

January / February 2020 update

Hadley Wood Association Trustees Letter

As we start the new decade full of enthusiasm for Hadley Wood, the primary focus of the Association remains management of our Centre and Grounds, along with regular and occasional users. There is always a lot to do, and we are open to those willing to join our Committee or help in other ways.

Our current projects were explained at the AGM. The Centre Upgrade plans the next phase of works at Easter; involvement of more people is needed. Security is a continuing concern and more residents need to sign up with HWS/MLB to provide full day patrols everywhere. This is a major asset for Hadley Wood. The self defence sessions are proving their value; spaces still remain for February dates (see Events). Please encourage friends and neighbours to sign up.

Our own Membership Drive is central to our financial strength as well as our ability to promote the community. There are still many residents yet to join, perhaps you have not got round to it or let your membership lapse. There is an Application Form in this edition of HWN; please use it and press others to do so. It can also be used for current members to provide updated contact details.

We aim to generate more Events this year and next, to enjoy our facilities and to raise funds for the Centre Upgrade. Close cooperation with Tennis is a boost for regular use of the bar and special combined events, with music in the summer and plans for a larger Hadley Woodstock festival next year. Ideas and involvement as social organisers will be very welcome.

Planning plays a vital role in protecting or allowing overdevelopment of our built and green environment, within Hadley Wood and in other local areas. We must push on with our Neighbourhood Plan. Please look at the nearly final Draft on the HWNP Forum website and give us your points. This is our chance to influence planning policy.

Issues arise all the time on current applications, which sometimes take years and include the tension of Planning Committee meetings, with assistance where appropriate from HWNPF/HWA and the councillors. The new planning review group run by David Sumners is already showing its worth.

CALLING DOG WALKERS

The Association grounds provide a great amenity for the many residents with dogs of many breeds and sizes. Dog walkers are primary users of our paths, fields and woods. We already provide bags. We would like to set up a group of dog lovers to enjoy some activities together and help ensure the amenity is well maintained. We shall advertise an event, but please contact us if you are interested.

Local Affairs are taking more of our attention as challenges arise and we realise how many other community groups need contact and cooperation. Current examples include the Local Government Ward Boundary review; we had a good response to the final call for submissions to support the revised recommendation and keep Hadley Wood combined with Cockfosters. HWA and individuals are playing a part in the fights against the TfL Cockfosters Station proposals and the hugely overcrowded events at Trent Park. The Green Belt Forum and other planning groups should have our input. Issues are arising about footpaths and gas pipelines through Covert Way Nature Reserve, promoting closer cooperation with the Golf Club and Monken Hadley Common. There are several residents who play active roles in these other organisations; the Association is very willing to provide support.

At our AGM Plus we widened our scope beyond the Association's direct activities and Users to the wider Community including Hadley Wood School, HW Jewish Community, St. Paul's and Women's Institute. Our role is to promote and coordinate all such organisations to the extent our limited resources allow.

As we discussed our overall plans at January Committee meeting we gave some thought to sections of the community which we might help if they are not already well served. Examples might be those who are lonely or would like to get together, possibly carers or older people now living alone. We have many strong social groups, but there may be gaps. If you have any thoughts on whom we could help in this way, or new activities at the Centre or using the Grounds, please let us know.

Robert Wilson