



OWGRA

Osterley & Wyke Green Residents' Association

eNewsletter – 17th March 2020

Welcome to the 4th OWGRA eNewsletter of 2020.

The current situation with Covid-19 is a huge worry to us all, and we wish you all good health. We are not making any comments about what to do as we have no expertise in this area; instead we urge you to listen to the advice of the experts in the government and our health authorities. The [NHS guidance is here](#) and [official government guidance is here](#). In addition we recommend that you only consult reputable news organizations as a source of information rather than social media.

Please also think about friends and neighbours (especially older or less mobile people) and consider asking if they need any help with getting any food or medication. (See Covid-19 article under Crime and Local Policing)

In this issue

- In Planning (page 2-3), we have the latest update on the Tesco/Homebase development proposals, and (hopefully) the end of the Chiswick Curve saga.
- Under London Borough of Hounslow (LBH) News (pages 4-6) we cover the council asking whether we feel safe, social care initiatives, small business training, a community art initiative, bad news if you didn't bother with planning permission and consultations underway.
- In Local News (pages 7- 9) there's news of Brentford Sports Fest, events at Osterley Park, The Watermans Centre in Brentford, Brentford Musical Museum and Gunnersbury Park, sports at Gunnersbury Park and elsewhere, two local history stories, Ealing Music Festival, and events at Thistleworth Tennis Club. [Given the Covid-19 crisis, please check the latest advice regarding public events and, if you are considering attending / visiting any also check with the organizers beforehand to see whether it has been cancelled/closed](#)
- Crime and Local Policing (pages 10 - 11) covers Covid-19 scam advice (sadly !), break-ins, a house burglary, cat convertor thefts, anti-burglary tips and "meet your local police"
- Finally under Other News (pages 12-15) items include litter, legal advice, Great West Road improvements, and health news.

We hope this eNewsletter is informative and welcome any feedback – especially anything we should include in future eNewsletters.. Feel free to pass it on to friends and neighbours. If you're not a member of OWGRA, please consider joining – details and a membership form can be found on our [website](#). And if you would like to help us in running OWGRA then please do [contact us](#) – we always welcome any help, even if you can only spare a few hours a month. We will lose a couple of members of the committee this year and really need to replace them.

Please stay safe - Laurence Hawcroft, (Vice-Chair), and the OWGRA Committee.

Planning News

TESCO/HOMEBASE DEVELOPMENT – UPDATE

A second exhibition was held at the end of February with plans for the redevelopment of the Tesco & Homebase sites on Syon Lane. We have been advised that the Consultation Centre in the Tesco Extra Osterley car park will be closed for the next few weeks until it is clearer as to the direction things are taking with the Covid-19 virus. In the meantime you can see the plans here <https://syonlanefuture.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Syon-Lane-Consultation-Boards-February-2020-144.pdf>, and there is some other information from the developer here <https://syonlanefuture.com/>.

There has been little change since the first exhibition in Oct 2019, and the plans are still very sketchy. **We encourage you to respond to the exhibition by sending your comments to hello@syonlanefuture.com and copying them to info@owgra.org.uk.**

You can try to respond to the developer's survey via their website <https://syonlanefuture.com/> by clicking on the 'Have Your Say' link at the top of the page, but you may find it frustrating as the survey (incorrectly called a 'poll') is confusing and doesn't cover the areas you might want to cover. If you found their 'poll' of autumn 2019 annoying to complete, then this one is worse.

We have sent a 7-page letter to the developer stating our grave concerns and objections, and a 5-page wish list. You will find these on our website.

Here are our main objections, which you are free to use in your response to the developer:

1. Building heights, massing and density at both sites, 17 storeys anywhere within either site, is far too tall; maximum should be no more than 4 or 5 storeys.
2. The mix of style and design of buildings seems to have no cohesion or pattern and some of them are plain ugly.
3. The proposals do not respect the character of the area; there is a lack of attempt to place the buildings within the context of the character of Osterley, Syon and Brentford.
4. The developments on Syon Lane do not respect existing neighbours; rather it seems an attempt to destroy what is a relatively low-rise suburban residential area by the cumulative impact of some 15 high-rise buildings. Hounslow's Local Plan Policy CC5 states that the borough has a number of tall buildings that do not positively contribute to townscape and their existence should not be grounds for more.
5. The location of some of the flats adjacent to the A4 and Gillette Corner on the Homebase site is not appropriate where pollution levels already exceed legal limits.
6. The tiny visual on exhibition board no. 11 gives a fuzzy view of what the Tesco development might look like; it appears to hide the true size of the proposed development.
7. The visuals give no idea of what the development on the Tesco site might look like from afar and how it might affect sightlines of the Grade II listed Gillette building.
8. The Local Plan Site Allocation 2 proposes 350 homes as a minimum for the Tesco site., Exceeding that by a factor of over 4.5 in a suburban area seems to be plainly excessive.
9. Proximity to local heritage ignored (Grade II listed Gillette building).
10. Lack of amenities and strain on local infrastructure (public transport, health care, schools).
11. There is no information on types of housing e.g. family sized homes (3-4 bedrooms) vs small studio, 1 and 2 bedroom flats, floor space per home.
12. No information on proposed improvements/reconfiguration of Gillette Corner (which operates above capacity at peak times and right hand turns from Syon Lane onto the A4

are dangerous).

