example of post war architecture. There is still a large Jewish population in Islington but no synagogue. The Barnsbury Conservation Area was designated in 1965 and it is interesting to reflect that had the synagogue hung on for a bit longer this fine building could well have been listed and regarded as an important feature of the street scene and perhaps even in use as a synagogue. With acknowledgements to Petra Laidlaw.



JEWISH SYNAGOGUE, BARNSBURY.

## Planning consultations on permitted development rights and use of Community Infrastructure Levy

Islington seeks comments by June 23rd (CIL) or July 7th (Article 4)

1. **Notification of Article 4 Directions to withdraw the Permitted Development right for change of use from shops (A1 use class) to financial and professional services (A2 use class)**

The Government recently introduced new Permitted Development rights which give the right to change from a shop (A1 use class) to a financial and professional service (A2 use class) such as an estate agent or bank, without applying for planning permission. On 26th May 2016, Islington Council made three Article 4 Directions, each covering different parts of the borough, to withdraw this Permitted Development right. These Directions, if confirmed by the Council's Executive, will come into force on 26th May 2017.

The Directions relate to Town Centres, Local Shopping Areas and dispersed shops in the rest of the borough.

The Directions and a copy of the maps defining the areas to which they relate are at [www.islington.gov.uk/permitteddevelopment](http://www.islington.gov.uk/permitteddevelopment); and at the Municipal Offices, 222 Upper Street, N1 1XR (9am-5pm Monday to Friday).

Representations concerning the Article 4 Directions can be made until July 7th by email to [LDF@islington.gov.uk](mailto:LDF@islington.gov.uk); or by post to: Freepost RSEA-CUHA-YYAS, Planning Policy, Islington Council, 222 Upper Street, London, N1 1XR. Please note that any representations received will be considered before the Council makes a decision whether or not to confirm the Directions. All representations will be made publicly available.

Further information about Permitted Development rights can be found online at [www.islington.gov.uk/permitteddevelopment](http://www.islington.gov.uk/permitteddevelopment). If you have any queries please contact the Planning Policy Team by email at [LDF@islington.gov.uk](mailto:LDF@islington.gov.uk) or by telephone on 020 7527 2720/6799.

2. **Consultation on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulation 123 Infrastructure List**

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a

charge on new development and is used to fund local infrastructure that will support future development. It can be used to pay for improvements to community infrastructure such as sports and community facilities, schools, parks, playspace, health facilities and the transport network.

The Council adopted its Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule on 1st September 2014, and has now begun receiving CIL funds to be invested in infrastructure improvements within the borough. The adopted Charging Schedule is accompanied by a CIL Regulation 123 Infrastructure List, which sets out the types of infrastructure CIL can be spent on and enables the Council to allocate CIL money to schemes that are strategically important to the local area.

In most cases, CIL replaces the use of legal agreements (known as Section 106 agreements or planning obligations) to secure contributions towards infrastructure from development. Section 106 agreements will continue to be used to secure affordable housing, to mitigate site-specific issues and to address other policy requirements that cannot be dealt with through CIL. The CIL Regulations prevent the Council entering into Section 106 agreements to secure additional funds for any infrastructure on the 123 list. It is important for the Council to ensure that its Infrastructure List is precisely defined and up to date. The Council proposes to update its Infrastructure List to ensure the Council is able to continue to allocate CIL to the highest priority schemes, without compromising Section 106 obligations.

From Thursday 26th May 2016 until Thursday 23rd June 2016, the Council would like to get your views on Islington's revised CIL Regulation 123 Infrastructure List. The revised Infrastructure List and supporting documents are available Online at: [www.islington.gov.uk/cil](http://www.islington.gov.uk/cil) In hard copy at: the Municipal Offices, 222 Upper Street, N1 1XR

## Pat Haynes

Pat Haynes, who represented Holloway and the Mildmay wards for Labour between 1971 and 2002, died at a nursing home in Potters Bar on April 18th. Held in great affection by colleagues and Society members, his funeral was well attended, reuniting many former councillors.

Pat was born in Aldershot 84 years ago but came to Islington after the war and concluded his formal education at Dame Alice Owen's school. He met his future wife Mary on a trip to Russia: they later settled in Mildmay and Kingston-upon-Thames. Pat became a full-time councillor from Monday to Friday, while Mary taught in Kingston and they spent weekends there.

