

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2011

Dear Members

Well, the Proms are over, the football season has started again (did it ever end?!), the evenings are getting shorter and the seemingly never ending task of sweeping up fallen leaves has begun. BUT, all is not gloom and doom! Chipping Barnet has been awarded over £416,000 from the London Mayor's Outer London Fund to regenerate our High Street. Proposals for the use of this money were discussed at a public meeting at The Bull on 6th September. See more on this below.

We hope that you had a good summer even though warm sunny days were in rather short supply and interspersed with unseasonably chilly and wet ones!! Perhaps, even now, we will enjoy an Indian Summer - fingers crossed.

Before reporting on your Committee's activities since the Spring Newsletter was circulated it may be appropriate to comment on the horrifying riots which occurred in London and other cities around the country in August. Comparatively speaking, Chipping Barnet escaped fairly lightly. Our Police, including the Safer Neighbourhood Team, worked tirelessly to keep us as safe as possible and have expressed their gratitude for the support of members of the public who have stopped Police Officers on the street to offer their thanks. Nevertheless, disturbances occurred in the Wood Street/Manor Road area and 'Phones for U' in the High Street was raided. Other disturbances occurred in other parts of the Borough. On this occasion we were lucky!

Spring Green Clearance/Family Day

On a more cheerful note, our Spring Green Clearance/Family Day was held, earlier than usual this year, on 2nd April. The weather forecast was somewhat mixed - talk of showers (some heavy) - but, again, we were blessed with a really good day. No rain, some sunshine and a pleasantly warm temperature; not too warm though for the energetic members who 'cleaned' and 'cleared' the Green.

Proceedings began at the Memorial Hall with a buffet lunch provided by members of the Committee, wives and friends, for 30 or so adults and 10 children. We indulged in a splendid spread of cold meats, chicken pieces, pork pies, quiches, lovely salads and dips, finishing with a variety of cheeses with grapes - yum!!!

We then split into two groups, some of the adults and older children going onto the Green to pick up litter, chop down lower branches from trees and prune saplings. Other adults and the younger children accompanied Paul Baker, a City of London Guide, who entertained us three years ago with his re-enactment of the Battle of Barnet, on a walk around Monken Hadley.

Paul pointed out, amongst other things, the date above the Monken Hadley Church of 1494 where the 4s look like 8s but are, in fact, 8s cut in half! We also saw the carvings on the Church door of the faces of Edward IV and his wife Elizabeth Woodville. (There are differing views of who the effigies actually represent but our guide preferred this one). We stopped at Livingstone Cottage and heard the story of how David Livingstone was mauled by a lion and subsequently had to have his jackets specially made to accommodate the resulting injuries to his shoulder. We looked at Hadley House, the largest house in the area, with its one-handed clock over the stable block and its listed garden wall. Apparently one hand on a clock was considered sufficient in pre-railway days - some think it would be sufficient even now! We stopped at what we call King George's Fields which Paul told us are actually Hadley Manor Fields where they abut Hadley Green Road, because that is the site of the original Hadley Manor; King George's Fields are

behind. At that point Paul explained the origins of the name Monken Hadley, Hadley meaning high or heath clearing and Monken coming from the latin, Monacorum and relating to monks.

Both groups then re-assembled at the Memorial Hall for welcome tea and cakes. An enjoyable day for all.

Royal Wedding

On 29th April the Hadley Residents Committee and the Memorial Hall Social Committee hosted an event in the Memorial Hall to mark the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton, now the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. The event, at which the wedding was shown on a large screen and provided lunch, a wedding cake and champagne, was a great success. A profit of £300 was made which will be held in a kitty for future joint events.



Autumn Green Clearance Day

As reported in the Spring Newsletter we have decided to revert to holding the Autumn Green Clearance day on a Saturday rather than on a weekday which had been suggested by members. We were grateful for the suggestion from members and have tried holding the event on a weekday for a couple of years, but this has not really been successful.

