



FORA Grapevine

Hello from the Forest Residents Association

This year's AGM will be on Saturday 14th May at St Andrews Community Hall. We will be celebrating 10 years of FORA! As a special event we have arranged a curry meal before the AGM starts, to make sure you are well fed and watered before the formal start to the evening. (There will be vegetarian options). I will be reminding you of the things we have done over the last year and also some of the highlights over the last 10 years. You will have the opportunity to elect the new committee for the coming year and take up a position yourself if you feel you have the time. FORA is here as your voice for the community so you can raise any issues at this meeting. We always welcome new members to join us and this is an ideal opportunity for you to bring along any neighbours who are interested in learning more about what we as an organisation do. I have over the last year increased the number of discount shops our members can use and save money and hope you are all taking advantage of this great facility.

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www.forestresidents.org



FORA (Forest Residents' Association)



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Remember by shopping local we are helping our local small business owners as for every £1 you spend 63p is re-spent in the local area (report done by the FSB). The council propose to take away the 15 minute free parking time to be replaced with 5 minutes and a further 10 minutes grace period before people are fined. This would confuse shoppers and changing the signage would be a waste of money. It may even put off some people from stopping so is not good for local businesses. Waltham Forest is doing a shopping survey so go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8F6M8JZ> if you wish to take part.

As well as local issues we are here to bring the community together by holding social events which many of you have attended in the past so don't forget to spread the word. The membership year also comes to an end and you can re-join for another year at the AGM and pick up your new membership card.

Waltham Forest is the third most over flown borough in London. This is due to the impact of being over flown by both Heathrow and City Airport aircraft. The increased flights over our skies started on 4th February and as I write this newsletter the planes pass noisily overhead. As I and many others have said this step was taken without proper consultation with the residents being affected. John Cryer our local MP will be holding a meeting with HACAN East on Friday 22nd April at the Epicentre, in West Street, Leytonstone, from 7pm which I hope you can attend and support.





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A Big Thank You to film maker and local writer John Rogers who took us on a great and interesting guided walk along the Philly Brook, a hidden river under our streets. The tour started at St Andrews Church and ended by Leyton Mills. It's amazing that the river still flows under our streets and can only be noticed when you know where to look! We had 25 people attend and everyone had a great time. I hope to get John to do some other walks in the area in the future and will keep you posted.

I very much look forward to meeting you on this, the 10th anniversary event. Please RSVP via email to confirm your attendance at info@vaseemgill.com.

Vaseem Gill Chair

Future Events

Saturday 16th April Spring Litter Pick – 10 am – 12 noon. Meet corner Forest Glade and Poppleton Road.

Saturday 14th May 2016 AGM – St Andrews Community Hall 6 - 9pm

Saturday 21st May - Neil Houghton Local Walking History Tour 7pm. Meet at St Andrews Church, 153 Colworth Road, Leytonstone, London, E11 1JD

Sunday 12th June – The Queen's 90th Birthday Street Party - 3-5pm To be held in St Andrews Road E11.

Full details to follow.

Tesco Patch & Street Gardening - Frances Simmons

Following the lovely meadow created on the Tesco patch last year through the RHS Grow Wild scheme, several of us have met on a couple of occasions to tidy up the area. The result is that it's beginning to look more like a garden and less like a rubbish dump although cigarette butts still abound. Inspiration came too from Marian Temple's talk on 27th February about how the Wanstead Gardening Community have transformed the area around the Wanstead fountain and the flower beds on the High Street. Marian gave us several perennial and biennial plants to complement the seeds we've sown this year so that eventually we should have some colour and structure throughout the year. <https://www.growwilduk.com/england-and-wales-wild-flower-seed-mix> tells you what seeds we planted in 2015, some of which should come up again this year: all bee friendly. The patch is coming along nicely but needs a little attention every few weeks or so. If you would like to help out, get in touch with FORA or phone Frances on 07910 318474.

Bird Watch - Hollow Ponds - Martin Sepion

On 29th December FORA residents went on a winter bird watch around Hollow Ponds and Wanstead Flats. No real rarities were encountered but we were still impressed with our day list which included: Grey Heron, Shoveler, Coot, Moorhen, Canada Goose, Greylag Goose, Mute Swan, Mallard duck, Gadwall duck, Black Headed Gull, Common Gull, Herring gull, Teal duck, Coal tit, Great tit, Blue tit, Long Tailed tit, Robin, Dunnock, Carrion Crow, Jay, Magpie, Woodpigeon, Stock Dove, Green Finch, Chaffinch, Redwing, Blackbird, Pied Wagtail, Goldcrest, Ring Necked Parakeet, Great Spotted Woodpecker, and Green Woodpecker. A big thanks to our birding expert Neil Twyford for opening the world of birds to us.

FORA: PLANTING AND TENDING THE SEEDS OF LOCAL COMMUNITY SPIRIT SINCE 2006.

For any news in the area please email us at info.fora@hotmail.com