

February 2020 Newsletter

The Meriden View

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

Contact Number: [07831 516085](tel:07831516085)

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

Everyone is invited to our next Open Meeting. Come along to hear the latest news, take part in the discussions and have your questions answered. The date for your diary is:

**Tuesday 10th March 2020
7.30pm - 9.00pm
(Refreshments from 7.00pm)
Meriden Community Centre**

Agenda items as follows:

- Hear from our community PC Kayleigh Fox
- The latest news on the development
- Update from Watford Community Housing
- Report from Watford Council on planning applications
- Reports from our Chair and Treasurer

We would be grateful if everyone treated our guest speakers with respect and kindness. Meriden residents who 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.

If there are any particular issues you would like discussed or questions answered, please email marion.strawhorne@meridenra.org in advance of the meeting (likewise if you would like to raise anything under Any Other Business).

The Open Meeting is a great opportunity to meet other residents and our committee members. We look forward to seeing you there.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY MARCH 10th

MRA Open Meeting

7.30pm to 9pm
Meriden Community Centre
Refreshments served from 7pm

SATURDAY APRIL 4th

Great British Spring Clean

See overleaf for details

TUESDAY MAY 12th

MRA Annual General Meeting

7.30pm to 9pm
Meriden Community Centre
Refreshments served from 7pm

SATURDAY AUGUST 1st

Southend Day Trip

See overleaf for details

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 Community Hub
149 York Way

MRA COMMITTEE MEMBER

Interested in joining the MRA?

Please consider if you would like to join the MRA committee. We will be voting for a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Members at our AGM in May but if you would like to join, you would be very welcome to do so before then.

Joining the MRA provides you with an opportunity to have your voice heard and speak on behalf of residents. It also supports you in gaining confidence, learning new skills and meeting new people. We understand that people may not be able to commit a huge amount of time and that's why we are flexible and appreciate any support you can bring.



If you would like to find out more, please attend our open meeting on 10th March or contact Steve Moss our Chair by email, stephen.moss@meridenra.org.

GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

Please join us on **Saturday 4th April** for our annual litter pick as part of the Great British Spring Clean campaign. We will meet at 10.45am at Meriden park, alongside Munden View. We will provide Hi-Viz vests, litter picks and bags. Please bring gloves if you would like to wear them. Under 16's should be accompanied by an adult.

The litter pick will finish at 1.00pm followed by refreshments at the Meriden Community Centre provided by Random Café who would appreciate donations.



We had a great time last year and a wonderful turn out of volunteers.

SOUTHEND DAY TRIP 2020



Join us on **Saturday 1st August** as we head to the seaside. We'll be leaving Watford at 9.00am, and returning back from Southend at approx. 6.30pm traffic depending.

Thanks to community funding through the Co-op, we can offer this trip at an affordable cost which includes entry into Sealife Adventure.

Don't miss out on this great day trip!
Book your place by contacting Vanessa Kerswill.

After lots of thought, we have decided to return to Southend on Sea for our annual summer day trip. There is so much to do in Southend, it's easy to walk around and it doesn't take too long to get there.

Meriden Residents Association
Day Trip to Southend-on-Sea
Saturday 1st August 2020

£10 per adult
£8 per senior citizen, student or carer
£5 per child (0 - 14 years)
includes entrance to Sealife Adventure

To book or for more information, please contact
Vanessa on **07541 167309**
or email vanessa.kerswill@meridenra.org
Payment is required with booking

CO-OP COMMUNITY FUNDING

We are pleased to announce that the Co-op has selected the Meriden Residents Association to be one of their local causes for a second year running.

This means that as a Co-op member, you can nominate the Meriden Residents Association as your chosen cause, and then every time you purchase selected Co-op-branded products and services, 1% of what you spend can now help us raise funds for our forthcoming coach trips. Also, the great news is that as a Co-op member, you will get 5% to spend on anything in the store.

Last year this funding helped us to fund three coaches for our trip to Southend and this year we need your help again.

If you selected us last year, please contact the Co-op and select us again as it doesn't just roll over. We really appreciate your support.



Please nominate the Meriden Residents Association as your Co-op Local Cause – it's very simple:

Already a Co-op member?

Then you can either
ring the Co-op on **0800 023 4708**

or

go online at www.coop.co.uk/membership
and choose **Meriden Residents Association** as your Local Cause.

Not yet a Co-op member?

Then first purchase a Co-op card (£1) & then proceed as above.

MRA Website: www.meridenra.org

MRA Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/meridenra

COFFEE MORNINGS

We are delighted to run a coffee morning every Wednesday and Friday between 9.30am-12pm.

Every Wednesday: 9.30am - 12pm at Meriden Community Centre – Garsmouth Way

Every Friday: 9.30am - 12pm at Meriden Community Hub – 149 York Way

Our coffee mornings are well attended and continue to grow in numbers with occasional visits from PC Kayleigh Fox and Watford Community Housing.

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 running the show since it first opened nine years ago!



Please do drop in for a cuppa and chat any time. We welcome new faces!

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2019

We are delighted to celebrate the success of our 2019 Christmas Party. The Christmas Party took place on Saturday 7th December at the Meriden Community Centre and our community enjoyed activities for all ages. The arts & crafts, balloon modelling and face-painting went down a treat with the children and we had plenty to keep adults entertained with a family raffle and lots of tea, coffee and cakes. And how could we forget Father Christmas who did an excellent job.

Thank you to Danny O'Reilly from Mulalley who sponsored the party and of course to Watford Community Sports & Education Trust for giving us use of the Meriden Community Centre. Thank you to many others who sponsored us in various ways. A big thank you to everyone who attended and the volunteers who helped to make the event happen.



WATFORD COMMUNITY HOUSING

If Watford Community Housing customers have general enquiries or would like to report and request a repair, please contact the customer services team by phone between 8:30am and 5:30pm Monday to Friday by calling **0800 218 2247**.

If you need to contact Watford Community Housing outside of these times to report an emergency repair, your call will be directed to their out-of-hours service.

COMMUNITY GROUP FEATURE

**Meriden
Community Choir**

We meet every Thursday in term time
20.00-21.00 at Meriden Community Centre

Your first rehearsal is free, following weeks are £1 per week.
Come along and sing your heart out!
No previous experience needed, just a love of singing!
Everyone is welcome (15 years +)

For more information visit our Facebook page
or email meridenchoir@gmail.com