

Westbourne People



BULLETIN



Forum get-together and Christmas party

We're holding a get-together and Christmas party at the Stowe Centre on Monday 5th December, 6.30 to 8.30pm – everyone is welcome. It will be a friendly and sociable evening – with mince pies and mulled wine/hot chocolate! There will be fun activities for children.

Amongst the fun there's an important discussion session: we'll be reporting what Westbourne Forum has done in 2011; and we'll be looking ahead, and putting it to the vote that the Forum's board should continue its job next year.

Also on the agenda, Westminster Council is consulting on 'community governance'. This is in direct response to a petition from 1600 Queens Park residents who want to set up an elected community council (similar to a parish council) in line with new government legislation to help people have more say in their neighbourhoods.

Westminster's review is important and we hope it will allow flexible approaches in different neighbourhoods, including Westbourne. We will be considering our response on 5th December – please come along and have your say, or get in touch for more information.

STOP PRESS: St Mary Magdalene Church and Paddington Development Trust are submitting a £3m bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. If successful the scheme, backed by Westminster Council, will open up this beautiful church for community, heritage and arts activity. Watch this space for further news!

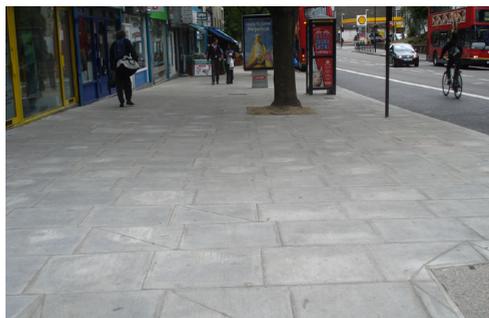
Westbourne Forum, Stowe Centre, 258 Harrow Road, London W2 5ES

Shops

Please come and join us for a coffee and croissant at Blue Nile Bakery on Thursday 8 December 9.30am to celebrate the transformation of the Westbourne shopping parade.



Here's a shot of how it looked before



And here's a shot of how it looks today

For years residents had been saying the parade looked tatty. Then, despite a strong local campaign, national cuts forced the closure of the post office. Westminster Council pledged £60,000 for measures to help the shopping parade, and asked Westbourne Forum to work with the shopkeepers to deliver the scheme.

A common design for 22 new shop signs, plus a new colour scheme, has given the parade more identity, whilst keeping the character of the different shops. All the shops were offered expert advice on how to improve sales.

Shamseldin Mahmoud from the Blue Nile Bakery said: *"It's made the parade more presentable and it feels a more professional environment for my business. Helen and Sheba from the Forum have been great, listening to us and respecting our ideas."*

Sheba Begum commented: *"The 18 shops are all different businesses, so what counted was a strong personal touch and getting the detail right."*

It seemed crazy to do all this work but leave the pavement, then in a terrible state, untouched. The Forum brought the key parties together to agree that action was needed. Westminster Council then took the lead, securing funds to deliver the resurfacing of the pavement.

Stowe Centre Foyer 258 Harrow Road

As part of the ongoing development of the Stowe Foyer as a community hub we have currently organised:

- **Winter Craft Making Event 3rd December 2011**

12.30pm to 3.00pm: Come one come all, bring yourself and your children to the winter craft making event, make presents, decorations, cards, bookmarks, bird feeders and lots lots more. Get creative at this family friendly event, all materials are provided!!!



- **Photography Exhibition 7th December 2011**

6.30pm to 8.00pm: Guest speaker **Linda Bellos** will be talking you through a series of photos depicting the BME contribution to the World wars.

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Mr Ken Smalley - Tribute

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Ken Smalley, a long time Westbourne resident.

Here are tributes from two people who knew him:

"Mr Smalley was a staunch community elder within the community, stood up for what is right he was also my friend and peer advising me on important issues and he will be greatly missed." Mary Amayo, Westbourne resident

"Ken cared actively and passionately about the area in which he lived. His attention to detail and dogged insistence that correct procedure was followed was used effectively to ensure that the best interests of the neighbourhood had to be considered by those seeking to affect the area. He was a Committee member of the North Paddington Society since 2004 and represented us on the Crossrail Liaison Panel and the Westminster Amenity Society Forum. We will miss Ken's bright intelligence and his commitment to things being done properly. We will also miss his warmth and humour and his determination to ensure that lessons from the past were learned and mistakes avoided by those wishing to pursue change for change's sake." Andy Watson, North Paddington Society

London Citizen's

During the summer, Paddington Development Trust became a member of London Citizens, a network of community organisers who share a common purpose of changing communities for the better. Several residents have now received training in community organising, and have been taking part in a listening campaign in the lead up to the London Mayoral election.

They have been visiting coffee mornings, meeting residents one to one and in groups, and listening to the main issues they would like to see the Mayor of London act on. The top issues in North West Paddington have been about housing, community safety, and better opportunities for young people.

On the 15th November, a group of residents travelled to Ealing to represent these views to other institutions from West London.

Local resident Melody says "It's been interesting to find out about how London Citizens works, I'm impressed that they manage to bring large numbers of ordinary people together to tackle issues on a local and national level. It just reinforced for me that we all face similar issues wherever we may live, and that PDT has already been tackling such issues alongside North Westminster residents for many years. I think our involvement with London Citizens will only strengthen all the good work already being done by our community!"

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Gardening

During October and November, things have been coming along well at the garden. A large group of volunteers from PriceWaterhouseCoopers had a work day on the garden, and did a great job at strengthening and reinstating the fence, clearing all the weeds and making the whole garden look a lot neater! Residents have been involved in several volunteer events, and lots of produce is continuing to grow even though it's getting colder. If you are interested in finding out more, stop by the garden and have a look! Then get in touch with Charlotte to find out when the next volunteer opportunity is, on: charlotte@pdt.org.uk or 0207 266 8252.

Computers

Computer access in the Stowe foyer, contact Gary on 020 7266 8253



Tel: 020 7266 8221 www.westbourneforum.org.uk