



## BAKERS MILL UPDATE: APRIL 2020

The news, the information and the facts about where you live from your Bakers Mill Community Association (BMCA). Email address: [news@bakersmill.co.uk](mailto:news@bakersmill.co.uk)

### HOW IS EVERYONE?

We hope that everyone is managing ok during these challenging times. To help we have set up a WhatsApp Group Friends at Bakers Mill. Also there is the Facebook group. Is there anything else we can do that will help?

**WhatsApp:** <https://tinyurl.com/ya65u235>

**Facebook:** <https://tinyurl.com/yc42fnfm>

### CLAPPING FOR THE NHS

I think everyone will agree it has been really heart warming to see so many people clapping in support of the NHS and key workers on the Estate.

### AGM AND BAKERS MILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Some of you may remember that the Annual General Meeting should be held before the end of May. I am sure you will not be surprised to learn that we can't hold this meeting during the lockdown. We will review the situation at the end of May. The inability to hold an AGM means that, for the moment, the existing Committee will continue in their current roles.

### AT TIME OF WRITING

In truth our work is significantly curtailed due to the lockdown anyway. Things change from week to week, but at the time of writing:

**Babergh:** we are not getting any response to any emails sent to Babergh about ongoing queries on the Estate. Understandably, our queries and concerns are probably not high priority at the moment.

**Barratts:** at one stage ceased the weekly clearance of the Mill Race. Have resumed this work for the time being.

**Greenscapes:** have had to reduce their staffing levels. They are continuing with upkeep of the Estate as far as is possible in these circumstances.

**HML:** John Whelpdale is working from home so we believe their office at Romford has closed.

**River Stour Trust:** work is continuing on the repair of the Visitor Centre. The RST office is closed, but they will reply to emails and phone messages.

## **WEEDING AND THE ROSE BED**

We would like to thank everyone who helped with weeding the rose bed and other beds on the Estate. The weeds were threatening to overtake the planting. We felt we needed to give Greenscapes a hand given the current crisis. So several residents (all practising social distancing of course) volunteered to do some weeding and I think everyone will agree it looks a lot better as a result.

Just to clear up a misunderstanding - the cost of creating the rose bed was included in the annual budget for maintaining the grounds. This amount was not increased by the planting of the rose bed. Nor will you be paying any more for the roses upkeep—the gardeners previously mowed the grass every fortnight. Future work on the bed is likely to be less. The Grounds budget for the current year, and hence residents bills, was slightly lower than the previous year which in itself had shown a 10% reduction in costs.

## **HEDGE WOES**

Unfortunately some hedges on the estate are being damaged. Footballs are constantly being kicked into the hedge and are being destroyed. Not sure what we can do about this, except to point out that the costs of replanting hedges is paid for by residents in the maintenance charges.

## **RATS, MICE & WINE BOTTLES**

We all want to feed the birds, but we are getting reports of old bread laying around in borders and in places birds will never go. Think before you throw as we have had rats and mice in past years. We have also had reports of lots of wine bottles being put in the bins on the estate—don't forget there is a bottle bank behind the local pub.

Take care. Be safe.

Bakers Mill Community Association