

FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

The Meriden View

Meriden Residents Association, 149 York Way, Watford, WD25 9UF

Tel: 01923 680352 (answerphone – messages picked up on Tuesdays)

Website: www.meridenra.org

Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/meridenra

Chairman: Steve Moss - stephen.moss@meridenra.org

Secretary: Marion Strawhorne - marion.strawhorne@meridenra.org

Treasurer: Kon Hanson – kon.hanson@meridenra.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 12

MRA Open Meeting - see over

7.30pm to 9pm

Free refreshments served from 7pm
Meriden Community Centre

MAY 7

MRA AGM

7.30pm to 9pm

Free refreshments served from 7pm
Meriden Community Centre

AUGUST 3

Annual Coach Trip

Email the secretary or call 01923 468992 to register your interest

DECEMBER 7

Children's Christmas Party & Tea and Mince Pies

2pm to 4.30pm

Meriden Community Centre

EVERY FRIDAY

Coffee Mornings held each week

9.30am to 12noon

Meriden Community Hub

FUTURE EVENTS

Keep an eye on the community noticeboards, fish & chip shop window, doctor's surgery and Meriden Community Centre or call 01923 468992 to be kept in touch about future events.

CO-OP FUNDING

We are delighted to announce that the Co-op has selected the Meriden Residents Association (MRA) to be one of their local causes. All money raised will fund our **coach trips**. This is where we need your help to raise as much as possible.

What you need to do:

1. Purchase a Co-op membership card for £1 from the Co-op.
2. Phone the number on the back of the card **0800 023 4708** or complete the online form at www.coop.co.uk/membership.
3. Advise them that you would like to select the Meriden Residents Association as your chosen cause. **Job done!** It's that easy!

Every time you use your Co-op membership card and purchase a **Co-op branded product**, **1%** will be put into the fund for the MRA and **5%** will be credited to your Co-op membership account for you to spend on anything in the store. You can spend it at any time or save it up and put it towards a really big treat for yourself! Funds can be raised by shopping at the following Co-op locations:

- Meriden Co-op
- Abbotswood Park Co-op
- Kingswood Co-op Funeralcare



MERIDEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION OPEN MEETING

Please do join us on Tuesday 12th February at the Meriden Community Centre for our Open Meeting. The doors open at 7pm for refreshments. The meeting will run from 7.30pm to 9pm.

Topics include:

- Chairman and Treasurer's reports
- Update on CCTV/general maintenance across the estate by Paul Marsh (WCH)
- Update on the Meriden Development led by Danny O'Reilly (Mulalley) and Mary Robinson (WCH)
- A short talk by Jeanette Aron from OWL (Online Watch Link – Neighbourhood Watch)

If you want to raise anything under Any Other Business, please email Marion with your item in advance of the meeting. You can also call 01923 468992.

At the end of the evening, there will be a free raffle into which all Meriden Residents who attend the meeting will be entered. You do have to be present for the whole meeting to be included. The prize being given is a £25 INTU gift card which can be used in many of the INTU shops.

HAMPERS FOR HEROES

We are proud to announce that our long-standing Committee Member, Brenda Batchelor, was nominated for the Watford Community Housing Hampers for Heroes award. Brenda was nominated for "all the great work she does in her local community. She runs regular coffee mornings, is an active member of the Meriden Residents Association and recently volunteered to run the refreshments stand (single-handedly) for our Ladies' Day event. Brenda works tirelessly to prepare for the Meriden Children's Christmas Party, wrapping beautiful gifts for the children to receive via tombola or when visiting Father Christmas. Brenda continues to work hard for the local community (having been a member of a Residents Association for 30 years!) and it would be lovely to see her recognised."

Brenda was one of five winners selected by the Gateway Membership Team and was presented with a luxury hamper at an afternoon tea organised by WCH.



Sophie Phillips from Watford Community Housing presenting Brenda with her award.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY 2018

Once again, we had a brilliant Christmas Party. It was attended by 158 Children and 119 adults. We are very grateful to Mulalley who fully sponsored this party enabling us to put this on completely free of charge. We also are very grateful for over thirty volunteers who helped make this party go with a swing.

The children had a great time choosing various activities to take part in. They included playing games, having their face painted, receiving a model balloon as well as a gift from the tombola stall and a gift from Father Christmas with the help of his elf. There was a great community atmosphere. Here are a few photos, but please look at our website to see many more.



We held a raffle for the adults this year with some wonderful prizes. Watford Community Sports and Education Trust kindly let us have the use of two rooms at the Meriden Community Centre completely free of charge. This enabled us to invite people along who didn't have children to join us for tea and mince pies in the small hall.

We are now looking forward to our party on 7th December 2019.

MERIDEN BUS SERVICE

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) has announced that funding will continue from April for the Meriden bus services currently being supported on a short-term basis. The services to benefit from this longer-term funding are the W1, W2, W3 & W4 which have been run by Red Eagle since HCC stepped in to provide temporary emergency funding last October. From April, Red Eagle will be providing part of this operation on a commercial basis, with support from HCC for the rest.

The Uno 635, which also runs through the Meriden, is run commercially without assistance from HCC. As far as we know, this service will also continue as Uno have not indicated otherwise.

Councillor Derrick Ashley, Executive Member for Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and the Economy, said: "We know that people depend on these services for access to work, education, shops, personal services and social events so we are pleased to be in a position to be able to reassure them that they will continue to operate. However, some commercial services across the county generate little or no real profit so we could be called on to support them at any time, putting more stress on budgets. The best advice we can give to secure the future of your local bus service is by using it whenever possible."

MERIDEN DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Mulalley are issuing their second Meriden Development Newsletter with the latest news on the development. You should receive a copy through your letterbox. We will put their newsletter on our website in due course, www.meridenra.org/development.

NEW ROAD NAME

Mary Robinson (WCH) would welcome suggestions of names for the new road that will run between York Way and The Turnstones. You can post these on our Facebook page (we've already had quite a few suggestions), email them directly to marion.strawhorne@meridenra.org or call her on 01923 468992.

MERIDEN POLICING

Written police reports from our local PC, Mo Huzair will be available at our Open Meeting on 12th February. These can also be viewed on our website www.meridenra.org. Mo has stressed that it is very important that every incident is reported to the police. This can be done by phoning 101 (999 in an emergency) or it can be done online by going to the Hertfordshire Police website www.herts.police.uk/Report.

BECOMING AN MRA COMMITTEE MEMBER & MRA FACEBOOK GROUP AND WEBSITE

If you would like to become an MRA committee member or volunteer and have a couple of hours to spare each week (admin skills would be good), please ring Marion on 01923 462992.

We would encourage you to join our Facebook group which can be found at www.facebook.com/groups/meridenra. This is a great way to keep up to date with what is going on in the local area and to interact with all our Facebook members. The MRA committee members also welcome any suggestions and feedback. We currently have over 400 Facebook members but we know that there are many more people on the estate that we are here to serve. We keep our website up to date with both news and local events that you might be interested in. You can find the website at www.meridenra.org.
