



North Laine Traders Association AGM, Monday 12th March 2007.

On Monday 12th March over 30 traders met at the Regent Street Bar of Komedia for their 2007 AGM. The meeting was opened by Sharon Thomas who welcomed those present and handed over to Secretary Peter Stocker who gave a report on last years events and activities.

One of the highlights of the year had been the successful launch of the new website, www.northlaine.co.uk in October at the Jubilee library. The website is already receiving 4,500+ hits a isweek and growing rapidly. Brian Pedley our North Laine web designer was congratulated and thanked for all his hard work.

Peter also thanked our many partners who work with North Laine throughout the year, the Community Association, Brighton and Hove city council, M.P. David Lepper , NL Councillor Sue Paskins and the officers and street reps of the association.

The election of officers returned Sharon Thomas as chair, Peter Stocker as secretary and David Hall as Treasurer. Street reps, (see back page) were also elected to represent the trading area.

The NLTA also voted to formally adopt a new constitution and we discussed the weekend pedestrianisation of Gardner Street and Sydney Street. Some members present thought we should try 7 day a week closures if traders were in favour. The committee will work with the council to see if this is feasible.

Andrew Fisher, chair of the B.I.D. board updated us on the B.I.D., talked about new projects and answered questions on the Christmas lights and security officers from NLTA members.

Eddie Start showed a number of “sustainable bag” options to those present as many members were unhappy at still providing plastic bags to customers. The meeting voted in favour of producing an initial run of hessian or cotton bags for members to buy. *See article on back page.*

The NLTA secretary Peter Stocker felt that as in most other years the biggest threat to North Laine was the escalating rents and he asked members to share rent information to help update us.

The minutes of the A.G.M. are available in full on the website.

Southern Water has sponsored this edition of the NLTA Newsletter.

As everyone must be aware Southern Water are working their way through the three year water main replacement scheme in the city. North Laine has already had Church St, New Road, Gloucester Road, Gardner St. and Trafalgar St. worked on. Most traders have been pleasantly surprised at how speedily and fast most of the work has been completed.

The NLTA would like to thank Bob Lennard of Southern Water and his “team” for their commitment to making this very necessary work go as smoothly as possible.

North Street works are still continuing well and as many traders know a new gas main is being laid in the same trench to keep disruption to a minimum. The work in North Street is expected to last until November.

Sydney Street, which was due to have been started by now, has been delayed and re programmed for September. This is due to the unforeseen problems that occurred in Trafalgar Street and will allow enough time for basement surveys to be carried out.

Pelham Square works will start the second week of April, St Georges Mews is scheduled for the 14th of May and Cheltenham Place work should begin on the 28th of May. Kensington Gardens will not be in this years work programme.

There will have to be an additional closure of Trafalgar Street from the 18th to the 20th of April at Blackman Street for mains connection. (Diversions will be in place for this event!). For details of all current works and schedules you can call the Southern Water “hot” line on 01273 562216.

NORTH LAINE TRADERS BIN THE BAG

At the NLTA AGM in March members endorsed the plan to pursue the aim of producing a North Laine environmentally friendly shopping bag. All retailers are familiar with the problems associated with the sourcing, storing and paying for plastic bags. But times are changing and the use of plastic bags is increasingly being questioned as viable and sustainable.

A few facts might help to put the case;

- British shoppers annually use 20 billion bags - that's 350 per person.
- When plastic bags are made they emit the deadly, cancer causing gas benzene.
- There are nearly 50,000 pieces of plastic, mainly plastic bags, in every square mile of the world's oceans - these cause the death of many marine animals.
- When plastic bags are discarded, even used as rubbish bags, they take hundreds of years to decompose. When they are burnt they emit dioxins and hydrogen cyanide.

There are some commercial facts to take into account;

- There is a strong possibility that a plastic bag tax could be introduced in the UK, the same as now exists in Ireland. A tax would mean that retailers would have to collect the tax, probably around 10p per bag, every time a bag is issued. We become tax collectors - again!
- Good environmental, commercial and marketing reasons to promote the use of sustainable shopping bags and to promote the culture of, "No thanks, I've already got a bag."
- Plastic bags are a negative cost centre - you buy them, give them away and they finish up being used to put out the cat litter! The NLTA plan is to do our bit to change this.
- North Laine is Brighton's alternative shopping experience; we can project our environmental credentials by promoting the use of re-usable and sustainable bags, with a North Laine message. We may not be the first to do it but we'd probably be the first traders group to do it.

So, how do we do it;

- NLTA purchase a quantity of Fair Trade jute or cotton bags, in a style agreed, which have a prominent North Laine logo printed on them.
- NLTA then distribute the bags amongst members, who wish to be involved in the scheme, at a minimal cost.
- Traders decide whether to give them to customers, or sell them at cost.
- NLTA promote the campaign through the local media and with "Bin the Plastic Bag" window stickers.
- Make the North Laine Bag the sought-after retail appendage!

Have a look at the designs on the website in May and let us know what you think!

NORTH LAINE TRADERS 2007 MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTION

I would like to be a member of the N.L.T.A. and enclose my subscription fee of £30/£20 (£30 Bond St, Gardner St, Kensington Gardens, Sydney St. All other areas of NL £20).

Business.....

Address.....

Telephone No.....

Contact.....

E-mail.....

Please return the completed form & fee to **North Laine Traders**

C/O; David Hall, Marks & Co.

100 Church St. Brighton, BN1 1UJ

COMMITTEE

Chair

Sharon Thomas, Off Beat Coffee,
37 Sydney Street, Tel; 604206

Secretary

Peter Stocker, Workshop Pottery
94 Trafalgar Street. Tel: 601641

Treasurer

David Hall, Marks and Co.
100 Church Street Tel: 685965

Street Reps

Bond Street

Pat Mernagh, The Animal House
12 Bond Street. Tel; 206836

New Road

David Sewell, Pavilion Gdns Café,
Pavilion Gardens, Tel; 730712

Church Street

David Hall, Marks and Co.
100 Church Street. Tel: 685965

Gardner Street

Colin Grainger, Komedia
Gardner Street, Tel: 647101
Donna & Michael Hell's Kitchen,
4 Gardner Street, Tel;604925

North Road

Alan Davies, Steeles
68 North Road, Tel: 677845

Kensington Gardens

Lynda & Phillipa, Abode
32 Kensington Gdns, Tel:621116

Gloucester Road

Lyn, Covet
16 Gloucester Road, Tel:609515

Sydney Street

Sandra Williams, Revamp
11 Sydney Street, Tel: 623288

Trafalgar Street

Eddie Start, Open Spaces
69 Trafalgar Street, Tel: 600897

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