13. The developer suggests that the Southall Rail Link and West London Orbital Line would be completed by 2025. This is highly unlikely (due to lack of available funding). There should be no major developments in this area until these rail links are implemented.
14. Insufficient parking is proposed for the 2 sites, especially as the current Tesco car park gets very full, especially at weekends, and there is an assumption from the developer that car ownership and traffic will reduce, which is not the case in the near to mid-term future.
15. Hounslow has declared a Climate Emergency. Gillette Corner already exceeds legal pollution levels, and there is no information on how these will be affected by the proposed developments. There should be no residential units overlooking the highly polluted A4 and Gillette Corner.
16. All new developments in Hounslow must be carbon neutral, so we need to see the carbon calculations for these developments, both for the construction phase and for the buildings when occupied.
17. No information about methods of construction – it needs to be environmentally friendly and use sustainable materials i.e. not concrete and steel.

CHISWICK CURVE REFUSAL BACKED BY HIGH COURT

The Chiswick Curve is a proposal by a developer, Starbones, to build a massive 2-tower building on the site of the old NatWest bank between the M4/A4 and the B&Q site at the Chiswick roundabout. This is a small site – yet the developer was proposing to build a 32-storey tower AND a 25-storey tower on this site.



Hounslow Council (sensibly) rejected this proposal. The developer appealed and the Inspector amazingly overruled the council, saying that “...*the Chiswick Curve is a quite brilliant response to the difficult problems presented by the immediate context of this site.*” He also said that the protection of Kew Gardens from tall buildings in the area was ‘*a battle that has been fought and lost*’.

Given the (developer’s) pictures of the proposal, one has to wonder just what the inspector was on.



The Inspector’s decision was called in by the Housing Minister who then overruled it, and rejected the proposed development. Starbones then appealed to the High Court. Now, thankfully, the High Court has agreed with the Housing Minister and stated that the proposed tower would have caused unacceptable damage to local heritage assets such as Kew Gardens, Strand-on-the-Green and Gunnersbury Park. You can see from the image opposite (with the proposed tower viewed from Strand on the Green) the scale of damage, had the development gone ahead.

So, finally (hopefully !!), this awful, overbearing proposal is dead. And, according to [this article](#) giving more details, the developer was ordered to pay substantial legal costs.

COUNCIL ASKS RESIDENTS WHETHER THEY FEEL SAFE

As part of developing their new Community Safety Strategy (see “Consultations Underway” section), the council is also seeking input from local people about how safe they feel across the borough of Hounslow. Whether you live, work or visit here, they would like us to spend a few minutes to share your views using their online interactive map. You can drop a pin on the area where you feel safe or less safe and tell them why that is. You can do this as many times as you like. This will help the council build up a detailed picture of safety concerns across the borough, and the impact this has on residents and communities. The map is available on [Commonplace](#).

At the moment, looking at the map, no-one in our area has any concerns at all about crime or not feeling safe. If you don't agree, please use the map to let the council know.....

BETTER HOMES, BETTER HEALTH

GET YOUR HOME WINTER-READY WITH A 'BETTER HOME, BETTER HEALTH' VISIT

Every winter, the health of local people suffers from the increasingly cold weather and seasonal illnesses. Good quality, warm housing is a vital part of keeping well.

Hounslow Council is working with GreenDeal London to help make sure all residents' homes are prepared for the winter months. The 'Better Homes, Better Health' service is available in a range of areas, particularly benefiting those who are particularly vulnerable. People who could particularly benefit from a visit include:

- residents over the age of 70
- low income families with children under 5
- residents with long-term health conditions, including residents with cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses.

Once a resident is made a free home visit is arranged with one of GreenDeal London's trained energy assessors or 'Green Doctors'. This visit looks at the household's energy use and how money can be saved, as well as referring them to the wide range of services Hounslow offers. Last year, 612 households were helped by these energy visits.

