



Northwood

Residents' Association

www.northwoodresidents.co.uk

Newsletter 169, Autumn 2017



What is the remit of the Northwood Residents' Association?

The executive committee would like to take this opportunity to remind members of the **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES** of the NRA which are, in no particular order of priority, to:

- ◆ protect the amenities of Northwood and the Defined Area;
- ◆ oppose the erosion of the 'Green Belt';
- ◆ represent the interests of the majority of members of the Association;
- ◆ maintain communication with the London Borough of Hillingdon and any other relevant local authority;
- ◆ provide regular information to members of the Association and consult with them as appropriate;
- ◆ encourage the interest of residents and businesses in the welfare of Northwood, and to provide a medium through which they may express their views on matters of local interest; and
- ◆ work with existing local organisations formed to serve the interests of residents and businesses in the locality of Northwood, including other residents' associations.

The Association shall be non-party political and shall promote equal opportunities in relation to all matters concerning the working of the Association.

Hillingdon Council has won the prestigious Green Flag award for 47 of its green spaces, five new ones being added this year. Amongst the new winners is the **Northwood Gravel Pits** area where a Flag Hoisting ceremony took place on 28th September.

The ceremony was performed by Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr Carol Melvin, accompanied by her husband and Consort, Andrew. Also present were Northwood Councillor Richard Lewis along with members of the LBH Greenspaces team and Cllr Jonathan Bianco. A number of the NRA executive committee were there too.

The area starts at the junction of Copse Wood Way with Rickmansworth Road and runs through to Ducks Hill Road.

Northwood Gravel Pits were a major source of gravel for mending local roads until 1898 when they were declared "worked out". The site was formally conveyed to the Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council in 1905.

In 2004, a grant in excess of £40,000 was secured by NRA to improve the **Gravel Pits** area; it was funded jointly by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Green Spaces and LBH. NRA executive members, family, friends, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers and the LBH Conservation Officer, joined forces to spend two days clearing the nature trail, building fences, making stag beetle pits, reducing the amount of laurel and gathering and removing quantities of litter. Later, oak marker posts were set in place for the nature trail and steps cut into the steeper parts of the trail.

In 2005, the tarmac paths were laid, picnic tables and benches were installed and notice boards sited at each entrance.

Read more about the Gravel Pits on our website

Meet Your Committee



Philip Green is the NRA local Police liaison officer. He also chairs the Northwood Police Ward Panel and is currently serving as Chairman of the Hillingdon Safer Neighbourhood Board.

He moved to Northwood in 1998 with his young family; both his children attended local schools. He has lived in both the Eastbury and Copsewood areas of Northwood.

He passionately believes that in both your work career and community you can have an influence only by being prepared to be involved. He has served on both industry and local community boards for many years.

Philip gained his Masters in Business Administration (MBA) as a mature student having decided early to start his own business in the tourism industry. The business is still running 30 years later. This has inevitably involved a lot of travel over the years.

Aside from work, Philip is sports mad having played football, tennis, table tennis and cricket for local clubs. He enjoys watching most other sports, especially now that his joints are complaining. When time allows he also enjoys modern art, architecture, theatre, travelling and walking.

police@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Philip Green

Miles Gillman is vice-chairman of the NRA, amongst other things:

I have lived in the Northwood area all my life and love the balance of the area being so close to London yet on the edge of the countryside.

I have been on the committee for some time where I report on activities in the woods and open spaces. I also sit on the Ruislip Woods Committee and am involved in the annual Ruislip Woods Festival.

My other activities include being an Area Road Steward and looking after the NRA noticeboards.

This year I have been concentrating on the Northwood Christmas Lights display which involves negotiating with the council for an increased grant, finding a new contractor for the lights and encouraging sponsorship from local businesses. I am pleased to say that for the first time this year, Northwood will have an illuminated Christmas Tree.



woods@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Miles Gillman

Richard Field

20th December 1940 to 8th October 2017

OBITUARY

Richard Field held the NRA Health portfolio from 2013, attending various health-related meetings and reporting back to the committee in his clear, precise manner.

Richard gained a degree and Ph.D in physics but soon turned to computing, then in its infancy, and became involved in helping universities develop their computing strategies. He was a Vice Principal of the University of Edinburgh.

