

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2016

LANGBOURNE MANSIONS LEYLANDII

We have been monitoring the large Leylandii trees in Langbourne Mansions for some time now and the most westerly tree outside no 32 Langbourne Avenue has been showing considerable signs of die back. We have taken samples which the Forestry Commission have tested. These tests came back as clear but the LBC Tree Officer and our tree specialists have advised that compacted soil and the fact that they are outgrowing their current positions mean we should seriously think about removing this most westerly tree which now has a quite limited life. To that end we have made an application to LBC to remove the Tree Preservation Order and fell the tree. We will replace the tree with a more appropriate 'avenue' tree. Local residents will be receiving a consultation letter shortly from the Camden Tree Officer. If, in the meantime, you have any queries please do get in touch with the Estate Manager.

SECURITY

We have recently had reports both from residents and the temporary security patrol of a man trying all car doors. On one occasion he was interrupted whilst getting in to a car that had left its door open. Please make sure you lock your car doors and put everything of value out of sight.

The security patrol was engaged for 21 days following a spate of burglaries. The cost was just under a quarter of the figure agreed at the plot owners' meeting that could be used in exceptional circumstances. They are no longer on the Estate.

The police are encouraging residents to fit alarms and/or CCTV cameras to their properties. A Hillway resident recommends the following CCTV system <http://www.arlo.com/uk/products/kit/> It is wireless and works through your computer. It can be bought from Amazon at £180 for a 1 camera system and installation is very simple.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEMES

The Committee has been working hard with the police and residents to set up Neighbourhood Watch schemes across the Estate. The benefits of these schemes are manyfold ranging from discounts on home insurance and SmartWater kits to promoting community spirit as well as deterring crime. Currently we have 6 Watch schemes. These are on Holly Lodge Gardens, Top and middle of Hillway, Makepeace Ave, Oakeshott Ave and Langbourne Avenue.

We are looking for volunteers to set up schemes on the rest of the Estate, especially the mansion block avenues. It can be as big a job as you want to make it but essentially it involves being the hub for the reporting of any suspicious activity and then circulating this information on to the police and the rest of your Watch once a week. If you would like more information please contact the Estate Manager.

DARTMOUTH PARK FILM CLUB

A new film club has started up just around the corner from HLE. Dartmouth Park Film Club: films filmed in, made by people in, funded by people in, based on books written by people in etc etc Dartmouth Park - you get the drift.

Every film will be followed by a Q&A with someone connected with the film. Entry is free - you pay what you think the evening was worth when you leave. There will be wine and soft drinks.

It is monthly at the Highgate Library Civic and Cultural Centre in Croftdown Road, NW5 1HB. Doors open 7 pm. Film starts 7.30 pm.

The next screening is Tuesday March 8th. Legendary documentary producer Simon Chinn is presenting one of his most critically acclaimed films - it scored 98% on the Rotten Tomatoes film review site - called "Project Nim". It tells the story of a chimpanzee, Nim, taken from its mother at birth and raised like a human child by a family in a brownstone on the upper West Side in the 1970s. Following Nim's extraordinary journey through human society, and the enduring impact he makes on the people he meets along the way, the film is an unflinching and unsentimental biography of an animal we tried to make human.

Simon's one of the UK's most prolific and successful documentary producers. He's won two Best Documentary Oscars, one for 'Man on Wire' and one for 'Searching for Sugarman'.

Dear Resident of Holly Lodge Estate

The Committee is extremely grateful to John Hounsell for writing the article below at very short notice, John is our contact with the Metropolitan Police and he is working very successfully with residents of the Estate and the Committee helping them to set up Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

In this article he provides us with information and advice about how to go about choosing basic, effective, low cost security precautions for your home.

Crime Prevention from the Highgate Safer Neighbourhood Team.

You may be aware that in the months of October 2015 & January 2016 the Holly Lodge Estate experienced a spike in burglaries.

As the safer neighbourhood team, it is our job to facilitate the prevention element of this form of crime. Therefore we are very happy to provide you with some key pieces of advice to consider.

Top 5 tips to protect your property:

1. **Strong barriers** - The majority of burglaries simply involve the front door being breached by force. Consider Banham locks, London bars, Birmingham bars, a new strike plate etc. For more information on this give us a call (details below)
2. **Dogs** - A burglars worst enemy! If you already have dogs, you're on to a winner, but not to worry if you don't. Consider buying 'Beware of the dog' stickers to display in doors and front windows to make a burglar think twice.
3. **Hide your keys** - There have been several burglaries that were conducted solely to grab car keys and steal the car. Keep your car keys well out of sight from the letterbox and preferably in a safe place that wouldn't be obvious.
4. **Thinking simple & cheap** - Sometimes the answer isn't high-tech cameras and alarms, but instead just small changes that create a lot of inconvenience. For example, trellis/venetian blinds/prickly bushes e.g. Firethorn/Juniper or anything which is just going to be a hassle. Sometimes the smallest inconveniences make the difference.
5. **Protect one-another!** Any burglars caught in the act will mostly be because a neighbour has called on someone's behalf. The positive effects of being a part of Neighbourhood Watch can be fantastic. Holly Lodge estate is looking to be entirely covered by a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for every street. Log on to ourwatch.org.uk and search your postcode to join your local scheme, or contact us to find out more. It costs nothing and can really strengthen a community.

PC 120 John Hounsell
Highgate Neighbourhood Policing Team
Email - Camden.Highgate.SNT@met.police.uk
Tel - 020 8721 2699

Peter Wesley
Chair, Holly Lodge Estate Committee

ARCHWAY GYRATORY

TfL are working closely with Islington Council to transform the Archway gyratory to make the town centre a more pleasant, accessible and safe environment for all road users. See the plan here: <https://tfl.gov.uk/travel-information/improvements-and-projects/archway-gyratory>

Until summer 2017, roads around Archway will be busy while they redesign the junction. See here how your journeys could be affected:

<https://tfl.gov.uk/travel-information/improvements-and-projects/archway-gyratory-travel-advice>

HLE FOREMAN CONTACTS:

Mobile phone: 07447 869570 Email: foreman@hle.org.uk

Please try to call the Foreman's mobile between 12:00-13:00. Leave a text or voice message at other times.

HLE MANAGER CONTACTS:

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