Last year's scheme achieved a total of £15,643 in savings for Hounslow residents. The scheme also helped achieve carbon savings of 18,384kg of CO2 and 2,218,842 litres of water. Last year, the 'Better Homes, Better Health' service also saw customer

How are referrals made? It's easy, just call:

- Contact #GreenDoctors.DH who deliver home energy visits on behalf of Hounslow Council on 0208 365 3905.
- Complete the on-line referral form at: www.hounslow.gov.uk/betterhomesbetterhealth

Supporting Energy Efficiency projects

GreenDeal London's Customer Service Centre and Repair Call Centre will be closed from 01 November 2019 to 01 December 2019.

During this period, emergency repairs and heating issues can be reported to the Out of Hours Emergency Response Team on 020 898 7222. No heating or hot water? Please report it to: 0208 365 3905.

Residents in temporary accommodation or with no fixed abode can call 020 772 8028.

The address and of those emergency services details, visit: www.hounslow.gov.uk/hounslowfire

The council runs a “Better Homes, Better Health” initiative, which provides a free package of support to help eligible Hounslow residents improve their homes, keep warm and save money on energy bills.

The service aims to promote wellbeing and reduce incidences of ill-health during winter through home visits by trained energy advisors. It is particularly targeted at residents over the age of 70, low income families with children under 5, and residents with long-term health conditions, including residents with cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses.

[Further details can be found here](#). Despite it implying that you need to be referred, people can self-refer themselves as well.

WELL-BEING NETWORK ACTIVITIES

The Hounslow Well-Being network describes their remit as “*building a community to help reduce stigma and encourage conversation around mental illness. By putting people at the heart of their own recovery, we hope to combat social isolation and loneliness and improve the overall health and wellbeing of local residents*” They run a wide range of activities, details of which may be found on their [website here](#). NOTE we found that, when we bring up the calendar of events, you need to press the “next month” button, and then the “prev month” button, for the events to show up; otherwise the page seems to stay on a “loading events” message.

FREE MICROBUSINESS TRAINING

Are you self-employed or running a business with fewer than 10 employees?



Work Hounslow are offering free one-to-one business support and a suite of workshops. 92% of our local businesses have fewer than 10 staff and their target is to support and upskill up to 100 Microbusinesses throughout the lifecycle of the project.

This offer extends to charities, social enterprises and CIC's so long as the enterprise employs 10 or fewer staff. The first round of courses is due for delivery in March/April 2020, with five further course rotations to follow.

They state that “*working with an experienced business advisor you can increase your productivity and grow, market your business to reach its maximum potential and manage your finances more efficiently.*” [More information about the workshops on offer](#)

INTERESTED IN COMMUNITY ART ?

Do you want to get involved in making exciting things happen in your local area for your community? Do you want to develop new skills, whilst having fun and meeting new people? Do you want to shape Hounslow into a Colourful, Confident and Creative borough?

Creative People and Places Hounslow (CPP Hounslow) is an Arts Council England funded project that puts the decisions and views of local people at the heart of everything they do. They aim to create a Colourful, Confident and Creative Hounslow. It is led by a consortium of local Arts and Community organisations: Hounslow Music Service, TW4 Community Development Trust, London Borough of Hounslow, Hounslow Libraries and Watermans as the lead organisation. There are four Local Advisory Groups (LAG) made up of local people who develop creative activities, events and workshops in their areas. These are based in Feltham, Hounslow Central, Heston & Cranford and Brentford. Anyone is welcome to get involved. You can get in touch with the CPP Hounslow team by emailing cpphounslow@watermans.org.uk or call 020 8232 1027

CAN'T BE BOTHERED TO GET PLANNING PERMISSION?

Some people (obviously not OWGRA Members) may think they can go ahead and redevelop their property as they wish without bothering to get Planning Permission from the council. They may be in for a bit of a surprise. We hear that Hounslow Council is methodically checking out developments in the borough, street by street, and contacting residents where they have no record of planning applications for new buildings or extensions.

The council (obviously) have access to things such as Google Maps and Google Streetview (and for anyone who hasn't tried these, they provide a remarkable amount of detail on any property from the comfort of your own chair). But the council also have access to HMRC records, the Electoral Register, and various other government departments' databases. In addition they go out and physically survey the street in person (to make sure they are seeing the most up-to-date status).

One might think that if this happens, all you do is apply for retrospective planning permission and all will be OK. But from what we are seeing that is not necessarily the case. When you apply for planning permission in advance, the council tends to approve it unless there are clear reasons not to. In the case of retrospective permission the opposite may be true - and residents may have to tear down extensions or alterations at great expense.

So our guidance would be to always obtain planning permission before you undertake the work. The council website provides clear guidance as to what can be done as 'permitted development' (i.e. does not need planning permission) as well as general planning advice in the Residential Extension Guidelines and the streets covered by Conservation Areas where greater restrictions apply. We also provide a lot of guidance on this on [our website](#).