Nearer to home, Richard was twice president of the Rickmansworth Rotary Club through which he was very involved in fund raising activities especially driving Santa and his sleigh around the streets of Rickmansworth!

His great love was classical music; also a keen gardener with an allotment on Chestnut Avenue.

Our sincere condolences to Caroline to whom Richard was married for 53 years.



From the Chairman

INTRODUCTION

I am sitting here in sub-tropical sun overlooking a canal in Marco Island in Florida, where the 160 mph winds of hurricane Irma came ashore creating considerable damage. It is a far cry from the autumnal weather of Northwood where the leaves are falling and everyone is preparing for winter. May I make my annual plea for those of you who are fit to ensure that your elderly neighbours are well, are able to shop and have some company.

As you know, for quite some time I have been seeking a successor – without success. I still enjoy being your Chairman and I will continue to serve until a replacement is found, unless of course you decide I have been around for too long!

METROPOLITAN POLICE

You will read in Nick Hurd's article on page 4 that he is absolutely against the proposal to close Uxbridge police station and move the centre of Hillingdon's policing to Hayes End. The Metropolitan Police held a public consultation meeting at the Civic Centre in September which was attended by around 200 residents and councillors, including yours truly. More than half of the attendees spoke and all were highly critical of the proposals. To me the consultancy seemed to be a sham and that the only purpose of the meeting was window dressing; saving money seems to take priority over residents' needs to be properly policed. May I suggest you make your feelings known to Mr Hurd who is THE minister for Police!

TRAFFIC

For a long time now, the NRA has been trying to persuade the council to take Northwood's traffic problems seriously. A few months ago, I asked Councillor Richard Lewis to intervene, which he did. Scott Seaman-Digby's article on page 7 gives more detail.

DEVELOPMENTS

No substantial progress has been made on the station development (see TfL statement below). Progress on the Northwood and Pinner Hospital moves at a snail's pace but it would appear that the site will be used to benefit the community. Final plans for the new Skin Centre at Mount Vernon Hospital have been agreed and Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust hopes to start construction in the middle of 2018.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE

Last year, many members expressed their concern that Green Lane wasn't closed and buses continued to run. The council has stated that Green Lane has never been officially closed although TfL diverted their buses in the past. The Ruislip branch of The Royal British Legion organises the parade and the NRA has no responsibility whatsoever. A statement was produced by the British Legion in October which we helped to promulgate via our website and notice boards.

RICHARD FIELD AND ALAN PRUE

Sadly, Richard Field died in October. He is remembered for his wisdom and dry wit at our Committee meetings where he held the Health portfolio. Our condolences to his widow Caroline.

President Alan Prue suffered a major stroke in June and is recovering slowly. Our thoughts are with his wife Pat. Get well soon Alan. Alan has been a pro-active member of the executive committee for almost 20 years, during which time he has held various positions including Chairman and Planning Officer.

CONCLUSION

As usual I am grateful to the committee members, Area Road Stewards and Road Stewards who give up so much of their time to make the Association successful. Thanks are due to our Councillors and MP Nick Hurd for their continued support.

Lastly, there would not be a Northwood Residents' Association without you, our members. Keep in touch with us with your comments, suggestions – and even complaints. Let us know if you have new neighbours who would be potential members.



Tony Ellis
chairman@northwoodresidents.co.uk
Tel: 01923 821237

A Statement from TfL dated 12th October 2017



"We issued the site at Northwood to our Property Partnerships Framework earlier this year. This framework is made up of 13 of the best property development companies and consortiums in London. We want to form a joint venture partnership with an experienced developer and we are confident that we can bring forward new proposals which provide a minimum of 35 per cent affordable housing."

"We hope to have a joint venture partner on board in Spring 2018. We will then work with the joint venture partner to bring forward new proposals for the station site. Any proposals will be subject to local consultation and engagement."

Health Matters

By the time that you read this, we hope to have co-opted a new volunteer to take on the Health portfolio. Keep checking the website for an announcement.

Minor Injuries Unit, Mount Vernon Hospital

Open: 9am-8pm daily
Telephone: 01923 844201

A Message from Nick Hurd MP

Think again, Mr Mayor!

