

THE FLASK WALKER NW.3.

The Flask Walker is the newsletter of the Flask Walk Association, representing the interests of residents and businesses in the area of Flask Walk: Back Lane, Boades Mews, Flask Walk, Gardnor Road, Lakis Close, Lutton Terrace, Mansfield Place, Murray Terrace, New Court and Streatley Place.

Issue No. 26: October 2008

Proud to be on display again

You will all have stopped to admire our handsome new notice board, created by two talented artists. Tony Raymond painted the sign in our house style; Richard Annear crafted the woodwork.



Photo: Sara Harris

Tony Raymond, the artist, is pictured above. Many will recognise him, a habitué of our neighbourhood, often stopping to chat with our neighbours or to lend Jackie a hand in setting out her stall. Tony has his studio not fifty metres from the end of Flask Walk. He has been associated with this place for some – whisper it quietly – forty or more years. First, when it was the studio of Tony's mentor, the renowned artist and author Barbara Jones; later, as his own workplace. The studio itself is a place of wonder, of works of art and ephemera,

overlooking a secret, sun-sparkled, courtyard veiled with Virginia Creeper.

Taken at the age of six from his family home in Norfolk, "on the edge of the known world", to visit Hampton Court Palace, Tony decided that nothing was more marvellous than the baroque painted walls and ceilings he saw there. That visit sealed his destiny. Tony is, first and foremost, a painter of murals.

Sign-writing is not even a sideline of Tony's, more an impetuous response to local needs and to his love of the continuity of craftsmanship and history. He was first asked to renovate Keith Fawkes' shop sign (which, incidentally, had originally been painted by an earlier craftsman, each letter lined with a burin, a specialist engraving tool). Then we approached him with our request. But there was the question of which style to use, and which colours. Look closely at our street signs: they may be similar, but are not the same. Tony chose for the background colour, not absolute black, but the brownish shade that can be found on some of the street name tiles. He created this by applying blackboard paint first, next a stippled glaze of raw umber, and finally black over it. That created the depth of colour that we see on the finished board.

Tony can be contacted on tel 0778 818 1164 or at www.TonyRaymondMurals.com.

Richard Annear, the maker of the cabinet, is pictured on the next page. He writes: 'I have enjoyed a variety of woodworking since an early age, from quarter scale replicas of chests of drawers, to 120' tall ships, and although the main part of my work is boat-building and repair, I do enjoy one-off jobs such as the Flask Walk bulletin board. In fact I was also recently asked to make some replacement honours boards which will hopefully stay in use for at least the next century! Wood is so good for making this sort of item, not least because if looked after a little it stays attractive. It is definitely the best, most versatile material for so many purposes and is much undervalued.

As for the materials used, the wood is Sapele – a more "forest friendly" mahogany-substitute; I also used plenty

of coats of a top quality traditional marine varnish, toughened glass, a decent lock and the pinboard material is recycled newspapers! Of course, I jointed it together rather than simply screwing and gluing.'

Richard can be contacted through www.berry-boats.co.uk.



Richard Annear

The board was designed and erected by our own craftsman, **Mark Nevard**. Thanks also to Roger Hill, for transporting the board to Hampstead.

Radius Works works

Radius Works—you've seen it almost every day—is at the bottom of Back Lane. When the shutters are open, it's possible to catch a glimpse of an electric car or two and, behind them, of a green courtyard. When the shutters are down, there is no indication that this is one of the more successful centres in the fight-back against global poverty and local deprivation.

We don't know where the name Radius Works came from, but do know that in a 1923 directory the site was listed as Radius Motor Works, a repair garage. Around the turn of the 20th century, the building and yard had been used as stables, probably accessed from the High Street through Kiel's Cottages. By 1929, the site was shared by F. Lipscombe & Co Ltd, manufacturing display cases for Ronson cigarette lighters. For the last twenty years, it has been the headquarters of the Charities Advisory Trust.

The Trust was started in 1979 by Hilary Blume, pictured on the next page. Hilary was knighted earlier this

year—as Dame Hilary—for her tireless work supporting the development of voluntary and community groups, in the UK and in poorer countries. She has been one of our neighbours in the Flask Walk neighbourhood for around forty years. "Why should one move anywhere else?" Effervescent and committed, she talks with enthusiasm about the achievements of and plans for her brainchildren.

Card Aid is perhaps the best known of the organisations run from Radius Works: it sells greetings cards, giving at least 40 percent of the proceeds from their sale to named charities. (Many well-known firms promoting 'charity cards' actually donate less than 5 percent of the retail price to charities.) From late October, the Trust runs the card stall in the Hampstead Community Centre, in the Hampstead Theatre, and in a number of other locations throughout the country. One-tenth of all sales in Hampstead is donated to our Community Centre. Volunteers are needed to staff the charity card outlets: do, please, contact the Trust on 020 7794 9835 to offer your services.