SOCIAL CARE INFORMATION FROM LBH

While LBH would like as many people as possible to access information online via [CarePlace](#), the council does offer a limited range of leaflets and booklets.

Many adult social care publications [may be downloaded here](#) including their latest publication [A guide to adult social care in Hounslow](#) which offers a general overview of what people can expect when they get in touch. The new guide has a section for carers and a list of useful telephone numbers. Printed copies are available from LBH on request.

CONSULTATIONS UNDERWAY

Public Consultations being run by Hounslow Council currently open for feedback from residents include the following:

- Keeping Hounslow safe, together. The council's current Community Safety Strategy for 2017-2020 comes to an end this year and, recognising that crime in the borough has changed, they are seeking anonymous input from residents before creating their new strategy. The strategy will be delivered through the Hounslow Community Safety Partnership which is made up of a number of local agencies including Hounslow Council, Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade, National Probation Service and the NHS. They are looking for input from residents as to what they think about crime in the borough, what they would like the strategy to focus on and what more could be done to keep our communities and neighbourhoods safe. Consultation Closing Date 30 Apr ([Details here](#)).

- Climate Emergency Action Plan. In June 2019, Hounslow Council declared a climate emergency and committed to reducing council emissions to net zero by 2030, as well as working with residents and businesses to help reduce their own carbon emissions. They have now produced a draft Climate Emergency Action Plan. This sets out :
 - o The corporate (organisational) and the borough-wide carbon footprint;
 - o A target to achieve net zero carbon by 2030;
 - o Actions that can be delivered over a ten-year period to enable the Council to achieve its proposed target and influence a borough-wide reduction;
 - o The combined benefits of delivering multiple actions, and the role national government needs to play;
 - o The funding opportunities and the governance arrangements for delivering the plan.

The draft Action Plan outlines seven key programmes for reducing Council direct carbon emissions, and "*in acknowledging the Council's community leadership role, a further six programmes to address borough-wide emissions*".
Consultation Closing Date 30 Mar. ([Details here](#)).

Local Events & Things To Do

PLEASE CHECK THE LATEST COVID-19 GUIDANCE ON PUBLIC EVENTS

BRENTFORD SPORTS FEST

If you're a runner, why not take part in Brentford's biggest running event – Brentford Sports FEST. The event will take place in the grounds of one of west London's most iconic houses, Syon House, and will offer runners the opportunity to run in the private grounds of the prestigious estate. The event will take place on **5th April 2020** and will offer a range of sporting activities for all the family. Residents of all ages and abilities can take part in a 10k run, 5k run, 1k children's fun run and a 5k Walk and Talk (in association with West London NHS Trust). [More details can be found here.](#)

LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

If you're interested in local history, you might want to go to the [40th West London Local History Conference](#), which takes place on Saturday **21st March 2020** at University of West London, Boston Manor Road TW8 9GB. This year's speakers will be considering the ways in which people in our area of South and West London have chosen to celebrate achievements and commemorate loss. The full day of lectures includes a presentation on the Isleworth 390 initiative which we reported on in a previous eNewsletter.

Tickets are £15.00 and available only in advance from sponsoring societies or by post from J McNamara, 31B Brook Rd South, Brentford TW8 0NN. Make out a cheque to "West London Local History Conference" and enclose a stamped addressed envelope. The conference is sponsored by the local history societies for Acton, Barnes & Mortlake, Brentford & Chiswick, Fulham & Hammersmith, Hounslow, Little Ealing, Richmond, Twickenham, Wandsworth and the West Middlesex Family History Society.

LOCAL HISTORY TALKS

The Brentford & Chiswick Local History Society has published details of its [Spring programme of talks](#) on a range of topics, including more about Boston Manor House, and how the Great West Road came into being (as the Brentford By-pass).

OSTERLEY PARK

There is a wide range of events on in Osterley Park over the coming weeks. Details can be found on their website [here](#). Please also note that they are open every day except Christmas Day – useful if you just fancy a [walk around the park](#). Their opening times can be found [here](#).

BRENTFORD MUSICAL MUSEUM

If you are a classic/traditional music fan, Brentford Musical Museum has a programme of events detailed [here](#), with everything from sessions on their Wurlitzer to classic old films, and Tea Dances. They also have an exhibition that commemorates the end of the First World War and the Returning Soldier running until 28th June. The exhibition features a local history perspective, a display of music from their collection, and recordings of music from the era played on their instruments.

In addition to these events, they are open for visits with guided tours at specific times (see above link for details).