Pat wrested control of the Islington North Labour party from the small clique that excluded outsiders, by forming an Islington branch of the Fabian Society which allowed new members to by-pass the local vetting. Without his efforts the careers of Margaret Hodge and Jeremy Corbyn would not have blossomed as they did. The Islington Fabian Society was always rather distinct from the National organisation in the best Fabian tradition.

As a councillor, Pat was most closely associated with Leisure Services. He chaired the Recreation Committee from 1986 to 1990 and should have succeeded Terry Herbert as chair of the Leisure Services committee, but for a regrettable spat with the Blairite wing who wished to impose tighter control over voting. This was despite there being a comfortable majority within which to accommodate strongly held concerns. Pat was also a prominent member of the Planning Committee, which he

chaired for a time. He served on numerous outside bodies, including the Cripplegate Foundation, as a magistrate and the Valuation Tribunal.

He oversaw the opening of Mildmay library in 1986 and the Islington Museum a decade later. He also established IVAC and Islington was something of a pioneer in its support of the voluntary sector.

Despite poor eye-sight, which had excluded Pat from National Service, Pat famously cycled everywhere around the Borough and beyond. Invited to number 10 in the time of Harold Wilson, he astonished the attendant police officer by chaining his bike to the railings. He continued to cycle in his Mayoral year (1983/4), although stories of losing the Mayoral chain after it had been used to secure the bike may be apocryphal. He might have been the first councillor to take the mayoralty for a second time, had not the council slipped into No Overall Control in 1998.

Pat wrote various memoirs of his time on the council, and *A stroll around Mildmay*. Many of the photographs betray a cycle ride around the ward. He also wrote *A short history of Newington Green*, and edited the *Islington History Journal*.

After Mary's health deteriorated to the point where he could no longer care for her at home, both moved to Cooperscroft Care Home. Despite failing sight, Pat continued to enjoy the conversation of friends to the end.

A Memorial for Pat in the Town Hall was attended by former councillors and Mayors of both ruling Parties. Many spoke in tribute, as did Jeremy Corbyn.

## Jennifer Harvey

Many of us were shocked to learn of the death of Jennifer Harvey at the age of 46, with little warning of a fatal illness. We send our

condolences to her widower, Rev. Simon Harvey, Vicar of St. Mary's, the Parish Church of Islington.



## Secondary legislation: a threat to democracy

The Housing Bill has received Royal Assent after some gallant but largely unsuccessful interventions from the House of Lords. (A report from the Heritage Alliance on this and future planned legislation appears on the following page.) As well as the specifics of this particular Bill, now Act, it raises constitutional issues at the heart of democracy going far beyond the appropriateness of intervention by the unelected chamber.

Having helped scupper plans for benefit changes which were presented as implementing a manifesto commitment, the Lords was in bad odour with the government before this Bill. However, the manifesto commitment to support first time buyers was conditioned by a pledge to retain affordable housing for rent which is not evident in the legislation. The Lords felt justified in pressing an amendment to ensure that funding were available to local authorities for one for one replacement of affordable dwellings lost to the market sector, and that consideration of social rented housing is included in the legislation.

In spite of these modest changes, constitutional experts continue to regard this Act as the worst piece of legislation drafted in the last 25 years. In return for agreement to withdraw amendments, the government gave various assurances which are dependent on the content of secondary legislation (Statutory Instruments).

Secondary legislation is rarely scrutinised

in either house. In theory, Lords or MPs can "pray against" the legislation and force a debate. In practice the prayers are rarely heard by the Business managers. Increasingly, matters of substance find their way into secondary legislation. It was designed to cover changing detail, matters of administration. For example primary legislation determines that there will be a TV or radio licence but in times of inflation secondary legislation could be used to increase the amount without recourse to a fresh Act of Parliament. The dog licence was stuck in primary legislation which is why it remained at 7/6 until the decimal currency legislation reduced it by half a new penny.

The last successful call in of proposed secondary legislation by the House of Commons was in 1979. The Lords have achieved it six times in 66 years. When they did so over Benefit reform, the Prime Minister ordered the Strathclyde Review to curb the Lords power to thwart manifesto commitments in this way. The Review fails to address the growth of secondary legislation, estimated by Lord Judge in a letter to the Times to run to 12,000 printed pages per annum. In some cases primary legislation is deleted as a result, almost always without any parliamentary scrutiny.

