

THE ARLINGTONIAN

April 2016

The newsletter of the Arlington Association

What's on your mind?

Here's your chance to make your feelings known on local issues and to catch up on what's going on in the area. The Arlington Association's Annual General Meeting will be held upstairs in the Hanbury Arms on Monday 25 April at 7pm.

This is your chance to have your say about local affairs and help influence how we work together to make the most of our neighbourhood. We will be reviewing the AA's work for the last 12 months. Local councillor Martin Klute and Sergeant Cameron Thompson from the St Peter's Safer Neighbourhood Team will be at the meeting to update us on local council and police activities that affect our area.

We will also hear from Lynn Butteriss from Islington Giving, an

independent group of local trusts, foundations, businesses and voluntary organisations who have come together to shine a light on poverty and inequality in Islington. Since September 2010 they have raised over £4 million, which is being invested in young people and supporting residents to make the best of Islington's opportunities.

The Association's AGM is a great opportunity to network with neighbours over a drink, to thank our many hard-working volunteers and for other members who care about our community to learn how they can use their time and skills.

Everyone in the area is welcome. Our Association can only ever be as effective and powerful as its active members. So do come and join us on the 25th.

You already belong

A reminder: you are automatically a member of the Arlington Association if you live in the western part of the Arlington Conservation area – from Prebend Street to the canal, from New North Road to Union Square.

Membership is free and you are welcome to join in all the Association's community activities.

The AA has a committee of 12 including a chair, deputy chair, secretary and treasurer.

We also have a flourishing website, www.arlingtonassociation.org.uk, and a Facebook page, [facebook.com/ArlingtonAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/ArlingtonAssociation). And we now have a Twitter feed: @arlingtonia.

To join our mailing list and receive local news updates, contact arlingtonassociation@hotmail.co.uk.

A record Christmas

Our annual Christmas Fair in the Square seems a long time ago now, but it's worth recalling the event to celebrate the record amount of money we raised for charities.

It didn't snow, but it didn't quite rain either. Santa and his helpful elves, Arl and Tonia, arrived safely from Lapland, our charity buckets overflowed and everyone was in hearty seasonal voice, which may account for the mulled wine running out before the finale. In all, generous Arlingtonians raised a record total of £1,000 to share between our chosen charities, Shelter from the Storm and St Joseph's Hospice.

A letter of thanks from Anita Brien, St Joseph's Community Fundraiser, pointed out: 'Your £500 donation could pay for 17 hours of nursing care on our wards, or 11 sessions of counselling for a bereaved family trying to cope through the Christmas holidays, or could allow our community nurses to visit five patients in the comfort of their own homes. Please pass on my best wishes and my thanks once again to everyone involved.'

A year of donations

In all the Arlington Association donated a total of £2,800 to five local good causes in 2015. (In addition, our local gardeners raised £2,100 for the National Garden Scheme's nursing and caring charities.)

Our policy is, whenever possible, to support small local charities where our donation can really make a difference. If you know of a good cause in Islington that might benefit from the generosity of Arlingtonians, let



The Arlington Choral leads the carol singing at the Christmas Fair in the Square, which raised £1,000 for our chosen charities

us know by an email to arlingtonassociation@hotmail.co.uk.

Our regular community events also raise money to support our ongoing voluntary work greening the neighbourhood.

As always, our grateful thanks go to the hard-working friends and neighbours who so generously offer their time, muscle and skills, and to the local businesses who support our work.

Calendar of events

Arlington Association AGM
Monday 25 April 7pm
Hanbury Arms

The Big Lunch
Sunday 5 June 1–4.30pm
Arlington Square

NGS gardens open for charity
Sunday 12 June, 1.30–5.30pm

Open Garden Squares
Saturday 18 June, 10am–5pm
Sunday 19 June, 2–5pm
Arlington Square

Summer Fete
Saturday 3 September, 1.30–5.30pm
Arlington Square

Christmas Fair
Sunday 11 December, 3.30–5pm
Arlington Square

Community Gardening Days
(10am in Arlington Square)
Saturday 30 April
Saturday 21 May
Saturday 18 June
Saturday 2 July
Saturday 6 August
Saturday 27 August
Saturday 24 September
Saturday 22 October
Saturday 12 November

Everyone in the neighbourhood is welcome to our gardening mornings. They are a very good way to meet neighbours, catch up on local news and enjoy some gentle exercise. Tools, hot drinks and biscuits are provided. Children are very welcome, as are novice gardeners and the green-fingered.