GUNNERSBURY PARK SPORTS HUB

Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub is a new sporting venue situated within the park. Opening early 2020 (current planned opening date is stated to be 6th April), it will offer a variety of facilities and activities for all ages and abilities. Located a short walk from Acton Town tube

station, within Gunnersbury Park, the new venue will include a large 100+ station gym with dedicated zones that help you focus your goals; two group exercise studios with automated virtual classes; a large sized sports hall offering a variety of sports, including competition standard facilities for handball, futsal and volleyball, as well as many others. The outdoor pitches will be available for hire, offering 8 tennis courts and 2 full size all weather pitches as well as 10 grass pitches for football, rugby and cricket.

Pitches are now available for booking:

- Artificial grass pitches are booked via [Play Football](#)
- Grass football pitches and futsal courts are booked directly at www.better.org.uk

or by email to Gunnersbury@gll.org. Further details can be [found here](#).

GUNNERSBURY PARK – NO ROOM FOR BOWLS

[This article](#) provides details on proposals by Gunnersbury Park that seem to mean the closure of the bowling club that has existed there since 1931. Club members say they were given verbal assurances by the Gunnersbury Park Community Interest Company (CIC) that their presence in the park was valued. However, towards the end of last year the CIC stated that given *'the relatively small and declining numbers who have exclusive use of the facility'* they were exploring new uses for the green to provide a greater benefit for the wider community and increase revenue.

It seems that the management at Gunnersbury Park have their own views as to what sports are required by the local community.

NEW PILATES AND FITNESS CLASSES

In partnership with One You Hounslow, Brentford FC Community Sports Trust is offering free Pilates sessions and discounted fitness classes in Hounslow. These will be held at

- Convent Way Community Centre, Hounslow, UB2 5UG every Wednesday at 2pm.
- Oriel Community Centre, Cresswell Road, Hanworth, TW13 6YQ every Wednesday at 6pm

These relaxing Pilates sessions are stated as being ideal for beginners – no need to book, just turn up. There is also a Bootcamp session running in Brentford costing only £3. This class offers a full body workout to burn fat and improve fitness and strength. Classes also take place on Wednesdays 6pm-7pm.

For more information about the sessions, please contact health@brentfordfcst.com

FREE ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN IN EASTER

There are a number of free activities for young people run by the Brentford FC Community Sports Trust over the Easter holidays. As well as four different session at The Hub in Hounslow on Wednesday 8 and 15 April there are also sessions at Mission Hall and Hanworth Youth Centre.

[Full details of everything that is on offer](#)

EVENTS AT THISTLEWORTH TENNIS CLUB – 18th MARCH, 3rd APRIL & 4th APRIL

Thistleworth Tennis Club advises us of several events in the next few weeks.

On **Wed, 18th March** they are holding a film night, showing Quentin Tarantino's *Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood*, which *"visits 1969 Los Angeles, where everything is changing, as TV star Rick Dalton (Leonardo DiCaprio) and his longtime stunt double Cliff Booth (Brad Pitt) make their way around an industry they hardly recognize anymore. The ninth film from the writer/director features a large ensemble cast and multiple storylines in a tribute to the final moments of Hollywood's golden age. £4 to include a delicious samosa. Please let us know if you are coming."*

Then on **Fri, 3rd April** from 8pm they will be presenting a night of Motown and Soul.



Details are “DJ Terry Peters from london music radio presents a night of classic motown from the 60s onwards together with big disco hits from the 70s & 80s ..a fun night designed for the over 35s crowd at this nice venue, only £5 all night starts 8pm..grab some friends and make a night of it ..low bar prices & large dancefloor look forward to seeing you. Call 07956 488201 now to make sure of your tickets.”

Then on **Sat, 4th April** at 7:45pm they will be hosting Hounslow Light Opera's ROARING TWENTIES NIGHT. They describe it as “A fabulous evening of song and dance from the decade that brought us flappers and jazzers, talkies and speakeasies, the Charleston and the Black Bottom. Tickets are £12 and can be booked at www.ticketsource.co.uk/hlo .”

FILMS AND EVENTS AT WATERMANS

If you want to see a film but want something different from the latest Hollywood blockbuster, then the Watermans Centre in Brentford has an eclectic programme of films detailed [here](#). In addition they have announced their second year of [Friday Nights Live](#) with a brand new season for Spring 2020 that presents leading artists from an eclectic range of genres. On Fridays, audiences can choose from a range not to be found elsewhere in West London, including comedy, cabaret, digital performance, dance and talks.

SYON PARK

[Syon House and Gardens](#) are now closed for the winter. The new season will start on Monday, 16th March 2020.

GUNNERSBURY PARK

Gunnersbury Park has an programme of events, the details are given [here](#) . These include a museum tour led by the curator, and some unusual talks (e.g. one about Hanwell Asylum).

