

TUDOR AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION KINGSTON – TARAK

March, 2018

Website <https://tarakresidents.wordpress.com>

1. News from your Committee

1.1 Your Committee was delighted to see so many of you at our AGM in early February, when our retiring chairman, Judith Pottinger, was thanked for her service to TARAK. Derek Brister temporarily took over the Chair. The committee members were re-elected en bloc (proposer John Rosenberg, seconder Judith Pottinger). **Gloria Martin**, the chairman of FoLaR (Friends of Latchmere Recreation Ground), spoke about the plans for the Latchmere Recreation Ground, and our Councillor, **David Cunningham**, fielded several questions from members about traffic, parking, planning etc.

1.2 At our Committee meeting on 15th February Derek Brister was formally elected as Chair of TARAK.

It was also decided to book a pitch at Ham Fair again this year and we hope to see you there on Saturday, 9th June. We also decided to send our thanks to Peppe at The Cardinal for helping to make our Christmas social such a success, with excellent refreshments (paid for by TARAK) while members bought their own drinks. Many members attended on what was a very busy evening for the management;

1.3 North Kingston Forum We are very pleased to note that, after some three years of hard effort, Kingston Borough has at last recognised the North Kingston Forum. This will give local residents (who are automatically members) a greater say in local planning issues;

1.4 Police Merger Not such good news is the report that the Borough, along with Merton, Richmond, Wandsworth, Ealing, Hillingdon and Hounslow, will be merged into Basic Command Units for policing purposes, at the instigation of the Mayor of London. There will now be 12 Basic Command Units. The sergeant in charge of Tudor, Canbury and Coombe Hill will be Mark Campbell, as from 23rd May.

2. Bulb planting in the grass verges and other areas

It is not too soon to be planning for the Autumn bulb planting activities! If you would like to have some bulbs planted in the verge near to your home, or somewhere else, **please contact Susan Canty (0208 5464529)**. Sue organises the bulb planting every year. We hope that members will join in the bulb planting wherever it is and bring along their friends, neighbours and children and tools to assist in helping to beautify our area.

Events at the Cardinal

Our bi-monthly lunches at The Cardinal continue to be popular amongst members – our next dates are Wednesday 9th May and 11th July. We each order and pay for our own food and drink, we exchange ideas and information about what is happening locally and chat informally. It is a good way to get to know other members. If you would like to book, please phone Sue Canty on 8546 6529 or e-mail Margaret Levy at Margaret.levy@blueyonder.co.uk before the date of the lunch. You will be made very welcome and get to know other TARAK members.

4. Grass Verges in Tudor Drive



Skip on grass



skip finally removed – no daffodils growing

A member of the TARAK committee, has been photographing cars, vans, skips etc. being parked on the grass verges. This is illegal and our Councillor Maria Netley has had some wooden posts put in at intervals along Tudor Drive to prevent such parking which does a lot of damage to the grass and daffodils/crocuses. (see photos above). For information on licences for skips to park on the verge (sometimes necessary) see RBK website.

5. Latchmere Recreation Ground The inaugural meeting of the group recently set up to improve this popular part of Tudor area, FoLaR, was held on 30th November with Gloria Martin as the Chairman. FoLaR stands for Friends of Latchmere Recreation ground. A family day, with entertainment provided, is being planned for 17th June.

On Friday 23 February, the first planting session was undertaken with the assistance of residents, council workers and children from Latchmere School. Tea and cakes by FoLaR members. Youngsters from Latchmere School assisted with litter picking with the help of their teachers. They were rewarded at the end with orange juice and cake.

6. Kingston Council News

6.1 Local Elections will be held on Thursday, 3rd May, London-wide. You should have received your poll card by now. This will tell you the date, time and place where to vote.

6.2 A new cultural strategy has been outlined for Kingston, following the growth committee meeting on March 27th 2018. This will ensure that Kingston has a large live music venue. A working group will be set up which will collaborate with the Mayor of London's team which works to support London's night-time economy.

6.3 The new library extension is now available for local groups to use – enquire in the library.

6.4 Pavement and potholes Now may be a good time to tackle your Councillor if you are concerned at the state of your road and/or pavement.

7. Our Local MP

7.1 Zac Goldsmith has been busy with the changes proposed for Heathrow. He ensured that we received information in regard to consultation events. That for Richmond and Kingston was on 15 February at Parkshot.

7.2 Zac Goldsmith also hosted an important discussion group on FGM (female genital mutilation).

7.3 Zac Goldsmith speaks regularly in Parliament. To follow this go to <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/mp>.

8. Cottages in Upper Ham Road

You may have noticed that two cottages, in a row in Upper Ham Road, which had been converted into shops and failed to sell as shops at auction, were unexpectedly demolished one day last October, and a notice placed on the hoarding surrounding the site that two family homes would be built on the site. There is currently a planning application to the Council to build two homes, with basements. The developer is being taken to court for having demolished the listed buildings!

9. Dates for your diaries

9.1 Apart from our TARAK lunch dates given above, the Ham Parade Market continues on the first Saturday of each month, from 10am – 2pm (with the fervent hope for better weather on 7th April and 5th May).

9.2 The Ham and Petersham oral history project, "Ham is where the Heart is", will be culminating in a display at Ham Library which opens on 7th April. The project, designed to take just a year, has proved so popular and bountiful of material that it has taken almost two years to complete it.

10. Councillors' surgeries

Your three Councillors are available to you in the Library extension on the second Saturday of every month, from 10 a.m. until noon. Local issues do tend to come to the fore in the months prior to local Elections. On the next occasion, April 14th, the local police team will be joining the Councillors from 11am.

A reminder

All our previous Newsletters can be found on the TARAK website: <http://tarakresidents.wordpress.com>.

To join TARAK, please call Margaret Levy on 020 8546 1743, or contact our membership secretary, Diane Smith, at tarakmembership@gmail.com. Our membership fee for a year's subscription is £5 per household.