

## TUDOR AREA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION KINGSTON (TARAK)

january 2014 Newsletter

### A Happy New Year to all our Members

#### Local news from your committee

##### 1. TARAK Bulb planting



On Sunday 27 October a number of members and non-members, with a member of Quadron staff, met to plant bulbs in the three areas set out in the October newsletter: the Park Road end of Tudor Drive, outside the library, on the green in Wolsey Drive (see photo). In addition to planting bulbs bought by TARAK, in late November we received bulbs donated by Taylors Bulbs of Holbeach from the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association (MPGA). These were planted by volunteers around the arches at the top of Tudor Drive, and by householders at the Richmond Road end of Tudor Drive. We look forward to the spring when all the bulbs should be flowering. If we continue with our planting over the next few years Tudor Drive will be one of the most attractive roads in Kingston North. We have to send pictures to the MPGA to show we made good use of the donation!

##### 2. Latchmere House Development

There is no further news regarding this development. The fenced-off section in Latchmere Lane is still in existence and no ecological or archeological investigations have yet begun.

##### 3. Social occasion at the Cardinal pub

On 11th December TARAK held a very successful social get together at the Cardinal, attended by about 25 members and two Councillors. TARAK provided mulled wine and mince pies to members with the help of the Cardinal staff. The AGM on 30th January will also be held there starting at 7.30pm. The Cardinal is fast becoming part of the Community Hub again. As a special effort to recover this position it is ***halving food prices during February***. Note too that for early morning shoppers tea and coffee are served daily at 9am except on Sundays.

##### 4. Lunch Club

The Cardinal has now added 'pub grub' to its menu and TARAK will be holding the bi-monthly lunches there. The dates are:

12 March; 14 May; 10 July; 17 September; 12 November

All lunches start at 12 noon. Please phone Sue Canty (8546 6529) if possible if you are going to join us so that we have a rough idea how many the kitchen will be expecting.

##### 5. Kingston New Secondary School

At the end of December it was announced that the government Education Funding Agency (EFA) has confirmed multi-million funding to build the new secondary school, scheduled to open in September 2015, including furniture, fixtures and equipment. The new free school is backed by the Kingston Educational Trust (KET) – an alliance between Kingston Council and local schools, Kingston University and Kingston College. The EFA has also agreed the funding for

Kingston Council's plans to move adult education and other services from the North Kingston Centre in Richmond Road, earmarked as the site for the new six-form entry secondary free school. Councillor David Ryder-Mills, Kingston Council's Lead Member for Schools and Continuing Education, said: "This is great news. Our proposals to find new homes for the valued services and courses currently in north Kingston will be fully funded by the government". TARAK members, along with other Kingston residents, will want to ensure Adult Education courses are still locally accessible.

The EFA has also provided funding to assist with the creation of additional primary school places in Kingston.

#### **6. Kingston Council and the Gas Holders site development**

This site is part of the North Kingston Development Brief and a public exhibition was recently provided by Berkeley's at Tiffins school on London Road (11.01.14) but this appears not to have been widely circulated to *all* North Kingston residents. Kingston Council's intention was to regenerate the area into a mixed use residential and learning quarter with a new primary school, but apparently the Berkeley plans do not show a school. Tudor ward Councillor Frank Thompson visited the exhibition.

#### **7. Kingston Healthline**

The NHS healthline (111) is the telephone number to ring for an out of hours doctor if it is not a 999 emergency. But the service in Kingston, which is run by Harmoni, has been criticised for underperforming. A review of its services has been requested by Dr Jivani, chair of the Kingston CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group). If you want your voice to be heard in regard to how the NHS is working for you, join your surgery's patient participation group, which all surgeries will be setting up.

#### **8. Rose Theatre**

With the centenary of the First World War this year the Rose Theatre is asking Kingston residents to contribute war memorabilia for an exhibition they are opening in September 2014. If you have family memorabilia, stories or memories from the First World War that you would like to contribute call **07786 142330** or visit **digitaldrama.org**. Deadline for contributions is 28.03.14.

#### **9 Police Local Liaison Committee**

Your chairman represented TARAK at the meeting on 9th January. An information leaflet and letter from the Chair of the liaison committee was then circulated to TARAK members. The crime statistics show that Tudor Ward has one of the lowest instances of crime in Kingston. This should not stop members taking all precautions to prevent crime and reporting it of course!

#### **10. Local Area of Special Character**

TARAK members will know that Tudor is designated as a LASC or local area of special character. Members will be pleased to see a large shed built in front of the building line (in a front garden) has now been removed. We must try to ensure that the LASC designation is maintained and supported by the Council. The Councillors already support this important designation and assisted with the process to remove the shed.

#### **11. Councillor's surgery**

This is a reminder that the Councillors hold their surgery, open to all Tudor residents, on the "2nd Saturday every month in Tudor Hall from 10am -12noon.

#### **12 Zac Goldsmith**

Our MP has held a number of meetings for voters in Tudor Ward to raise issues with him, and also kept us informed about the Heathrow third runway developments, including where there have been petitions available to sign.

**With best wishes from your TARAK committee for 2014**