In addition the Gunnersbury Park Museum is now hosting a special free exhibition of the work of an important local artist. “[Reflections of an Artist: Madeline Green, 1884-1947](#)” will run until **25th May**. A modernist figurative artist, Madeline Green grew up and lived most of her life in Ealing – where she helped to found the Ealing Art Guild, known today as the Ealing Art Group

EALING MUSIC FESTIVAL



Ealing Festival is an annual competitive event for performers of all ages. It is taking place in April and May this year with deadlines for entries fast approaching. Performers of all ages and levels of ability. Download the syllabus for details of classes, dates and venues at www.ealingfestival.org.uk

TURNER AND THE THAMES

The first exhibition of J.M.W. Turner’s original paintings in the house in Twickenham he designed for himself has opened and runs until **March 29th**.

At the time Turner painted the exhibition’s five oils on mahogany panels, he was renting Syon Ferry House in Isleworth, retreating from the pressures of London life. Although this house no longer exists, his experience there was instrumental in his subsequent acquisition in 1807 of a piece of land in Twickenham on which he later built Sandycombe Lodge to his own designs, and which is now open to the public. During Turner’s time in Isleworth he acquired a little boat and modified it for use as a floating studio from which he could record first-hand impressions of the river. Further details are in [this article](#).

Crime and Local Policing

COVID-19 – POLICE ADVICE

Be aware that opportunists and criminals can take advantage of the elderly and vulnerable who are self-isolating. Anyone being offered "kindness" by cold callers by way of running errands, collecting prescriptions and doing shopping should not accept services from strangers who may ask for cash up front, a credit card and its PIN, or gain trust simply to execute a more elaborate scam. e.g. to access savings.

Most people offering to help elderly people in their neighbourhood are genuinely kind, honest and caring. The elderly self-isolating will be stuck for food, supplies and someone to talk to if they don't have friends, family or a nearby neighbour that they already know.

If everyone makes contact **now** with their nearest elderly neighbours **WHO THEY ALREADY KNOW** and gives them their phone number and offer of help for when they need it, it will reduce the chances of them accepting help from a stranger who may turn out to be an opportunist, confidence trickster and/or thief.

8 ANTI-BURGLARY TIPS

[This article](#) provides details on 8 ways people inadvertently make it easier for burglars, and the resulting tips to minimise the risk of being burgled. These are

- Using only one lock
- Leaving your blinds / curtains up
- Not adding a cage to the letterbox
- Giving pets free roam of the house
- Leaving tools lying around the (back) garden
- Having a UPVC or wooden door
- Leaving keys in the door and
- Oversharing on social media.

Some of them may seem a bit counter-intuitive – but they give a useful insight into the mind of the potential burglar when you read more about them.

ATTEMPTED HOUSE BREAK-IN

We have been advised by a local resident that a female has been noted several times trying to gain entry to houses in the early hours. The description given is Hair: Fuzzy, Top: No, Age: 30, Sex: Female, Ethnicity: Black, Physical Build: Slim. This person rings the doorbell in the early hours (hoping you will open the door) and is accompanied by at least 2 males. They have been seen near Osterley and Lampton Park.

Please be very cautious about opening your door to someone not known to you (especially outside daylight hours). Consider investing in a camera (to see who is there before you open the door), or a door chain that allows you to open the door a little with the chain still on – thereby preventing anyone from forcing their way in.

CATALYTIC CONVERTOR THEFTS – AGAIN....

Sadly more Catalytic Convertors have been stolen in the last few weeks, from a car parked on the street in Hogarth Gardens and one parked on the owner's drive in The Warren. As has been reported previously, there have been a lot of incidents of this crime nationally and locally, and the police encourage people to look at taking preventative measures to minimize the risk (as detailed in previous eNewsletters).

Some people who have had these stolen have reported replacing them with cheaper generic ones (rather than manufacturer-supplied ones) as apparently these are less attractive to thieves.

Other News

KEEP BRITAIN TIDY GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN (20th MARCH – 13th APRIL)



Littering is a thoroughly anti-social habit and the OWGRA Community Litter Pickers have already done 3 litter picks in the area so far this year: Jersey Road (between Alderney Ave and Penwerris Ave), Windmill Lane (up to the M4) and Wood Lane (north). Sadly we could do these every week, as the litter seems to come from drivers who think it's acceptable to discard their litter en-route, so no sooner have we cleared those areas than the litter reappears.

We will be scheduling some more litter picks in our area over the next few weeks to coincide with the Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean (<https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean>).



We have in mind to tackle the following areas: Quakers Lane (between the A4 and the railway line), the area around Homebase, the hedges around Jersey Gardens

If you have any suggestions for other areas we can tackle or would like to join our merry group of litter pickers do

please e-mail at info@owgra.org.uk.

We are also very grateful to a number of OWGRA members who are regularly litter picking in their area, helping to keep some of the litter at bay (see example below).

LITTER – IF WE ALL DID A LITTLE.....

