

THE HOLLY LODGE ESTATE

FROM THE COMMITTEE REPRESENTING ALL PLOT OWNERS & INFORMING ALL RESIDENTS

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2020

CORONA VIRUS HELP

Thank you to everybody who has volunteered to help during this worrying time. It is so heartening to see our community pulling together and Holly Lodge Estate seems to be going above and beyond.

Volunteers in both the flats and the plots have been organised and should have dropped notes through your doors offering help if you find yourself in need of shopping, prescription collection etc. or are just lonely in your self-isolation.

We have set up a Covid19 Support WhatsApp group <https://chat.whatsapp.com/IfdWkSyMBC3Ik2HmYKbTde> should you wish to share information or ask for help, or you can always contact the Estate Manager, Barbara Wheatley, if that doesn't work for you.

There is also a temporary Corona Information page on our website www.hle.org.uk which has a list of local businesses that can deliver plus other useful information. It is being updated regularly.

PLOT OWNERS' AGM

The 2020 Annual General Meeting for Plot Owners is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 22nd April at 8 PM. In light of the current government direction for 'social distancing' and avoiding group gatherings (and the likelihood of further restrictions in the weeks ahead) we are postponing the AGM. This action is necessary under the current circumstances and permissible within the Estate's rules and regulations.

Instead, the HLE Committee is proposing the following steps to be taken:

Prior to 22nd April we will issue our reports in some detail by email, posting on to the web and, if requested from the Estate Manager, by hard copy.

Allowing a two-week window through to 8th May, we will invite residents to send questions and we will consolidate these.

We then will draw attention to any issues where we are proposing actions and invite comments on these too, including the revisions to the governance/regulations by 22nd May

When we have all the feedback, we will issue a second document no later than 12th June with questions and summary answers and our decisions on any issues.

When practicable, we will call the AGM to review and discuss all of the above – date to be announced given the government guidelines. Otherwise, this may be held-over until the half-yearly meeting in November.

We trust that this helps to keep everyone aware of the steps that are being proposed in light of the circumstances.

HOLLY LODGE ESTATE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The deadline for those interested in putting their names forward in advance of the HLE Committee elections closed on Wednesday 25th March.

Only eight names were submitted, those of the current HLEC members. As there were no additional names or anyone contesting the election per se, it was felt that no election is necessary, and the current Committee will continue to serve the Estate. These are: Veronica Day, Rosie Durant, Peter Jacobs, Martin Narraway, Pippa Rothenberg, Rob Schoenbeck, Justyn Trenner and Li Weinrich.

It is understandable that with the many other more pressing and solemn issues facing us, this was not a priority for most plot owners. However, we would like to think, in addition, that it is a show of support and vote of confidence for the work the Committee has achieved these past twelve months.

HLE COMMITTEE: A YEAR IN REVIEW

During the past year, the Committee has made a concerted effort to bring a sense of transparency and improved communication with the residents of the Estate. We have provided more information, more frequently through e-mails and newsletters about what is happening and what is being done about it.

We conducted an Estate-wide survey to see how you felt about things on the Estate, published the results and held a meeting to discuss our findings and proposals. We held an open meeting to confer on security and CCTV. We completely re-wrote the rules in governance review of the way the Committee functions, presented the new regulations at the half-yearly meeting and held a follow-up session for all residents in February. We have streamlined and improved the management and reporting of the Estate's finances. The HLE Security WhatsApp, started one year ago, continues to be of benefit to the many who use it regularly and more recently we have added an HLE Coronavirus Assistance Group.

We are currently reviewing the most pressing issues identified by you in the survey and are examining ways to be more environmentally friendly in the management of the Estate (from the way we landscape to the kind of vehicles we use). We are also looking at ways to improve our parking system. We are working with the Safer Neighbourhood Police Team to focus on the theft of catalytic converters and further our coordinated efforts on the Estate with the tenants and leaseholders of the mansion flats.

HLE FOREMAN – Gerry Hartigan:
Mobile phone: 07447 869570 Email: foreman@hle.org.uk

HLE MANAGER – Barbara Wheatley:
Office: 0203 538 4454 Mobile phone: 07731 301119 Email: manager@hle.org.uk

HLE COMMITTEE SECRETARY – Ronnie Day:
Email: secretary@hle.org.uk

ESTATE MAINTENANCE UPDATE

The Estate Manager is currently working from home. The Estate Foreman and his team have been stood down but are coming in on their own or in twos for just 3 days a week for now to empty the bins and conduct safety checks. If you see anything critical that needs dealing with right now, please contact Barbara Wheatley on 07731 301119 and we will see it is rectified in as timely a manner as possible.