June events are bustin' out all over

We're planning some busy weekends in June this year. First, we'll be celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday with a Big Lunch in the Square on Sunday 5 June. We'll provide tables, chairs and music and everyone is invited to bring a lunch.

Most places in the UK are holding their Big Lunch the following weekend, but that's when we'll be busy with the National Gardens Scheme. On Sunday 12 June, a record nine local gardens will open to visitors as part of the NGS. All the participating gardens are roughly the same size and have the same gardening conditions – terraced house and shade – yet the gardens are all very different, with styles ranging from

ultimate city-slick chic to organic country-style on a budget.

A ticket to view all nine gardens will cost £6 (available on the day at any of the gardens) and there will be live music and refreshments in the vicarage garden at 1a Arlington Square. Last year our gardeners welcomed 350 visitors and raised £2,100 for Macmillan Nurses, Marie Curie Cancer Care and the other nursing and caring charities supported by the NGS. www.ngs.org.uk.

The following week, we've been invited to take part again in London's annual Open Garden Squares Weekend (www.opensquares.org). On 18 and 19 June we'll be welcoming visitors from all over the country to Arlington Square. Our volunteer lead gardener Paul Thomson will offer interested horticulturists guided tours of the varied and unusual planting, and our gardening volunteers will be on hand to talk to visitors interested in setting up community gardening projects in their neighbourhoods. There will also be musical entertainment and, of course, tea and cakes for sale.

Finally, there'll be another 'Pocket Prom' in the vicarage garden on Sunday 26 June. This is our own mini Glyndebourne where ticket holders are invited to bring supper and a rug and enjoy top classical music in the open air.



Our last royal Big Lunch, in June 2012

Another busy season of Proms

The Islington Proms 2016 season kicked off last month with the Cantallini Chamber Choir performing a programme that included Michael Tippett's *Five Negro Spirituals* and movements from Duruflé's lovely *Requiem*. The Proms at St James', Prebend Street continue through to November, and will present more choral singing, along with chamber music, solo piano recitals, operatic arias and big band jazz.

April's Prom is on Saturday 23rd, with the multinational Milgram Trio (violin, cello and piano), Canadian, Israeli and British) playing works that include Mendelssohn's popular D minor trio. On 14 May, the award-winning Scottish pianist Christopher Guild will be perform-

ing on St James' superb Bechstein grand piano in a programme that delivers Beethoven's 'Moonlight' Sonata and Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, together with music by Chopin and Janáček.

The full Islington Proms programme, with details of all 10 concerts, was distributed locally with the printed copy of *The Arlingtonian*. If you're reading the digital version of our newsletter, you can request a printed programme from the Proms organiser John Burniston at vicar@stjamesislington.org, or pick one up at any Prom. To keep up to date, you can join the Proms mailing list by sending an email to info@islingtonproms.org, or by visiting the Proms Facebook page www.facebook.com/IslingtonProms.



The Milgram Trio will play Mendelssohn at the April Islington Prom



April in the Square

The many hours of planning and planting in Arlington Square continue to bear fruit – or rather, blossoms. Some of the flowers that are at their best at this time of year include the attractive white *Narcissus poeticus* 'Actaea' and the many different Camellias and Rhododendrons. The flowers that look like giant snowdrops are *Leucojum aestivum* 'Gravetye Giant' and the pretty blue anemones are *Anemone blanda*, sometimes known as the winter windflower.

