

Alexandra & Ainsworth Newsletter

Tenants & Residents Association

Alexandra & Ainsworth Tenant and Residents Association... We are stronger together!

Joining your TRA is essentially about strength in numbers. As a council tenant, dealing with a local authority can be a daunting and frustrating experience. At the A&A TRA we endeavour to completely change this dynamic for the benefit of all of our residents.

Although elements of our estates are dramatically different there are many aspects that are similar or are communally beneficial. Your TRA consistently holds Camden council to task on its duties and responsibilities. The TRA has an incredible track record in gaining funding for improving our green spaces and other aspects of our homes and provides numerous community events which are well attended by the whole community and also by

visitors from further afield. These things don't happen without hard work from our members.

We meet every month and no matter where you live on the estate all are welcome. Recently one of our TRA meetings was attended by residents from another estate who were starting up a TRA because they wanted to see how we managed to do what we do.

I urge you as a tenant or resident of the Alexandra or the Ainsworth estate to join us, perhaps even on the committee, and work with us to continue making Camden council listen to us and do what is right for our homes and our community. Without your input things may be missed, without your voice we may not be heard.

We are stronger (and louder) together.

Luke D'Silva
Chair
A&A TRA

Notice is hereby given of the forthcoming Annual General Meeting

6.45pm for a 7pm start on Wednesday 17th June 2026
in the Tenants Hall (entrance by the 3 tall chimneys)

Everyone who lives on this estate is welcome.

Protecting the Historic Interiors and Exteriors of the Alexandra Road Estate (Concrete buildings)

Our estate is a world-class architectural masterpiece that attracts visitors worldwide. Long-term residents will remember that it was listed as a Grade II* building on 18 August 1993. This listing provides legal protection for the interiors of all flats, covering all original fixtures and fittings such as doors, skirting boards, kitchens, cupboards, wardrobes, and other details. Internal alterations are not permitted unless listed building consent has been obtained in advance.

This system depends on residents following the correct procedure: commissioning appropriate plans where required, preparing supporting reports, and submitting formal applications to Camden Council. Unauthorised works not only destroy our carefully designed period interiors; they are also a criminal offence. Enforcement can include orders to reinstate everything that was removed or altered, at the resident's own expense. And be advised: this does happen.

New residents are expected to be informed of these restrictions. For leaseholders, this responsibility lies with estate agents or surveyors. For tenants, council officers are expected to provide the relevant information, and it is included in the official welcome pack. However, there are concerns that this message is not always communicated or understood at the point of purchase or letting.

There appears to be a recurring pattern of new arrivals ignoring these warnings and carrying out alterations soon after moving in. This is all the more unforgivable in the case of longer-

term residents, who know they are committing a criminal offence. The alterations often involve demolishing walls or removing original kitchens, doors, etc., which are then discarded as waste.

These works are often most noticeable at weekends and can be noisy. If you see, hear, or suspect demolition activity, removal of original fittings, or delivery of materials for unauthorised works, it should be reported to Camden Council's Planning Enforcement Team. You should do this immediately, as evidence is often removed quickly.

Report it online via Camden Council's website by searching for "Report a breach of planning regulations". You will need to provide the exact address, a description of the works, dates and times observed, photographs taken from a lawful vantage point, and any evidence such as waste or materials.

Unauthorised alteration of listed interiors is a criminal matter. A number of cases have already been pursued successfully, and monitoring will continue to increase.

As well as not making any internal alternations, you are not allowed to fix anything to the outside of the building, build sheds etc. Painting the concrete, anywhere, is absolutely forbidden, and the metal railings can only be painted in two approved shades of red or blue - no other colour.

There is a big issue with attaching retractable sunblinds to the concrete. Camden Council is very strict about this, but many people ignore it because Block A in particular gets dangerously hot sometimes, and sun protection is essential. Camden can order sunblinds to be taken down, and threatens legal enforcement action. But in view of the health and safety issues, tenants may wish to lobby Camden Council to remove the restriction on sunblinds.

Please ensure this information is shared with other residents.

By the Mystery Architect

British Standard BS4800 18-C-39

Dark Blue - High Gloss

Colour of the railings on the stairs
and outside your front doors - the
public areas



British Standard BS4800 04-E-53

Carnival - High Gloss

Colour of the railings on your
balconies and gates into your
private front yards.