At a time when the news is dominated by the extent to which democratic control should be ceded to Brussels, the usurping of democracy here in Westminster has gone largely un-noticed.



## Heritage Alliance concerns over more planning reforms

The Housing and Planning Act received Royal Assent on the very last day of the 2015-2016 session of Parliament [12th May]. Briefings have been produced on the Act by Heritage Alliance members Cifa and CBA. Both organisations, together with the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO), have been active in raising concerns in Westminster and Whitehall. Focus rests on the unintended consequences for archaeology of the new permission in principle for development of brownfield sites.

Under the Act, Brownfield Registers will serve as qualifying documents for the permission in principle and a pilot across 73 Local Authorities is underway.

Hot on the heels of the Housing and Planning Act comes the Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill, which was announced in the Queen's Speech. The main elements of the Bill are:

**Neighbourhood planning:** provisions to improve the process for reviewing and updating plans and providing a more transparent duty for the Government to support groups wanting to do neighbourhood planning.

**Planning conditions:** provision to ensure that pre-commencement planning conditions are only imposed when they are absolutely necessary.

**Compulsory purchase:** provisions designed to make the process clearer, fairer and faster, including a new statutory framework for agreeing compensation.

**National Infrastructure Commission:** provision to establish the independent National Infrastructure Commission on a statutory basis.

**Land Registry:** provision to enable privatisation of it.

Reacting to the announcement of the Bill, concerns have been raised by a number of Alliance members: the National Trust; Council for British Archaeology; CPRE; Cifa; Society of Antiquaries of London; Rescue.

The full details of the Bill are yet to be seen. In consequence, several Heritage Alliance members have opened dialogue with DCLG and the Alliance's Spatial Planning Advocacy Group is meeting later this month to facilitate informed and collaborative lobbying on those aspects of the Bill that affect the historic environment.

There has also been strong public reaction to the Bill with a public petition having obtained over 13,000 signatures.

In the meantime, DCLG has created a new neighbourhood planning online resource hosted on the My Community website, which provides information on neighbourhood planning, together with resources, case studies and details about how to access grants.



## Transport News Round-up

### **Highbury Corner plans arouse anger**

Consultation on plans for Highbury Corner aroused considerable opposition shortly after the last *Islington News* went to press. Several years ago, consultees had supported closing the western arm under a scheme that would have brought terminating buses on the 277 to the door of Highbury station. However, that consultation excluded the option of closing the eastern arm which to many people seems the obvious way forward, since it would incorporate trees on the Dixon Clark Court forecourt into the open space.

The latest proposal differed from that previously consulted upon in two important respects. It excluded the 277 bus altogether and made bus to tube interchange worse than at present. Secondly, it took a huge chunk out of the arboretum to accommodate six lanes of traffic. A considerable amount of road space was given over to cyclists but even they were not happy. At least one route appeared to increase safety risk to cyclists.

There were also objections from car users and while environmental groups like the Islington Society favour a reduction in vehicular traffic, insufficient thought seemed to have been given to the impact on side roads not closed to traffic, while the over-provision of traffic lanes meant that buses rather than private cars were ceding space to cycles.

### **Date given for 24 hour weekend tubes**

The 24 hour service on tube lines at weekends (Friday and Saturday nights) will commence on the Central and Victoria lines from August 19th, and at a later date on the other deep tube lines. The impact on Upper Street and around Finsbury Park is eagerly awaited.

### **Mayor announces one hour bus ticket**

From September the pay as you go bus ticket, costing £1.50 on Oyster or by Contactless payment, will be valid on two buses provided that the second is boarded within an hour of the first. Passengers touching in will not be charged an additional sum. This implements a manifesto commitment of the incoming Mayor. Transport for London had been reluctant to support this, over fears that it would encourage fraudulent travel. Since the PAYG Oyster and the contactless card are transferable, a relative or

friend could make use of the new concession, which is aimed at bus users making a single journey requiring more than one bus, to make a second journey within the hour.

The concession will end the inequality whereby a journey involving two buses costs more than a journey with a change of tube train.

### **Call for HS2 review**

Yet another call has been made to reconsider the HS2 scheme by a disinterested party, this time retired academics. They point out that the present scheme fails adequately to address the capacity issue, fails totally to regenerate the north, fails to provide connectivity with services to places not on the High Speed route, and has a negative impact on air quality. The cost per mile is five times that of building High Speed rail in France.

