

Spring 2024

UEHA

Uplands Estate Newsletter

Uplands Estate Houseowner Association

*“The best piece of
suburbia in
Southampton”*

*Nikolaus Pevsner,
Architectural Historian
1967*

Want more of a say in how things are run on the estate?

If you want to get more involved in how the estate is run, then please join us on the UEHA committee. We need more people with new ideas and a range of skills. No previous experience necessary. We meet locally once a month.

Could you be our new Treasurer?

In particular, if you've got a basic understanding of accounting and book-keeping, we'd like to hear from you as we need a new treasurer. After many years, Chris Dancer (72 O/W) is standing down in May. The time commitment is about 3 hours a week in addition to the monthly meetings. If you want to know more, email

ChrisDancer@outlook.com This post qualifies for the waiving of the individual's annual subscription payment.

Toob Broadband – Work to Begin

Telecoms provider Toob is to begin work in the coming months installing a fibre-optic system. It's hoped to do this with the minimum of disruption to verges and tree roots. Once completed, residents will have the option of higher broadband capacity.

Update on Resurfacing of Estate Roads

We're now at the stage of seeking contractors for Phase 1 of the work to be carried out on the estate's roads. Subject to final costs, Phase 1 covers the replacement of the road surface and sub-structure along Orchards Way from Highfield Lane to the junction of Uplands Way, including the horseshoe around the Green. As a resident/leaseholder, you'll be receiving a letter (a Section 20 Notice, replacing the Notice received by all in January which regrettably contained some errors) formally telling you that the work is going out to tender. Once the tenders are received, all residents can comment on the final choice of contractor and the costs involved at a specially convened general meeting.

To pay for this work and to ensure sufficient funds for future road upkeep, it's anticipated that the additional payments towards road repairs made by every home over the past 2 years, will need to become a regular feature for the foreseeable future. This will be in addition to the annual subscription. Full road plan details are on the UEHA web site www.ueha.co.uk



Estate Maintenance

Works completed in 2023

- Pothole repairs completed by August. Attention given to areas that might break up over the winter. Appreciation was voiced for the quality of the works, the communication and the responsive team effort of the committee. Also, potholes repaired on the path between 24 & 26 O/W
- Fence replacement opposite scout hut
- Replacement oak post (31-33 O/W) and trial of Opepe wood post
- Edging replacement on parts of U/W
- Installation of weight limit signs
- Scything of meadow, carried out mid-August
- Tree plantings established well with the help of watering bags which will be retained through the summer
- Slippery path signage installed
- Annual road drain clearance carried out in November. Deeper clean to be scheduled with use of jetting
- Support for residents wishing to undertake property development within conservation guidelines. Committee members have visited a number of homes at the owners' request and shared practical advice and guidance, before and during the works application process.

Estate Trees

Annual Inspection

This took place in October and overall, the trees were thought to be in a reasonably good state with nothing needing urgent attention. Also, all trees have now been tagged making future identification easier. The next estate tree inspection is due in Spring 2025.

Work recommended to take place in 2024 includes:

- Significant reduction in the size of a Lime in the Spinney and another tree near numbers 5 and 7 Uplands Way
- Coppicing or felling of older Alders near the stream with replacement if necessary
- Routine removal of deadwood as well as raising the canopy to comply with statutory requirements, over properties, telephone cables, roads and pavements
- Checking the cable bracing on the Cedar near the post box
- Formation and thinning of the hedgerow in the Cut (by the Scout Hut) to continue, creating a more natural barrier
- Possible removal of a large sycamore in the Cut which appears to have died.

A Reminder...Trees on Your own Land.

If you're planning to do any significant pruning work to the trees on your land, there's a strong possibility you'll need permission from either Southampton City Council or the UEHA. Full details of the rules applying to this are available on the UEHA website <http://www.ueha.co.uk/>

Grounds

Update on Maintenance

Gardener Sam Hewitt has had the estate contract since last March. In the quiet growing months he comes fortnightly. However last season's good weather meant growth was particularly abundant and he came weekly for a longish period to keep on top of it all. In addition, Sam does hedge and bush trimming, leaf blowing and collection, edging and some repair works to the grass verges. We still have help from volunteer gardeners (for which much thanks) but have reduced their input, as much of the work needs more garden landscape experience and appropriate power tools.