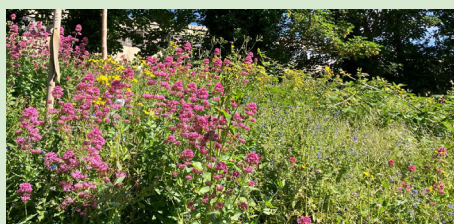


Window frames inside and outside should NOT be painted. Re-stain with Sadolin, Classic Wood Protector - colour EBONY.

Day Trip for residents only to Walton-on-the-Naze Saturday 15th August (date to be confirmed)

We need another volunteer to help with this very popular free day out for the residents. Please get in contact aandatra@outlook.com if you can help!

We will issue more details about tickets nearer the time - if we have enough volunteers to help!



Alexandra Road Park

In 2015 the Alexandra Road Park was rescued from neglect by three residents using a £1.3 million HLF lottery fund. It is now over 10 years since this happened and the Park is showing signs of wear once again.

Many people believe it is only the concrete buildings that are listed Grade II* but during Covid the park itself was quietly recognised as special and received a Grade II* listing - an unusual accolade. It is a rare example of a 20th century Park with its unusual layout and marvellous planting. Janet Jack was the landscape architect and Neave Brown was the architect.

The past year has been a tough one for Alexandra Road Park. We said goodbye to the homeless who were camped for months beside the main entrance on Abbey Road.

We are now delighted, amazed even, to welcome the restoration of the long empty hive building as a children's Nursery - its original purpose.

As most of us will have heard it was our national treasure David Attenborough's 100th birthday earlier this month and I'm sure many of us will have watched his film *Wild London*. It emphasises how lucky we are to have such a wonderful Green space right on our doorstep although we smiled when we saw how much effort was needed to coax one urban fox to come to him. He should have come here!

Earlier this spring we were devastated to wake up and find that some clumsy reduction of the greenery was taking place.

This was apparently in order to create lines of vision for CCTV. Work ceased as a result of residents' protests. This left work incomplete.

We still don't understand the logic behind it all and we are not sure what exactly is in store when these works resume in the autumn.

Although we have a very good static Gardener, we lack a real head Gardener with qualifications that would allow him or her to oversee the park properly. We have been promised that this will be remedied soon when contracts are revised.

Sadly this spring we were unable to have our very successful Dawn chorus walk as our "birder" who has helped us for the past 17 years said he was now too old to get up for the 5am start! If anyone knows a young "birder" who would like to take his place next year please let us know!

This year the Friends of Alexandra Road Park will be re-launched. We will be looking for new members, (resident or outside people) who understand and respect the design and planting in the Park. Someone with technical skills to reset the website would also be good. It will not involve much; volunteers for a few hours monthly to tackle some of our more mundane tasks such as weeding, et cetera!

You may have noticed our new doggy signs (courtesy of our resident dog whisperer). The situation regarding dog fouling has improved but is still not good enough probably down to just a couple of owners, which is a shame.

Whether you just walk in the park, play in the MUGA or do other activities such as the fitness group - (Saturday 10:30 playground 2) take a moment to visit the Woodland walk and look at the roses in the rose patch and scattered around the park. They are beautifully scented and have open petals in order for the bees and other insects to visit. The colours are all yellows and whites in keeping with Janet Jack's original colour scheme for the Park.

Take some time to smell the roses!

Enjoy your park!
Elizabeth, Chair of Friends of ARP



ARC Youth Club & SHAK News

Over the last few months ARC and SHAK have been busy running projects for young people and the local community. We have also employed a new female youth worker, Ish, who will be heading up our girls club on a Wednesday. We have recently relaunched this and have seen new attendees come to the club. If you see Ish around the estate please introduce yourself and say hello. We also recently ran our Easter programme and had 45 young people attend a wide range of activities and trips including paintballing and InflataNation. We have also restructured our Wellbeing Cafe in Shell 2 and will now be running an activity once a month so look out for flyers for this.

