



INTRODUCTION

Hoorah! The warm weather has finally arrived. It seemed like the snow and cold weather would never go away. The air is now filled with the heady scent of cut grass and BBQ smoke. I hope you are all enjoyed the fantastic display of Bluebells around the estate and in the woods. Did you get a picture of them in full bloom? Why not put Weymede on the National Trusts Bluebell map, visit NationalTrust.org.uk.

Though it's great to see the trees in bloom we hope you all managed to get out and enjoy the snow. The estate really did look quite magical. Here's a picture of the square in January.

WEYMEDE EASTER EGG HUNT

We had a really good turn out this year, the weather was bright and with a new location just in front of the Riverbank gates the kids had a great time. They all left with a pretty good haul. Thank you to everyone who came out to help hide the eggs and supervise the hunt. It really is worth the time and effort to see the kids enjoying themselves.



Snowy square



COMMITTEE NEWS

YOUR MANAGEMENT TEAM IS UNDERGOING CHANGES

You will know from last year's reports and AGM minutes that our Secretary (Jill Brum) and Treasurer (Reem Burton) announced they would be stepping down when suitable replacements were found. As disappointed as we are to see them leave, we are delighted to announce that Sarah Lighten (HN43), formerly overseeing News and Events has settled into the secretarial role. Sarah comes with ample skills and enthusiasm to fulfill this role. Handover of the treasurer role is currently underway. Please continue to liaise on treasury matters by emailing treasurer@weymede.co.uk.

With George Menzies resignation earlier this year due to increased work commitments, I am pleased to announce Mike White (HN71) has volunteered to take on the responsibilities of the community affairs role until AGM elections. Mike has served on similar committees in the past, is well versed in our covenants, rules and supports the Weymede ethos.

Given these changes, we have looked at how best to position responsibilities in these roles. Dawn has taken back the window, gutter and skylight cleaning responsibilities and future newsletters will be produced by Mike in his community affairs role. We will no longer have a specific role for news and events. Please, if you are interested in getting involved in the planning and execution of our community events, please make yourself known by contacting secretary@weymede.co.uk.

Any queries for the chairman can be emailed to chairman@weymede.co.uk

MAINTENANCE - Alayne Dellow

As usual there is a lot of maintenance happening on the estate over the coming year. Here is what to expect.

Path Refurbishment - It's clear to all that the paths are in desperate need of repair where the tree roots have pushed and moved the paths, plus general wear and tear. Work has already started and significant improvements have been made to several sections along the spine road.

Lights - We continue to replace the Garage lights around the estate.

Riverbank Gates - Both sets of double gates have now been re-hung and the hole has been drilled larger on the woodland

New brick wall - You will notice when using the garden compound a new wall has been erected replacing the broken fence panels and providing better security.

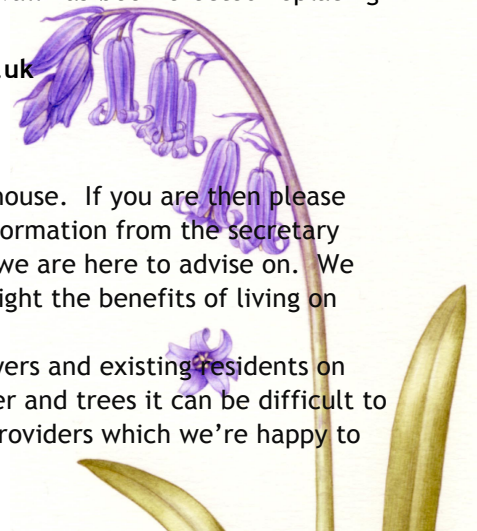
If you have any maintenance queries please email maintenance@weymede.uk

SECRETARY - Sarah Lighten

As the weather starts to warm up you may start to think about selling your house. If you are then please notify the secretary. Your estate agent and solicitor will require a lot of information from the secretary and often solicitors will raise quite a few queries over the covenants which we are here to advise on. We are currently putting a pack together for estate agents which properly highlight the benefits of living on Weymede.

Hand in hand with this goes home insurance. We often get queries from buyers and existing residents on recommended home insurers. Due to Weymede's close proximity to the river and trees it can be difficult to find an insurer at a reasonable rate. We have started collating of a list of providers which we're happy to provide. Please also go to Sarah if you need a **gate key!**

Please email secretary@weymede.co.uk for advice and assistance.