Thanks to everyone who helps by contributing their garden bin space when the volunteer estate gardeners are out and about. Their main role is to keep the drains clear of debris, clear the grate in the stream from blocking, pruning the fruit trees, and any other jobs that do not require heavy equipment.

Pond proposal

Following a request at the last AGM to assess the feasibility of recreating a former pond on Horseshoe Green, members of the UEHA committee (known as the 'pond team') have been looking into the possibility. Thanks to their input and the pro bono work of a chartered landscape architect and local resident, it was clear that a pond in the south-east corner of the green was not feasible. This is due to space and technical constraints. The stream is having to be diverted to preserve the road running alongside. So, the pond team wants to focus on minimizing flood risks and maximizing biodiversity of the new stream which will be created following the work. This doesn't preclude creating a pond in another location in the future.

No Garden Waste in the Spinney

A plea not to put your garden waste in the Spinney. There have been some large deposits of grass cuttings and gravel plus general garden waste placed on top of some special plants recently sown there. Much effort goes into maintaining the natural look of the area so no dumping please.

Not too late for a Thank You!

Although it may seem a long time since Christmas, we hope it's not too late to say a huge thank you to Jilly Fordham, (35 O/W), Emma Carter (17 O/W) Roger Munford (7 O/W) and Sam James (11 O/W) and others for providing the fantastic Christmas tree and lights.

It's a total voluntary effort on their part, from which we all benefit so it's important we all make a contribution to cover costs. Jilly orders the tree, collects the monies and with Emma organises the "switch-on" event. Roger and Sam organise volunteers to raise the tree into the permanent, concrete hole which the estate paid for some years ago. Then, having stored the lights all year they dress the tree and recharge the battery every 5 days.

It was quite a challenge to keep the tree upright this year according to Roger Munford. "The record-breaking wet and windy spell over Christmas meant some of the lights blew off the tree into a lake which surrounded the tree and shorted the power supply, so the lights were out for a few days. However, we cobbled together some of the old lights which lasted until January 6th when we took it down. The ground by then was a quagmire but fortunately Jason Kallik stepped in with his chain saw and nobody fell into the mud!"

Contacting the Committee

Monthly Meeting Dates

4th March / 8th April / 13th May / 3rd June / 1st July 2024

Venue - The Small Lounge, Highfield Church 7.15pm

You can view minutes of meetings on the UEHA web site <http://www.ueha.co.uk/>

The 2024 AGM will take place on 15th May at Highfield Church Hall 7.30pm

If you wish the committee to consider an item you've submitted...

Please ensure any submissions reach the committee a week before the monthly meeting. Submissions should be made to the UEHA Administrator, Rochelle Parkes at uplandsestate@gmail.com

Current Committee Members

Committee Members can serve for three years and Trustees for five years although these terms may be extended by general voting.



Fiona Britton
86 OW
Trustee



Gordon Cooper
38 OW
Trustee



Diane Ferry
14 OW
Trustee



Dan Nother
58 OW
Chair



Chris Dancer
72 O/W
Treasurer



Catherine Cooper
5 O/W
Hon. Sec



Peta Bateman
40 O/W
Grounds Manager



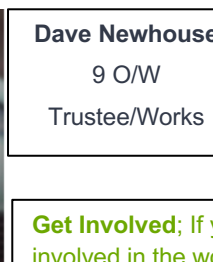
Mark Ellison
84 O/W



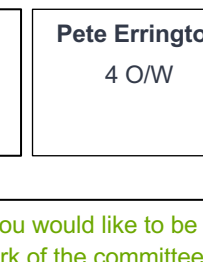
Kirsty Thomas
16 U/W



Rochelle Parkes
Admin Manager
60 O/W



Dave Newhouse
9 O/W
Trustee/Works



Pete Errington
4 O/W

Get Involved; If you would like to be involved in the work of the committee, please speak to a committee member to find out what's involved. We can co-opt members in between AGMs.