Moving forward and heading into the summer we have a number of things happening at the youth club. We have just launched a partnership with Maestro & Hunter, a local football club and they will be working with us on our Tuesday sessions. Going forward, we have our summer

programme planned so will have lots of activities for young people throughout the first four weeks of the holidays. We will also be launching a new SHAKchef programme in September in partnership with Eat Club so if you want to join this project please get in contact at sdavies@shakononline.co.uk. Our current weekly programme is below and anyone aged 9-19 can attend. If you would like any more info please contact the email above.

- Tuesdays (5-7pm)

Football in the MUGA with Maestro & Hunter
- Wednesdays (4-7.30pm)

Girls Club
- Wednesdays (4.30-6.30pm)

SHAKchef Family Cooking
- Thursdays (4-7.30pm)

Youth Club

Steve, Mike and Ishini

sdavies@shakononline.co.uk
mike@shakononline.co.uk
ishini@shakononline.co.uk

Dogs are an important part of many families lives on the Alexandra & Ainsworth Estate

but owning a dog comes with responsibilities that help keep the community safe, clean, and enjoyable for everyone. Responsible dog ownership is not only about caring for the dog itself but also about respecting neighbours and shared public spaces.

One of the most important responsibilities is picking up after your dog. Dog fouling is unpleasant, unhygienic, and can pose health risks, particularly for children using communal outdoor areas. Leaving dog waste behind can also damage the estate's appearance and negatively affect how residents feel about shared spaces. By always carrying waste bags and disposing of dog waste properly, owners help maintain a cleaner, more welcoming environment for everyone.

Another essential part of responsible ownership is ensuring dogs are under control at all times. Dogs should be supervised in communal areas, and owners should ensure they respond reliably to commands. Even friendly dogs can unintentionally frighten people or approach other dogs in ways that may cause problems. Keeping dogs under control helps prevent accidents, reduces conflicts between residents, and creates a safer atmosphere across the estate. Responsible handling also shows consideration for people who may feel nervous or uncomfortable around dogs.

Exercise and mental stimulation are equally important for a dog's well-being. Dogs that do

not receive enough physical activity or mental engagement can become bored, frustrated, and more likely to develop unwanted behaviours such as excessive barking, destructiveness, or hyperactivity. Regular walks, play, training exercises, and enrichment activities help dogs remain calm, balanced, and healthy. A well-exercised and mentally stimulated dog is generally easier to manage and better suited to living in a busy community environment.

Responsible dog ownership benefits everyone on the Alexandra and Ainsworth Estate. By picking up after dogs, keeping them under control, and ensuring they receive proper exercise and mental stimulation, owners can help create a cleaner, safer, and more enjoyable community for all residents.

from our resident dog whisperer!



Camden Contacts:

Julian Roberge is the Housing Officer for for Rowley Way
julian.roberge@camden.gov.uk

Jeanette Blackett is the Housing Officer is for Ainsworth Way
jeanette.blackett@camden.gov.uk

Johaann Seesahai is the Estates Services Manager
johaann.seesahai@camden.gov.uk

Albert Antwi - Caretaker Manager
albert.antwi@camden.gov.uk

Camden Repairs: report it via WhatsApp/Text 07360 277909 Mon - Fri 8am - 6pm or phone 0207 794 4444. Online at www.camden.gov.uk/report-a-housing-repair

Emergency repairs and housing patrol (out of hours and at the weekends) phone 0207 794 4444.

BTU - Communal Heating on the Alexandra Road Estate (listed parts): 020 7499 0602

You will find other useful information on our website - Scan this QR code which will take you to the Useful Contacts page.

Community Safety Officer
christinam.nunn@camden.gov.uk

Our Councillors are
Eddie Hanson - eddie.hanson@camden.gov.uk
Andre Lopez-Turner - andre.lopez-turner@camden.gov.uk
Ash Atkinson - ash.atkinson@camden.gov.uk



Did you know.....

