

CONTACTS

Chair
Simon Rogers
 30 Aldershot Road/smf.rogers@gmail.com
Vice chair
Janey McAllester
 22B Charteris Road/janeymca@hotmail.com
Secretary
Josie Warshaw
 83 Priory Park Road/josiewarshaw@aol.com
Treasurer
Liz Morley
 2 Kingsley Rd/morley_elizabeth@hotmail.com
Board members
Esi Cakmakcioglu
 7 Willesden Lane
 07808 162461/esi.bt@btinternet.com
Lloyd Fothergill
 44 Charteris Road 07984 579011/
 jlfothergill@hotmail.com
Martin Harvey
 59 Charteris Road
 020 7328 9644/mooney.com@gmail.com
Dawn Reidy
 75 Priory Park Road 020 7328 6424
Newsletter
Liza Ramrayka/Simon Rogers
 30 Aldershot Road/liza.ramrayka@virgin.net
Nick Ingram
 52 Charteris Road/nick_ingram@yahoo.com
Website
Hilary Curtis
 hilary@regordane.net
Councillors
Tayo Oladapo 07960 980 231
 cllr.tayo.oladapo@brent.gov.uk
Mary Arnold 07961 406 005
 cllr.mary.arnold@brent.gov.uk
Ben Ogunro 07905 457 611
 cllr.benjamin.ogunro@brent.gov.uk
*Surgery on the third Thursday of each month,
 6-7pm at Brent Private Tenants' Rights Group,
 36-38 Willesden Lane.*
MP
Glenda Jackson
 020 7219 4008 /jacksong@parliament.uk
 www.glenda-jackson.co.uk

DIARY DATES

Brent Adult Learners' Week
14-21 May
 Free courses and taster sessions including
 IT skills and painting, run by Brent Adult
 Community Education Service (BACES)
 Details from your local library or call
 BACES on 020 8937 3950
Kilburn Library Garden grand opening
21 May, 12-4pm
 Plant sales, refreshments, cakes, kids ac-
 tivities, book sale at the library in Salusbury
 Road. www.kilburnlibrarygarden.co.uk
Dr Bike
19 June, 10-2pm
 Farmer's Market, Salusbury Primary School
Kilburn Safer Neighbourhood police
team street briefings (SB) and drop-in
surgeries (DS)
27 May, 3-4.30pm outside Kilburn Park
 station (SB)
11 June, 4-6pm outside Argos, High Rd (SB)
22 June, 7-9pm at Pentland Community
 Centre (DS)
7 July, 5-7pm Kilburn Park station (SB)
20 July, 4-6pm at Kilburn Square (DS)
4 August, 12-2pm outside Post Office,
 Brondesbury Villas (SB)
19 August, 11-1pm at Pentland Commu-
 nity Centre (DS)

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NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY 10 MAY
 7pm-9pm

Brent Private Tenants' Rights Group
36-38 Willesden Lane NW6.
 Light refreshments. All welcome

If you missed the last meeting, you missed the chance to
 be involved in the Charteris debate. We also discussed
 recycling, Kilburn Square redevelopment, the Post Box
 Square planters and new trees & the CNWL campus closure.
 So come to the meeting and have your say on key issues

BEST is your local residents' asso-
 ciation, covering the following streets:
 Tennyson, Douglas, Kingsley, Ke-
 nilworth, Aldershot, St Julian's, Priory
 Park, Glengall, Charteris, Esmond and
 Hazelmere. Every resident of the 11
 streets is a member and is welcome
 to participate. We launched in 2005 to
 tackle the issues that affect our commu-
 nity. We do this by:

- Holding regular meetings to air

matters of local concern

- Organising activities for young people e.g. bike repair workshops
- Running social events e.g. street parties, film nights
- Running www.elevenstreets.org.uk - a website where residents can share views and information. We can't do any of these things without YOUR help so please come to meetings or air your views on the website.

