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**Macmillan
Coffee
Morning
Sunday 30th
September
11am - 1pm
in the
Windermere**

**Great Summer Party
Lots of people
Fabulous weather**

As always our Summer party was a great success. The weather was very much on our side. The kids loved the bouncy castles. There was so much running around, it made you tired just watching. My best friend won a price in the raffle, so I was well pleased. Thank you to all the helpers who ensured that we sold many more tickets on the day.

Jeff Toogood, our Chief Road Steward is sorting out some changes and reallocating vacant roads. Our plea goes out to all of you to consider taking on the task of a road steward. If your road has no road steward, please consider taking on the job. Being a road steward in your own road is a great way of keeping in touch with your neighbours.

If you would like to know more, contact Jeff (his details are on page 14).

SKPPRA Summer Party

A big thank you to all who attended the Summer Garden Party at the Windermere Pub on July 1st. This was its 7th year running and once again it received great support from the community despite the extremely warm temperatures on the day. As part of the committee's efforts to promote diversity, each year we invite a different cultural act to perform at the party. This year we had the pleasure of the Rio Dancers, a duo who performed a fifteen minute long Samba dance. Draped in their feather type costume they encouraged both the young and the old to join them in the dancing.

The usual kids activities and the live music also took place as did the Raffle which helps to raise funds for St. Lukes Hospice as well as helping with the running of the committee.

And the raffle winners are.....

- 1st Prize - £100 - a resident in College Road**
- 2nd Prize - £50 - a resident in Arnside Gardens**
- 3rd Prize - £40 - a resident in Derwent Gardens**

We hope to see all of you again at next year's Residents Party.
Thank you for you continued support. Noel

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Steam Engine goes missing

Since childhood I observed an old steam engine parked in a commercial driveway on Victoria Road, NW10. It recently disappeared. Upon investigation I discovered that the Managing Director of Quattro, a cement manufacturing company, had recently shipped the engine to his farm in Iver, Bucks. Fortunately, the MD is an industrial archaeology conservationist and is going to renovate the engine in the near future. It is likely that the engine will become an exhibit in the Gunnersbury Museum. The steam engine was used during WW1 to clean and fumigate soldiers uniforms. The steam engine had been removed from Victoria Road to make way for preparations for HS2.

Frank Trevis 14/7/18

Bottle Tops and Jacket

The time has come when I have to give up collecting bottle tops. It was fun to deliver them to the company in Southsee, but alas my friends who I used to visit on the Isle of White have passed away and there is now no longer a reason for the long journey. I am now searching for ways to get the pile of sacks stored in my garage to the company. My thanks to all of you who helped with the collection.

About two months or so ago I receive quite a large bag from a resident and when I opened it to store the bottle tops I found a shopping bag from the House of Fraser and inside there is a beautiful suit. If that is your suit and you have desperately searched for it, it is in my house for you to collect.

Trixi

Trees & Woods ad

(James/SAP to insert)

Windermere Avenue Shopping Parade

High Street shops are facing an uncertain future as more retail purchases are made through the internet. Local convenience shops and services like those on Windermere Avenue are not immune from these developments but convenience shopping on the way to and from work and a local pharmacy and a dentist will hopefully be less affected by internet alternatives.

SKPPRA values the local parade at South Kenton station for the services it provides and as one of the few community spaces in our area. The parade is in need of a facelift and the station entrance is neglected and unattractive for passengers especially late at night. For these reasons SKPPRA has made a bid to the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy fund (CIL) for funding to invest in new shopfronts, a new station entrance, new trees and better paving.