Radius Works is also the headquarters for Peace Oil (the production of which supports peace and reconciliation work in the Middle East), the Green Hotel in Mysore, southern India (a prize-winning model of sustainable, comfortable tourism, with the proceeds going to benefit environmental projects in India), *Development from the Inside* (an organisation that provides training for students of development, in Mysore), and *Medical Student Electives* (which gives medical students from developed countries an opportunity for hands-on assistance in poor rural communities in India and Africa, allowing a mutually-rewarding placement). Each of these initiatives merits a separate article of their own.

The star in this firmament is the Good Gifts Catalogue. Does it need an introduction? It provides a delightful choice of presents for family and friends, which give long-term benefits to poor families, needy communities and our own environment. Presents range from Goats-for-Peace, through provision of Independence Kits for young or homeless people, to the purchase and preservation of rainforest and greenbelt land. 'Some of our people were very upset when organisations like Oxfam "stole" our idea', says Hilary, 'but I was delighted: it opened up a whole new way of giving to charity'.

Hilary Blume, among other activities, is Patron of *Trees for Cities*, whose start-up was funded by the Charities Advisory Trust. One of its smallest initiatives was the planting of a plane tree, outside the Coffee Cup, in honour of the many refugees who have contributed to the vitality of Hampstead. What does Hilary want for Hampstead and the Flask Walk area? Her response is a

stream of ideas: 'Commitment by Camden to manage their retail properties in order to make Hampstead more like Marylebone High Street; creation of a network of local neighbourhood associations; a prohibition on people re-starting major building works to their houses within five years; a campaign to offer the needy of Hampstead food that would otherwise be discarded by Tesco and other shops; planting an orchard by Whitestone Pond...'

www.CharitiesAdvisoryTrust.org.uk; Radius Works, Back Lane, London NW3 1HL

Additional research on the history of Radius Works by Marianne Colloms



Hilary Blume. Photo: Michael Lee

Your Flask Walker

This is your local newsletter. As you will have seen in recent issues, we welcome contributions from residents. Please do write to tell us your views on the

neighbourhood, what you would like to see in the Flask Walker, complaints and gripes, commendations for good services received. Just drop a note through the letterbox of 37 Flask Walk to let us know your thoughts or to submit your own article.

Some services recommended by local residents:

- **Alexander Technique:** Mel Hampson, tel. 020 7794 1538
- **Builder (large and small jobs):** Stapleton Builders (a family firm), tel. 020 8348 2059
- **Builder (e.g. creative refitting):** Filipe Matos, tel. 020 8962 0190, 07939 159284 or 07817 301517
- **Electrician:** Mark Winston, tel. 07813 046 253; Peter Dighton, tel. 07944 855529 or 020 8292 6071
- **Gardeners:** Caroline Egan (garden design), tel. 020 8340 2706; Vickie Parker / *Muddy Boots* (garden maintenance and design), tel 020 7433 1016 or 07706 624 392
- **Heating/plumbing:** Edward Hurst (and Steve Parkhurst), tel 020 8808 1282 or 07984 707 753; Noel, tel 020 8360 3533
- **Locksmith:** Newman & Son, tel. 020 7284 1002
- **Massage therapy:** Rose Sawkins, tel. 020 7433 1322 or 07790 900430
- **Osteopath:** Daniel Stuttard, tel. 020 7730 1179
- **Physiotherapist:** Hampstead Physiotherapy Practice, 12 Church Row, tel 020 7794 9078
- **Piano Teacher** (all ages, levels): Gemma Green, tel. 07863 549524
- **Piano Tuner:** Steve Robson, tel. 020 7232 2434 or 07905 451131
- **Plumber:** 1-2-1 Services, tel. 020 8343 1918
- **Tailor:** Unique Tailors, 15 Flask Walk, tel 020 7431 3314
- **Vacuum Cleaner Service:** London K.B.E., tel. 020 8889 9709
- **Web and Graphic Design:** LondonPop Design Group, tel. 020 7431 5645
- **Window Cleaning:** Elite Windowcleaners, tel. 020 8371 9655

The Flask Walker is the newsletter of the Flask Walk Association (PO Box 59217, London NW3 9FD; www.flaskwalk.org.uk)

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Yes, I would like to be a paid-up member of my local neighbourhood association – the Flask Walk Association (FWA).

I/We enclose a cheque/cash for £ _____ (minimum £5 / household) as my/our subscription to the Flask Walk Association for 2008. Please return this form with your payment to Simon Marshall, FWA Treasurer, 73 Flask Walk. Thank you for your support.

Name and contact details (address, email, phone):