The Mayor of London is consulting on his plans to reduce the number of police stations across London. The argument is that the public doesn't use them, and the future is one in which police officers will need to spend less time at the base because mobile working allows them to do everything on site. There is truth in this, and certainly, as Minister for Police, I want the police to be on top of change and seizing every opportunity to be more efficient, especially at a time when we all know that resources are very tight.

However safe Northwood is, we do need to be sure that residents continue to have access to the police when they are needed. So, I have joined residents' associations and Hillingdon Council in pushing back on the plans for Hillingdon, which I think are flawed and seem to be driven more by cost than a deeply thought through plan for what is right for Hillingdon. The idea is to concentrate on one base or front counter in Hayes. This makes no sense given the geography of Hillingdon, which is famously long and narrow. The logical choice, if there is to be only one base, is Uxbridge. You may remember that a few years back someone had the bright idea of locating all the police cars in Hayes until we pointed out the journey times to Northwood and Harefield. So, we need reassurance that there will continue to be some response

capacity located north of the A40. Warm noises are being made about the intention to find cheaper bases for neighbourhood teams close to their patches; that is important so that they do not lose patrol time travelling to and from the central base. Well, we need more detail to have confidence this will happen in a way that does not reduce the visibility of police in Northwood. We also need to know how Hillingdon residents will benefit from the sale of real estate in Hillingdon; I suspect the plan is for this to go into some central pot.

As ever I welcome thoughts from Northwood residents, do get in touch.



To contact Northwood MP, Nick Hurd:

Email: nick.hurd.mp@parliament.uk

Post: Nick Hurd MP, House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel: 0207 219 1053

You can follow his work on the website: www.nickhurd.com and Twitter: @nickhurduk

Metropolitan Line

The first quarter results of this year's customer satisfaction survey on TfL lines came out towards the end of September. The Met line came joint top with the Hammersmith and City line – a complete turnaround from the last quarter of 2016 when the Met line came bottom. And from a purely subjective point of view I must admit the daily grind has seemed easier. However, as soon as the results were published, customers experienced two horror days on the last two working days of September. The Thursday issues lasted for hours and the usual 'worn out equipment' excuse for once could not be used. The failure was down to a points failure at Harrow, the points being just six months old. Not encouraging. Friday problems were down to signalling issues around the Finchley area, a common culprit. As ever, the communications were pretty vague and inconsistent; the advice that we can use local buses is never a very helpful or practical one. Next quarter's customer survey results may be tainted. Incidentally the Central line came bottom of the first quarter's league.

Residents may be interested in the proposed changes to the northern section of the line with Watford Met line station set to be closed and replaced by four new ones. Proposals would see new Met stations at Cassiobridge Road, Vicarage Road, Watford High Street and Watford Junction. This would be a

great move for those who shop in Watford and/or use the Junction for National Rail trips, though maybe not so much for Watford Grammar schoolboys. However, it is not quite the time to get too excited; it is thought funding is short by c. £50m and the Mayor of London is keen for this to be met by private investors rather than TfL. Therefore, a completion date is not certain and we are a few years away.

Gerry represents the NRA on FOMLUC, the Federation of Metropolitan Line User Committees, membership of which is made up of a number of Residents' Associations, Passenger Transport groups and interested individuals who meet to discuss news and concerns about the running of the Metropolitan Line.



Feel free to contact me at met@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Gerry Pimm

Want to know what's on in Northwood? Just head to the NRA website:

www.northwoodresidents.co.uk

Members, this is your newsletter!

I am always eager to receive, comments, articles and suggestions for topics that we should cover.

There's no harm in sending me your ideas, however whacky - I can always use my "editor's decision is final" powers!

editor@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Ros Plume

Business News

Welcome to our new business member, Keshma Tanna of Little Smiles Montessori, also trading as Artzania. They run weekly activity classes for children with all materials provided.

You will find contact details of all our business members on our website where you will also see a list of benefits enjoyed by NRA business members.



Look out for our stickers!

All business members now have our window sticker with the new logo, though we do realise that some of you are unable to display the sticker due to company policy. However, it would be really useful if all staff know who we are and what we do. After all, we encourage our residents to do business with you and it seems a shame that some of your staff do not appear to be informed. It also means having to return repeatedly to your premises to collect subscriptions if the owner or manager is not available.

