

Elm Village Tenants and Residents Association



EVTRA News

Spring 2012

Get Ready for the EVTRA Big Lunch - 17th June



Last year, 50 people had a great lunch party together on the canalside allotments, meeting neighbours and making new friends. We're doing it again this year.

We've got about three weeks to go before the big day. What is there to do?

- Put the date in your diary
- Think about what you'd like to cook and bring for the day
- RSVP so we can plan for the right numbers
- Help us plan, set up and tidy up after the day

We had lots of practical help last year, setting up, dressing the garden and tidying afterwards. We'll need the same again to make the party go well on the day. We'll also need:

- Trestle tables and chairs
- Garden Umbrellas
- Paper Plates, cups and glasses
- Cool boxes and ice
- All the bits for a Barbecue

We'd love some live music, and please let us know if you'd like to play or sing. We'll be emailing and tweeting about this, but please let us know that you can be there and if and how you could help.

Contact secretary@evtra.org.uk

Dates and Resources

- 3 June Jubilee lunch at the Con (impromptu)
- 17 June EVTRA Big Lunch
- 7 July Annual membership dues collection (£3)
- 24 July EVTRA AGM at the Con 7pm



Neighbourhood Watch

We're helping keep Elm Village a safe community. We do this by e-mail communication between residents and updates from the police. To add your name to the Neighbourhood Watch e-mail list contact NW@evtra.org.uk



Fix My Street

A resident writes "Using Fix-MyStreet, the lights under the Camley Steet bridge got fixed and they cleared rubbish on the corner of Camley Street and Cedar Way which had been there some weeks." www.fixmystreet.com

Dumped carpet removed !!

The above non-headline of the century is only meant to attract your attention to a much more serious problem of dumped rubbish.

A resident writes: "Could you put in a reminder about the recycling and rubbish collection days? There are a couple of residents in the flats on Barker Drive who clearly believe that refuse is collected on a Wednesday. One in particular leaves rubbish out every Tuesday evening and of course the foxes/cats dig in. It's very often the case that the rubbish is strewn across the pavement for days."

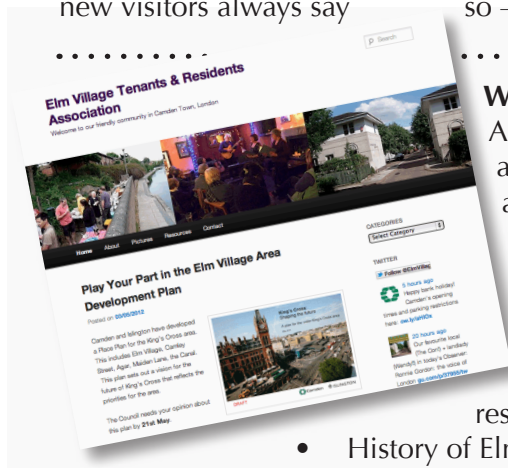
So as requested:

- Rubbish which can be recycled is collected weekly on a Monday morning.
- Other general household rubbish is collected weekly on a Tuesday morning.
- Rubbish should be left in a dustbin with a lid to prevent raids by rats and foxes.

It's in everyone's interest to discard rubbish responsibly and to encourage other residents to do the same.

Apart from the routine collections, street cleaning and the recycling centre at Regis Road, you can get action by contacting Environment Services on 0207 974 4444.

We have the privilege of living in a beautiful environment – new visitors always say so – so let's keep it that way.



Website

At evtra.org.uk you will find all the latest information about what's going on in our neighbourhood. We'll be adding new sections:

- Forum - for people to advertise and communicate with fellow residents

- History of Elm Village and the area
- Useful contacts - police, Places for People, service providers (reviewed by residents)
- People of Elm Village - highlighting the wide variety of talents and interests of our residents

We intend to develop information about local amenities, stores and trades, such as plumbers and electricians. We have some good photos, but are keen to have more – with news of births, marriages and obituaries.

Elm Village Talent - Music

There are many interesting and talented people who live in this small area. We'd like to celebrate this in a regular profile.

Frances Lee sings and does readings as a member of the group *Sounds Like*. She is also a member of the Cecil Sharp House Community Choir and the University of Westminster Choral



