

May 2020 update

HWA TRUSTEES LETTER

COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND SURVIVING LOCKDOWN

Hadley Wood is showing remarkable community spirit during lockdown: helping neighbours and observing social distancing; displays of support for NHS and carers, contributions to charities; key workers in many fields. Most people are coping. Roads are unusually quiet, air cleaner, more birds singing and hunting, walking a pleasure in the April sunshine. But there is a very strange atmosphere with the Station and School and Centre all empty, tennis courts and golf course shut. Sad for missed family and religious gatherings for Easter and Passover, for grandparents missing grandchildren and friends unable to socialise, fans without matches. Distressing for those made ill by Covid-19 and tragic with some deaths among residents and wider networks of our families and friends. Our sympathy is with all those suffering.

Our work with Corona Support continues. We link volunteers to those needing help by calls to HWA and through WhatsApp which also gives suggestions for useful delivery services. Covid Coordination has shown the deep connection of our various community organisations with their members, and I am confident we are not leaving gaps. Contacts are on our website. Keep well, keep safe, be considerate and keep up contacts with neighbours.

HWA is supporting an extra edition of our Hadley Wood News in this historic period, for information and as a record of how residents are experiencing the lockdown. With businesses closed (apart from Londis and the most valued Patel family), we cannot expect paid adverts to continue. We have repeated those of our loyal partners without charge for this edition and look forward to their re-opening as soon as possible. Most of our Member Benefits are presently frustrated by business suspension, but Mr & Mrs Patel confirm that their generous discount offer for purchases over £10 continues - giving great value for your £50pa HWA Membership!

HWA continues its work. We keep the grounds well mown and paths open. The Centre is closed but still maintained. Centre Upgrade planning continues. We have arranged for MLB to use the bar area as well as the office during breaks to allow social distancing, now they have additional patrol men to cover all of our streets. We are opening a new account to allow online banking and working towards a website improvement. David Harbott continues to progress the Neighbourhood Plan and the Planning Group monitors applications. Cockfosters activism on TfL station car park and Trent Park issues is alive and kicking. And much more.

HWA has enthusiastically supported the HW Walkers initiative started by Francesca Caine's letter in the last edition and taken up by Joycelin Hobman and John Leatherdale. John's wonderful footpath map is on our website and appears with suggested walks in this edition. Other initiatives are being developed.

HWA congratulates Hadley Wood Security on its great progress during the last twelve months. A major breakthrough in new members, following huge effort by members of the HWA Security Committee (HWA, HWS, MLB, HWW and Neighbourhood Watch, Police), has allowed HWS to extend the patrols to all our streets and to hold their charges. We wish them all the best for a full renewal for 1 June. As we always emphasise, the roles of the Security Committee members are complementary. We urge all residents to join each of HWA, HWS and Neighbourhood Watch. We each have good memberships but want a higher proportion of residents to be involved; then we are all stronger and can provide greater safety for Hadley Wood.

HWA particularly needs additional income from increased membership at a time when we have lost our income from hall hire due to lockdown. If you are not already a member (maybe a new resident or you let it lapse) please use the Membership Form in this edition (page 4). If you need persuading, please read my letter (reproduced on page 3) originally addressed to HWS Members who are not yet HWA Members setting out the strong relationship between HWA and HWS and the many reasons why membership of the Association is both necessary and great value.

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Hadley Wood Association.

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