

Quietway 10. Finsbury Park to the City

The Amwell Society enthusiastically supports the transformation of London with opportunities to cycle more safely. Tragic fatal accidents are still a thing of the moment but reserved lanes, better traffic signals along with Superhighways and Quietways means safer roads for cyclists. Even so, jumping red lights and other misdemeanours are endemic.

With the encouragement of the London Cycling Campaign, Dr Will Norman, the London Mayor's Cycling Commissioner and LBI, Cycle Islington [CI] is champing at the bit to create Quietway 10 stretching from Finsbury Park to the City, up and down Amwell Street. In 2016 CI proposed that many streets, as part of Q10 would be closed to motor traffic, including Amwell Street at the junction of Amwell Street, River Street and Lloyd Baker Street to improve safety for cyclists and reduce pollution. This was discussed at a recent full Council meeting in early July at which CI proclaimed that it had 2,000 signatures urging LBI to take immediate action to implement Q10. There was some Council support for this action but the majority of Councillors were determined that there should be consultation before roads are summarily closed.

Members of the Amwell Society committee have taken urgent and immediate action. We have:

- begun to monitor morning traffic [cycles and motor vehicles travelling down Amwell Street from Pentonville Road. Recently, in a one-hour period between 08.15 and 09.15 1,100 cyclists used Amwell Street while 200 vehicles used the street in the same period.
- written to the Islington Tribune with our Chairman's letter appearing on 21 July. More letters are planned.
- consulted our new Councillor, Ben Mackmurdie whose daughter attends Clerkenwell Parochial School and who is supportive of our concerns about speed of cycles and behaviour of riders.
- started to consider how to gather residents' and tenants' views and those of local businesses.

We will make the case that Amwell Street as well as Margery Street are the only steep hills on and near the proposed Quietway and that special consideration of this is needed - the risk that closing Amwell Street will make our street more dangerous to pedestrians - especially children on their way to school, a threat to local businesses and more tricky for the emergency services.

We will keep all members closely informed about Q10 and seek local views and opinions. There are many committed cyclists in the Society including committee members.

Late Summer Party. Saturday 8 September in St Helena Garden

Between 6.00pm and 8.30pm on 8 September we will be holding the ever-popular annual Late Summer Party in St Helena Garden. The garden is situated between Lloyd Baker Street, at the junction with Lloyd Square and Fensbury Street by the Margery Street Estate. It is a small sunken garden maintained for many years by the Society and regularly maintained thanks mostly to Darian and Delia Mitchell.

Members and their families are very welcome at the party. Drinks will be supplied by the Society and often people bring delicious finger-food to share.

We haven't yet decided what to do in the case of wet-weather, but we'll put notices on the railings redirecting everyone if necessary. All new members are especially welcome to join the party. If any existing member would like to introduce a new member, please bring them along.

Window box competition. A knock-out.

The Society's inaugural window box competition attracted plenty of excellent entries. Joanna Ward, Camilla Jenssen and Sally Hull photographed all the entries and there were generous donations of prizes from Brownings Garage, The Hairdressers and Ground Control. First, second and third prizes went to David & Ella Nazar, Wilmington Square, Bozana Vesilinoska, Amwell Street and Geoffrey Thomas, Great Percy Street. The communal entry was won by the residents of 15-19 Percy Circus. Warm congratulations to all the



The Great Amwell Street Fête

The 10th Amwell Street Fête was held on Sunday 1 July. It was initially conceived as a celebration by and for the local businesses after buying their properties from LBI. This was not a trivial exercise as the initial idea was to sell off the 220 community properties to the highest bidder. It was only after a concerted local effort that the businesses were able to buy their own leasehold properties.

For the 10th anniversary, it was decided to do something special. As part of this process, the community decided to put the fête on a firmer financial and organisational footing. A committee was formed with Dale Barter and Margaret Lamont from Amwell Vets and Miles Browning of Brownings Garage taking the lead.

In addition, there was a broad representation from the local businesses and community including the Amwell Society. The Society also made its bank account available to handle the finances. Substantial seed money was provided by Amwell Vets and Browning's Garage. The business community also contributed either directly or with prizes for the raffle and other services.



Yoga in the streets.