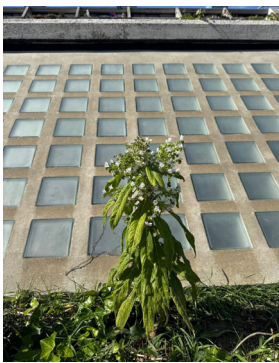
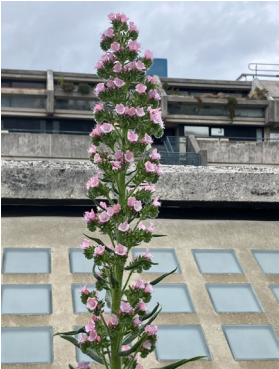
Viola's contract with Camden includes the clearing of bulk rubbish which is put by the black bulk containers on the Rowley Way and Ainsworth Way back service roads.

We all know that flytippers dump their illegal rubbish on our estate and our caretakers have to physically move it to the bulk storage containers so that Viola will take it away with no extra costs.

If we ask Viola to take the flytipping that is randomly dumped on our estate they charge Camden extra for it.

Please remember that BBQs are not allowed on balconies

1. They are a dangerous fire hazard.
2. They cause harm to asthma sufferers.
3. Provide unwanted cooking smells and ruin your washing!



Alexandra & Ainsworth Food Co-op

We have a special place in our neighbourhood called the Alexandra & Ainsworth Food Co-op! It's like a club where we all get together to buy fruits and veggies, and sometimes we even get extra food from the super-market that would have been thrown away. We meet every Wednesday in the tenant's hall on our estate.

If you want to join us, a full box of food is £5 or you can share that with a friend so it costs you £2.50. If you want to help out with us, you are more than welcome to do so!

Our co-op is part of a big group of community food co-ops. We do this to save money on our groceries and make sure good food doesn't go to waste. If you want to know more, you can email us at aacoooperationtown@gmail.com. Come see us any Wednesday between 6 - 7pm in the estate tenant's hall, Ainsworth entrance near the school!



Become a SHAK Trustee

SHAK (South Hampstead and Kilburn Community Partnership) is a resident led charity based on the Alexandra and Ainsworth Estate in Camden. Established in 2003 by residents and for residents, it delivers programmes of activities for young people and adults living in the estate and Kilburn neighbourhood from the SHELL Centre and the ARC Youth Club & Music Studio. Read more about SHAK at www.shakononline.co.uk

SHAK is now recruiting 1 - 2 new trustees based in the Alexandra and Ainsworth Estate with time to support its mission. We especially welcome applications that can increase representation from minority communities. It's an exciting moment to join SHAK as it has just completed its strategic review in 2025 and is now embarking on implementing a new 3 year plan.

What the Role Involves

Trustees help set a charity's priorities and strategy, ensuring plans are delivered effectively.

- Term: 3 years (renewable up to 9)
- Support: you will be supported to develop skills (strategic leadership, resource management, governance)
- Commitment: you will need to attend quarterly meetings + occasional support between meetings
- Expenses: this is an unpaid role, but reasonable expenses can be reimbursed
- Safeguarding: we will support you in applying for a DBS check

If you want to support a small but ambitious and local grassroots organisation and use your local knowledge to make a real impact, please contact shakceo@shakononline.co.uk or leave your name with the chair at the A&A TRA

Your Rubbish

Please take your domestic rubbish bags down to the bin rooms. Do NOT put them in the litter bins on the estate or park.

If you do - this is what happens??

The foxes and cats have a great time!!



Tenants Hall Timetable

Wednesdays:

TRA Meetings 7.30pm - 9pm
3rd Wednesday of Every Month except August when there is no meeting.

Coffee Mornings 10am - 12pm - Free
Please contact aandatra@outlook.com if you wish to join the group or might be interested in volunteering or you are welcome to come on the morning to join us for a cuppa and a chat.

Food Coop 6 - 7pm
See the details above.

JUDO for kids

Please come along and speak to Glenn or email shinbudo.london@gmail.com, or text the instructor Glenn on 07738 226853.

More info on our website www.shinbudo.wordpress.com.

Tuesday Judo:

Class 1: 5:20 pm (4 - 6 year olds)
Class 2: 6pm (7 - 12 year olds)
Class 3: 7pm (adults only)

Thursday BJJ:

Class 1: 5:30 - 6:30pm (7 - 12 year olds)
Class 1: 6.30pm (Adults BJJ)

Friday Judo:

Class 1: 6pm (Adults)

Costs:

1st Class free then £5 a session.