THE ZONE is sponsored by



Westminster Property Services has been selling and letting residential
 property in your streets for 17 years. We are keen to help local organisations
 — our network of offices are best placed to help you as residents in the sale
 or rental of your home. If you need a free market appraisal please contact us
 on 020 7328 2320 or visit www.westminsterproperty.com

THE ZONE

www.elevenstreets.org.uk

Newsletter of Brent Eleven Streets Association

May 2011



In association
 with our
 sponsors



New hope in fight to save Charteris

THE doors of Charteris Sports
 Centre may be closed but new
 opportunities are opening up
 for campaigners fighting to
 reopen it.

The centre was locked up
 by Brent Council at the end of
 March despite a vibrant Save
 Charteris campaign attracting
 support from across the com-
 munity, including BEST, local
 police and sports groups.

The council announced in
 January that it would shut Char-
 teris as part of £37m budget cuts
 it was being forced to make this
 year. A public meeting led to the
 formation of the Save Charteris
 Group (SCG) which immedi-
 ately started putting together a plan
 to show how the centre could be
 run by the community.

The group lobbied the coun-
 cil's executive meeting in Febru-
 ary, where local actor Jessica
 Hynes presented its case. Since
 then, the campaign has attracted
 coverage from BBC London TV
 and radio, the *Financial Times*



and the *Kilburn Times*. More
 than 300 people have joined the
 Save Charteris Facebook group.

The council agreed to consider
 a business case put together by
 the SCG. It envisaged the centre
 still owned by the council but
 run as a non-profit organisation
 by the community.

The case was supported by
 the London Marathon Charita-
 ble Trust and the Greater Lon-
 don Authority, but the council
 rejected it on various grounds
 — including health and safety
 and employment law — all of
 which SCG says could have
 been overcome. BEST chair

Simon Rogers said: "We always
 knew the centre would close for
 a while. Even under our plan, it
 would have had to shut tempo-
 rarily before we could get it up
 and running again."

Several major funders have
 expressed an interest in get-
 ting involved. Lloyd Fothergill,
 from the campaign, said: "Talks
 with potential funders are taking
 place. Watch this space!" Any
 new facility will require support
 from local residents. To find out
 how you can help, email
 saveourcentre2012@gmail.com
 or join the Save Charteris Sports
 Centre group on Facebook.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 10 MAY, 7PM @ BPTRG (see back page)

Garden focus

Carol French of Glorious Gardens offers some seasonal tips:

It's time to deadhead and prune any spring-flowering shrubs, once the blooms have faded. This includes lilacs, camellias, rhododendrons, azaleas and any other evergreen shrub that might benefit from reshaping.

Spring is a good time for planting perennials, such as hardy geraniums, agapanthus and globe thistle. For gardeners with established clumps, of three or more years' growth, it's an ideal time to dig them up and divide them: plants for free!

Don't have a garden? Don't worry: towards the end of May, we can plant up outdoor balcony containers and window boxes.

The usual favourites are pelargoniums (you may know them as geraniums), lobelia, pansies and violas. But how about trying something different this year? Chives, sage, and basil all appreciate a warm, sunny spot and you can use them in your cooking throughout the season. Happy gardening!

Glorious Gardens is running free gardening workshops at St Mark's Church in Kensal Rise. The next ones are on 28 May (Container and window box gardening) and 18 June (How to increase your stock). To book a place, contact Kay Vernon on 020 8960 3929.

Advertise in The Zone and reach more than 1,500 residents and businesses. For more details, contact nick_ingram@yahoo.com

Be a part of the BEST Big Lunch

PUT Sunday 5 June in your diaries now for this year's Big Lunch community event organised by BEST.

Now in its third year, this annual event involves getting together with friends and neighbours from your local streets to share food and drink. The day's activities will take place on Charteris Road. Bring a picnic or a dish to share, and come along to meet your neighbours and find out what's going on in your community.

Activities will include a bike ride and cycle workshop, gardening demonstration, music and games. We'd love to hear from anyone who



Last year's BEST Big Lunch

can help make the day a success. Could you run a stall or provide some music? Fancy organising kids activities? Please get in touch if you'd like to help.

BEST's Big Lunch is part of a national day of Big Lunch

events taking place on 5 June. Launched in 2009 by the Eden Project in Cornwall, the day aims to encourage "community, friendship and fun" in local neighbourhoods.

The BEST Big Lunch takes

place on Sunday 5 June from 12-4pm on Charteris Road.

