

August 2020 update

HWA TRUSTEES LETTER

FACING THE FUTURE WITH FACE COVERINGS

In our June News, the stories were about a limited opening up of businesses and life. This News reflects how further steps towards normality have been taken (even holidays abroad) but with increased emphasis on the precaution of wearing face coverings as well as washing hand and self distancing: our cover story of youthful enterprise, rail users encouraged to travel, photos “Getting together again”, businesses such as Londis and the re-opened hairdresser under new ownership.

For the Association, we have kept up our Grounds giving open space pleasures to many. Tennis is flourishing; Pre School & Playgroup had a successful term under strict Covid rules and a two week Summer Camp was run under the same rules. We are looking forward to Dance reopening in September as well, although Bridge is still unlikely for a while yet. The Centre needs ever more repairs and we look forward to being able to resume our Centre Upgrade project.

Our drive for new members continues. Conversations with residents reveal plenty expressing interest and intention, but a time lag with those signing up. MEMBERSHIP FORM is again in this edition. Please use it yourselves (if not already members) and encourage friends and neighbours. We are very willing to explain the many reasons to join. As we look forward to the new school terms, we remind parents that school drop off in our car park is restricted to members only. Member discounts in Londis and other businesses can quickly cover the cost of joining. Just two examples of benefits.

PLANNING issues continue to demand attention. We become involved (usually through David Harbott and the Neighbourhood Planning Group) when we see proposals for overdevelopment that are opposed by residents generally. Two imminent examples are the well known Save Cockfosters (TfL car park) and the new large Barchester care home in Crescent East - see articles.

We have had a set back and a victory for our Hadley Wood environment. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING FORUM designation is time limited. We have to re-apply. Although this takes effort and time, there is no reason to expect a problem; we should still get to the referendum in May 2021 (the earliest allowed after Covid postponement), but we must delay the formal Consultation previously planned to launch with this News.

A key objective of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan is SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. Until it is approved, we depend on current policies and the Planning Committee. At the last meeting, the Councillors refused both current applications for garden development in Waggon Road which would involve significant loss of vegetation and flood risk by Monkey Mead brook. Climate Emergency was invoked to overrule Officer recommendations. A victory achieved only by strong representations by the neighbours, by David Harbott and by Councillor Alex Georgiou. Waggon Road - a long run of detached houses in a semi-rural location - has been preserved from backland development and the Monken Mead brookside wooded area protected.

Appropriate development in Hadley Wood is welcome. We have some great (some controversial) examples of new houses, with beautiful cars on show. We also need a general investment in our environment, attractive back and front garden improvements to enhance our “verdant” character, enhance wildlife and contribute to climate protection as well as our very special local character.

ABOUT THE HADLEY WOOD NEWS. Pat Taylor gives us a lovely insight into the early days. (I hope this will prompt more contributions on local history. I take the opportunity to invite information on local records and photos, community or family, particularly relating to the News and the Association. We should have a complete run of HWN editions, but more is welcome and we have a safe repository thanks to John Hall, John Leatherdale and the Barnet Museum.

Pat’s story invites a continuation from our current editor Rod Armstrong, revealed as producing the News (at a profit, or at least breaking even) since 2005! A heroic contribution to our community. DIARY NOTICE: Subject of course to Covid (a very big “subject”), we propose to have our AGM on Tuesday 10 November, and if at all possible our Fireworks on Sunday 8 November. Please consider nominations for our Trustees (as well as for a Governor of HW Primary School - see advert).

***Robert Wilson, Chairman,
Hadley Wood Association***