



# The Woodsider

MARCH 2018  
[www.woodside-park.com](http://www.woodside-park.com)

## Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

I am not sure where time goes but it seems to be flying by at the moment - unless you live at the top end of Chanctonbury Way where major construction works are being carried out, which means the daily grind of heavy lorries, noise, dust and pollution, day after day after day.

I am sure we all sympathise with the plight of people who live in Chanctonbury Way and have to put up with this - but as our houses become more and more expensive, so it becomes more viable to dig basements, rebuild, extend and goodness knows what else, sometimes legal and sometimes not. We have been badgering our Council to bring in more effective rules to govern the construction of basements in the area but they seem rather slow to do this.

The carol singing at the end of last year was hugely successful. The weather stayed reasonably fair and we were serenaded by Bridget and Andy from St Barnabas Church (big thank-you) together with multitudes of children and residents of all denominations. Our MP Theresa Villiers also joined us. 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 jolly afternoon. Thanks to everyone who helped and to everyone who attended to make it a most memorable occasion. This year the carol singing will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December (from 4.30pm) so please make a note in your diary.

I am sad to report the death of Alan Hill who was Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee during the 1990s and up to 2002. He was a very proactive and practical member of the committee. Our condolences go to his family in Sussex Ring.

Unbelievably, we have now reached the dizzy heights of more than a million hits on our website which, after three years, I am told is not bad at all. We are presently averaging around 20,000 hits a month.

We are thinking about sponsoring local businesses on our website, especially reliable and honest builders, plumbers, electricians and suchlike whom we all need to employ every now and then. For a link on our website we would charge the business £100 per annum but this would be halved if the person is a resident of Woodside Park Garden Suburb. If you know reliable and honest people who might be interested in this promotion, please ask them to contact me, through the website or via the address on the back of this newsletter. I am sure that business will come their way as I am constantly being asked if I know anyone who can carry out such works. We will of course promote or sponsor other types of work as well including cleaning, nannying, legal, care, gardening, window cleaning, etc.

As you may be aware, for many years we have collected a £2 subscription from residents in the area in order to provide sufficient funds to keep the Association going. For various reasons this has become more and more difficult, year upon year and we have now reluctantly been forced to abandon the collection. We are hoping to make up this loss by promotions on the website. Nevertheless, your financial help would be appreciated and if you would like to make a small contribution, please feel free to let a Committee member or myself know.

We are also contemplating setting up a Facebook page which will be linked to our website. This is in the throes of being put together at the present time.

Lastly, we are hoping to arrange a "Big Lunch" at Riverside during the summer, so please look out for the date and arrangements in this respect.

Have a great Spring!

*Robert Shutler*

*The Woodsider* is produced by the Residents' Association. There is no membership fee any more but all money contributions would be most welcome. Please contact a committee member or send to Robert Shutler at address overleaf.

For sponsorship deals on the website, please contact the Association via our website or Robert Shutler's address overleaf.



## Planning Applications

Current planning applications can now be found on our website [www.woodside-park.com](http://www.woodside-park.com).

We are pleased to say that the application at 105 Chanctonbury Way to turn the house into two flats has been refused by the Council. The Association will continue to object to planning applications which propose to divide any house within the suburb into two or more separate residential units. The loss of single family sized dwelling houses to flats is not appropriate in Woodside Park Garden Suburb.

## Council Elections

On May 3<sup>rd</sup> we all vote (well, some of us do) for Councillors to be our representatives on the Council. In comparison with other London Councils, we should regard the existing Barnet Council with some approval as they have managed to maintain our Council Tax at a sensible level. They have preserved bin collections to once a week, progressed on education and care, filled in some of the potholes in the road and retained the roads as hump-less, helped us with Riverside Park and generally gritted the roads fairly well when the snow has arrived. Most of all, the Councillors have listened to the Association when we have a very strong point to make and need some action. After four long years of whingeing they have actually put double yellow lines around Sussex Ring so there must be an election looming!

## Woodside Park Underground Station

It seems that Woodside Park Underground Station is going to have a facelift. Much political mumbo-jumbo has been made of this by the London Mayor Sadiq Khan and TFL but, apparently all they are going to do is remove a few redundant cables and bits of equipment and give the ticket office a coat of paint. Wow! It will hardly be recognisable after the refurbishment. Enjoy the new experience, people!

## Other news

We are pleased to welcome three new committee members namely Greg Thornett (who used to be on the committee of West Finchley Resident's Association), Deborah Laikin and Susana Palmer. An injection of new blood and new ideas is most welcome as we move the Association into the digital and social media age.

Many properties in Woodside Park have shared driveways which give access to garages located at the rear of each of the adjoining properties. At all times, each occupant has the right to use the shared driveway without encumbrances. This means that no-one can extend their house onto the shared driveway without written permission from the adjoining owner/neighbour. Furthermore, you should not park your vehicle, skip or other object on the driveway to the detriment of the adjoining owner/neighbour which prevents the adjoining owner using the shared driveway as an access and restricts their right of way.

Why do politicians kid themselves that London properties described as "affordable" are affordable when they are patently not affordable. Who can afford "affordable"? The only way properties will ever become affordable is if the Councils or Housing Associations are given sufficient funds to build properties which can be let at much cheaper rents. This probably won't happen because Councils and Housing Associations do not have sufficient expertise to be able to build and maintain affordable properties. But if this obstacle could be overcome, the values of houses which are being let at exorbitant rents will eventually reduce. It will be a long process. There are houses in Woodside Park which are being let at £5,000 or more per month. Who can afford that?

This newsletter has been written from my hospital bed. I ate an onion but it turned out to be a daffodil bulb. The doctors have said that I should be out by the Spring! Ahh! The joys of Spring and a bit of Spring humour.



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