

OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

The Meriden View

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

Tel: 01923 468992

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: Nitin Makharia - nitin.makharia@meridenra.org

MERIDEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION OPEN MEETING

Our next **Open Meeting** will take place on:

Tuesday 8th October 2019

7.30 pm to 9.00 pm

Meriden Community Centre

Doors open at **7 pm** for complimentary refreshments. During this time you can get to know your Meriden Residents Association (MRA) committee and the other residents.

- This is a great opportunity for all Meriden residents to come together to hear the latest news about the current development from Danny O'Reilly, Mulalley, and Ruche Peng, Watford Community Housing (WCH).
- Lorraine Ford (WCH) will give a brief update on the forthcoming Bowmans Green development and the proposed new development in Amwell Close.
- There will be a short question and answer time with WCH Senior Neighbourhood Officer, Gloria Thompson (re the Estate), and the Neighbourhood Services Team Leader, Andrea Loomes (anti-social behaviour). Please email your questions in advance to marion.strawhorne@meridenra.org or call Marion on 01923 468992. Please use the same details should you wish to raise anything under Any Other Business.
- Sue Atherton from Watford & Three Rivers Trust (W3RT) will give a short talk on a new scheme taking place on the Meriden called Neighbours Together.
- We will also hear from our Chair and Treasurer.

Please remember that all our speakers give up their time for these meetings so we would ask you to treat them with kindness and respect.

All Meriden residents that attend the whole meeting will be entered into a **free raffle** and the draw will take place at the end of the meeting. The prize will be a **£25 intu gift card** which can be used at your favourite shops, restaurants and leisure facilities in the intu shopping centre.



UPCOMING EVENTS

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Meriden Community Cafe

9:30 am to 12 noon
Meriden Community Centre
Garsmouth Way

EVERY FRIDAY

MRA Coffee Morning

9:30 am to 12 noon
Meriden Hub
149 York Way

TUESDAY OCTOBER 8

MRA Open Meeting

7.00 pm to 9 pm
Meriden Community Centre
Garsmouth Way

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2

Litter Pick and Random Cafe

10:45 am to 1:00 pm
Meriden Park
(Meet near Munden View)
Then join Random Café for lunch
at Meriden Community Centre

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7

Children's Christmas Party & Adults Tea & Mince Pies

2:00 pm to 4:30 pm
Meriden Community Centre
Garsmouth Way

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11 2020

MRA Open Meeting

7.00 pm to 9 pm
Meriden Community Centre
Garsmouth Way

YOUR MERIDEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

We are pleased to announce that at our Open Meeting, we will be officially voting in our latest committee member, Jean Bell. Jean has lived happily on the Meriden for 35 years. Jean commented at our last committee meeting that she hadn't realised how much work the committee does for the estate and she is looking forward to being part of the team which now has eight committee members.

Anyone living on the Meriden is automatically a member of the MRA but we would welcome any new members that would like to join the committee. We are sure that you have skills that would be really useful, from admin to being able to chat to people. If you are interested in becoming a committee member, please give Marion a call on [01923 468992](tel:01923468992).

If you don't want to be on the committee but would like to volunteer from time to time, you would be very welcome. Both our website and Facebook page are mainly administered by our volunteer, Peter, and we are very grateful for the time he gives to this.

You can be kept up to date and find lots of information about forthcoming events etc on our website www.meriden.org. We would also encourage you to join our Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/meridenra. We currently have over 600 members and we would love you to also be a part of this community.

As you will see from the articles below, we are very much enjoying working with other local groups. This gives a real sense of community which is one of our aims along with improving the quality of life for our residents.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Our Friday MRA Coffee Morning has been running every week since 2010. It is held at the Meriden Community Hub in York Way from 9.30 am to 12.00 noon.

On Wednesday 17th July, we opened our new Meriden Community Cafe. This is hosted by both the Meriden Residents Association and the Meriden Community Centre and is held at the Meriden Community Centre every Wednesday from 9.30 am to 12 noon. On the last Wednesday of each month, WCH hold a drop-in session during the morning so that tenants can raise any queries. Our local PCSO, Linda Davey, attends as often as she can.



Both of these coffee mornings will continue to run side by side.

We don't charge for refreshments but you may give a donation to help us cover our costs.

Our committee member, Brenda Batchelor, has been faithfully running the Friday coffee morning since it first opened nine years ago and now she also runs the Wednesday coffee morning. Our new committee member Jean comes along to help as well as our volunteer Hilary. Please do drop in for a cuppa and a chat, they will be very pleased to see you.

MACMILLAN WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

The Badger and the MRA came together to host a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan. This was held on Friday 27th September at The Badger; the MRA did not hold its usual Friday coffee morning so that we could all support Macmillan which aims to improve the lives of those living with cancer. It was great to support such a worthy cause. Thank you to all those of you that came along to give your support and to those who donated cakes. We're afraid this newsletter was too hot off the press to be able to say how much money was raised. However, you will be able to find out from The Badger in due course and we will post the total on the MRA Facebook group.



