

(Newsletter of the Flask Walk Association, representing Back Lane, Boades Mews, Flask Walk, Gardnor Road, Lakis Close, Lutton Terrace, Mansfield Place, Murray Terrace, New Court and Streatley Place)

Issue No. 17: July 2006

Midsummer Party on the Green

On June 25, the Flask Walk Association held its fifth annual neighbourhood party – and the fourth to be held on the Green. It was a perfect day, a warm (but not too warm) and windless precursor to this hot sunny summer. During the afternoon, hundreds of neighbours and passers-by contributed to the merriment and success of the event. All FWA Committee members in town on the day pitched in to help out, setting up stalls and selling bric-a-brac, refreshments, plants, books, a bottle of Hampstead whisky and a bundle of historic programmes for productions of the National Theatre at the Old Vic. Thanks to all who attended and participated.

Special thanks go to **Joy and Eric Young** for their songs and music; to **Thomas Eve and Capoeira Cativoiro** for demonstrating the art and technique of capoeira dance/martial arts; to **Laurence Hutchins** for the use of his marquees which sheltered us from the sun; to **Mystical Fairies** for beauty, balloons and face-painting; to **John Williamson** for donating the bottle of Hampstead whisky for the auction; to **Michael Lee** for contributing the theatre programmes for the auction; to **Sara Harris** for her fabulous photographs of the day, which are displayed on the FWA Bulletin Board on Flask Walk; and to **Bombay Blueprint** for serving delicious delicacies and sharing their profits with the FWA.

To neighbours who used the occasion to join the FWA, thanks for becoming members. To neighbours reading this who would like to become members of the FWA, there is a membership form on the reverse side: we welcome you.

Flask Walk in Times Past

Since May, when you last read about the “book project” in the last edition of the *Flask Walker*, the committee working on the history of Flask Walk has uncovered fascinating facts and rumours about Flask Walk in times past. The project is now at the editing stage, and it looks as if it will contain well over 100 pages of text and photographs.

We want you to know what’s in store: below is a brief summary of the general structure of the book. There will be ten main sections, each of which will be illustrated (in colour as well as black and white). The chapters cover the Baths and Washhouses, The Flask pub, New Court, Gardnor House, and the former Salvation Army Hall. Further chapters include personal reminiscences of life on Flask Walk in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s, a social history of one of the oldest terraces, and a biographical sketch of Charles Ginner, renowned for his numerous paintings of Flask Walk in the 1920s and 1930s, together with previously-unpublished reproductions of his work.

We plan to print 500 copies of the book; the design/printing costs are estimated at over £ 5000, and the retail price will be £10/book. We are now seeking sponsorship from local businesses and prepaid orders from residents to cover the printing costs.

www.flaskwalk.org.uk

We will – at last – soon have our own website! The site, which is presently being designed and constructed, will allow FWA members better access to information about

the Association and your committee, what we are doing, events and current issues, and contact details of local organisations. It will tell non-members the advantages of joining the Association (and how to do it), and will include details of local attractions. The home page will have changing pictures of Flask Walk through the seasons. There will, of course, be details on how to contact us, current and back issues of the Flask Walker, and details of how to sponsor special activities.

While researching the history of Flask Walk, we have found several former residents of the neighbourhood who are willing to share their memories and recollections of an area of London that they still cherish. FlaskWalk.org.uk will allow people to post their (edited) reflections and comments for everyone to share. We also hope to include a forum area where people can share ideas and concerns about anything related to our neighbourhood.

The website is being created by a small group from the FWA, with the active assistance and enthusiastic leadership of our IT expert Daniel McMahon, daniel@londonpop.co.uk. We would welcome the assistance of more people, though: please contact Daniel if you would like to help.

Check out www.flaskwalk.org.uk in the next few weeks and see how it is developing!

Neighbourhood Renovations

Burgh House celebrated its reopening in mid-July. Highlights are the renovated museum on the first floor, a new gallery for special Museum exhibitions on the ground floor, and a new enclosed garden area off the music room. In early July, the Peggy Jay playground on the Heath (adjacent to the Vale of Health) opened, with new equipment and a renovated play area for the children.

Bulletin Board

Below are names of service providers highly recommended by local residents. If you have questions or want more information.

- **Alexander Technique:** Mel Hampson, tel. 020 7794 1538
- **Builder (large and small jobs):** Stapleton Builders (a family firm), tel. 020 8348 2059
- **Electrician:** Peter Dighton, tel. 07944 855529 or 020 8292 6071; G. Jansen (Kiki), tel. 020 7722 4532 or 07779 252407
- **Painter and Decorator:** Janos Mucha, tel. 07793 988292
- **Piano Tuner:** Steve Robson, tel. 020 7232 2434 or 07905 451131
- **Plumber:** Pimlico Plumbers, tel. 020 7928 8888; 1-2-1 Services, tel. 020 8343 1918
- **Vacuum Cleaner Service:** London K.B.E., tel. 020 8889 9709
- **Window Cleaning:** Elite Windowcleaners, tel. 020 8371 9655

Useful Numbers/Local Information

Police: 999 (emergency number)
020 7404 1212 (non-urgent incidents)
020 8721 2779 (safer neighbourhoods team)

We urge residents to call the safer neighbourhoods team with any concerns of local community safety.

Graffiti removal: 020 7974 6914 or 6915

Noise nuisance: 020 7974 2090

Noise nuisance, Fri/Sat 10 pm-4 am: 020 7974 6955

Refuse collection: 020 7974 6915

Faulty street lighting: 020 7974 8922 or 8929

Environment complaints: 020 7794 2385

Street cleaning: Brad Harris, 020 7974 3982