Our next Autumn Green Clearance Day will therefore be held on **Saturday, 29th October**. Meet at Joslins Pond at 10.30 (with gloves and pickers if you have them) to clear the Green of litter, lop low branches, take out unwanted saplings etc. If members wish, we will repair to the Olde Monken Holt for a drink and/or lunch at the end of our labours.

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 6th June 2011. We were joined by our guest Sir Sydney Chapman and our three Ward Councillors, David Longstaff, Bridget Perry and Wendy Prentice. Our MP, the Rt Hon Theresa Villiers, had sent her apologies, as had members, David Chapman, Eileen Edwards, Angela Ratcliffe and PC Ansah, Safer Neighbourhood Team.

The Chairman, making his last Report as Chairman, thanked the Committee for its support over the 4 years of his Chairmanship. He said that the Green was still looking good but, with better management, could be improved further. Our efforts to get action by the Council tend to falter at the last hurdle of providing funds. We have offered to contribute to the cost of several projects and await further information from the Council on this.

The Chairman reported on other activities, listed below, in which the Committee had been involved during the year.

The Treasurer said that donations and minimum expenditure had helped to keep us in the black this year. 73% of registered households had paid subscriptions for this year 2010/2011 and the average subscription was approximately £11.40 per family. Members were again encouraged to use Standing Orders to pay subscriptions to help to provide a predictable income. Thank you to those members who have paid their 2011/2012 subscriptions. If you have not yet done so, please send a cheque to the Treasurer for this year's subscription, which was due in April, and, if you wish, please use the attached form to set up an annual standing order to commence in April 2012 for future subscriptions.

Election of Officers: The Chairman, Andrew Robinson, was standing down. Derek Sagar had been nominated to succeed him as Chairman and was unanimously approved by the membership. Colette Brideson and Pat Andrews had agreed to stand for re-election as Treasurer and Secretary respectively and were duly re-elected.

Election of Committee. Kim Longman and Ken McEnery were nominated to replace Andrew Robinson and David Cadisch, who were standing down. Both were elected to the Committee. Angela Ratcliffe and Ian Campbell-Butcher, who had been co-opted last year, had agreed to stand for re-election and were duly elected. Stephen Mullens will be co-opted for a further year. Richard Peart, David Chapman and Amanda Holly will continue to serve. A full list of Committee Officers and Members is at the end of this Newsletter.

Election of Independent Examiner David Wales had agreed to stand for re-election as Independent Examiner and was unanimously approved for re-election.

Votes of thanks were proposed to Andrew Robinson, outgoing Chairman, for his 4-year Chairmanship and to Sally, Hugo and Lily for their support at Association functions and to David Cadisch for some 30 years of service to the Committee and the Association; also to his wife, Denise. David said that he and Denise would continue to be available to support the Committee/Association in the future.

Amongst other matters raised at the meeting were:-

Chipping Barnet Town Centre Strategy Board. Much work had been done to produce a strategy but the Council had fallen back on the publication of the Localism Bill to slow things down. However, the Mayor of London had offered a £50 million donation to those London Boroughs which were not benefiting from Crossrail or the Olympics. As reported at the beginning of this Newsletter Chipping Barnet has been awarded over £416,000 from this pot. How this is to be spent will be commented on later.

Hadley Green. This continues to be our main concern. The Committee is in consultation with the Council about the signs on the Green which need rationalisation. We await information from the Council about the cost of replacing or removing them to which we have offered to contribute.

Replacement of White Gates on Hadley Common. It was agreed unanimously that we should contribute £4,000 to the cost of replacing the gates at the top of Hadley Road and at the Crescent in response to a request from the Friends of Hadley Common.

Website. The website www.hadleyresidents.org is available for information and comment. It was suggested that more information should be provided about the use of the website for communication between the Committee and members and links with other organisations. A greater use of e-mail to communicate with members was also suggested. Members were invited to provide their e-mail addresses at the end of the meeting.