The Bill is now in the House of Lords. It is expected to be approved by the end of 2016. This will give the scheme planning permission, but not the funds for implementation.

### **New Bus for London**

The final batch of buses from Wright's Northern Ireland factory, which was confirmed in the last month of the previous Mayor's tenure, is to include some shorter buses with fewer stairs and points of access/egress, making it similar to the Enviro (HA class) buses on route 78 reported last time.

Some of these buses are destined for the 91 route in Islington, to operate alongside the "standard" version of the bus.

### **A1 closure**

Holloway Road was to be closed over the weekend of June 11th & 12th, to enable work to be carried out at Upper Holloway station. The railway is closed at weekends, part closed during the week and will be fully closed from September to February 2016.

During these closures, regular passengers will be allowed to travel via zone 1 without additional charge. However, occasional passengers will not. Regular passengers are defined by reference to their past Oystercard records, so anyone switching to Contactless payment or a new Oystercard during the blockade will also lose out.

**Society Events**

**Current officers are listed on page 3, together with What We Do**

**Future Society events**

*The Society gives reminders by e-mail of meetings about a week before they are held. Please let the Secretary have your e-mail address if you are not on the existing mailing list.*

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 7.30 p.m. at Islington Town Hall; Joint meeting with Archaeology and History Society on "Brutalist Islington" by James Dunnett, Islington architect; talk and photo-tour of buildings built in Islington between 1955 and 1975.

Annual Dinner: Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 p.m. at Cote Brasserie, 4-6 Islington Green. Selection of 3 courses to be pre-ordered at £25 a person. Details of the Menu and Booking form in the next Newsletter. Wine for personal account.

**Other Events in or around Islington:**

**Archaeology & History Society** (7.30 p.m. Islington Town Hall)  
Non-IA&HS members welcome, donation invited. Further information in the web site.

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June. Update on the progress of works at Islington's Local History Centre by Mark Aston, Local History Manager.

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. AGM followed by Mark Aston, Islington Local History Centre.  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June: Brutalist Islington, see above.

**King's Head Theatre**

Eigenrau, Strangers in Between and Laughing Matters. Three overlapping productions performed between 21<sup>st</sup> June and 16<sup>th</sup> July

**Islington Museum & Local History Centre**  
245, St. John Street. tel. 7-527 2837

Until 25<sup>th</sup> June. Exhibition "It's Ours Whatever They Say" - about the role of Islington's 12 adventure playgrounds; funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

(Archives unavailable due to ongoing building work until September 2016.)

**London Forum of Civic & Amenity Societies**

020 7993 5754

Meetings at Alan Baxter Associates, 77 Cowcross Street, London, E.C.1 September 19<sup>th</sup> & October 25<sup>th</sup> (A.G.M.)

**Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art**, 39a Canonbury Square

Opening hours Wed. to Sat. 11 a.m.- 6 p.m., Sunday 12 noon-5 p.m.

Until 31<sup>st</sup> July. "The Experience of Light and Colour - Manifesto of Objective Abstraction" by a group of painters from the region of Trentino. (From August to December 2016 the Estorick Collection will be closed for a comprehensive renovation.)

**Almeida Theatre,**

Almeida Street, N.1 0207 359 4404

Monday-Saturday 7.30 p.m., Saturday matinée 2.30 p.m.

7<sup>th</sup> June to 6<sup>th</sup> August. "Richard III" by William Shakespeare with Ralph Fiennes as Richard III and Vanessa Redgrave as Queen Margaret.

12<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> October. "They Drink it in the Congo" by Adam Brace.

**Sadlers Wells Theatre**

Rosebery Avenue, London, E.C.1

[www.sadlerswells.com/whats-on/list](http://www.sadlerswells.com/whats-on/list)

**Islington University of the Third Age (U3A)**

Islington U3A has about 450 members with at present 48 special interest groups, mostly meeting in members' homes. Monthly talks at Resource Centre for London, 356 Holloway Road at 10.30 a.m. (Website for details and membership: "<http://www.IslingtonU3A.org/>" [www.IslingtonU3A.org](http://www.IslingtonU3A.org/)).

**Building Centre (NLA), Store St. W.C.1**

22<sup>nd</sup> June-29<sup>th</sup> July: Lenses on a landscape. Contemporary photography exhibition marking the tercentenary of the originator of modern landscape thought opening during the London Festival of Architecture.