The CIL fund is effectively a tax on new developments and is designed to pay for the 'infrastructure' stresses that new developments place on existing schools, transport and green spaces. Most of the funds collected are spent directly on these facilities and services however part of the fund is available to be spent on projects suggested to Brent Council by residents or community groups. SKPPRA believes that investment in the parade will make the existing shops and services more attractive to use and the station safer and more comfortable for passengers. They will also provide an impetus to the existing shops and restaurant to trade on the street and will assist with the successful occupation of the vacant units. Details of the proposals can be seen at www.skppra.co.uk and residents can make comments directly to the Brent team by emailing CILadmin@brent.gov.uk. A decision on SKPPRA's bid will be made in the Autumn. *Michael Rushe, Chair, SKPPRA*



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The Hayward

The Hayward Gallery, part of the Southbank Centre near Waterloo, was first opened in 1968. Its concrete structure exemplified the so-called 'Brutalist' style which had both friends and enemies. But even without an exhibition it is an interesting building to explore. At the end of January, after a two year refurbishment, it re-opened with an exhibition displaying four decades of the work of the German photographic artist Andreas Gursky. How can photographs fill a gallery? Well, the pictures are mostly huge.

An early example, Mülheim, Anglers, shows a group of anglers on the banks of the Ruhr as a tiny detail in a wall-filling picture. It is intended to express their relationship with the environment rather than as just a group who happen to be in a rural setting. We could be viewing the scene live instead of through a photographer's lens. In this way Gursky's works are different from the - sometimes harrowing - images in the press photographs displayed annually in the Royal Festival Hall.

Later photographs involve a technique known as digital post production, in which he blends several shots to produce a single giant image. Particularly striking is a panoramic vista showing the Tour de France in the mountains of the South. The long winding road with support vehicles and spectators helps to explain the effort required by the riders as post production enables Gursky to introduce an element of fiction into his pictures, imagining events that could not have happened in the way they are shown. This is not 'false news'. These are works of art.

Pedestrians crossing Waterloo Bridge in the Spring may have noticed a very large image of rooftops on the side of the Queen Elizabeth Hall. This was expanded from one of the pictures in the exhibition, a trailer for what is on show.. Gursky's, parents had a commercial photography studio in Düsseldorf where he still lives. He has travelled all over the world looking for suitable subjects. The results display an inventive mind, acknowledging no boundaries to his art.

Alas, the exhibition finished in April. If the standard of this exhibition can be maintained in future shows the return of The Hayward will be another bonus for us spoilt Londoners.

DMP

The West Highland Way

I finally completed a long held ambition last month when I walked the 96 miles of the West Highland Way. Starting in Milngavie, just north of Glasgow, the WHW wends it's way along the shores of Loch Lomond and then heads off through stunning scenery to its final destination of Fort William.

Our little group started off on a quiet Sunday morning. Led by Taff, an ex-Marine and experienced walker and mountaineer, we walked through relatively flat, woodland country until we came to our first hint of the mountainous country to come, the Campsie Fells. When I used to live in the area as a child, these were the hills we could see from our back garden.

Our first night was spent in Drymen, from where we headed for Loch Lomond on a beautiful sunny morning. The highlight of the day was climbing Conic Hill above Balmaha, on the southeast edge of the loch, and the stunning views from the top. You could clearly see the geological fault line which marked the transition from the Lowlands to the Highlands.

Much of the rest of that day and the next was spent scrambling (sometimes literally) along the shores of Loch Lomond. One of our group even managed to take a tumble down the bank. Luckily, he got back on the path unscathed but it illustrates how careful you have to be along this route.

Leaving Loch Lomond behind, we started to encounter wilder and much less populated country, not counting the many walkers we met of various nationalities along the way. The weather changed and we reached Tyndrum in steady rain.

Luckily, this was the only time over the whole week that was really wet.

(cont. pg 9)

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Save Water in your Garden

① I found a booklet published by Veolia Water.co.uk some time ago containing lots of useful tips to save water in your garden which is something we need to do this summer.

① Use household water on the garden, for instance tip the washing up bowl not down the sink by over your plants. They say that a small amount of detergent or bubble bath will not harm the plants.

① Use a watering can. I have a small can in the kitchen and pour any water into the can to water my roses.

① They also say if you use a hose use the trigger gun that can be directed at specific plants.

① Water plants in the early morning or evening when it is cooler and there is less chance of the water evaporating.