GARDENING - Jill Patrick

After a rigorous tendering and interview process the Weymede gardening contract was awarded to David Meagher, fellow Weymede resident, for another year. What we are working on this year:

Continued care - Tidying, pruning, clearing and mulching throughout the estate. Refurbishment of the front of houses started last year.

Tree Survey - Provides us with a long term plan for all the trees on the estate. Those of you affected by the results of the survey will have been notified.

Garden Compound - The long term plan is to create our own composting system which will ultimately reduce clearance costs by approximately £1,000 pa. This will take some time to get going and all residents have been notified about how they can help.

If you have any gardening queries please emailgardening@weymede.co.uk

PAINTING - Colin Coote

Guttering - Colin who manages painting on Weymede has put a great deal of effort into researching the best replacement guttering systems for Weymede. You'll be able to see the affect poor guttering has on the houses; moss, water stains and of course wear and tear on the pointing which can then lead to damp inside the houses.

The best guttering available for Weymede is something called "OG" shaped guttering (flat back, flat bottom, shaped front). You can see examples of this guttering on houses 83-87 and 77-82 which were done a few months ago. The contractor is Gutterman, based in Ashford and run by Jamie Philips. Number 01784 259 404.

If you would like more information on this or the painting cycle please emailpainting@weymede.co.uk

EVENTS

Weyday - Perfect time to celebrate Weymede's 50th Birthday

The date has been set! This year's Weyday will be held on **Saturday 20th July**. More details to follow.

In light of the changes on the committee we are looking to create a committed group of people who want to help organize events on Weymede. You will have full support of the committee in all aspects.

We'd also like to know if any of our residents have any skills we can use at the Weyday; face painting, juggling, puppet master, big muscles. If you would like to get involved in any way please emailsecretary@weymede.co.uk

BROOKLANDS COMMUNITY PARK - THE LOWER MOLE PROJECT

I hope you have all come across the fantastic new path that runs through the marsh area in the woods. This has been created by the Lower Mole Countryside Management Project. The path runs east to west and can be found by turning right or left out of the wood gates heading towards brooklands park. There's a raised decked area across the marsh which has been built to encourage moles. You can find out more about the Lower Mole Countryside Management Project by searching

<http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/>

It will be a perfect spot for our spooky Halloween woodland walk!



RESIDENT'S CORNER

Hazel - HN76 - Has had a number of grass snakes in her garden but this sighting really sticks in her memory: "I saw the largest snake swimming in my pond. It looked too large to be a mere grass snake so I phoned an expert on reptiles and amphibians, the number provided to me by Woking Borough Council. I was asked to describe in detail my pond (size, depth etc) then my garden, then the location of my garden and its surroundings and the area within a radius of about half a mile. Next I was asked to describe every snake I had seen in my garden over the years. Then the expert said "Well you are very fortunate! You obviously have a thriving grass snake community living in your area". She told me that every snake I had described was in fact a grass snake. At that time of year the adult snakes would be going down tunnels into nests of rats and taking the young to feed their own offspring. They are nature's pest controllers. The reason it was in my pond was that it was soaking its skin which was ready to shed, hence the misty appearance I had described to her. The soaking makes it easier to shed.

Teli - HN34 - "I was out hanging the washing and heard a loud scream beside me. A frog jumped out of some leaves followed by a grass snake straight up like a stick. The frog had a lucky escape and the snake elegantly retreated back into the leaves"

"I also came across a sick young fox in my garden (about 8 months old). It was hovering behind the shrubs. It was obvious that it was very ill, walking a bit and then resting her head on a flower pot. I phoned the Wildlife Hospital in Leatherhead and they came to rescue her. Apparently she had suffered a blow to the head and after treatment she was well enough to return to the woods"

If you come across an injured animal and you think it's urgent then you can contact the Wildlife Aid Foundation in Leatherhead on 09061 800 132. They also have lots of advice on what to do with any unusual visitor you might find in your garden on their website www.wildlifeaid.org.uk

If you have a story that you would like to appear in the newsletter please email Mike White at communityaffairs@weymede.co.uk

