



# FORA Grapevine

## Hello from the Forest Residents Association

The library was opened on the same day as Leytonstone Car Free Day and we were fortunate to have secured a stall to show the public what we at FORA do. The day was very busy with plenty of people having fun with the activities, fancy stalls and the delicious food being served. The ForA team was on hand in the library and gave out flyers to the attendees looking at the renovated library. On the day our committee member Najma managed to sign up a new member from Poppleton Road so well done! We do hope some of the other people we spoke to do join us soon. What was surprising was that there were so many people we spoke to who were out of our area and unable to join. They all commented on how lucky we were to have a voice in the area for our concerns and the community events we hold in bringing neighbours together. Such a blessing!

In September there was a dead body found in the bushes in Hollow Ponds. Many of us regularly go the forest for walks etc and it was quite shocking that such a crime has been committed in our back yard.

Police have identified the body and charged a man for the murder. Please do call the police if you see anything suspicious in the future.

A big thank you to Martin Sepion, FORA Committee Member who has dedicated hours and hours of his time and talent to move us towards a much easier and updated website. Please take some time to visit it and see what is happening in our area and we hope that with your help we can make the site and its links form an easy flow platform of local news [www.forestresidents.org](http://www.forestresidents.org).

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has approved London City Airport to concentrate its flight paths. Departure routes will be concentrated places like Bow, parts of Leyton, Leytonstone, Wanstead, Dagenham and parts of Havering. This is despite the hard campaign we fought for earlier this year by holding meetings in St Andrews Community Hall. Local people, backed by many local authorities, MPs and members of the Greater London Authority, said that a full consultation should have been carried out as some areas would get 30% more planes than they do at present. The CAA was inundated with letters calling for a fresh consultation. This announcement means that the CAA has ruled out a new consultation.

Do you know about Mini-Holland? Waltham Forest Council wants to make cycling and walking an enjoyable, safe and easy way of getting around. You may have noticed the dedicated bike lanes on the roads. As a cyclist I think it's a great idea but there are mixed feelings about the scheme for which the council has received £30m.. Whilst some are pleased with the changes others are not. Residents between Wood Street and Hoe Street are having to travel around their streets (which have been blocked on one end) to get home costing them more in petrol and time. There was also a big demonstration at the Walthamstow Town Hall. Mini Holland is also coming to Leytonstone so please go to the website to look at the proposal to see what changes are planned

<http://www.enjoywalthamforest.co.uk/work-in-you-area/leytonstone-town-centre/>

### FORA Newsletter Issue 30: Q4 2015



[www.forestresidents.org](http://www.forestresidents.org)



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The Leytonstone Pop Up Film Club is now back at Leytonstone Library first Wednesday of each month. Remember that our members get £1 discount on the door prices.

Some of you may have attended Hitchcock's film screening in St John's Churchyard earlier this summer. This time the same team are back for some more family seasonal fun: <http://www.hitchcockshome.co.uk/programme>

Our discount list was looking a bit stale so I thought I'd visit a few shops to get some more shops on board. It's surprising what you can get done in a couple of hours! Please support the new additions listed below as well as the existing shops. We as a community need to support our small businesses.

Finally a Big Thank You to our local MP John Cryer for our parliament tour!

Please keep the emails coming and I look forward to meeting you at our events.

Vaseem Gill ( Chair)

### **Martin Sepion Reports on 2 Recent FORA Events**

#### **31<sup>st</sup> October 2015 A Group from FORA visited the Firepower Museum in Woolwich.**

Woolwich is the historic home of the Royal Artillery and the site of the museum is within the huge former site of the Woolwich Royal Arsenal.

This area is steeped in a history which was revealed to us by our very own Alan Marvin, Military Historian and volunteer at the museum. We saw the development of artillery technology over the centuries, examples of guns from India, China and Turkey as well as European weapons. We saw the loading process for the guns used at Waterloo. Outside the museum was a demonstration of World War 2 guns by a re-enactment group dressed for the period. We saw the museum's impressive collection of medals and heard the fascinating stories behind the awards. We saw the captured Turkish guns (made in China over 200 years ago) from which the Victoria Cross Medals are made. This was a really enjoyable trip enlivened by the expert knowledge and enthusiasm of our guide Alan Marvin.

#### **18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 FORA Residents went on a visit to Parliament.**

A group of Leytonstone residents visited The Houses of Parliament and were treated to an informative and highly entertaining personal tour by our member of parliament John Cryer MP. We met John in Westminster Hall built in 1097-99, John is an excellent and highly knowledgeable speaker and gave us a fascinating history of the parliament buildings, an explanation of how parliament works today, and many anecdotes and stories from behind the scenes at Westminster. We saw where kings and queens of England were laid in state and where the gunpowder had been deposited in the 1605 gunpowder plot. There was a statue of the suffragette Emily Wilding Davison when she chained herself during a protest for women's rights in 1911. We saw the door Black Rod knocks on during the state opening of parliament by the Queen. We entered the division lobby where members of parliament vote for or against by entering either the 'Aye' or the 'No' lobbies. While waiting for John we heard the division bell ring calling MPs to a vote in the commons.