

July / August 2019 update

Hadley Wood Association Trustees Letter

The summer is a time to enjoy our open space walking through the woods, playing on our Bartram's Lane field, tennis tournaments and our welcoming bar and garden area. The Acoustic Growlers was a most successful event to launch our new cooperation with the Tennis Club, great music and socialising plus fundraising. I hope our members are making the most of these Association facilities as well as supporting our role to protect this part of our environment at the heart of Hadley Wood.

Maintaining the grounds and improving the Centre take a lot of our attention. More help will be welcome. As an example, having persuaded Network Rail to restore our woodland paths, we now need volunteers to keep them open and fight back the encroaching brambles and nettles. Dog walkers: please take your secateurs (or scythes) with you but take care.

Over the last months, we have made great efforts to promote Security, complete the Treetop campaign and support HWRUG's continuing efforts to obtain a proper service. We continue to build our membership and database. We are making good progress with our Centre Upgrade project.

Our current focus is on Local Affairs, a core activity of the Association to protect and promote Hadley Wood. There are many live threats to face, and other local organisations needing support. It is striking how our actions and profile in rail, security and planning combine to help us contribute to other campaigns.

We had a full attendance (and good bar takings) for the community meeting called for the Draft Neighbourhood Plan - which has been run with such energy and attention by David Harbott over the last year. Representatives of other local associations emphasised the importance of asserting our local role in planning and other matters controlled by the Council, who need to be strongly challenged if we are to have our views taken into account. The meeting welcomed the presentation of the draft plan and we had some lively debate on enforcement of planning decisions, the arguments for and against gated properties for security (as well as local character) and other aspects. Now is the time for everyone to make their contribution with comments to David Harbott (see website) before he does the hard work of preparing a final plan. By the time of this meeting on 10 July, several other local affairs had to be raised. One is the proposal to modernise the governance of Monken Hadley Common (including Hadley Woods) - John Hall explained the strange history and the need for a new Act of Parliament: see (website) and the call for responses by 30th August. Others are the TfL proposal to build a tower of flats on the Cockfosters Station car park, eliminating all car parking as well as overwhelming Cockfosters Road even more (see website for campaign) and the hugely overcrowded events being licenced by the Council at Trent Park in August.

The most immediate concern has been the Local Government Boundary Commission for England report on Enfield recommending that Hadley Wood be split away from Cockfosters Ward and made part of "Ridgeway" which is largely Chase Farm and the area towards Enfield Town Centre. This flouts the requirement for community links and would destroy our current Ward policing which has become such an integral and welcome part of our local security. We have been playing our part to lead and coordinate opposition to these shocking recommendations, with Hadley Wood Watch and the Security Committee, with the church, other local associations and our councillors (who are strongly opposed and fighting to retain our current Ward). Submissions had to be returned by 5 August, too late for this edition, but there has been a lot of publicity by our meeting, our HWA MAILs, the Councillors letter to all residents and through HW Watch and others. We believe we have a good chance of keeping Hadley Wood with Cockfosters if sufficient individuals have submitted responses in addition to our HWA and other organisation submissions.

We appreciate the support for these activities from many of our members. We continue to look for new members (and full updated information including email contacts for existing members).

Robert Wilson. Chairman of the Hadley Wood Association.