SOUTHEND TRIP 2019

In August we hired three coaches and took 150 people to Southend. The age range was three months to almost 100 and we are so pleased that our trips are inclusive. The sun was shining and a wonderful day was had by all.



We would like to express our thanks to Sophie Phillips at Watford Community Housing and Kareen Hastrick, our local Councillor, for securing funding for our trip. We are also grateful for money from the Co-op Community Fund. Receiving this financial help enabled us to provide this trip, which also included entry into Sealife Adventure, at a very affordable cost for everyone. We look forward to doing another coach trip next year.

CO-OP MEMBERSHIP CARD

There is still a short time left to buy a Co-op membership card (£1) from the Co-op to help the MRA. We would ask that you ring [0800 023 4708](tel:08000234708) or complete the online form at www.coop.co.uk/membership to select the Meriden Residents Association as your chosen cause (if you already have a card, you only need to select the MRA as your chosen cause). Every time you buy a Co-op product, both you and the MRA will benefit; money raised so far paid for one of our coaches on the Southend trip.

MERIDEN COMMUNITY DAY

We were pleased to be invited by the Watford Community Sports & Education Trust to join them at the Meriden Community Centre for their annual community day on Friday 30th August. We had a bric-a-brac stall, a raffle, with some very nice donated prizes, as well as an MRA information stall.

Congratulations to our raffle winners Rudra, Katie, Kareen, Carole and Nikki. Thank you to our volunteers Peter and Hilary for helping.

MERIDEN DEVELOPMENT

WCH are now regularly producing their own development newsletter; the next issue is due in November. They are only delivering to the roads near the current development, so if you particularly would like a copy and do not receive one, please request one by emailing ruche.peng@wcht.org.uk. We will also put a copy on our website. If you prefer, please contact the MRA.

MEMBERSHIP OF WATFORD COMMUNITY HOUSING

In order to have full voting rights at WCH meetings, you must be one of their members. This is done by filling out a form (we have some at the Meriden Community Hub) or going on the WCH website www.wcht.org.uk/page/membership. The MRA also financially benefit which in turn benefits the residents. It recently came to light that someone who thought he was a long-term WCH member, actually wasn't! It's worth checking by calling WCH Customer Services on 0800 218 2247 and asking for the Communities Team.

MRA LITTER PICK

Please do join us for our next litter pick on Meriden Park which takes place on Saturday 2nd November. We will meet at 10.45am near Munden View where you will be provided with a litter picker, a hi-viz vest and bags for recycling and rubbish. Please provide your own gloves if you wish. Under 16's should be accompanied by an adult. Our last litter pick at Easter was great fun and particularly enjoyed by the children with one young lad asking if we could do it again the next week!

The litter pick will finish at 1pm and we will then join Random Café for lunch and delicious refreshments at the Meriden Community Centre. There will also be food items that you may wish to take home.

Everything is on a pay as you feel basis, so please put a donation in the Random Café box.



WATFORD & THREE RIVERS TRUST, NEIGHBOURS TOGETHER

Neighbours Together is a new scheme that aims to tackle loneliness and isolation by connecting older people in our local community with social activities. They are looking for local people on the Meriden to volunteer to help older people, who may need a little extra support, to attend social groups, clubs and events to give them a chance to feel part of their community, along with building their confidence.

Please consider signing up as a volunteer to this wonderful scheme or consider if you would benefit from it. However much or little time you have to spare, they would love to hear from you.

For more information, or to sign up, email neighbourstogether@w3rt.org or call 01923 606447.

It would be particularly good to have volunteers who will bring a neighbour or a friend along to our Wednesday or Friday coffee mornings.

MERIDEN COMMUNITY CHOIR

We are pleased that a couple of residents have started a community choir. They meet at the Meriden Community Centre on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 8pm to 9pm. There were almost forty people the first week and everyone had an enjoyable evening. Singing is recommended for our wellbeing, so it's worth putting the dates in your diary and coming along. The song they are teaching at the moment is "This is Me" from the film "The Greatest Showman". If you have any queries, please email meridenchoir@gmail.com.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY AND ADULTS' TEA AND MINCE PIES



We are very grateful to Mulalley who have agreed again to sponsor this year's Christmas party. We are so looking forward to putting this on for the whole community. The date of the event is **Saturday 7th December, 2pm to 4.30 pm** and will be held at the **Meriden Community Centre**. Alongside the children's Christmas party, we will also be serving tea and mince pies in the smaller hall for the adults, including anyone who may want to come but hasn't got any children. We want all ages to have a lovely afternoon and for everyone to feel included. Everything is free except for the Adult Raffle and Guess the Weight of the Cake competition for which there will be a small charge.