Sydney Chapman Way/A1000. It was suggested that this junction should be reconfigured. It is a hazard because of the difficulty of seeing traffic coming south. We will contact the Highways Department.

At the end of official business the meeting was treated to an interesting and amusing talk by our former Member of Parliament, Sir Sydney Chapman.

Sir Sydney told us that his appointment as a Junior Government Whip, after 19 years as an MP at the age of 53, was the most interesting time in his career. However, after that, he was appointed Lord Commissioner of the Treasury, a very important sounding job which comprised two main tasks - the signing of both Statutory Instruments and Government cheques. He speculated that paying one of these cheques into his own account for one hour would earn him a million pounds - but he didn't!!

He then became Vice Chamberlain to Her Majesty the Queen's Household which involved him in two very interesting tasks. The first was to be a hostage when Her Majesty went to Westminster to open Parliament. He went to Buckingham Palace which the Queen could not leave until he arrived. He then could not leave until she returned safely. This practice began after the beheading of King Charles I when Monarchs became uneasy about going to Westminster. He also had to deliver messages to the Queen personally describing the events in Parliament. He decided to write gossipy pieces rather than dry accounts of the debates on Bills and recounted a story about a dream he had of being accused of carrying on a clandestine correspondence with a beautiful young woman who lived in a big house. He wrote of this dream in one of his messages to the Queen and later received a phone call from Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's Private Secretary, saying that the staff had never seen the Queen laugh so much. When he next saw the Queen she asked him if he had had any more dreams!

High Barnet Summer Festival

Your Committee was invited by the organisers of the High Barnet Summer Festival to sponsor an event on Hadley Green. The outcome was a Musical Picnic held on Sunday 26th June, the last day of the Festival. Invitations to bring a picnic, dress up and enjoy an afternoon of music provided by Wiz Productions, went out in the Spring Newsletter and were included in the Festival Brochure. Plans were made with Wiz Productions, assisted by Rob Morris, Pymlicoe House, who kindly agreed to allow leads to be connected in his house to take power to the stage on the Green.

Magically, given the somewhat mixed weather of the two weeks of the Festival, Sunday dawned sunny and warm - in fact HOT - so hot that people vied for prime places in the shade of the trees but within hearing distance of the stage. Some two hundred people enjoyed their picnics, met friends and were greatly entertained by Wiz Productions with Victorian Music Hall songs and ditties, concluding with an audience participating singsong. The occasion was declared a great success and generous donations amounting to £144 were collected towards The Bull

Theatre's fabric maintenance fund. This was Wiz Productions nominated charity.

Other matters in which your Committee has been involved since the last Newsletter include:-

Hadley Green. As reported to the Annual General Meeting Hadley Green continues to be our main concern. As well as consulting about the signs on the Green - the offensive turquoise road signs, the 'No Horse Riding' signs which are out of character, and the redundant signs indicating 'No Vehicular Access' where vehicular access is impossible, we are concerned about drainage and the condition of the pathways which are impassable in wet weather. We continue to pursue these matters with the Council and hope that our offers of contributions towards the cost will encourage the officers to respond, but no progress to date. We are also in consultation with the Council's Tree Officer about the replacement of ailing trees on the Green. We have had a generous offer of £200 from the Rotary Club which we have agreed to match, towards the replacement of trees. We hope for a positive response from the Tree Officer in the near future.



T
h
e
M
a
r
k
e
t
Y
o
r

Committee continues to be represented on the Friends of Barnet Market (FoBM) Committee and has been involved with promotional activities such as the free handout at the Market gates of linen bags with the logo “I Love Barnet Market” and manning stalls, for example at the Ravenscroft Fair during the Summer Festival. These activities are aimed at encouraging everyone to use the Market and keep it in business until its future is secured.