We have also tied all the pedestrian gates back, so you don't have to touch the handles to open them. Some are just held ajar in order to impede cyclists who insist on speeding down the footpaths, but these can be pushed open by elbow or shoulder so still no need to touch the handle.

You may have noticed some of the changes in the Hillway entrance. Working at the direction of the Gardens Sub-Committee and based on a striking design created by one of our residents, the initial stages have been undertaken and planting will proceed as soon as we are able to get back to full working conditions.



STOP PRESS We have just heard that we are unable to postpone the delivery of the new plants for these beds on 31st March. The Horticultural Trades Association advises that “...it is quite acceptable to allow staff to come to work in order to carry out essential work such as watering and other forms of plant maintenance.”

We do not want to lose these plants so we will be bringing the chaps in to plant them up, but they will, of course, be keeping their distance and will follow the advice on regular hand washing, not travelling in the truck together etc.

In addition, much has been done in the gardens at the top of the Estate including clearing some of the rampant rhododendrons in the Lower Park copse area. We will manage their regrowth and are planting woodland flowers. Also the shrub beds have been re modelled with sleeper retaining walls. We are looking forward to some exciting new planting there.

Three shrub beds have been removed in the Ornamental Gardens as the plant stock there was way past its best. We are rethinking the whole area here, so watch this space.

Following on from last year's 'wilding' experiment we had planned to leave certain verges to grow wild again this year - Covid19 is forcing us to leave all the verges to go wild for now! However, once we are back on regular mowing we will be experimenting with leaving certain areas to 'wild' and we will see what comes up.

As you might imagine, the big challenge for the crew is continuing to work while ensuring their own health and safety. We'd ask that you continue to show your patience and understanding if some things are taking longer than usual or not being done as frequently at the moment.



Holly Lodge Community Centre
30 Makepeace Avenue
Highgate N6 6HL
Tel. 020 342 9324
hollylodgelondon@hotmail.com

Holly Lodge Community Centre News

We have to begin with the extremely sad news that that one of our very first volunteers for the Centre's Monday Lunch club, who continued helping us right up to February, Sabine Trumpa, passed away very suddenly at the end of February. It was a great shock to us all, and she will be sorely missed by everyone who knew her.

The Holly Lodge Community Centre committee had to take the hard decision to suspend the lunch clubs until it is deemed safe to reopen— we do not wish to expose older or vulnerable people to unnecessary risks, or to put our fantastic volunteers at risk,

All other classes and activities at the Centre have now ceased for safety reasons, so the Centre will be effectively closed, and therefore as a consequence, the Centre has lost all sources of income.

On a more positive note, following a successful bid to the National Lottery, we are delighted to announce that we have secured funding for a part time manager for our lovely Community Centre for the next three years. Our new manager is Mike Towers hollylodge.manager@gmail.com. He started with us at the beginning of February with lots of enthusiasm and ideas for expanding the use of the Centre for the benefit of local residents, but of course, the Corona virus has put paid to all those initiatives for the time being.

However, we are hoping to use the Centre as best we can to help to support people being affected by the present crisis. We are working with the Estate committee and Camden as well as offering support to the work of Highgate Newtown, and there is a network of volunteers for the roads and Mansion flats who will be there for those who cannot leave their homes to shop, or who are feeling the depression that often comes with isolation. Mike can be contacted direct on his email above, or via the usual Holly Lodge email; he is coordinating our efforts.

If there are local residents who are finding it difficult to obtain food or essential supplies, for whatever reason, please let us know via email, as we will do our best to offer help wherever we can, either directly, or by linking you with the appropriate person or organisation.

In order to do this as well as to be in a position to initiate and restart activities such as the Monday Lunch, we do welcome donations – we would be most grateful for anything you can manage. Please go to this link to see how you can help: bit.ly/hollylodge-corona

And ... if you have any ideas or wishes regarding the use of the Centre for classes, workshops, talks etc, please do let Mike know, as he is very receptive to good ideas, and has the experience and skill to be able to put them into practice.

We hope all of you stay well and virus free, and we look forward to seeing you at our Centre once the crisis is over.

Barbara Smith
Chair HLCC