The day of the Fête kicked off with a free group yoga session organised by Fashercise. There was live music and a DJ throughout the day and even a Mariachi troupe provided by Pennies boutique. Raffle tickets were available throughout the day. There was a nice mix of commercial stalls and community groups. The former included a range of food stalls serving paella to bbq and burgers as well as crafts such as pottery and jewellery. These were complemented by local stalls selling cakes, ice cream and homemade lemonade.



The ever-popular dog show.

As always, there were lots of activities for children with a bouncy castle, face-painting and fun-fair rides. As usual, the dog show proved to be a big draw particularly the dog/owner lookalike competition! The Amwell Society was represented and had one of its most successful recruiting drives with 11 new members signed up. Finally, we welcomed the George and Monkey (formerly Simmons and Filthy McNasty's) to the area. The pub generously provided access to their loos and served drinks. Furthermore, the auction of the old "Filthy McNasty's" sign raised £850 which was donated to the fête fund in a very generous gesture. We wish them every success.

New Society noticeboard

Members may have seen the Society's new village noticeboard on the right-hand side of Browning's Garage at the junction of Amwell Street and the end of Great Percy Street. This has been installed to keep members informed about local activities and to encourage new members to join up. Committee member, Camilla Janssen has designed the permanent and beautiful content of the noticeboard. If you're walking down Amwell Street, take a minute to inspect the new board.

The Writing's on the Wall.

Have you noticed, when walking in London, you often see writing on the walls?

Not the graffiti tags now ubiquitous along railway lines and high up on impossible-to-reach parapets and walls.

This writing is the faded remnants of advertisements of years gone by. Here is a photo of a much painted over and adapted advertisement in Regent Square. 'Cures', 'wounds' and 'sores' feature clearly as well as numerous other words which leave little clue as to the product. We can see '...ic' probably for 'tonic'. 'King's' - either a product or a purveyor. Also 'BEST' half covered by later rendering and '...LVE' further up for 'salve' and then '.ATES'S' for 'Bates's' or 'Yates's'.



One sign still visible also close to the Amwell area is on the side of a Dulverton Mansions in Gray's Inn Road, north of

the junction with Theobald's Road. The Gillette company invented the first safety razor. 'Gillette' is still a dominant brand in the razor-blade market. In his comedy, *Entertaining Mr Sloane*, Joe Orton, mentions Dulverton Mansions as the home of pseudo-business man, Ed, who is locked in a power struggle with his sister Kath, for the attentions of Mr Sloane.



Making sure you're safe, as summer turns to autumn.

With concerns about reduced policing in London and increase in violent crime, street thefts and muggings, we advise all members to take extra care. The local police officers are vigilant but over-stretched. So we are reminding members about some obvious measures that you can take to keep safe.

At home:

- Our trump card is the neighbourliness of our area. So if you have an older neighbour ask if they'd like you to keep an eye out for them as well as yourself. Exchange 'phone numbers.
- Make sure that you have adequate front door locks and safety chains.
- Don't allow *anyone* into your house if you are not expecting them...even if they are wearing what looks like an identity card or a uniform.
- Make sure you have window locks and never leave ground-floor windows ajar when you go out.
- If you're planning a trip and will be away from home with your house or flat empty, tell your neighbours so that they can keep an eye out.
- There has been some drug dealing in the Amwell area recently. If you see drugs being handed over, or even if you think you do, telephone the police on 101. It's vital to let the police know.
- A few members have mentioned troublesome neighbours. If noise is an issue, you can telephone the Islington Noise Team on 020 7527 7272. You can leave messages on this number at night-time too.

In the street:

- Don't use your mobile when walking along. There have been several cases recently of 'phone snatching. Thieves ride cycles and have a keen eye for an iPhone.
- Keep wallets and purses tucked away.
- At night walk purposefully and if in any doubt catch a bus to your closest stop near home or take a black cab - the drivers know routes and addresses better than Uber or mini-cabs.

To keep an eye on incidents in the Clerkenwell area have a look at www.police.uk/metropolitan/00AU04N/

Following the very helpful discussion with our new Councillor, Ben Mackmurdie, about cycling, we also recommend that if you have any concerns about our ward or issues about which Councillor Mackmurdie should be aware you can e-mail him on Ben.Mackmurdie@islington.gov.uk You can also attend Cllr Mackmurdie's surgery on the third Saturday of the month at 11.00 at Finsbury Library in St John Street. He doesn't hold a surgery in August.

