

Newsletter 29: September 2014 – **The Trees Issue**

Magnolias Blossom in Belfast Road

In February this year, new trees were planted along Belfast and Windus Roads. The project was organised by Rupert Bentley Walls, Head arboriculturist at Hackney Council. 'Forest trees' – the limes and planes favoured by the Victorians when they laid out the area and which gave us the magnificent vault along Cazenove Road – are used only where they can grow naturally to their full height. Rupert hates the 'surgery' of pollarding. This means that the trees which have been planted are ornamentals, appropriate for the each road. They are selected because of their size and smaller canopies and are small-leaved specimens which will have interest all year round. In Belfast Road there are flowering specimens. You'll find 'Heaven Scent' (*magnolia*) 'Red Cascade' (*euonymus europaeus*) 'White Cloud' (*chitalpa tashkentensis*) and the 'Wedding-cake Tree' (*cornus controversus*). Windus Road is less exotic with birches and cherries but the beauty comes from the barks of the birches and in the deep purple of the leaves of the *betula purpurea*.

Cazenove now has over 650 street trees, one of



the highest counts in any Hackney ward. Serious planting began over a decade ago with the Windus Streets for People scheme. Along with road closures and traffic restrictions and along with pavement art and the boulders came trees. We can now enjoy the foresight of the small group of residents who found a natural way of softening the area. It's good to know that the rolling programme is continuing.

This spring was part of the latest phase of the mayor's commitment to plant 1,000 street trees over a four-year period. The scheme relies on tree champions, a network of people across the borough prepared to develop proposals with their neighbours, and to water the trees whilst they are establishing themselves.

We will be looking to plant some spring bulbs around the base of the trees on Belfast Road this autumn – contact Vicki Webb at vichosking@gmail.com for more information or to organise planting around the trees on your street.

Annual General Meeting: Wednesday 1st October @ 7.30 p.m

St Michael and All Angels' Church Hall (Corner of Fountayne and Northwold)

Guest Speaker: Rupert Bentley Walls, Arboriculturist for Hackney Council

Trees in Cazenove Ward – what's been done so far, what's in store

Rupert has a budget and is keen to hear where we would like to see trees planted.
Bring your questions and suggestions for further greening of the Ward.

Followed by the election of officers for 2014-2015.

Nominations for Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and up to eight Committee Members
to Iain Bruce at oxibruce@blueyonder.co.uk or at the meeting.

CHAINSAWS AND TREES



Cazenove has lost a number of trees through illegal felling. Trees are protected if they are in the Conservation Area (see the map at: <http://cazenovearea.org.uk/maps-and-walks/modern-maps/>) or if they are protected by a Preservation Order (<http://www.map.hackney.gov.uk/Find-My-Nearest/>).

If you hear chainsaws **ACT FAST**

- Is the tree in the Conservation Area?
- Does it have a Preservation Order?

If the answer to either is **YES**

- Check if permission has been given for work by going to Hackney Planning Website and entering the address of the house (<http://apps.hackney.gov.uk/servapps/Northgate/PlanningExplorer/generalsearch.aspx>)

If there is **NO PERMISSION**

- Phone Nick Jacobs, Hackney Tree Officer on 020 8356 8078. Leave a message if he's out. (He often is).
- Speak to the workers as they bring branches out to their shredder. Tell them you have checked and that they do not have permission.
- Do not accept denials of illegality or protestations of ignorance.
- Speak to the homeowner if present.
- Note down – ideally photograph – the lorry to record the name of the company and the registration number of the vehicle.
- Remind whoever is in charge that illegal work on the tree is subject to a fine of up to £20,000 for both the home owner and the company.
- Experience shows that polite intervention works.

*Once a tree is gone –
it's gone.*

A Tree Preserved

For an example of effective intervention – before the chainsaw gang arrived – have a look at this year's case of 77 Osbaldeston Road at (<http://cazenovearea.org.uk/tree-saved/>).

The Number 1 Garden

Some of you may have noticed the garden at number 1a Osbaldeston Rd, and if you've lived in the area long enough, seen it transform from a glorious rubbish dump to an even more glorious little garden. It had been planted and tended by a previous tenant at 1A, but then when she moved out, it attracted builders' rubble and more. Now, with the housing association's (Circle) approval, a group of local residents have transformed it. We dug out most of the nettles, planted up some 'beds', (mostly donations from local people's gardens), pruned the fruit trees, weeded and *voilà*. Our current ambition is to replace the little bench and, to do so, aim to have a little fundraising garden party there soon – Sunday October 12th at 2 p.m.. If you'd like to donate to that or come along and do a spot of gardening, contact Berni on 07870 303143. Seriously, no skills required.

By the way, we have also rescued and planted up the area outside Rectory Road Station and gardens in Sanford Terrace - for people unable to do so

**Join a wide group of neighbours
through CAAG's email system.**

**Subscribe by sending an email to:
cazenovearea-subscribe@yahoo.com**

Hackney Services

Large items collected free – up to **five items** per collection and up to **four collections** per household each year. Phone **020 8356 6688**

Noise Pollution If you have been experiencing noise nuisance for some time and/or the noise is currently ongoing you should call **020 8356 4455**.