We are delighted to let you know that thanks to the hard work of our committee we have been able to increase the grant we receive from the council towards our Christmas Lights. There will also be a Christmas Tree. The NRA has also donated towards the funding.

Christmas is fast approaching so this would be a good time to consider your own window display and add some more festive cheer in the High Street, Pinner Road and the Green Lane area.

We wish you a happy and successful Christmas trading season.

business@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Hoda Lacey

Traffic and Highways



GREEN LANE

Some of you will have noticed that in early October a parking area for about six vehicles adjacent to The Glen disappeared and was replaced by double yellow lines. Apparently this change was instigated to improve safety at The Glen junction. I am unaware of any accidents in this area for at least the last seven years. You may also have noticed that traffic speeds have increased in this part of Green Lane since the change, with many vehicles exceeding the speed limit. Although our councillors have been involved with this proposal for the last few years, no one on the NRA executive committee knew of this change which seems to be to the detriment of the majority of residents and could well adversely affect their safety.

NORTHWOOD TRAFFIC STUDY

As a result of pressure from the NRA, the Council Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation and Recycling has given his approval for officers to proceed with a transport study for the following roads:

- A404 Rickmansworth Road between Maxwell Road and A4180 Ducks Hill Road,
- Maxwell Road and
- B409 Green Lane

It is hoped that Murray Road will also be included.

For more details please refer to the article by Cllr Seaman-Digby on page 7.

GREEN LANE – WATER LEAKS

Two water leaks close to the car park off Green Lane have been reported recently. The first was a minor sewage leak outside Elder Court (opposite the car park), reported to Thames Water at about 10.30am on Wednesday, 3rd October. By 12.30pm it had been fixed – quick work. The second was a water leak outside no. 25, which caused serious problems for pedestrians at the junction with Dene Road. This was first reported on Saturday, 14th October, but, as not deemed to be an emergency, it was dealt with in the first 48 hours of the normal working week. This meant that Affinity Water attended on Tuesday, 17th October, and should have completed the necessary work by Tuesday, 24th October.

GREEN LANE/RICKMANSWORTH ROAD JUNCTION

An ePetition was raised in June for a Pelican crossing at this junction to enable pedestrians to cross safely. The petition ran until 17th September and has now entered the LBH system for evaluation.

SANDY LODGE WAY/DENE ROAD

A petition concerning the speed of traffic was heard on Wednesday, 14th June. The matter will now be taken forward. This may involve consultation with residents, further traffic surveys, etc.

traffichighways@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Peter Lansdown

Musings from the NRA Treasurer

MONEY SPINNING FESTIVALS. Guy Fawkes Night provided an event between the late summer bank holiday weekend and Christmas. Unfortunately, this genuine British celebration dating back to the plot in 1605 has started to be overshadowed by Halloween. Cynics may suggest that Halloween offers many more commercial opportunities than Guy Fawkes. Children no doubt find 'trick or treating' more profitable than the traditional 'penny for the Guy'. Why such behaviour, akin to a protection racket, became 'acceptable' is perhaps worthy of debate. In terms of money, in 2016 Americans were reported to have spent \$8.4 billion on Halloween, whereas in the UK nearly half of all 16 to 35-year olds spent something on it contributing to the total £310 million spent.

KEEPING TABS ON COUNCIL ACCOUNTS. Hillingdon has just published the accounts for year ending March 2017 and a member thought perhaps I could comment on those. An interesting statistic is that 132 employees left with exit packages although there were no compulsory redundancies. £2 million was paid to those 132 ex-staff with an additional cost to the council in Pension Strain of £1.7 million. The previous year there were 101 such exit packages costing £1.4 million.

Overall the council did well in freezing the rates for another year. They also spent £35m on the rebuild of Northwood School which opened in 2016 with 1080 places. Hillingdon has

more Green Flags than any other local authority, having the highest number of top quality parks and green spaces in the UK.

