

UEHA

Uplands Estate Newsletter

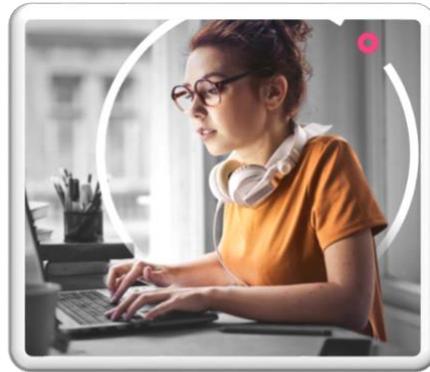
Uplands Estate Houseowners' Association

Spring 2022

*“The best piece of
suburbia in
Southampton”*

*Nikolaus Pevsner,
Architectural Historian
1967*

Estate to get Faster Broadband



Connection to faster broadband speeds should be available on the Uplands estate by Autumn 2022.

Committee member Dave Newhouse has been collaborating with telecoms provider, 'Toob,' detailing plans to install higher capacity cabling available to all properties, on request. The work won't disrupt the layout of pavements and roads or compromise the conservation values of the estate. Full details are available on the estate website www.ueha.co.uk

Date for your Diary

ANNUAL AGM

Tuesday 17th May at 19.30hrs, Highfield Church Hall

Update on Estate Roads

The tendering process for road improvements will begin before all the funds are collected so that work can start as quickly as possible once the money is in. This follows the agreement to raise extra funds for road improvement at the Extraordinary General Meeting in December.

Tree Updates

Annual Tree Safety Survey planned

Damage caused by the storms of late February was quickly dealt with by tree surgeons. They carried out a visual survey of all trees on the estate's common areas. But the plan now is to schedule an annual tree safety survey. A reminder that any communications with tree workers regarding the job they are doing, should be done via the committee.

Cedar Tree at no 41 O/W



A scheduled climbing inspection by tree safety specialists, Groundlord gave the Cedar outside 41 OW a clean bill of health subject to some routine maintenance. (Full details www.ueha.co.uk) The work, subject to council approval, will be carried out as soon as possible.

Estate Pruning

Thanks are due to Uplands Estate administrator Rochelle Parkes who has kindly carried out winter pruning of the fruit trees in OW for the last two years.



She says that the apple pruning is showing the benefit of patience rather than large corrective cutting which risks excessive vegetative growth. She's still cautious about removing too much and instead has focused on disease removal and ensuring people and vehicles can pass by safely.

SAVE TREES. SAVE £100 PRINTING COSTS EACH EDITION

GET YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

Simply email Rochelle Parkes Uplandsestate@gmail.com

Call for new committee members

At the AGM **we'll be looking to appoint four committee members.** We need new people to get involved to bring fresh ideas and gain experience of the Estate's care and management.

If you've never considered joining the committee, why not look into it now? Speak to any member of the committee if you want to know more about what's involved. We meet once a month except for August.

Current Committee Members



Dan Nother
58 OW
Chair



Gordon Cooper
38 OW
Trustee



Diane Ferry
14 OW
Trustee



Fiona Britton
86 OW
Trustee



Chris Dancer
72 OW
Treasurer



Catherine Cooper
5 OW
Hon. Sec



Rob Swindell
20 OW



Roger Munford
7 OW

Dave Newhouse, 9 OW - Trustee/Works Manager

John Coffey, 15 UW - Grounds Manager

Committee Meeting Dates 2022

Monday 4th April, Mon 9th May, Mon 6th June, Mon 4th July,

Mon 5th Sept, Mon 3rd Oct, Mon 7th Nov, Mon 5th Dec.

Maintaining the Spinney and the Meadow

Special Report from Committee Member, Roger Mumford

The Spinney

In late Winter last year, the volunteers cleared the Spinney from all rubbish, including a set of number plates, dog fouling and many non-native invasive species.

The scheme to offer compost from the wild compost area was welcomed and taken up by many residents. The volunteers then lowered the remaining compost area substantially, reduced earth levels around trees and landscaped the compost area together to form the woodland edge (corner OW/UW), burying more wood for (existing) stag beetles.

This creates a variety of wildlife habitats and increases biodiversity by introducing native woodland edge plants such as Snowdrops, Primroses, Forget-me-nots, Foxgloves, Lilies-in-the-valley, Violets, Cowslips, Queen-Ann's-laces, Red Campion, Woodruff, white and red Deadnettle, Oxeye Daisies, Ferns, Wild Rose, Wild Honeysuckle, Iris and more.



Inside the Spinney, a small area was planted with ancient woodland plants such as native Bluebells, Solomon's Seal, Wood Anemones and Yellow Archangel. Removing the central brambles revealed Michael Flint's planting of cyclamen which gave a lovely display in autumn.

With the help of the gardeners, the path through the Spinney has been widened and the Butcher's Broom hedge maintained.

As far as we can see, all those plants have come up again this year, and many residents have commented positively regarding both aesthetics and increase in visibility/safety at the OW/UW corner.

The Meadow

The meadow was cut twice last year, with a strip by the side of the stream left for overwintering insects.

We were pleased to see a good display of meadow foxtail grass, a species that has disappeared from many areas with agricultural re-seeding. It's an important habitat for invertebrates and an early source of pollen for bees. The sorrel, meadow buttercup and yellow flag also did well in the spring, and the strip by the stream managed for later flowering plants had an excellent display of purple loosestrife,

meadowsweet, and great willowherb. We were especially pleased to see patches of Meadow Vetchling and Great Burnet appearing - Great Burnet is one of the key plants of wet flood meadows and shows what an important remnant habitat the meadow is.



A butterfly count in early July showed 16 individual (within 10 minutes) butterflies of 4 species, including meadow browns and gatekeeper (the latter uncommon in urban areas), as well as a frog! A yellow wagtail was seen by the stream several times earlier this year.

Ongoing Meadow maintenance

Once it's clear if and how the stream will be diverted, we will create a plan showing which areas of the meadow have to be cut and how frequently. In the meantime, we intend to have the meadow cut at least once per year, ideally twice.

The plan for this year is to remove the dead seed heads from the overwintering strip in the next couple of weeks, cut back the brambles that are encroaching on the meadow while leaving the scrub area for nesting birds, and cut the meadow later in the year depending on growth and weather conditions.

Events

We had two events which helped raise awareness of the wildlife crisis and were very successful with residents:

- Children's Easter Planting which also helped prevent children from running through freshly planted areas.
- National "No Mow May" participation which revealed over 40 different plant species in the bank between 4 and 12 OW and a variety of beetles, bees and butterflies visiting them.