① Thoroughly soak the plant roots twice a week rather daily light sprinkling.

① Lawns may turn brown but don't need watering, they will recover when it rains.

① Cut your lawns less frequently during dry weather and leave the cutting on the lawn - it will return moisture and nutrients to the soil.

① Apply organic mulch around plants to conserve water by reducing surface evaporation and weeds.

① Used tea leaves or bags make a good mulch - roses in particular like cold tea.

① Large containers needs less frequent watering than small pots. Place small pots into large containers, group them to help humidity and slow down evaporation.

Above all, enjoy your garden knowing it will recover...

Trixi

.....

(cont. from prev. page) From this point we started to get into really mountainous country. For me, the highlight of the whole trip was crossing Rannoch Moor as the clouds were lifting to reveal the beautiful scene of Buachaille Etive Mor standing sentinel over the approach to Glen Etive and Glen Coe. We also met Adam with his donkey, Martin, who were walking the entire length of Scotland and England for charity! (see www.adamwalks.wordpress.com)

The last couple of days featured more beautiful scenery culminating in us skirting past the vast bulk of Ben Nevis and then descending down to Fort William and the finish. It had been a great week of walking with a really friendly bunch of people. We all socialised in the evenings wherever we were, even managing to watch the England v Croatia game in a pub in Crianlarich! Now for the next adventure... *Jeff*

SKPPRA AGM 5 June 2018

Around 40 people attended our AGM when we heard updates from the representatives of St Luke's Hospice, Police Constables for Preston Ward, Preston Community Library, the newly elected Ward Councillors, Ihtesham Malik Afzal and Daniel Kennelly, and, of course, the SKPPRA Chairman, Michael Rushe.

The meeting group agreed prioritisation is needed on what projects the Council spends its money on. A resident reported that two new zebra crossings are going up in Preston Road whilst not many potholes are fixed. Another resident urges the Council to review quality control measures after witnessing a road sweeper at 6am one morning only cleaning one section of the road before swiftly moving on to the next. Brent charges one of the highest Council tax in the region. The Councillors noted that Brent has ongoing issues with quality control with Conway as the contract was signed by government in the first place and not the Council.

The Treasurer Sagar Patel informed the meeting group that SKPPRA accounts are showing a surplus, thanks to funds raised from membership subscriptions, the Summer Party raffle collection, local businesses and residents advertising in the SKPPRA newsletter. SKPPRA is open to suggestions from residents regarding efforts on how to invest back in to the community.

Michael Rushe, the Chairman reported that this year's AGM marks the 80th AGM of SKPPRA. The resident association was established in the area in 1937. This year's summer party will be held on Sunday 1st July and funds generated at the party help to support St. Luke's. SKPPRA continues to represent residents and monitors development plans by Brent Council. The Council is conducting a feasibility study for the development plan (build of 600 -1000 flats and amenities) focused on the area in and around Northwick Park Hospital and Westminster University. The project is referred to as 'One Public Estate'. The statement from the Council is that existing green spaces/ fields making up Northwick Park are excluded from development and will not be built on.

SKPPRA has consulted with local residents on initiatives to improve the local area. The Windermere shops parade is a focal point. Residents would like to see an improved look of the shop facades. Consultations have begun with shop owners and leaseholders. The proposed design was shared with meeting attendees and their feedback requested. The next step is then to apply for funding from Brent Council and access the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding pot.

The SKPPRA Committee was re-elected for another year.

Volks Railway

The Volks Electric Railway runs for a mile along Brighton beach from the Aquarium station near the Palace Pier, eastwards to Black Rock. It was founded in 1883 by the locally renowned electrical engineer and inventor Magnus Volk. While it may have not been the first, it is certainly the most enduring. The four-wheeled railcars run singly or in pairs on a narrow gauge track and pick up 110vDC electricity from a third rail.