These are just a few points taken from a 145 page document; if you would like to read more, visit:

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/accounts>

THE NRA ACCOUNTS are somewhat dwarfed by Hillingdon's, but we continue to spend no more than we earn and do have reserves, earning a very modest return. Investing in an ICO (Initial Coin Offering) for a wacky crypto currency could reward us handsomely, but it could also plummet in value equally rapidly. It will be a while before we start to accept Bitcoins as a means of paying subs, meanwhile cash and cheques continue to be acceptable. For the many members who have paid this year, **thank you very much**. For those yet to do so please have your money or cheque payable to Northwood Residents' Association ready for the road steward, or return it in the donation envelope either to the RS or Sharmans pharmacy. The subs do remain at a minimum of £2, but more than half of our members pay more than that which enables that low minimum. If everybody paid only the minimum we would have a significant cash shortfall so would have to raise it, so please do continue to contribute the higher sums.

treasurer@northwoodresidents.co.uk

David Blowers

Northwood Nostalgia

I am sure you will have noticed when driving North up Dene Road, where it turns sharp left into the still-private part, straight on becomes Sandy Lodge Way. Well, not quite straight on, because there is a slight "chicane" to navigate. Ever wondered why the roads don't seem to quite meet up in a straight line?

During summer-time in the 1950s I used to cycle to school (Merchant Taylors) up here, but then it wasn't continuous; only two parts were council-adopted and tarmacked, the center section was private, effectively a rutted track surfaced

with large loose stones – not ideal for cycling, so one had to dismount and walk a bit!

When it later became council-adopted, rather than buy some land from the frontage of houses at the junction, to really smooth the direction, it was obviously cheaper and less hassle for them to allow the roads not to align, but include the wiggle in the join.

In the winter I went by train, alighting at what is now Moor Park station – but it wasn't then! What it was then, and why, is for another chapter, another time.

Paul Barker

COMPUTER-SPEAK MADE EASY

All those tricky technical terms explained

HARD DRIVE: trying to get home from the shops at school pickup time

DOWNLOAD: getting the shopping out of the boot

KEYBOARD: where you hang the car keys when you get home

SEARCH ENGINE: what you do when the car won't start

CURSOR: what you say when the car won't start

YAHOO: what you say when the car does start

LOGON: putting more wood on the fire

LOGOFF: log falling out of the fire and burning your carpet

MONITOR: keeping an eye on the fire so that LOGOFF does not happen

BYTE: what mosquitoes do

MEGABYTE: what mosquitoes on your holiday do

WINDOWS: what you shut to keep the mosquitoes out

CHIP: what you buy at the chippie

MICROCHIP: the burnt bit left in the bottom of the bag

SERVER: person at the chippie who hands you your chips

MAIL SERVER: bloke at the chippie who hands you your chips

ONLINE: where you hang the washing

OFFLINE: where the washing goes when the wind blows

JPEG: what you use to prevent this

MODEM: what you do to lawns

LAPTOP: where the cat sleeps

MOUSE: what the cat chases

WEB: what spiders make

WEBSITE: the garden shed

NETWORK: what you do when you've caught a fish

INTERNET: where you want the fish to go

NETSCAPE: what the fish generally do, though

Cynthia Ellis

Northwood Traffic – what can be done?

Traffic management is an increasing problem across the borough and the country, not least in a borough which is effectively made up of good radial routes out of London, but linked arterial roads forming a core main route running from north to south.

In Northwood we have peak time challenges around school journeys and the odd but trackable double evening rush hour. At 5pm – 6pm the traffic peaks as local workers return home from within and around the borough, then things die down until 6.30pm onwards when those working further afield and commuting by car to London return.

There's no easy answer and Hillingdon has the highest car ownership per capita of all the 32 London boroughs; a reflection of the shape and size of the borough, the limitations that the tube network presents and the relative affluence of the jewel in West London's crown.

Keen to ensure that the council is taking an active role in monitoring and where possible managing the rising traffic challenges, and at the request of Northwood Residents' Association, your local councillors have lobbied the Leader and Cabinet to conduct a traffic survey encompassing a study covering:

1. A404 Rickmansworth Road between Maxwell Road and A4108 (Ducks Hill Road)
2. Maxwell Road and
3. B409 Green Lane

The project will be asked to:

- a. Review the condition and effectiveness of road markings, road signs and lighting.
- b. Assess the effectiveness of existing and potential for new pedestrian crossings.
- c. Identify causes of delay to traffic from on street parking and identify the need for remedial measures.



