

Gondar Gardens reservoir sold to new owners

Linden Wates has sold the Gondar Gardens reservoir site to LifeCare Residences, a company specialising in large developments of luxury retirement flats.

The entire reservoir site is under threat

In December 2015, the Secretary of State for the Environment granted planning permission for 28 flats along the street frontage of the reservoir site. This included 10 affordable homes and a condition that the remaining 93% of the reservoir land be gifted to the London Wildlife Trust to be managed as a wildlife site with some access for the whole community.

The vast majority of local residents accepted that this was the best available option for the reservoir site, and we were prepared to work with the developer to ensure the best overall outcome. But instead of proceeding with this plan, Linden Wates has sold the site to new owners.

YES to nature preservation, NO to luxury homes

The last remaining undisturbed green open space in West Hampstead, home to one protected species and several 'at risk' species, is in the hands of yet another developer.

LifeCare Residences market their three bedroom retirement flats at over £2½ million, hardly an amenity for local residents, and they are exempt from providing affordable homes in their retirement developments.

Join GARA, come to our AGM, protect your environment

Only with your help can we continue to protect this Open Space and Site of Nature Conservation Importance. Our most valuable asset is a strong membership – we really need you to be a member. GARA subscription is just £10 per household or £5 for an individual, as follows:

- Cash or cheque payable to GARA, delivered to 20 Gondar Gardens NW6 1HG. (You can use the tear off slip at the end of this newsletter to confirm your details).
- Bank transfer to sort code 20-74-63, a/c 80451223, with your name / address in the payment reference; and please e-mail infogara@gmail.com to let us know.

Please come to our AGM on Wed 16 March, 7.30pm at 28 Gondar Gardens. You'll hear the latest news about the reservoir and also help us to be a good community, working with the Neighbourhood Development Forum, Friends of Fortune Green and others to protect and improve our environment.

Other news and local events

Big Lunch, Sunday 12 June 2016 – we are planning a Gondar Gardens street party as part of a national celebration of neighbourliness: the aim is to get as many people as possible across the whole of the UK to have lunch with their neighbours in a simple act of community, friendship and fun. In 2015, 7.29 million people took to their streets, gardens and community spaces for the seventh annual Big Lunch. This year's Big Lunch takes place on Sunday 12th June – come and join us.

Friends of Fortune Green have lots of events planned, including FoFG LOGS events at 2-4pm on Sun 28 Feb and Sun 20 Mar; and this year's first Screen on the Green on Sat 4 June.

The Alliance pub in Mill Lane is up for sale. Whilst it might be bought by new pub owner, there is a strong possibility that a developer could close it down for residential development. The pub is a great local asset and many people would be horrified at its loss. (The current landlord, Michael, is

the tenant, not the owner, so don't blame him!). West Hampstead and Fortune Green Neighbourhood Development Forum (NDF) is planning to apply for the pub to be listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) which, while it can not stop the loss of the pub, does draw a deep line in the sand, and gives the local community the chance to buy and retain it as a pub. Please complete the brief NDF survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/alliancepub> to help demonstrate that the Alliance really is an Asset of Community Value.

Finally, beware ... the scam lady is back! Some of you may remember a warning from a couple of years ago about a very plausible-sounding woman who knocks on your door and appears to be phoning a friend to bring her a spare key ... she just needs £20 for a taxi to get home. Well, she's back, so please don't be fooled. And while we live in a very safe neighbourhood, we do receive notices from time to time from the Metropolitan Police about bogus builders, bicycle thefts and so on – just be careful and stay safe.

Yours,
David Yass
Chair, Gondar and Agamemnon Residents' Association
www.gara-westhampstead.co.uk

I would like to join GARA. I enclose my 2016 subscription (£5 individual or £10 household).

Name Address e-mail

Please return this form (cheques payable to GARA) to The GARA Treasurer, 20 Gondar Gardens NW6 1HG