As reported in the last Newsletter in the Spring, the original planning permission for the development of the Market expired at the end of last year. After much unexplained delay the owners applied to extend the planning permission for a further period. This was opposed by FoBM on the grounds that the development plans do not provide a suitable new home for our historic stall market and completely fail to provide adequate provision for servicing and delivery. Despite the attendance of some 70 residents opposing the application and eloquent presentations by Theresa Villiers MP and Judith Clouston, Chair, Barnet Society, on behalf of the Friends of Barnet Market, extension of the planning permission was granted for a further two years. FoBM are now considering what action to take during that time. In the meantime, please do continue to support the Market by visiting it on Wednesdays and Saturdays. A comparatively new attraction is the butcher who travels all the way from Devon on Saturdays to sell not only meat but also bacon, sausages, butter and pies.

Chipping Barnet Town Centre Strategy Board. As referred to above, the strategy developed by the Board, on which your Committee is represented by Derek Sagar and Richard Peart, has been somewhat sidelined by the Localism Bill. However, the London Mayor’s Outer London Fund is to distribute £50 million over the next three years in awards to those London Boroughs which will not benefit from Crossrail or the Olympics. The criteria for bids for a share of this pot corresponded very closely with certain items on the Strategy Board’s “shopping list” – stimulating local business, “de-cluttering”, stronger support for community events such as the Christmas Fayre. As reported at the beginning of this Newsletter, Chipping Barnet has been awarded over £416,000 from the £10 million dispensed in Round One.

The public meeting held at The Bull Theatre on 6th September heard proposals that the money should be spent on three main areas – developing the area around St John the Baptist’s Church as a “Town Garden”, making it more attractive to residents and welcoming to visitors to Chipping Barnet, also making more of a feature of the War Memorial (an exhibition is to be held in the Church to show details of this proposal). Secondly, trees are to be planted along the High Street from High Barnet Underground Station to Hadley Green. The third main area is to improve the Wood Street/High Street junction and to “de-clutter” the St Albans Road/High Street junction. In addition, support is to be given to community events such as the Christmas Fayre, the provision of a Christmas Tree, more hanging baskets and perhaps some benches along the High Street to ease the walk from the Underground Station!

On what was described as the “softer” side, i.e. things we can’t actually see or touch, it is intended that High Street shops will be better presented, with keener staff, benefiting from the engagement of organisations such as VisionOn and Retail Revival Ltd to advise on retail skills to increase business.

This work has to be completed by March 2012! A daunting task but the very motivated and energetic “Town Team” is determined that it will be achieved.

On the broader strategy front the Board has considered a planning brief for the Territorial Army site on St Albans Road. There are no immediate plans for its redevelopment but having a formally adopted document will strengthen the Council’s ability to resist unsuitable development. The local stakeholders have expressed a clear preference for family housing rather than any commercial enterprise on the site. Similarly they are pressing the Council to devise a planning brief to allow for the expansion of The Spires and to include the associated hinterland running north towards St Albans Road.

Dates for your Diary

Autumn Green Clearance Day – Saturday 29th October.

Social Club Events

Dinner Dance at Old Fold Golf Club – 26th November. Details later.

Childrens' Party (with Santa Claus) – Memorial Hall, 10th December.

Committee Members

Chairman: Derek Sagar 8449 0361

Treasurer: Colette Brideson 8364 8774

Secretary: Pat Andrews 8441 3607

Ian Butcher

Kim Longman

Richard Peart

David Chapman

Ken McEnery

Angela Ratcliffe

Amanda Holly

Stephen Mullens

If you have not yet paid your subscription for this year, you will find a red/orange sticker beside your address label on the front.

TO: The Treasurer, Hadley Residents' Association

I enclose £ in payment of my annual subscription.
Cheques payable to Hadley Residents' Association.

Name:..... Tel No:.....

Address:.....

Please send this slip to: Treasurer, HRA, The Mercers (between The Elms and Hadley House) Hadley Green Road, Barnet, EN5 5PR

OR Please use the Standing Order form on the back page.