In our recent gardening sessions, volunteers have been working hard on the Square's rosebeds. Two beds

are now bordered with *Teucrium lucidrys* (germander). Our lead gardener Paul Thompson was inspired to choose *Teucrium* having seen it planted as an effective border at Highgrove when our gardening volunteers visited as guests of the Prince of Wales.

The Square's perimeter borders are continually being improved, especially the west side which has had a radical make-over in the northwest corner.

Our thanks to everyone who has gone out of their way to say how much they appreciate the appearance of the Square.

Great balls of box: the planting in the northwest corner also includes *Anemanthele lessoniana* (Pheasant's tail grass), *Galium odoratum* (sweet woodruff) and *Geranium* 'Patricia'. Left, from top: *Teucrium lucidrys*, *Narcissus* 'Actaea' and *Anemone blanda*



More plants for the Project

We continue to help develop the garden at the Arlington Project. Our lead volunteer gardener Paul Thompson recently asked the residents to name their favourite flowers. So this spring we will be planting a colourful collection of flowering plants: *Geranium* 'Sirak', *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Orange Field', *Phlox* 'Bright Eyes', *Crocsmia* 'Lucifer', *Leucanthemum* 'Aglai'a' and *Nepeta* 'Six Hills Giant'.

The Arlington Project offers supported living for six adults with learning disabilities and mental health issues. Two of the residents are very active gardeners and often join us to work in the Square on our monthly Saturday gardening mornings.

Not so shoddy

There are 300 million children in the world who rarely or never wear shoes. This makes them extremely vulnerable to infection – and without shoes, many children are not permitted to attend school.

Sal's Shoes is a charity that collects and distributes shoes to children who need them in countries round the world including Africa, Cambodia, Romania and our own Islington. A neighbour of ours appealed through the Arlingtonian Association for children's shoes in good condition – and was delighted to receive 86 pairs. Thanks to everyone who responded.

Learn more about the charity at www.salsshoes.com, which has information on how you can donate any outgrown children's shoes.



Check out an artisan

Are you looking for a reliable plumber, window-cleaner or handyman? The Arlington Association website has a section where members can list tradespeople they have successfully employed and therefore recommend. All sorts of service-providers have been recommended from Asphalters to Vets.

Each nomination includes the recommending member's contact details so you can quiz the satisfied customer before commissioning. To find the list, point your browser at www.arlingtonassociation.org.uk and click on Contact in the top menu.

The church on the corner



We are grateful to Harry of Arlington Square for lending us the splendid photograph above: it shows St Philip's Church, on the corner of Linton Street and Arlington Square, in 1912 or thereabouts.

When the houses of Arlingtonia were built around 1850, the Church Commissioners reserved a space on the corner of the square for a church to accommodate the new population. But due to shortage of funds, building work did not begin until 1855.

The chancel stone was laid by Rev Daniel Wilson on 25 October, when coins and a scroll were deposited in a bottle beneath an inscribed marble slab. After more delays caused by lack of money, St Philip the Evangelist was finally consecrated in January 1857.

The architect was Alexander Gough, who also designed the school that stood behind the church on Rees Street. St Philip's was built in the grey limestone known as Kentish rag and had a square tower topped with a spire and four pinnacles (the 'Rhenish' style). It accommodated 1,100 worshippers and served the district for just under a century.

By the end of the Second World War the building was in a decaying state and in 1953 the church closed, its parish amalgamating

with St James' in Prebend Street. The following year, when St Philip's was being used to store cardboard boxes, a fire destroyed part of the building, so permission was given to demolish it. Arbon Court was built on the site in 1958.

Our second vintage photograph shows children from St Philip's church school in their Sunday best on the occasion of a Children's Service at the Church Missionary College. This institution, built for the training of missionaries, stood on Upper Street opposite the Town Hall. The grand building was demolished in 1915 and replaced by the flats known as Sutton Dwellings.



Top: St Philip's Church and, behind it, the church school, both demolished in the 1950s to be replaced by Arbon Court (above). Below: a children's service took youngsters from Arlington Square to the gardens of the Missionary College in Upper Street

