



FIELDEND NEWS

SPRING 2016

FRAL Board

Our AGM

Many thanks to all the shareholders who attended our AGM on 24 February and to those who sent apologies. Your support is greatly appreciated by the Board. This is the one, more formal, occasion where we can come together to review events of the previous year and raise issues of concern and interest to our community. Topics discussed included the re-painting, the care and maintenance of the grounds – especially the trees – parking and the use of e-mail addresses to facilitate communication between the Board and residents. The draft minutes will be issued shortly and you will find a list of the current Board members on the back of this newsletter. We look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

Residents' contact details

Thanks to all residents who have returned forms with their contact details. We have had a fantastic response, with all but three households returning their forms. This will make it much easier to keep residents up to date with FRAL business, particularly in relation to the re-paint this year.

Fieldend diary dates

Tidy days

There will be tidy days on Saturday 9 April (as announced in the Winter newsletter) and Saturday 2 July, in time for the summer party. On 9 April there will also be an Easter egg hunt for the children, organised by Joanna Sullivan.

Summer parties

The date for the summer party is 9 July 2016.

FRAL Board meetings

The next meetings of the FRAL Board are on Tuesday 12 April, Thursday 26 May and Tuesday 12 July. If you have any matters to raise, please get in touch with any Board member or email chairfral@gmail.com.

Garden news

Serious damage to Fieldend tree

Sally Stones, as Gardens Director, has had to deal with a really difficult situation in which a mature elm tree on Fieldend has been criminally damaged. As the photo shows, a ring of bark has been cut away and several large copper nails driven in, thus poisoning the tree and cutting off the flow of sap. The Borough Tree Preservation Officer took a very dim view of this.



Whoever is responsible needs to know that fines run up to £20,000 in a Magistrate's Court and are unlimited if the case is taken to the Crown Court. Needless to say, FRAL is deeply concerned that someone, possibly a resident, has committed such flagrant damage to a tree owned by the whole community and, in the process, has exposed FRAL itself to suspicion.

Perimeter news

On a lighter note, we are assured that the works that have caused some cosmetic damage to the perimeter fence and grass on the Triangle will soon be over, whereupon it will be restored to its former glory. To avoid further damage, residents who live near the Triangle are asked to ensure that they park their cars on the perimeter road so that large vehicles can get round the bends without having to mount the verge.

Storm Katie also left her mark by snapping a concrete post on the south perimeter fence. A temporary repair has been put in place but several concrete posts and fence sections require replacement; this will happen ASAP.



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Parking

Mellow yellow

It looks as though the yellow lines are having the desired effect: the entry road is kept clear, wardens have issued a few tickets, and the exit corners are easier to negotiate. We do seem to have a few more intruders in Red Square and on the service road. Therefore, we are preparing signage to be placed a few yards from the entrance that will reinforce the meaning of the existing No Entry signs. As discussed at the AGM we need to resolve the balance between stark utilitarian signs and something more in keeping with the elegant slate and gold *Fieldend* sign – and that is taking some time and thought.



Announcements

Not a laughing matter

On several occasions residents have found packs of small nitrous oxide (laughing gas) canisters lying around Fieldend. These can be obtained in catering shops or garages for a number of legitimate uses. However, they can also be used 'recreationally', and this is becoming more prevalent. We don't have any evidence that the canisters are being dumped by Fieldend residents, but we need to be vigilant, as their abuse by inhalation can cause dizziness, nerve damage and even death. Please keep a lookout for the canisters and make sure you pick them up to prevent young children getting hold of them.

If you want more information on nitrous oxide abuse, go to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/acmd-advice-on-nitrous-oxide-abuse>.



Open House - any takers?

On 17 & 18 September, London will again be holding the Open House event. This is an opportunity to show people what Span design is all about, and in the past few years, some Fieldenders have opened up their houses to the public. If you are interested, have a look at the website pages:

<http://www.openhouselondon.org.uk/getinvolved/buildings.html>

If you are up for the effort involved please call Bob Dawes at Open City on 020 7383 2131; if you decide to go ahead please inform Roger Joiner (no 5).



Free logs

We have some large logs/tree trunks which could be used in gardens as homes for wildlife or as rustic garden stools. They are stacked near the garden storage area between no 42 and no 43. Please help yourselves.