To find out more, email bestbiglunch@gmail.com or see BEST Big Lunch on Facebook. For more information about The Big Lunch, visit www.thebiglunch.com



£800pm to live in a shed

LANDLORDS who broke planning laws and converted a bike shed into a pizza kitchen and then into a tiny studio flat have been told to turn the premises back into a storeroom.

They lost their appeal against Brent Council at a hearing at which BEST members Lloyd Fothergill, Vanessa Kavanagh, Dawn Reidy and Nick Ingram gave evidence. The owners had claimed the "shed" in Hazelmere Road (above) had been lived in for 10 years. The evidence they

gave was flimsy and contradictory. Unsurprising, as it had been a shed until mid-2008. Last year it was advertised at a rent of £800pcm ("housing benefit available").

The planning inspector dismissed the appeal and gave the landlords until September to comply. But she declined to award costs against them, so Brent Council must pick up the bill just for doing its job – and supporting residents – by pursuing the case... while the owners are still raking in the rent.

News from Cycletastic

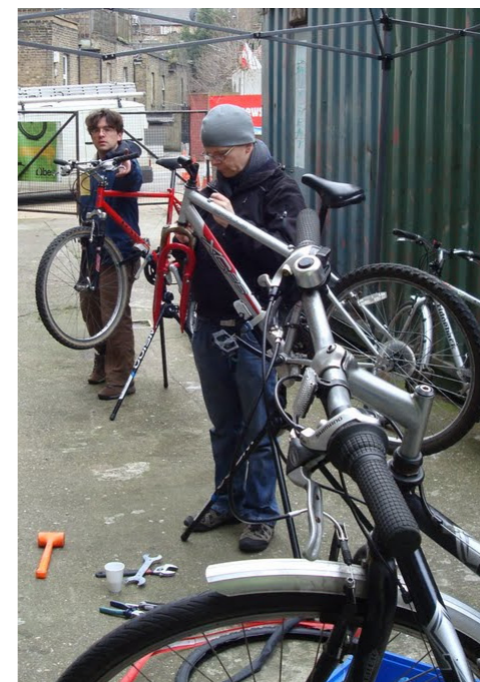
HAVE a bike that needs fixing, or want to pick up repair skills? Pop down to a drop-in session at the Cycletastic bike shed off Willesden Lane, where you can borrow tools and get expert advice from a bike mechanic.

Cycletastic, a community cycling project set up by BEST, asks for a minimum donation of £5 to cover tools and expertise. Parts are considerably cheaper than shop prices.

And check out the second-hand bikes for sale while you're there. Drop-in sessions take place on Saturdays, from 10am to 2pm.

Dates for the next ones are: 7, 14 & 28 May; 4, 11 & 25 June and 2, 16 & 30 July.

Cycletastic also runs recycled bike workshops, where volunteers can pick up or improve repair skills. The next dates are 21 May, 18 June and 23 July, all from 10am



to 2pm. The Cycletastic bike shed is situated behind 36-38 Willesden Lane (entrance on Streatley Road). For more information, visit www.cycletastic.org.uk

IN BRIEF

* Want the local police to know your concerns about our area? Then get involved in Kilburn's Safer Neighbourhood panel, which meets regularly to discuss local policing priorities, new initiatives and concerns. The next full panel meeting takes place on 20 July, 7-8.30pm (venue tbc). For more information, email one of the panel co-chairs: Belinda Harward at belinda.harward@gmail.com or Margaret Vonstoll at m.vonstoll@btinternet.com

* If you have any used printer ink cartridges to recycle, please take them to Brent Private Tenants' Rights Group's offices at 36-38 Willesden Lane. You will be helping the environment and helping BPTRG (which lets BEST use its premises for meetings) to raise funds to keep its vital service running at a time of severe funding cuts.

* Plans for the large-scale redevelopment of Kilburn Square, featured in the January issue of *The Zone*, have now been passed by Brent Council.

MATT SMART TRAINING

It's time to put the fun into keeping fit...

Come & join us for circuit training in Queen's Park!

Only £5 per class!

We offer classes – both indoors and out – throughout the week. No membership necessary! Call 07768 831001 to find out more!

www.mattsmarttraining.co.uk