

THE HOLLY LODGE ESTATE

FROM THE COMMITTEE REPRESENTING ALL PLOT OWNERS & INFORMING ALL RESIDENTS

NEWSLETTER MAY 2021

A FEW WORDS FROM THE NEW CHAIR...

It is reassuring to see that despite the uncertainties of this past year, some of the basic principles we count on for stability and continuity remain in place. One of these is the orderly transition that occurs each year following the AGM with the installation of new HLE Committee members and selection of officers. Nick Hughes joins Pippa Rothenberg and Ian Whittaker as elected members of the committee. In addition, Veronica Day, Rosie Durant, Peter Jacobs, Martin Narraway, Li Weinrich and I will continue to serve our terms. Ian will join Martin and me as Trustees of the Estate.

Ronnie Day will remain Secretary, Ian as Treasurer and Martin Narraway will turn over the reins to me but stay on as Vice-Chair, providing guidance and inspiration. A big thanks to him, the entire committee and Barbara Wheatley and her team for managing the Estate this past, difficult year.

As your new Chair, I look forward to continuing many of the policies and programmes that we have put in place and will make it a priority to improve further our communication with each of you: to listen to what you have to say, to be available when you need to talk and to keep you informed of the many things that are happening on the Estate. More about this shortly.

In the meantime, we would all like to thank you for your support and helping to make the Holly Lodge Estate one of the best places to live in London.

Sincerely, Rob Schoenbeck (Chair)

HLE GARDENS AND TREES SUBCOMMITTEES

Now that the long April drought is finally over, Gerry and his team are back hard at work cutting the verges and as usual, making the Estate look cared for and well loved. Last year, after much discussion and experimentation, it was decided to leave some areas of natural interest on the verges (mainly in the avenues) to be left to go wild. This means that small patches of wild-flowers are left until they seed, before they are mowed again. The idea is to try to make a birds and insect friendly corridor between Waterlow Park, Highgate Cemetery, Holly Lodge and the Heath. With this in mind the pollarding routine of the Hillway limes has also been altered. Previously all the trees were pollarded in the same year, on a three-year cycle.

We will retain the three-year cycle, but only half of the trees will be pollarded in any one year, and one year there will be no pollarding. This means that every year there will be some good leaf coverage and flowers to provide habitat and food for birds and insects.

During dry spells could we ask you to please water the tree outside your house/block, especially the young trees – grey water is fine so long as there are no strong detergents in it. We do have a programme of watering but sometimes we can't get round to everything as often as we would wish.

Rosie Durant

JOINT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

One of the ways we felt all of the residents would benefit was to ensure that the various organisations on the Estate speak with each other regularly. Therefore, every few months, representatives from the HLE Committee, The Tenants and Residents Association, The Leaseholders Association, The Community Centre and the Nursery meet to discuss current activities and plans for the months ahead.

A meeting was held this week to speak about easing out of lockdown, events for the months ahead from the Community Centre and nursery, latest dealings with Camden, the status of the 'yard' restoration, potential "block" parties, a Summer Party in the park and even the formation and initial plans for the 100th Anniversary celebration of the Holly Lodge Estate in 2024. I'm sure that you will be hearing more about all of these and other items of interest from your respective group(s) in the very near future.

CLOSING THE ESTATE GATES

As we are all coming out of the strict lockdown now we have made the decision to close the pedestrian gates again. We are continuing to keep the cycling gates open for now at both ends of Langbourne Avenue so as to encourage cyclists to use these gates rather than the pedestrian gates. These will eventually be closed and cyclists will have to push them to open them, thereby dismounting and slowing them down.

2021 PARKING PERMITS

The 2020 permits expired on 30th April and MET have been ticketing cars since 1st May. If you are still displaying your blue 2020 permit please get in touch with the Manager as soon as possible so we can issue you your 2021 permit.



Holly Lodge Community Centre

30 Makepeace Avenue, Highgate, London N6 6HL

Tel. 0208 342 9524

Web: www.hollylodgecc.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 293003

Manager: Mike Towers - hollylodge.manager@gmail.com



Message from Mike Towers

As Holly Lodge Community Centre gears up to reopen for the first time this year it does so with a new manager at the helm. After a Covid-filled year as the centre's first manager in the best part of a decade, I, Mike Towers am off to 'pastures new' and all that.

To say it was an eventful year would be understating things, but the centre has bounced forward in many ways during that time we have launched a new website, and social media; developed new safeguarding and volunteering policies; teamed up with Highgate Newtown, collecting food donations for their local food hub; supported Block Reps with local food parcel deliveries and began planning for the 100th anniversary celebrations of the Holly Lodge Estate in 2024.

Those were just some of the highlights of the past year. Responsibility for future highlights passes now to Len Lauk, my replacement. Len has taken on the same email address: hollylodge.manager@gmail.com and Tel (0208) 342 9524. He's normally available on weekday afternoons if you need to get in touch. Len has a wealth of charity work background, including in community centres.

It just remains to say a massive thank you to every Holly Lodge resident, in street or block, that has supported me since February 2020 and will hopefully see some of you at the much yearned for Estate party later this year.

All the best for a hopefully more freedom-filled summer, Mike

Holly Lodge Community Centre is sad to have said goodbye to our manager, Mike Towers, who has moved to pastures new. He has done an amazing job over the year he was with us, as he had to cope with unprecedented circumstances in a new role, and fulfilling the post in a way quite unlike any of us anticipated; dealing with the Covid crisis instead of kicking off all the lovely projects we had in mind. In spite of this, he made many positive changes, which are mentioned below. We wish him well for the future and hope to see him around as he has promised.

We are hoping that as the lockdowns ease, our new manager, Len, will be able to pick up and run with the ideas we had a year ago. Mike has given Len an excellent hand over, so we hope that things will continue and develop smoothly. We anticipate that the lunch club and film club will resume mid May, all being well. Meanwhile, please do keep giving us your ideas for the ways in which you would like to see the Centre used.

You are also welcome to pop in to make Len's acquaintance any afternoon. Barbara Smith, Chair HLCC

INVITATION TO TASTER SESSION - HOLLY LODGE FOOD CO-OP - SUNDAY 23RD MAY, 11AM

A food-co-op is being set up on Holly Lodge. If you would like to find out more and try some free food come to the following event:

A Taster Session - literally! Sunday 23 May, 11am, Holly Lodge Community Centre, 30 Makepeace Avenue. Everyone is welcome to meet the organisers, find out more about how the co-op works and sample some free food! No commitment, just come along.

For further information contact Gilly Burke or Naomi Day by email on cooperation.hollylodge@gmail.com Cooperation Holly Lodge is part of the Cooperation Town network, a recent development of the co-op model which streamlines free redistribution of fresh, quality, surplus food.

Find out more on www.cooperation.town or follow @CooperationTown Cooperation. Holly Lodge is your new community food co-op.



The Sheltered Housing by the Community Centre on Makepeace Avenue has some vacancies. If you would like to move to the Sheltered Housing, or know someone who might, please get in touch with the Manager, Roy Ife, at Roy.ife@camden.gov.uk