

Our compliments of the season and our best wishes for health and happiness in 2016 to all residents and friends of Hinchley Wood.



Your executive committee extend their thanks to all households which have paid their annual subscription. Your Road Representative will be happy to receive any unpaid subscriptions. Please be sure to quote your name and house number.

Re-drawing of ward boundaries

Because of the exceptionally large number of comments which have been submitted, the Local Government Boundary Commission have postponed their announcement of the final results of their review of ward boundaries in Elmbridge until the new year. This will leave limited time to prepare for elections based on new boundaries on 5th May 2016.

If the current proposals are confirmed, the number of Elmbridge Councillors will reduce from 60 to 48, and Hinchley Wood would be combined with Weston Green in a new ward with three councillors instead of the current four.

The first election on the new boundaries will be 'all out', with all three seats being contested. Thereafter, a third of the seats will be contested each year, with the candidate polling the lowest vote in the 2016 election standing for re-election first, and so on.

Hinchley Wood Residents Association regrets the diminution in local identity and accountability which these changes seem likely to produce, but whatever the final outcome of the Boundary Commission's deliberations, we will work with colleagues in neighbouring residents associations to ensure that the residents' interests continue to be effectively represented on the Council.

Thefts and scams

Cases continue to be regularly reported, and in the run-up to the festive season, residents are urged to be especially vigilant on their own behalf and of that of elderly or vulnerable neighbours. Reported incidents include:

- *Theft of parcels left on doorsteps. If you cannot be in when a parcel is due to arrive, please try to make alternative arrangements for its delivery*
- *Roof repair scammers, claiming to be working nearby and to have noticed loose tiles at your property, and demanding cash before work is done*
- *Telephone callers claiming that a Council Tax or other refund is due, and trying to get hold of bank account details to make the fictitious refund*
- *Callers claiming to be from the police or bank security department, asking you to move money from your account to counteract a (fictitious) fraud. Genuine police or bank staff will never do this, or ask for PIN numbers etc. over the telephone.*
- *Suspicious characters hanging around in vans or other vehicles and/or wandering around the neighbourhood for no apparent good reason.*

If you see anything suspicious, do not hesitate to report it to the police on 101, or if you believe a crime is in progress or imminent, on 999.

Dates for your diary

HWRA Annual General Meeting - Thursday 4th February 2016

HWRA Autumn General Meeting - Thursday 20th October 2016

Both meetings at 8 p.m. In St. Christopher's Church Hall



Christmas lights in the Memorial Gardens

Unfortunately these are likely to be on a reduced scale this year, as Surrey County Council contractors working on the street lights cut off the power supply without notice. We hope to be able to find a temporary solution for this year's lights pending restoration of a proper power supply for next year.

K3 Bus 'hail & ride' in Manor Road South

A number of residents have complained that buses no longer stop on request along Manor Road South. Upon enquiry, we have been told that this facility has been withdrawn without any prior warning. We are in contact with the bus company about the possible provision of a bus stop on this stretch of road, but meanwhile those wishing to board or alight will unfortunately have to use the stops at the Oaken Lane end or by the shops.

Aircraft noise

RAGE in Elmbridge (Residents Action Group Elmbridge) is a new group set up to oppose Heathrow flightpath changes and expansion plans. Fed up with increased flight noise? Want to make your opposition to Heathrow expansion plans and increased noise and air pollution known to Elmbridge Borough Council and Dominic Raab M.P.? If so, you can join the group by emailing RAGEinElmbridge@gmail.com or find them on Twitter: @RAGEinElmbridge.

Parking

We understand that Surrey County Council are planning a new approach to deciding where parking restrictions should be imposed. Instead of a blanket ban e.g. double yellow lines at hot spots, they are planning to ask residents and traders in each area what the parking in their area should look like i.e.:

- Who do we want to encourage?
- Who do we want to discourage?
- How can restrictions be structured to achieve the required outcome?

Districts will be reviewed on a rolling programme. Hinchley Wood will not come up for a while, but when it does, HWRA

will endeavour to be ready with proposals which reflect residents' views, including on vexed matters such as parking around the schools and commuter parking. Your views would be welcome and can be sent to enquiries@hinchleywood.org.uk or directly to our councillors (see below).

Meanwhile, we continue to press the schools for action on the nuisance caused to nearby residents by overspill staff parking and dropping off and collection of pupils, which appears to have been exacerbated recently by building works at the both schools. We ask parents to be mindful of the situation and where possible walk their children to school.

Cycle racks at the station

We are pleased to hear that the rail company is looking to find funding to install cycle racks in the vacant space next to the Station Approach entrance, which may ease some of the pressure on parking around the station.

Post Office

In early 2016 Post Office counter at Budgens will be modernised and moved towards the front of the shop. Most of the existing services will be retained and the opening hours will be the same as those of the shop, which is good news. We are however concerned that there will only be one serving point, which may result in queues at peak times. The Post Office will be closed for one to two weeks while the refurbishment work is carried out.

Lorry access to Jewson's yard

Satnav instructions currently direct lorry drivers into Station Approach, causing havoc when an unwary driver fails to realise that there is in fact no access to the yard from that side. To mitigate the problem, we have agreed with the yards' operators, the Council and Royal Mail that the access road to the yard will be given its own name (Crouch Lane) and postcode - though doubtless it will take a while before maps and devices are updated with the new address for the yard.



Janet Turner

Our Councillors Janet Turner and Nigel Haig-Brown can be contacted as follows:

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Nigel Haig-Brown

Councillors' Surgeries: second Saturday of each month. Please check the HWRA notice board and/or website for details of time and venue.

www.hinchleywood.org.uk

If you would like to receive e-bulletins from HWRA, please go to the Contact page on the website and click on the 'subscribe' link.