

THE HOLLY LODGE ESTATE

FROM THE COMMITTEE REPRESENTING ALL PLOT OWNERS & INFORMING ALL RESIDENTS

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2021

A FEW WORDS FROM THE CHAIR...

Many thanks for those attended the Half-Yearly meeting on Zoom. We are still hoping that the next general meeting, our AGM in April, will enable us to be back together in person.

Although the past few months have been challenging, they have also produced some of the best things on the Holly Lodge Estate in recent memory. They have brought us together through the WhatsApp groups, encouraged residents to help their neighbours, opened our eyes to the need to be more communicative and aware of our environment.

During these past six months we have soldiered on with the work on the estate, despite the limitations placed on the staff due to the pandemic. We have:

- reinforced and resurfaced the yard,
- added a traffic mirror on Highgate West Hill,
- repaired railings,
- continued our wilding project,
- introduced a new van policy on trial,
- worked more closely and regularly with the HLE TRA,
- cut the grass, collected leaves, picked litter,
- finally moved close to launching the ANPR Trial, and
- worked to keep the Holly Lodge Estate one of the best places in London to live.

I'm sure many of you have not spent much time on the HLE website which, by the way, we are currently beginning the process of updating to make it more user-friendly. On it you can find the Chair's statement, the 2022 budget, the Treasurer's report and the "Rules and Regulations" (<https://www.hle.org.uk/>). In this document, you'll find the charge to the Committee, our objective or goal as it were: "for the benefit of the Holly Lodge Estate, the management, maintenance and improvement of the gardens, roads, paths, grass edges and open spaces and the sewers and drains thereunder, for the wellbeing, enjoyment and community spirit of those who live in it"

This estate has a vibrant and colourful heritage, as we are discovering more and more while beginning our preparations for our 100th Anniversary celebration in 2024. It is important for us to retain our connection to the past for this, in many ways, has contributed to the beautiful place we live in.

It is equally important that we look to the future to continue to keep the Holly Lodge Estate as special as it is. That is why the Committee

- has introduced EV charging points,
- is exploring a change in the parking policy for vans,
- is undertaking a trial of the ANPR cameras at the top of the estate,
- and has just unveiled "The Green Framework" which is an effort to be more responsive to our environment, not just wilding, flowers and plants; but the insects, wildlife and how we use the resources around us.

Thanks to my fellow Committee members, for their tireless efforts – all volunteered without remuneration – for the many hours of their time spent in Zoom meetings and working on the estate from tending flower beds and assessing the trees, to walking the roads and paths, monitoring the progress of the yard reconstruction to developing the budget and balancing the books.

continued

Most importantly, to Barbara Wheatley, our Estate Manager without whom we would be lost; and to her team of hard-working, hardly-ever-complaining staff of our Foreman Gerry and his crew: Sean, Dean and Evan.

Ultimately, we have you, our residents to thank. For the understanding you provide, for your annual contribution to the EMF and most of all for your support. I'm sure that not everyone agrees with everything the Committee does. But, for the most part, we know we can count on you to be there when we need you.

Thank you...

DO YOUR BIT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. Charlie: the plastic-free fantastic.



Have you spotted an old electric milk float called Charlie on the HLE? It's run by Fair-Well, a north London company that is tackling the plastic pollution crisis head-on.

They come to your door, at a time that's convenient for you and refill your containers with your everyday essentials: from muesli, pasta, beans and pulses, to washing up, laundry liquid, and soaps - all their products are organic and fair-trade.

The Evening Standard recently named them 'the plastic-free fantastic' which they truly are! Book a slot through their site <https://www.fair-well.co.uk> or contact them at hello@fair-well.co.uk. There's no minimum order and no booking fee.

AUTUMN NATURE PROJECT FOR HLE CHILDREN: Can you help us by doing some research?

We need help from the children on the estate to give us some ideas about what type of bird boxes we should make for the HLE gardens.

Task 1: Research about bird boxes

- Choose a UK bird species.
- What size nest box does the bird need?
- What size should the hole in the front of the nest box be?
- Does the nest box need to be hidden behind branches of a shrub (to give the chicks protection) or can it be fixed on an open tree trunk?
- How high off the ground should the box be fixed?



Do your research and put it all down on paper. We would also love it if you could do a black and white drawing of your bird box, then Dean, who is going to make the boxes, will know what you have in mind.

Please put your work in the white Post Box, just to the left of the gate into the HLE yard. We hope to put a selection of your drawings in the next newsletter.

Maybe you will be able to watch the ground maintenance team putting up the bird boxes? Also perhaps next autumn you can help us clean out the bird boxes ready for the following spring?

Task 2: Research about bat boxes:

Can you do the same research and drawing for bat boxes? How many different species are there? How can we encourage them to nest in HLE gardens? What do they need?

Do your research and put it all down on paper and put it in the suggestions box. Don't forget to tell us your name and your age.

www.howtodrawanimals.net/how-to-draw-a-bat



HEATH HANDS- the community and volunteering charity for Hampstead Heath are offering to run family and children's activities for the residents of HLE; likely on the Heath and during the Christmas holidays. This is however just at the planning stage and I will give more information as it emerges.

Heath Hands can also run workshops for HLE residents. They have suggested 'wildlife connectivity' and 'planting advice'. However if you have an idea for a workshop please write it down and put it in the post box by the entrance gate to the Estate yard and I will discuss it with Heath Hands.

They will also provide us with hedgehog boxes and trail cams, and hopefully we can involve the HLE children in the monitoring of the wildlife!

Lots to look forwards to. The Heath Hands website is <https://www.heath-hands.org.uk/>

For more info or any queries contact rhrdurant@gmail.com

Rosie Durant

FATHER CHRISTMAS IS BACK AGAIN ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 19th

Santa and his elves are back bringing gifts to our Estate children on his festive sleigh. If you would like him to deliver a present on Sunday 19th December then please contact Grace at Grace_Livingstone@hotmail.com giving the names and ages of your children plus your address, of course!

There will be mulled wine, mince pies and carols outside the Community Centre on Makepeace Avenue at 6pm after he and his helpers have finished their rounds. Please do come and join them and share some festive cheer with your neighbours.



And we could really do with some help to feed the reindeers and fuel the sleigh, so if you would like to donate to this event please do so via the HLRA. Thank you

Account name: Holly Lodge Residents Association

Account 25 30 61 88

Sort code 09-01-55

Ref: Santa

GREEN FRAMEWORK UPDATE

You may have noticed that we have scarified some of the verges at the end of each Avenue. We have planted Yellow Rattle in these beds as preparation for sowing a wild flower mix in the spring. So rather than leave these verges to grow wild as we did in previous years, we are proactively planting what should be a wonderful summer show of wild blooms for both residents and our wildlife/insects. Please do try to keep off these verges until the plants get fully established.

Be sure to use the SUGGESTION BOX email for your comments:

suggestionbox@hle.org.uk

HLE FOREMAN – Gerry Hartigan:
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HLE MANAGER – Barbara Wheatley:
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