THE HIGHGATE VILLAGE BROADSHEET
Highgate's only local newspaper is written and published by Highgate HQ, a not for profit collaboration set up and run by volunteers
hello@highgatehq.co.uk
September, 2026
Edition 20

Sharing Local Schools' Community initiatives

CONSULTATIONS

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN LOCAL CONSULTATIONS

ACLAND BURGHLEY'S "HALL FOR ALL"

WHEN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INFORMS THE OUTCOME

Lucy Tauber talks to Lauren Scully and Brian Studak from PLAID about their design process.

Acland Burghley's hexagonal hall, designed by Howell Killick Partridge & Amis and completed in 1968, was built as the social heart of the school. In 2020, Reed Watts Architects were appointed by the school to develop plans to restore and maintain the architects' original intention for the Hall while upgrading its internal environmental conditions to modern standards.

In 2023 Hannah Newman was appointed as Community, Culture and Heritage Project Manager for Hall for All and has since led its community engagement programme. More recently, London-based PLAID were appointed as Exhibition and Interpretation leads to curate, design and install an exhibition within the restored Hall, working closely with Hannah and the communities she has brought together around the project.

Earlier this summer I was invited to take part in a small Exhibition & Interpretation meeting with former Acland Burghley students and parents, all of whom worked in the creative industries. Ruth Lang, appointed by PLAID to develop an Interpretation Strategy, led the meeting, where we learnt that there is a considerable archive associated with the building. We discussed the architecture, how it has been recorded and revealed through film and photography, and heard from former students that, despite its distinctive design, they had not recognised the quality or uniqueness of the school's Brutalist architecture until after they had left.

Speaking afterwards to Lauren Scully and Brian Studak from PLAID about the project, they explained that they would like the exhibition to awaken students' senses to the built environment around them. What the exhibition will ultimately contain is still being defined, deliberately so, because the local stories and narratives emerging through the community engagement will inform what they create.

Items from the School's Archive

Their appointment of artist/ musician Sam Belinfante to work with students to map their experience of the Hall is an example of this approach. The outcome of their collaboration is still being developed: it may be a digital lighting programme or a soundscape. Whatever is created will inform PLAID's design process, provide a creative layer that can connect with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, resident at the school since 2020, and potentially feed into the final exhibition itself. Just as importantly, the process will enrich the students' overall learning experience and deepen their understanding of the Hall.

Lauren and Brian praised Hannah Newman for doing an "incredible job to reach out to so many people", and I am full of praise for her too. It takes discernment, commitment, tenacity and mettle to recognise the value community engagement can bring to a project and to integrate it intelligently and meaningfully from its early stages. As Brian said, "it's fun to work on a project with a lot of question marks, but it does cause a bit of anxiety."

If you have any stories, memories, photos or films of Acland Burghley School that you would like to share please get in touch with Hannah at HNewman@aclandburghley.camden.sch.uk

COMMUNITY NEWS

FROM LOCALS, GROUPS, ORGANISATIONS AND CHARITIES

The Highgate Village Broadsheet unites Long Lost Friends!

ARCHWAY CAMPUS RE
letter sent to local residents by
Authority on 2 September confi
for the Archway Campus have b
Consultation Process has begun
Adjustments have been made
closest to homes most affected
Lidyard Road and in The Academ
of residential homes across the
reduced from 178 to 167. The p
has also been reduced in height.
Residents can comment on the
5 October 2026 and a public he
the Deputy Mayor makes a final
www.london.gov.uk/progr
planning/planning-applicati
public-hearings/archway-camp

The scheme as now represented

WORD ON THE

COMMERCIAL COMMUNITY UPD

A NEW ART GALLERY HAS OPEN
HIGH STREET, sharing premise
and audiovisual company Love
The gallery will be open on the
by Paul "Dizzi" Saunders, a lo
London's contemporary and u
founder of the London Westban

THE DUKES HEAD is Lond
Americana bar according to TIM
high praises for its honky-tonk
music, bourbon selection, live mu
food & drinks! Congratulations to

HIGHGATE BOOKSHOP has be
Times' list of the top 21 friendly
drawer indie booksellers! Con
and Anna!

Highgate HQ is a not-for-profit community platform for Highgate, set up and run by local volunteers. Working with local charities, organisations, businesses and residents, it helps keep Highgate's communities informed and connected.
Highgate HQ writes and publishes the Highgate Village Broadsheet, Highgate's only local newspaper. It also produces the HitList, a free fortnightly roundup of forthcoming Highgate events, emailed to over 1,500 local residents.
Highgate HQ Runs on local goodwill. Please subscribe or donate today to help keep it going at HighgateHQ.co.uk

hello@highgatehq.co.uk

HIGHGATE HQ
No one knows Highgate better