A few weeks after the Wood Lane litter pick I noticed that more litter (almost all of it being cans, bottles and takeaway packaging chucked out of passing cars) had appeared. So this week I cleared this area again – and ended up collecting 3 sacks of litter ! I'm sure all of you will share my very low opinion of the "people" who see nothing wrong in throwing their empty beer bottles, takeaway containers, etc. on the road rather than taking them home.

We can't (sadly) stop such people. But we can reduce their impact. If each of us picked up any such litter we see outside our houses and put it in our rubbish / recycling, it would make our area look so much tidier. Just a can or bottle here and there will start to make our area look better...

PLOGGING ?????

Plogging is a mixture of walking and running or jogging whilst picking up rubbish at the same time. Each month there will be two routes available so anyone, no matter fitness level, can take part and help clean up the local community. There will be a 2k walking route which is great for those who want a gentle walk and those with young families and a 5k running version, again at a very steady pace. All equipment will be provided.

The next Hounslow plog will take in De Broome/Letrim Park and then go into Hanworth Park; meeting at the Pevensy Road Entrance, on Hounslow Road, on **21 March 2020, 11am – 12.30pm**. [More information and to sign up](#)

S.E.N.D. PARENTS GROUP

Do you have a child with Special Educational Needs and would like to meet up with other parents in a similar position ? SEND Parents Group meets every Tuesday during term time, from 9-10 am at Marlborough community centre.



This is stated as being “a friendly and informal parents group for families of children with special educational needs / different abilities. All welcome, Tea & Coffee provided.”

Further details are in the flyer opposite.

FREE LEGAL ADVICE

We have been advised about a free legal advice scheme being operated locally. They state that “The Elia Zee Community Advice Programme is a free legal advice initiative in partnership with A2 Dominion, Catalyst Housing and The Ealing Community Resource Centre.

Community Advice Programmes have operated nationally as a resource to provide legal advice in the community to those unable to access traditional channels. Our core aim is to break down the barriers to justice and help citizens to secure their rights.



What we can help with

*Criminal & Motoring Offences
Employment & Discrimination
Family & Divorce
Immigration Law
Landlord & Tenant
Personal Injury & Medical Negligence
Personal & Consumer Disputes
Wills & Power of Attorney
Welfare Benefits - Appeals Only*

PLEASE NOTE : In view of the evolving situation related to COVID-19 Elia Zee Community Legal Advice Clinic will be suspending in person services. We will be switching to telephone appointment until further notice.

Timings: 10:00 – 13:00 Saturday Only

Advice Session Dates 2020

21st March, 4th, 18th April, 2nd, 16th May, 6th, 20th June

Summer Vacation

12th, 26th September, 10th, 24th October, 7th, 21st November, 12th December

We operate by appointment only, if your matter is complex please call us in advance to discuss. Advice Agencies and Charities referring are requested to email or call in advance to discuss their client’s needs. **To make an appointment call 0203 925 2340 or email contact@eliazee.com**”

IMPROVEMENTS TO GREAT WEST ROAD VERGE

The grass verge along the Great West Road has become increasingly “tatty”-looking as the grass is churned up by cars driving over it. The verges near St. Francis of Assisi church had wooden bollards erected a while ago and this has successfully protected them.

We have now heard that TfL are planning on extending this, by installing wooden bollards and seeding the grass verge from Vicarage Farm Road to Stucley Road. Letters will be sent to

residents about plans in the next few weeks and aim to complete the works by end of April.

TEMPORARY BRIDGE PROPOSED AT HAMMERSMITH

Drivers trying to cross the Thames will be well aware of the prolonged closure of Hammersmith Bridge. To date pedestrians and cyclists had still been able to use it. Now there are [proposals to build a temporary bridge](#) next to it (for cyclists and pedestrians only) because current access allowed to foot and cycle traffic is limiting the pace at which restoration can be done.

This seems a little surprising given that there is no restoration work currently underway on the bridge. TfL say have applied to central government for funding for the bridge and that, in the meantime, £25 million has been allocated to the project for preparatory and investigatory works as well as the temporary bridge. They were unable to say at this point how long it might take to build the temporary bridge and how much it would cost. So we are still no clearer as to how long it will be before the bridge will reopen – though we can safely assume this will be years away.

MORE LANE CLOSURES ON LONDON ROAD NEAR KEW BRIDGE

TfL have announced, as part of their [work on the construction of Cycle Highway 9](#), that from 17 March the work will extend from the existing site near the junction with Kew Bridge along Kew Bridge Road as far as the Jet Petrol station. Work on this section is scheduled to continue until mid-July with the project around Kew Bridge now due to finish in October 2020.