The cars trundle along at a maximum speed of 13mph, clanking through the spring-loaded points at the passing loops and sounding a screeching whistle at the approach to each pedestrian crossing point. This is an enjoyable and gentle experience for young and old offering neither the frustrations of crazy golf when the ball will not go in the hole, nor the palpitations of a roller coaster.

The railway has undergone a two-year Heritage Lottery-funded re-furbishment and opened at Easter. When I visited it on a wet and windy Good Friday the trains were not running; the drivers stand at the front, exposed to the weather. But with a break in the rain one return journey was put on for a handful of us nostalgic passengers.

There is a half-way stop at Peter Pan's Playground. Here there is a café with rooftop seating. Nearby there are the maintenance workshops with a viewing area, but at the time of writing this was not yet ready. Black Rock station feels like the edge of the world; so buy an ice cream!

A desolate area behind hoardings is the site of a planned conference centre. At present, a short walk takes one through an ASDA car park to Brighton Marina. It is not necessary to own a yacht to take advantage of the large selection of restaurants, boutiques, a cinema and even a gym. Not the most beautiful place, but well worth a visit, whether you travel by car, bus, or the Volks Electric Railway. The line is closed in winter.

DMP 30.4.18

Newly retired? Kenton U3A has something for you

If you have just retired you may not yet have heard of the U3A. There is a very active local branch running groups and classes on subjects as diverse as bridge, current affairs, art, theatre trips, the Magic of the Musicals, walks and much more, all for £35 a year. (Some classes have an extra charge for materials or travel). The U3A is open to all who have ceased full time employment and the only requirement is a desire to learn and take part. This is the ideal time to think about it as courses will start again in September. For full details of what's on offer go to <http://www.kentondistrictu3a.org>, check out the notice board and join up! *Christine*

Steps to make your home less attractive to a burglar

Building - Lock doors and windows when you go out. Make your home look occupied when you are away. Install a burglar alarm or security grills.

Outside - Keep hedges low in front gardens so burglars have nowhere to hide. Keep side gates, sheds and garages locked. Install trellises and spiky plants to stop thieves climbing over fences.

Be a good neighbour - Agree with your neighbour to help keep an eye on their property whilst away. Pull in wheelie bins once they have been emptied. Lock communal doors in flats and never let in anyone you do not know.

Valuables - keep valuables and ID out of sight. Put keys out of reach of letterbox. Property mark and photographs valuable so they can be identified.

Summer - As the evenings get lighter and longer, keep sheds and side gates locked. Don't leave tools lying around in the garden. Don't leave ground floor windows and doors open whilst you are upstairs.

Going on holiday? Cancel milk and other deliveries. Don't advertise on social media that you are away from home. Ask a neighbour to keep an eye out whilst you are away.

Autumn - (when the nights start to draw in) - readjust your time switches when the clocks go back. Consider installing outside security lighting. Draw the curtains when it starts to get dark.

Winter (burglaries increase during winter months) - keep Christmas presents out of view. Nominate a safe place or neighbour for deliveries when ordering presents online. Leave a light on when you go out.

Frank Treviss

A Cuppa with a Copper

PCSO George Popa and his colleagues attend regular SNT sessions at Preston Park Community Library, Carlton Avenue East. These sessions are very informative, you can talk to them and you can seek general help and advice.

These sessions take place regularly and to find out about forthcoming dates, go to the Preston Community Library, Carlton Avenue East where they have a little leaflet for you to pick up. Be aware, however, that some dates could change, because in the first place they have some policing to do!

I consider PCSO George Popa “our” SKPPRA police officer. He is very helpful and easy to talk to.

The SNT contact details are:

Email: Prestonwardsnt@gmail.com

Twitter: [@prestonwardsnt](https://twitter.com/prestonwardsnt)

Preston SNT Ward mobile:07920 233 753

Address: PCSO George Popa, Wembley Police Station,
603 Harrow Road, Wembley HA0 2HH

***However difficult life may seem, there is
always something you can do
and succeed in.***

Stephen Hawking
died 14 March 2018, Cambridge