

April 2022 update

POSITIVE PLANNING

Dear Residents

Our community is responding to the Ukraine disaster with several initiatives gaining remarkable support for positive actions; the suffering and damage is many degrees worse than our domestic trials. We share our admiration for the individuals and organisations involved.

Domestic health issues continue to make an impact, with Covid numbers high (including those with "colds") alongside several nasty bugs. My own "positive" (with only light symptoms) helps me understand the frustration of life disruption following even a precautionary test. But some are suffering quite badly. We welcome back our Editor Rod Armstrong after his recent (non-Covid) hospital episodes.

Again, the community rallies round but also wishes to enjoy our unlocked new normal. We have plenty of hall bookings for children's parties with great decorations, entertainers and bouncy castles, for adult dinners and for christening celebrations. Centre use is expanding with groups using the small hall and bar area. Friday Bridge is returning. On 23rd April, we are hosting the Home & Security Fair. Across Hadley Wood, we have the Jubilee ahead, and summer sports on our field.

In the HWA, we have a focus on progressing our Centre Upgrade, with architect plans developing, builders being short listed and appeal events organised. You are welcome to join our steering group with your skills and resources to help make the Upgrade a reality this 2022 summer, after some Covid affected false starts.

We have an enthusiastic Committee of volunteers, and our paid part time Centre Manager, keeping us going but we have decided to recruit a paid part time General Manager of the Association - see advert. (The Association has usually had such a manager.) This is an opportunity for someone to use their time and skills locally at the heart of our organisation with its positive range of activities and opportunities in support of the community.

Amongst other important local developments I must highlight two, of very different character. Deus ex machina is the apt description of the Saving of Cockfosters, by the Transport Secretary (and local MP) Grant Shapps refusing (out of the blue) consent for TfL to lose the important travel asset of the car park without adequate alternative plans. More predictable, Rupert Mackay retires as our local vicar on 24 April after 17 years of service. Alongside his church duties, Rupert has been a rock for the Association for many years as a Trustee - he is willing to continue for a time with us to complete the Centre Upgrade, but we invite anyone interested to talk to us soon about joining us as a new Trustee.

Robert Wilson

on behalf of the Trustees