Vintage Ed Lee

Society. **Jan North** from Royal College St. also sings in *Sounds Like* and at EVTRA events. We have our own rock group, **The Bucket List**, which appears regularly at the Con. The members are **Tom O'Neill** (vocals and guitar), his brother **Sam O'Neill** (drums), **Laurence ("Louie") Lee** (bass, guitar, and keyboards). The group is completed by a "foreigner" (from Agar Grove!) **Shane Murphy**. Sometimes they are joined by harmonica player "**Bluesboy**" **Oscar** of Bergholt Mews. A different type of music (rap and electronics) is created by **Strait Talkin (Seb Timmins)**. www.myspace.com/straittalkin. **Ed Lee** teaches guitar, bass, piano, and music theory. www.EdwardLeeMusicTeaching.co.uk. Ed's latest album, *Moods and Landscapes*, is available in mid-May in conjunction with the Dulwich Festival. **Zoe Baldwin** sings and plays the guitar and ukulele. She has sung at the famous Cambridge Folk Festival. She hopes to study music at university. **Wendy Clare**, landlady of the Constitution pub, is a champion of local music and has established the Con as a quality music venue. **Harriet Powell** is our most distinguished musician. A pianist, she is also equally at home with her accordion at EVTRA events. She was recently one of the Unsung Heroes, recognised publicly by the Mayor of Camden for services to the community through music. Harriet's work helps people through Music Therapy.

We may well have missed out people who we don't happen to know about. If you contact us, we'll make sure we mention you next time - secretary@evtra.org.uk

Our theme next time will be **the Green Village**, so let us know if you think anyone should be mentioned for their involvement in gardening or environmental issues.

Camley Street

Camley Street is not the prettiest street locally, but it is a vital part of our area. It is the most direct route to King's Cross and St Pancras Stations. It's a walking and cycle link north to Agar Grove and Maiden Lane.

EVTRA is working with the Council and others to get a good plan in place for Camley Street that can deliver benefits to us all. The 103 Camley Street project (a mix of housing, small flexible workspace, café and shop and better access to the canal) now has planning permission: a good start to improving the area.



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The King's Cross Place Plan process (see right) is the next way in which we can make our voices heard. EVTRA has also joined forces with a number of community groups around King's Cross to set up a King's Cross Neighbourhood Forum to plan the area better for the community. If you want to know more or take part, look at <http://kxdf.wordpress.com/> or contact us at secretary@evtra.org.uk. Watch for our tweets @ElmVillage and news on www.evtra.org.uk.

Places for People

As the ground landlord, Places for People (PfP) are responsible for the maintenance of the estate and the structural and external parts of all lease houses and flats, paid for by us through the service charge. EVTRA has informed PfP that the estate is looking tired and worn. We need to work as residents and tenants together with PfP, on ways of tackling this. We'll talk about this at the AGM.

PfP have a long term management plan for the estate, which is being updated at the moment. This will include repainting the outside of the estate, replacing worn doors and windows etc. It will affect everyone. We have asked to be involved in this.

EVTRA's role is to get PfP to share information with everyone, and to provide a collective voice. Watch EVTRA's various message boards, and wait for information from PfP.

Dates for the next visits by PfP will be emailed, tweeted and posted on the website and noticeboard. We've asked PfP to confirm these dates by letter to everyone, as well.

You can report repairs online at www.placesforpeople.co.uk or contact PfP at 0800 432 0002



King's Cross Placemaking

Camden and Islington have developed a Place Plan for the King's Cross area. This includes Elm Village, Camley Street, Agar Grove, Maiden Lane and the Canal. This plan sets out a vision for King's Cross that reflects the priorities of the area. These include better streets, increased safety for walkers and cyclists, protecting and enhancing green areas and finding the right balance between affordable housing and jobs for local people.

EVTRA encourages all Elm Villagers to look at this plan and be a part of the future. You can also download the draft King's Cross Place Plan from a link on our website www.evtra.org.uk.

A short selection of our recommendations is on page 4 of this newsletter.

For EVTRA's official response, see our website www.evtra.org.uk



Reminder of police contacts

If a crime is currently taking place and you are in immediate danger, dial 999

If it's not an emergency call 101

Our local St Pancras & Somers Town police station 020 8721 2810

Our Safer Neighbourhoods officer is Asad Saeed. You may see him around the area on a police bicycle.

THE EVTRA BIG LUNCH

17th June - 12 noon till 3pm

Canalside Allotments

Tell us if you are coming – it helps to plan numbers

Bring food and drink. Bake your own, make your own!

If you are a musician bring your own and play it!

RSVPs and offers of help...

secretary@evtra.org.uk



LOTTERY FUNDED



EVTRA's Response to King's Cross Area Plan

A selection of recommendations made by EVTRA to Islington and Camden Councils on 21st May, 2012 in response to their joint vision for the area, which includes Elm Village.

For more information

evtra.org.uk

secretary@evtra.org.uk

EVTRA Recommendations for our Area

1. Enable people who live here to help shape their own areas
2. Make Camley St a green street and a low impact environmental zone
3. A neighbourhood safe and healthy for walking and cycling, giving great access to King's Cross and Camden Town
4. Resident and employment in a well designed mixed economy neighbourhood
5. More housing affordable by young people and families
6. Deal with the lack of community spaces and services for younger people and older people.
7. Tackle long term maintenance of properties to reinforce we are a community that cares about our neighbourhood