



The Woodsider

MARCH 2017
www.woodside-park.com

Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

Two months of the New year have already passed and it seems a little late to wish everyone in Woodside Park a “happy New Year” but I am going to anyway – so Happy New Year to everyone. We wish you everything that you wish for yourself.

This could be a very interesting year in political terms what with Brexit and Trump and everything else that is going on, but we, in Woodside Park, just carry on regardless and that is probably the best way to be.

The rain stayed away for our carol singing event, held just before Christmas last year. The singing was led by Colette (big thank-you!) and accompaniment by a couple of musicians from St Barnabas Church (another big thank-you!). Consequently the attendance was in the region of 150 people including 50 children and we were also blessed with the attendance of Theresa Villiers (our local MP) and Richard and Alison Cornelius (our Councillors). Colin the magician treated us to some fire juggling. Coffee and drinks were provided by Vero Caffé, with their compliments, and we are extremely grateful to Vero Caffé for providing the drinks and people to serve the drinks. Thank you very much and I hope everyone who reads this will support the café during this coming year.

The children sung “Silent Night” and “Jingle Bells” with great gusto and were rewarded with sweets. There was some scotch whiskey for the adults and all-in-all it was a joyous afternoon. Thanks to everyone who helped and to everyone who attended to make it a memorable occasion, made all the more memorable because the occasion was attended by people from all denominations and religions. We, in Woodside Park, could show the world a thing or two about living in peace and harmony.

There is a video of the carol singing event on our website.

Next event for your calendar is the Woodsider Party, 6th September, starting 8pm at Old Finchleians Clubhouse..

There have been a spate of burglaries around the area recently and it seems that some intruders have been using wheelie bins to climb over fences and gates. It is best to try and remove the bins immediately they have been emptied.

Compared with other residents’ associations, we object to very few planning applications but, when we do, there is a good reason for doing so. The overlarge new house proposals for Poynings Way were refused by the Council and, subsequently, by the Appeals Inspector. This was gross overdevelopment of the site with a basement. A subsequent application for this site has also been withdrawn and we await the revised proposals with interest.

Basements are something which we frown upon and generally we will resist them. I have seen the effect of basements in other boroughs. Woodside Park suburb sits in an old orchard with a heavy clay sub-soil which expands and contracts dependent upon the climate. Basements ruin the hydrology of the soil and severely affect water-flow in the ground. Developers produce all sorts of reports to say that this does not happen - but it does - and by the time anyone finds out the truth, it is too late. Some adjacent gardens end up as mud patches whilst others receive no water at all. I have seen adjoining houses become structurally defective and full of cracks due to basement excavation. Thankfully, the proposed development in Argyle Road for numerous houses with basements was also refused by the Council but we are awaiting the outcome of this from the Appeals Inspector.

A committee member may well knock on your door in the next few months to collect £2 for the subscription to be a member of the Residents’ Association. I do hope you re-join. An envelope may be put through your door for the collection. Around 90% of residents are members and this high membership does help if we need to apply a little pressure on the Council for any reason. We welcome the daffodils and tree blossom. Enjoy Spring!!

Robert Shutler



The Woodsider is produced by the Residents’ Association. Around 90% of the residents in the area belong to the Residents’ Association. This edition of The Woodsider is being delivered to them.

If you are one of the 10% who have recently arrived in the area or for some reason did not join last year, subscriptions are due to be renewed shortly. The cost is £2.00 per annum and if you would like to join this year, please contact the editor, details overleaf. We look forward to welcoming you.

Riverside Walk

The new trim trail has been completed and we are hopeful that all residents will use this to keep themselves fit and trim for the forthcoming summer! Our thanks go to Tesco’s who sponsored the construction of the trim trail. The residue of cost was made up from the coffers of the Residents’ Association. At the time of writing the zip wire had been moved to a new position but has not been finally repaired so it cannot be used. This is being carried out by the Council and we are hopeful that repairs will take place in the next few weeks. The new multi-sports court has been constructed and this is proving very popular with the younger generation. The Council has also promised to repair the pathway which extends along Dollis Brook. It has partially been washed away and fallen into the brook and we are advised that these works will take place in the Spring. Which Spring is anybody’s guess! Unfortunately, it is proposed that the new path will be constructed for both cyclists and pedestrians, which is a crazy idea so, if you are a pedestrian, please be careful out there!

You can comment on the Council’s proposals on https://barnet.geovey.org/app/barnet/geovey_commercial/

Hopefully, by the time summer arrives, everything will be ready and you will be able to enjoy many hours of fun in the park.

Planning Applications over the last couple of months

125 Walmington Fold	First floor side and rear extensions
45 Lullington Garth	Roof extension, hip to gable end, Juliette balcony, loft conversion
52 Lullington Garth	Roof extension, hip to gable end, single storey rear extension 3.4m deep
72 Lullington Garth	One and two storey side and rear extensions, new front porch
12 Cissbury Ring North	Roof extension, hip to gable end, single storey rear extension
20 Cissbury Ring North	Single storey side and rear extensions
88 Cissbury Ring South	Single storey rear extension, 4m deep
9 Folkington Corner	Single storey rear extension
23 Folkington Corner	Convert garage into habitable room
38 Linkside	Single storey rear extension
19 Singleton Scarp	One and two storey side and rear extensions, loft conversion
155/157 Chanctonbury Way	One and two storey side and rear extensions, new front porch, new roof accommodation

Green Belt

Woodside Park borders Green Belt land so we have an interest in this. Encroachment onto Green Belt land continues apace and Barnet Council have now given planning permission for Hasmorean Secondary school to extend their premises and bring the whole secondary school together as one building. This is located on land off Page Street which is still part of the so-called Green Belt and this is the area which also contains Holders Hill cemetery, Hendon Golf Course, Cophall, Saracens and the playing fields. This area should have deregistered as Green Belt some time ago (in fact when Barnet FC wanted to stay in the borough). But instead, it is eaten away, bit by bit. The area could have been properly planned with the most optimum use of the land but we now look onto a hotchpotch of differing developments with little cohesion. There is immense pressure on the Government and the councils to deregulate green belt land and Hertsmere Council are doing exactly that but they have planned it out in a careful and thoughtful manner. It is time Barnet Council did the same thing instead of letting everyone wonder where the next housing estate is going to be built and how much green belt land is going to be lost. Probably this is not a vote winner and hence the indecision.

Mrs Valerie Cohen

Unfortunately we have to report on the recent death of Mrs. Valerie Cohen of Walmington Fold. Valerie was the winner of our Best Garden competition in 2014. In The Woodsider of December that year we noted that hers was the best overall garden. She was commended for her magnificent creation which was admired by all and sundry. We have learned that this achievement meant a great deal to her - to have had her hard work publicly recognised - and was mentioned in the eulogy given by her husband. She was immensely proud to have been awarded the prize by our Committee and we are glad to know that our efforts on behalf of the community can make such an impression on our residents. We send our condolences and good wishes for the future to her family.



printed for the Association without charge by MDC

Edited on behalf of the committee by Robert Shutler of 5 Saddlescombe Way N12 7LS
Telephone no: 020 8445 4050 email: robert@mdclondon.com