

# Canons Park Estate Association

## NEWSLETTER

February 2013



**This January brought to a close a momentous year - not only of sport and Jubilee celebrations but also some of the worst flooding ever recorded throughout many parts of Britain.**

What had begun the year as a panic over how the forthcoming drought could be avoided in fact ended very differently, with flooding and landslides on an almost daily basis. I truly hope that we have now seen an end to the rain *and* the snow - and the devastation that it has caused throughout the country.

I am fully aware of the legal responsibility that comes with the ownership of a large raised reservoir and the smaller Basin Lake on the Estate; we too are closely involved with this problem. The Seven Acre Lake is one of the many reservoirs throughout England that hold both surface and rainwater, so that it can flow in a controlled manner downstream.

Throughout the bad weather we have to ensure that the grilles of the sluice are clear of debris and that the level of water within the lake remains at a fairly constant level, so that it poses no danger to homes lower downstream.

I am grateful to Andy Simons, our Water Bailiff, for regularly clearing the channels and to Neil Myeroff for monitoring the water levels in the Seven Acre Lake. However, a few homes on the Estate have an open channel running through their gardens, which link the two lakes; it is essential that those Residents make sure that there is no debris or garden waste that can block the outflow and cause damage to their - or their neighbours' - homes.

### **Basin Regeneration Project**

Some Residents who may have a water culvert running beneath their gardens have contributed towards a CCTV investigation to determine its precise position and to ensure that there are no blockages or root damage that could cause collapse or flooding. This procedure will be carried out at the same time as we repair and renew the failed banking at the Basin Lake. The Basin project will cost around £25,000 and will be funded by money put aside by the CPEA over the past few years. Work should commence at the beginning of March, weather permitting.

### **Social Event**

In celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee we held a Members' tea party, organised by Anuta Rosenfelder, in the Sports Hall at North London Collegiate School. This was scheduled to be held in the grounds of Lodge Close but after a bout of bad weather, Anuta was able to secure a dry venue at very short notice!

The event was highly successful and seems to have been enjoyed by all who attended. It was good to see so many Residents from the Estate happy to support our initiative.

### **Save the date!**

On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm, Katy Myers, a garden historian, will be speaking on '**The Gardens at Canons**' in the Drummond Room at North London Collegiate School.

All the local residents' groups will be working together for this event and entry will be by ticket only. The date has been chosen as it follows Open Garden Squares day in Canons Park, allowing us to publicise the event more fully. Further details to follow.

### **New Path to the Park**

The CPEA has been working closely with the Friends of Canons Park and Harrow Council to make the park end of Canons Drive safer and more accessible on foot or by car, especially for people with disabilities and families with pushchairs.

The plan is to install a footpath, designated parking bays - including disabled bays - passing places for cars, to improve the flow of two-way traffic, and better road markings with speed limits. This work was scheduled for November but was postponed due to availability of funding, which has now been resolved. The work should now be completed before the end of April.

### **Grass verges**

Some of the Association's grass verges in Canons Drive have been horribly damaged not only by builders' trucks and other trade vehicles but often by the repeated lack of care by Residents themselves! Council verges have also been torn up, especially during the snow.

Please take care of one of the most iconic features of Canons Drive. **PLEASE** take time to line your car up when you enter and exit your drive and warn your builders to do the same. If we have to repair the damage and it is obvious that a Resident is to blame, we will be forced to invoice them for the cost.

*Myra Stephens*  
*Chairwoman*