Cllr Scott Seaman-Digby

We have also asked that the impact of bus routes be included as well as the consideration that Murray Road be included as its role as a main alternative route when congestion peaks is significant.

The project is awaiting the green light from the Leader and we expect this to be forthcoming in the next few weeks at which point we hope to get a project start date; this is likely to be post-Christmas.

Cllr Scott Seaman-Digby
Mobile: 07810 543 808

Elected councillors for Northwood ward are:
Richard Lewis, Carol Melvin and Scott Seaman-Digby.

01895 250316 - Civic Centre office (9am - 5pm weekdays)
01923 822876 - Northwood Office
Email: rlewis@hillingsdon.gov.uk
cmelvin@hillingsdon.gov.uk
sseaman-digby@hillingsdon.gov.uk

The Community Voice Hard of Hearing Project

Community Voice is an umbrella organisation of over 50 groups concerned with the provision of healthcare locally.

For our Hard of Hearing project, we are questioning surgeries, shops, restaurants and meeting rooms in order to improve facilities for people who are hard of hearing. Anyone can help us – Community Voice members and any others.

Any level of deafness can be isolating and disabling, often confused with stupidity or plain cussedness. Profound deafness can be helped only by medical means, but lesser impairment can be helped by many simple actions by other people.

The Community Voice Hard of Hearing Project aims to ask simple questions and to prompt simple remedies. Is there identification of the best place to sit? Is there a loop system and, if there is, how does anyone know it is there? Do people know that taking out curtains and carpets can exacerbate deafness? Or that facing the person addressed and a good light can enhance hearing?

Anyone can take part in asking questions and offering suggestions for improvements, not just Community Voice members. Our project pack and question papers are available on request from me or by download from our website. We would like to know outcomes, but that is not essential. Our aim is simply to help the many people who cannot hear well, a growing problem in an aging population.

This could be an immense project, starting in small ways locally, extending to councils, county councils, and even nationally. Making everyone aware that deafness need not be the path to depression and loneliness would be extremely powerful and liberating.

www.communityvoicehealth.org.uk

Joan Davis
Chairman, Community Voice
Tel: 01895 636095

Environment

AUTUMN IN GEAR

As our late summer gives way to Autumn and fine days become less sunny, leaf fall has gathered pace. The council is doing a fine job augmented by many responsible house owners and garden maintenance companies doing the right thing and aiding the clean-up. Well done to all concerned.

Perhaps it is true that only a minority of residents fail to do their bit in keeping Northwood looking smart. Where this minority is involved in house or land development there appears to be a continuing trend that neighbourliness is forgotten. That minority allows broken pavements, damaged driveways and verges to remain unfixed for too long; then what often happens is that NRA is informed. Subsequently a report is made to the council who will go after the home owner or contractor concerned to make good the damage or to pay the council to do that job for them. Of course, there is delay here that can cause inconvenience for pedestrians and other road users.

For all information about local environmental issues, visit the council website, www.hillingdon.gov.uk and follow the links: Residents > Environmental Issues.

Email: contactcentre1@hillingdon.gov.uk

Tel: 01895 556000

If you know of an issue where a development or a home improvement is causing damage to the environment please let the council and the NRA know. We are here to help. It doesn't matter whether it is noise nuisance, a rubbish dumping nuisance or damaged pavements or driveways. If the council is informed action is usually taken.



An example where new paving slabs were damaged within two weeks of being laid. Please report such incidences to NRA or LBH

environment@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Andrew Egan

Ruislip Lido

The council has made many changes at the Lido over the last few years. The most obvious of these is the refurbishment of both car parks, with clear bay marking and the introduction of "Pay and Display" charging. However Hillingdon residents can use their HillingdonFirst cards to park without cost, while visitors from outside the borough now pay up to £5 per day depending on the season. This of course has not solved the problem of congestion caused by parking in the surrounding area, particularly at weekends and school holiday times. In fact this may be worse as some parking spaces have been lost and a clearway has been created on Ducks Hill Road.

