

Heathfields Residents Association Newsletter

News from the Committee



Welcome to issue 3 of the new HRA newsletter. Things have been very busy over the summer, with work continuing on the development of the playground and improvements to footpaths etc. We hope you have noticed these improvements and the benefit to the estate.

The HRA Committee has also had some changes.

Unfortunately, Sarah Bellabarba has had to resign from the Committee, as she and her family are moving away from the estate. We wish Sarah all the best for the future and appreciate the short time she served on the Committee. Also, Martin Johnston is taking over as HRA Secretary from Martyn Corbet. Martyn will continue as a Director and will work closely with the new Secretary to ensure a smooth transition.

We are fortunate that two of our Directors also sit on Thriplow Parish Council. Martyn Corbet is the Parish Clerk and Lynn Driscoll is a Parish Councillor. There is also the possibility that one other HRA Director will also join the Council. This is excellent news as our representation ensures that our interests are well served at every level in the area.

Note, the photo is of the estate taken in about 1991 – how things have changed! (*Photo courtesy of Debra Ashard.*)

Green Man Pub

We have been notified that the Green Man Pub in Thriplow is giving locals a free lift home after their meal in the evenings – so book up if you fancy this offer.

Allotments

HRA have been notified that some allotments are available in the Newton Road site,

Whittlesford. The allotments are £12 per year and £3 for water. To apply, please contact their Parish Clerk: Roy Warnes.

Email parishclerk@warnesuk.net

Play park update

Things are progressing slowly but surely in the play park. The den area fence has now been built, sanded down and painted and the kids are already trying to stake claims to it, although the imaginative use of the old park bench as a ladder is something that we should look to gently discourage!



The tyre mound is next. It will be marked out and bolted to the base to retain all the tyres in position – sorry kids, we realise this will reduce your fun with the loose tyres! But hopefully the new build will compensate in the future.

The trees along the ex-Iceni side have been cut down to a manageable height, which will allow more light into the park. This will also encourage lower growth making the hedge barrier more robust next spring. We have also put a new lock on the gate to prevent unintended access or any further damage (which is something else we need to address in the future).

If anyone has any spare time, and some spare paint, then the tables could do with a rub down, the joints tightened and a coat of preservative added to extend their life. They do get used quite a bit and were made by an ex-resident, so it would be good if we can apply a bit of TLC to them. If you wish to help, please contact Darren Mullett or one of the other Directors.



If you came to the AGM you would have heard that the paths leading to the park in both directions are now in excellent condition. We've commissioned hardwood gates to be made by a resident to try to make the park as secure as possible and prevent any stray animals from doing their business in the area just because they can.

A Word on Dogs in the Park

We realise that there are a lot of responsible dog owners who walk their pets through the

park on a lead and that's what we'd like to continue. However, one resident was seen walking their animal into the park just to do their business and walk back off again. There are many other areas around the estate where this is less of a problem, so for the sake of the smaller kids (and health) can we please be more responsible as this is inappropriate. It's one thing them stopping unexpectedly, but deliberately bringing them there to do it another.

Clear Up Day

The Committee would like to thank all the residents who gave some of their time on the park clear up day in August – it was good to see so many helping and we certainly achieved a lot. Darren has had quite a few offers of help, which is appreciated and he is intending to get another working party organised (working around the weather). We will get the message out beforehand, but for the moment we will just keep on moving things forward steadily to see how far we can get.

AGM

The AGM was held on 25th September. It was disappointing that more residents were not present but nevertheless the Committee provided details of the accounts, an update on recovery of arrears of service charges and discussions on future work on the infrastructure on the estate. Darren Mullett also gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation on the playground improvements and public open spaces at Pepperslade.

Two Directors – Lynn Driscoll and Tim Spicer were re-elected onto the Committee.

Do you want to help?

There are currently vacancies for Directors on the HRA Committee and we are seeking to recruit residents to help out in this very important and crucial role. The task is not onerous or difficult and mainly involves helping out with any administration that may be required and/or assisting with any other minor tasks that crop up occasionally. You get to have a say in the running of the estate.

The Committee meets formally once a month to discuss HRA business (although this is in an informal manner in one of the Directors houses). We are a very friendly bunch and would encourage any resident to join us to help promote, develop and plan the future of Heathfields. With your help we can take things forward much more effectively. So please come forward and support us, and your estate. Contact one of the Directors if you are interested or if you just want to have a chat about the role. Thank you.

Memorial plaque

Some of you may remember Dudley Chew, a former resident who lived at 101a Whitehall Gardens, who sadly passed away last Christmas Eve. Dudley was a former Parish Councilor and HRA Director who was well liked and respected. To commemorate his service on the Council and HRA it is intended to place a memorial plaque on one of the benches on the track at the back of the estate.

It is also sad to report that another former and long standing resident, Liz Teversham, passed away in the summer after a short illness. Liz lived in Whitehall Gardens for many years and was involved in arranging many of the summer parties that we used to hold on the green at Whitehall Gardens.

Facebook page - Heathfield Residents Association Gardening Community

The message below is taken from the HRA Gardening Community. For more information please visit the Facebook page. It is for residents of Heathfield to find out what is happening with the green spaces on the estate and to get involved in maintaining them. Enjoy.



Heathfield Residents Association - Gardening Community

Posted by Sharon Mullett

Just now · 🌐

It's autumn and it is time to tidy up the community garden/green areas. If you have time to spare please spend it on the areas closest to you to make the estate a nicer place to come home to. Deciduous trees can be pruned leaving the evergreen trees alone, they will not like being chopped now. Shrubs likewise can be tidied up removing dead, diseased or damaged material from them first. Leave more tender plants, eg fuchsias, or plants with seed heads, birds will feed on these, until spring. Overhanging branches that may be caught by the wind over winter should be removed to reduce the risk of damage to people and property. Hedging can be cut back to border lines allowing people to use paths properly, also taking them down to a sensible height so we can all see over them whilst walking or driving. Please if you are near pathways that get covered in leaves give them a sweep in to hedges to prevent people slipping on them.

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