TfL are warning that the lane closures that will be required during these works are likely to lead to delays in the Brentford area particularly on the A406 (Gunnersbury Avenue), Kew Bridge Road and Chiswick High Road. They say they will be doing all they can to mitigate the resulting congestion by proactively managing traffic signal timings in the area. The works include changes to kerb lines, construction of cycle tracks, resurfacing of footways and carriageways, and the introduction of a new signalised crossing.

If you do choose to drive here, be prepared to spend a lot of time watching people walking along the pavement overtaking you....

LOCAL CARE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Careplace www.careplace.org.uk/ is a web directory of local care and community services and how to pay for them. On this page www.careplace.org.uk/Services/16122 you can download the useful current “Guide to Self-Funding Adult Social Care and Support Services in Hounslow”.

The Community Information Guide from LB Hounslow is an online directory of all of the voluntary and community groups in Hounslow and information about community buildings that are available to hire in the borough <https://cig.hounslow.gov.uk>

“HEALTHY MINDS” DROP-IN SESSIONS

Do you worry about your own or someone else’s mental health? Are you feeling anxious or depressed? The Hounslow Mental Health Support, Wellbeing and Prevention Team (SWAP) can help. They are Social Workers and Social Work Assistants working for the London Borough of Hounslow. Their aim is to help before a crisis occurs. They listen to your concerns, can offer emotional and practical support to help you make plans and can help you talk with professionals.

Telephone: 020 8583 3003, **Email:** SWAP@hounslow.gov.uk

[More information about the drop in sessions](#)

ARE YOU A CARER LOOKING FOR SUPPORT ?

If you’ve found yourself being a carer for a friend, relative, etc. and would like to talk to others in a similar situation and get support and advice on how to cope, then this will be of interest. The next meetings are **3rd April** (for people with long-term conditions) and **20th April** (for people with learning disabilities). See leaflet opposite.

Carers Support Group Meetings

A chance to meet other carers, share knowledge and get support from each other.

We also invite speakers on subjects that may interest you.

Location: Hestia CAN Mezzanine Level 2 Treaty Centre, Hounslow High Street, TW3 1ES

Carers for those with Long-Term Conditions

- 03rd Jan 2020
- 07th Feb 2020
- 09th March 2020
- 03rd April 2020
- 01st May 2020

All 13.30 - 15.30
(usually the 1st Friday of the Month)

Carers for those with Learning Disabilities

- 20th Jan 2020
- 17th Feb 2020
- 19th March 2020
- 20th April 2020
- 18th May 2020

All 10.30 - 12.30
(usually the 3rd Monday of the Month)

Open Invite!
Please bring along your friends who also have caring responsibilities.

For more information, please contact us on 0208 568 7881 or HounslowLIFESupport@hestia.org




For more information, contact Hestia (the organization running these meetings) on 0208 568 7881 or HounslowLIFESupport@hestia.org

The [Gazebo pop-up shop](#) advise us they attended a joint event with Fusion Leisure recently and took the opportunity to clarify the membership discount available to carers.

Monthly concessionary gym membership is **£37.30** (full rate would be £52.75)

- You can use any Fusion leisure centre across the borough.
- Includes gym, classes, swimming and racquets (where available).
- Proof that you are a carer will be needed ([carers emergency card](#) or proof of Carers Allowance, for example).
- No contract required with monthly membership.

- Annual membership will give you one month free, but you are committed for the year.
- There is currently no joining fee (usually £20).

Carers can accompany the 'cared for' person without membership and free of charge as long as they are there to assist and do not exercise themselves. Contact your [local Fusion Leisure Centre](#) to join or for more information.

If the gym isn't for you, [ONE YOU Hounslow](#) can advise you on other exercise options including their very popular (and free) [health walks](#).

In addition there are [CEA free cinema tickets for accompanying carers](#). Also most theatres offer a generous discount on tickets to accompanying carers.



Hounslow Council also have the latest edition of **Information for Carers** out now and [available to download here](#).

The sheet lists services and organisations of particular interest to carers, most of which are free and do not need professional referral. Information for Carers is updated every three months and you can receive an email about new editions by [signing up via Get Connected here](#).

If you need advice on your own caring role, please email MyIndependence@hounslow.gov.uk or call **020 8583 3942**. If you need assistance from Adult Social Care urgently or need to contact the Safeguarding Team to report an incidence of abuse or neglect, you should call the **First Contact Team** on **020 8583 3100** (out of hours 020 8583 2222) or email adultsocialcare@hounslow.gov.uk.

TW8 NEWSLETTER

You might have noticed that we frequently give links to news and stories on <http://www.brentfordtw8.com/> (it covers TW7 as well as TW8). This is a very informative website, and you can sign up to receive their weekly e-newsletter. There are similar websites for Chiswick (<http://www.chiswickw4.com/>) and Ealing (<http://www.ealingtoday.co.uk>).