

March / April 2018 update

Letter from the Trustees of the Hadley Wood Association. New Year progress and new issues.

We have made progress over the last couple of months since our January Newsletter Report with our main projects, tackled some further subjects and battled with “events”. The trustees have met monthly. We have appointed Gill Henley as **HWA Secretary** to help us with formal matters including meeting records and action lists, compliance and insurance, Company Secretary returns. She is also helping with our website management. **Our financial affairs** are in good shape. David Harbott has presented our quarterly management accounts and our budget, which are in reasonable balance. Louise has been equipped with QuickBooks for much better accounting, with a new computer and help from Julie Nedza and Gill. Louise continues to manage successful hall hires with repeat and recommendation bookings.

We have our first wider **Committee meeting** on 20 March with our Treasurer (David Harbott) now joined by Richard Walker (Membership and Publicity). Lisbeth Wirth is also joining us, fresh from her initiatives on car parking and the clean up day. We are still looking to cover other roles at least including Centre & Grounds, and Local Affairs (including links to Councillors and Enfield, Neighbourhood Planning Forum and Conservation Area Group etc). The Committee will look to progress a deeper look at our budget (which has little provision for repairs or replacement of the Centre, or better support for planning and other community concerns). We should be able to complete preparations and set in motion our **new membership drive** based on a new privacy policy supporting a new database, re-connection with lapsed members, recruitment of all car park users and generally marketing the importance of HWA to protect and promote Hadley Wood. We shall consider our role on wider community issues for example **Crime** (now being raised as a very current issue). We need a fresh start on **Events and fund raising**, with a new generation Social Committee. There is an imminent event opportunity with our important anniversary in June: **the Centre was opened 50 years ago**. We plan an event on Saturday 9th June (*see page 8 of Hadley Wood News*).

Several outside events have had an impact on Hadley Wood and shown the need for a strong community response. We have found a great spirit to join efforts for the general good. **On Planning**, we continue to suffer multiple threats of inappropriate developments with blocks of flats, back fill houses and cumulative flood risks. We now have the looming additional impact of Sadiq Khan’s **Draft London Plan**. This hit us with no effective consultation. David Harbott (representing our Neighbourhood Planning Forum) with HWA support has organised responses to London. He has also led deputations to Enfield senior officers, again with HWA support, with some success to obtain commitments to engage with Hadley Wood issues such as flood risk from cumulative overdevelopment.

The Rail User Group still show the way on community efforts, with Francesca Caine to the fore on the step free access and timetable campaigns, recently opening the door for HWA to adopt the Station.

STOP PRESS:TREEGATE. A major joint effort between HWA and RUG is currently being made to mitigate the bulldozer impact of Network Rail “improvement” works to ‘devegetate’ the cuttings (proposed new Station name: Hadley No Wood) and install new high fences with dangerous and obtrusive “rotary spike” topping. Many individuals (including John Leatherdale, Joycelin Hobman, David Harbott and Rod Armstrong) have been involved as we battle the contractors and Network Rail and struggle to get constructive support from Enfield. As usual, Cllr Anne-Marie Pearce has given valuable help joined by another local Cllr Elaine Hayward (of Slopers Pond Farm which is directly affected north of Wagon Road). We have given some effective resistance. We cannot stop necessary track resilience works to reduce tree and leaf fall and trespass, which is ultimately to our benefit, but we may limit some of the damage and gain replanting, and fight the prison camp aspect of the new fencing. We have forced Network Rail to meet us (**22 March**) and stop installing the fearsome rotary spikes until then. We have primed Enfield to limit devegetation in the Conservation Area immediately south of the Station, and are trying to keep the larger trees behind the platforms. We hope to get restoration if not improvement for the swathes cut through our open space near the new fence and the designated wildlife corridor. We have been in touch with our MP and councillors, other local residents associations along the line and Sustrans who put in our National Cycle Path. There was a gross failure by Network Rail to consult, contrary to stated policy and undertakings given to David Burrowes as MP after a similar problem at Grange Park a few years ago.

We may yet need to raise a petition and organise a public meeting. There is a lot to do, and we welcome all support.

The Trustees of the Hadley Wood Association