Remembering Liz

We are sad to report the recent death of Liz Thornton, the wife of Paul, our chairman.

A long-standing member of the Amwell Society, Liz served both on the committee and as Chairman of the Society. She was a leading gardener for the Lloyd Square Garden, which she always ensured was open for London Squares Day and Open Gardens events. The honorary librarian of Chelsea Physic Garden, she was an amazing source of information about London garden history. She led a group of us on a knowledgeable tour of the Physic Garden. Liz was widely read and a source of inspiration to her local reading group, being familiar with a wide range of modern fiction as well as the classics.

Her many friends and neighbours in Lloyd Square and in the Amwell area will miss Liz and we offer Paul and the family our sincere condolences.

Solar panels. Beware of mixed messages.

We are all for energy conservation protection of the environment. Recently most Amwell Society members will have received a letter through the post from LBI Cllr Claudia Webbe offering an opportunity for the installation of solar panels on the roofs of our houses. This is part of the Mayor of London's big, Energy for London Programme - a group-buying scheme which brings together households and local government to buy high-quality solar panels at competitive prices.

In her letter Cllr Webbe asks '*Did you know that living in a Conservation Area doesn't mean missing out on getting solar panels as they are known as a 'permitted development'?* This means, as long as certain conditions are met [such as installation not being visible from the public highway] you don't usually need planning permission.

However, Kristian Kaminski, Deputy Team Leader [Design and Conservation] at LBI wrote to the Amwell Society Committee saying that **Listed Buildings do not have any permitted development rights** so solar panels will require Listed Building Consent and it will, most likely, be refused. As almost all the houses in the Amwell Area are Grade II Listed houses, we advise all members to 1] explore www.islington.gov.uk/solar-together to understand fully the implications of applying for this scheme and 2] if you want to proceed with a bid, discuss the issues with members of the Design and Conservation Team at LBI. www.islington.gov.uk/planning/permitted-development

While writing to the Committee, Kristian mentioned that, after more than eight years, he is leaving LBI to take up an exciting new role with English Heritage. We thank him for his help with Society matters in the past and wish him well in his new job.

The winning taste at the Amwell Street Fête in July

Orange and almond cake. Ingredients:

3 small sweet oranges
6 eggs
250gm [8ozs] ground almonds
250gm [8ozs] castor sugar
1 teaspoon baking powder

For the glaze:

Juice of 2 oranges
80gm [2½ozs] castor sugar

Boil the oranges for an hour till soft, remove any pips and blitz in a liquidiser - peel and all - to a purée. Turn on the oven to 180C.

Whisk the eggs and sugar till they double in size - about 15 mins in a food processor. Add all the other ingredients and stir to combine, but don't overwork it.

Pour the mixture into a greased and lined 23cm (9in) cake tin.

Bake in the oven for 50-60 mins - you may need to cover the top with foil to stop it browning at half time. Use a wooden probe to test whether the cake is done - the probe should come out dry.

While cooking make the orange glaze and boil it down to a volume of about 80ml [3 floz]. Drizzle the glaze over the surface while still hot. Garnish with strips of orange peel.

We welcome a large flock of new members and returners

Catherine Oddy and Daniel Dalton, River Street.
Ian and Christine Baker, Cumberland Gardens
Emma Jacobs and Richard Pendry, Cruikshank Street
Ashley Pangborn, Cruikshank Street
Tara Barnett, Rosebery Avenue
Thomas Fletcher and Samantha Sharman, Wharton Street
Dale Barter and Margaret Lamont, Amwell Street
Laura Holmes and Saam Farahmand, Amwell Street
Paula and Patricia Jones, Amwell Street
Richard Doyle, Amwell Street
Kathy Prendergast and Dan Knight, Claremont Square
Clive Lissamaw, Percy Circus
Roz Lawson and Duncan Cumming, Lloyd Square
Keith DeMendonca, Myddelton Square
Virginia Choy, Lloyd Street
David Roberts, Lloyd Square

All new members will be very welcome at the Late Summer Party in St Helena Garden.