

Spring 2016 NEWSLETTER

Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association



On my way walking to the High Street today, I saw a very colourful display of crocuses in the triangle between Furnace Way and Hopfield Gardens, which shows that spring is around the corner. However, the seasons seem to be a little confused currently and I imagine like you, our grass continued to grow throughout the winter!

I am really pleased that we successfully continue to run the Surgery Car Service, which I know is greatly appreciated by many of our residents. The High Street road works will mean a slightly longer route for visits to The Meads and Bird in Eye surgeries but the good news is that the charge of £3.50 for the return trip will remain unchanged. Also, I would like to thank the drivers and volunteers who manage the phone calls, for all their help and support.

I look forward to meeting many of you at our various events or when I am walking around our lovely neighbourhood.
Paul Sparks, Chairman.

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The Big Lunch 2016 – celebrating the Queen’s 90th Birthday



This year the Association’s Big Lunch will be held on the second Sunday in June (12th) to celebrate the Queen’s 90th birthday

Thanks to the generosity of Uckfield Rugby Club the event will again be held on its field. All the usual fun and games will be there to keep both children and adults entertained, including:

- ✚ Punch and Judy shows - free
- ✚ Bouncy Castle - free
- ✚ Face painting - free
- ✚ Dog Show - free
- ✚ Best hat competition - royal birthday theme
- ✚ Ice Cream van

We look forward to seeing you all on the 12th June.

The Dene – a community asset

As you may recall the Association had been looking into protecting The Dene by applying for it to be officially designated as a ‘village green’.

However, we found that this wasn’t the best way forward and so we are now planning to nominate The Dene to be listed as a ‘community asset’.

Land can be listed if its principal use furthers the community’s social well-being or social interests (which includes recreational interests) and is likely to do so in the future.

If a listed asset is to be sold, local community groups will, in many cases, have a fairer chance to make a bid to buy it on the open market.



Our twittens and paths – a time for action?



This year the Association will be seeking grant funding to bring one or more of the key twittens on Manor Park up to an adoptable standard

If the County Council then adopts the twitten, its future maintenance and repair will no longer be the responsibility of the residents in the locality.

The plan is to identify the twittens that provide the key routes across the estate, as it will not be possible to get funding to repair all of them.

We are keen to hear your thoughts on which routes are the most important – for example the path across The Dene from Nevill road to the shops?

Please let us know what you think.

Manor Primary and UCTC Our successful schools



UTCT is second in the School's league tables for East Sussex with 73% of its pupils obtaining five A - C GCSEs including English and Mathematics.

St. Richard's Roman Catholic College in Bexhill was top with 74%.

This is a great result for UCTC and a wonderful achievement by both students and staff.

We are very fortunate to have two highly successful schools in our patch with Manor Primary recently appearing in the Primary School league table with 96% of their 11 year-olds gaining a Level 4 which is the standard expected for their age in all three subjects of reading, writing and mathematics.

Manor Primary was the top school for its size, being one of the largest primary schools in East Sussex. Many of the "better" schools only had 6, 8 or 9 children taking the tests - Manor had 56!

Talking of Schools – how about walking not driving?



Those of us that live near our two schools are all too aware of the congestion and inconsiderate parking that can occur in Downsview Crescent and the nearby roads at the beginning and end of each school day.

The Association is talking to the two schools and Twiglets Nursery to see how it can encourage parents and carers to either walk their children to school or park just a few minutes away and walk the last hundred yards or so.

Walking can be fun, is good exercise for young and old and is environmentally friendly and more neighbourly!

Forthcoming Events

We are holding our first wine tasting evening on Saturday 30th April in the Luxford Centre (7pm). Why not join us?

The Uckfield Wine Circle is kindly organising the evening for us; their motto is Wine for Friendship, Wine for Fun – you can't argue with that!

A wide variety of wines to taste complimented with some good cheeses.

Places are limited and so tickets will only be sold in advance – only £10 per person, available from Peter our Secretary.



Mick Harker from the Uckfield and District Preservation Society has agreed to talk to us about the Bridge Cottage project at the Association's AGM on 21st July.

This local landmark, built around 1436, is currently undergoing extensive renovation with the works nearing completion.

Mick's talk should be extremely interesting so do come along to this free event. The venue will be announced in due course and so please keep an eye on your emails or the notice board in Tesco Express.



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Easy Fund Raising

The Association has registered with an organisation called 'Easy Fund Raising' which gives a donation each time you make a purchase online. The stores that support the scheme include Amazon UK, Tesco, Debenhams, John Lewis, Argos, M&S and other well-known shops.

You don't pay anything extra but the Association automatically receives a small percentage of every purchase you make.

It's really easy to set up, just go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and follow the on screen instructions, choosing the Association and downloading the Donation Reminder when setting up the account, OR you can download an App if you prefer to load it onto your smartphone or iPad.

Support Our Shops

This could be a tough summer for our High Street shops but we can all do our bit by continuing to visit the High Street and buying locally.

Don't forget that Association members also have the advantage of being offered some significant discounts by two dozen shops and businesses trading in the town.

These include, a solicitor, financial adviser, car repairs and valeting, hairdressing, gifts, sweets, a pub restaurant and many more.

If you are not yet a member then get in touch with Peter our Secretary – please see the 'Contact Us' list elsewhere on this page.

The subscription is just £5 per calendar year.