

Stoke Newington



Business Association
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Welcome to the April edition of the SNBA newsletter. There hasn't been one for a while, so forgive us - like you, we are all trying to run a business and often that has to take precedence over business association demands.

Many of you will have been asked recently to renew your subscription - a mere snip at £25. We sometimes hear 'What do I get for my money?' or 'What's in it for me?' This can be a bit depressing as the committee is made up of people who like you, have very little free time but are willing to give some of it up to running the business association. Often things don't get done quickly, and there are rarely immediate or palpable results to what we do. However, the facts are, we DO lobby, we DO attend meetings with the Council and other interested parties, we DO fight for yours and our rights. But let's face it, we can't work miracles and we can't solve all your problems for you - so comments like "Why haven't you sorted out the parking situation - I got three tickets this week?" really don't go down too well.....If you have ideas or proposals for directions we can move into in the future, then speak up! And if you don't like the way things are run, then come and vote us all out at the AGM in June!

Here is a summary of where we're at:

Christmas 07

A number of businesses joined the late night shopping evenings in the week leading up to Christmas. Feedback from you would be useful. John Field from the Church St Bookshop made a wonderful Santa, and the events he attended (like the Carols in the Park concert organised by St Mary's and the Baptist Church, plus the children's story readings in the Stoke Newington Bookshop) were hugely successful. John is up for doing it again this year, so any suggestions for how we can give him some profile on the street would be useful - for example, does anyone have contacts with

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someone who owns a pedal-bike TukTuk that we could borrow to dress as Santa's mobile grotto?

The carol singing on Church St outside the Fire Station was a big success, fuelled by plentiful supplies of mulled wine and mince pies. Many thanks to the fire station for allowing us to use their kitchen and forecourt, and to Rev John Taylor and his team for leading the singing and playing.

Safer Neighbourhoods /CCTV/Radio Watch

We now have *CCTV cameras* at both ends of Church St, plus two in the middle, and there are cameras the length of the High St as well. These are monitored by the CCTV control room and by the Safer Neighbourhoods police teams. Many of the businesses in the area are part of the *Radio Watch Scheme* which connects shops to each other and to the control room - thieves/shoplifters/unsocial behaviour etc can be tracked through the area, and there have been several recent successes in apprehending offenders.

Note that the Radio Watch Scheme is only available to members of the SNBA - if you have a radio but no longer wish to be a member of the business association, we will be asking for its return - there are only a limited number of radios and there are several members who would like to have use of one when available.

Capital Clean Up

This is an event organised by the local police and involves Environmental Enforcement teams, Safer Neighbourhoods police, Keep Stoke Newington Tidy campaign, the Stoke Newington Business Association, and Community Payback (eg offenders doing community service as part of their punishment). It will be focussing primarily on graffiti. Two days have been identified for the Stoke Newington area - Wednesday April 16 which will be an information day, with enforcement officers having a presence in the area and handing our leaflets to residents and businesses - there will be a stall with banners outside William Patten school. Then Wednesday 14 May will be enforcement day, which could cover anything from trading standards to unauthorised A-boards on the pavement, but with particular emphasis on getting rid of graffiti.

The SNBA has been offered 'graffiti packs' which can be used for the removal of graffiti on your premises. These cost £24 each and if anyone is interested in purchasing a pack, please contact Sgt Alex Henshaw of the Stoke Newington Central Safer Neighbourhood team alex.d.henshaw@met.police.uk

New Members

We welcome new joiners like the recently opened Tea Rooms on Church St, Fly Pitcher on Kynaston Road, and HSBC Bank on the High Street.

Wedge

The SNBA has supported the introduction of The Wedge card in the area. Wedge goes from strength to strength and now covers pretty much the whole of London, and is spreading outside of London at a rapid pace. The card helps encourage people to think about shopping locally and supporting small local traders rather than shopping in chain stores and supermarkets.

Stoke Newington Gyrotory

If you read the Gazette, you are unlikely to have missed the on-going debate about whether the one-way system round the High St and Northwold and Rectory Roads should revert to two-way. TfL are conducting feasibility studies and we are assured that businesses and residents will be fully consulted. Many businesses on the High St are concerned that their loading and unloading facilities should not be reduced even further (red route restrictions are severe). We will be canvassing all businesses on the one-way system in the next few weeks, but if you have any comments or points to make, please contact one of the committee members as we are collating feedback and will have regular contact with the Council, the GLA and TfL.

Hackney Enterprise Network (HEN)

This network involves traders from all over Hackney and is useful for exchange of information and general networking, as well as allowing a platform for businesses to speak to the Council. Any business which would like more information on HEN, please speak to your nearest committee member or visit www.hackneyenterprise.net

CAP and Stoke Newington Forum

Citizens Advice Panels are held once a quarter with reps from the Safer Neighbourhoods teams, local residents and the SNBA, to discuss current issues and problems. Rosanne Berry from Rosa and Angela Sheeran from Bored on Board regularly attend these meetings on behalf of SNBA members. Please speak to them about any issues you would like raised, or to find out when the next meeting is so you can attend in person.

The Stoke Newington Forum meets once a quarter and is open to the public - it is an open discussion between residents, businesses and

local councillors and any subject can be raised as long as it is relevant to the local community. The SNBA always tries to be represented at the forum - the next one is Weds 2 April at 19.00 - for venue, check your edition of Hackney Today.

Website

The SNBA will shortly have its own website. More news to follow as soon as we have something to show to members.

Other News:

Events

Jo and Sarah at the Stoke Newington Bookshop have got together with Atique at Yum Yums to promote the Yum Yums cookbook - join them at the bookshop on Saturday 12th April from 3-4pm when you can not only indulge in tasty snacks, but also learn how to carve exotic flowers from unexotic vegetables.

Anti-Nando's campaign

Local residents are campaigning against the opening of chains on Church St and as such are trying to encourage people in the area to boycott Nando's once it opens. They are looking for further support from businesses, so anyone interested in finding out more should go to the site at www.boycottnandos.org.uk

Newington Directory

This is a new Directory, like a mini Yellow Pages, which will have its first Stoke Newington issue shortly. It will be distributed to businesses and residents alike.

Committee members:

Michael Sinclair - Sunstone tel 020 7241 4000
Rosanne Berry - Rosa tel 020 7254 3467
Bridget Pedgrift - Bored on Board 020 7254 9740
Julian Korosek - GK Locksmith 020 7254 4617
Ricky Catwell - Affinity 020 7241 0898
Sarah Graham - Stokey Bookshop 020 7249 2808
Hamdy Shahein - Hamdys 020 7254 0681
Ian Aarons - Phillips and Phillips 020 7241 0292
Anne Wilkinson - The Tea Rooms 020 7923 1870

AGM

The next Stoke Newington Business Association AGM will be held in June - date to be confirmed. Come and voice your opinions - or better than that, come and offer your time and expertise!!