The council has recently announced that it will carry out a major upgrade to improve the pedestrian and vehicle area outside the Water's Edge. The work is scheduled to start on Monday, 30th October, and will take about 6-8 weeks to complete, depending on, for instance, weather conditions. The scope of the works will include carriageway and footway resurfacing, kerb realignment, street lighting, new zebra crossings, road markings and signage, a new retaining wall and tree removal and planting.

Peter Lansdown

traffichighways@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Leaf Blowers - Blessing or Curse?

In the last newsletter I listed the pro (yes, just one that I could think of) and cons (lots) of using leaf blowers. I asked what you thought. Well, one respondent agreed with me and pointed out that LBH council workers use them. The other respondent was more concerned with reducing noise levels.



My conclusion is that either you all agree with me, or that you have no strong feelings. Whatever your opinions, please do take note of our **annual plea for those who employ gardeners to ask them very nicely NOT to sweep the leaves from your garden on to the pavement or road. Far better for gardeners to bag them up to keep for the wonderful leaf mould they will produce within the next year, or just use the green waste bags ready for LBH workers to collect on a Monday. Thank you.**

editor@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Ros Plume

What's happening at Northwood Library?

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE. Over 500 children took part in the Summer Reading Challenge at Northwood Library this year. The theme was Animal Agents and children visited the library to read books, take part in fun events and collect prizes, stickers and Starborgs cards. An amazing 230 children completed all six visits to the library and were presented with a medal and certificate.

CULTURE BITE. Hillingdon's popular arts and literary festival returned for a third year in October. A vast array of shows, events and workshops took place across the borough, including author events, music and theatre productions, arts and crafts. At Northwood Library we hosted a Poetry Café, a talk on how to set up a website, a Brusho art class and a children's mask making event.

STORYTIME. Our popular storytime sessions for younger children take place every Wednesday and Friday during term-time at 10am. The sessions include stories, rhymes and simple crafts for babies, toddlers and pre-school children. Lots of fun and a great place to meet other parents and carers.

DO YOU ENJOY POETRY? A new poetry appreciation group has just started at Northwood Library. Meeting on the third Thursday of every month at 2pm, we read and discuss a wide variety of poems from different poets, places and eras - sometimes funny, sometimes serious; there's plenty to talk about and something to suit all tastes. This is a relaxed and informal group and everyone is welcome.



Brusho Art Group - one of many events from Hillingdon's Culture Bite Festival

Northwood Library, Oaklands Gate, Northwood, HA6 3AA
Tel: 01895 558262

Email: northwood-library@hillingdon.gov.uk

Web: <http://hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries>

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/Hill_Libraries](https://twitter.com/Hill_Libraries)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HillingdonLibraries

Opening hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9am-6pm,
Tuesday 9am-7pm, Saturday 9am-4pm.

Janet Clements

My husband and I have taken over looking after the horse trough from Ros and Richard Plume. They planted it spring and summer for many years.

Now we are doing the same, but the problem is that, no sooner is it planted than a thief strikes. This summer 14 plants went in, now only a few remain. In desperation I even highlighted the situation in "My Northwood & Ruislip News" but still the problem persists.

The bulbs and plants are provided by the NRA for the enjoyment of everyone. I am sure the thieves must have come with a van or a car to be able to carry the many heavy pots that were wired in to make it difficult for them to steal. So please, Northwood Residents, if you see something suspicious try to note the number plate. **DO NOT APPROACH THEM.** I need a helping hand; otherwise I am sorry to say I shall have to give it up. It is a shame because I enjoy planting the trough and looking after it. It is disheartening.

It appears that it is not purely vandalism.

Frances Meyer



From this

..... to this



NRA Membership

Thanks to the several of you who responded to my plea to help out by becoming Road Stewards (RS) – some were appointed, but others not (yet...!), because for some popular roads I had more than one applicant.

Vacancies continue to occur, so I repeat my plea – particularly for those roads where we have several members: **Green Lane (three RS sections), lower part of Watford Road, and Manor House Drive.**

Anyone who is willing to take on RS duties for a road not necessarily where they live, but is able and prepared to travel to them, please let me know, as there are many roads with lots of residences ripe for recruitment, but only one or two current members who need to be serviced.

chiefroadsteward@northwoodresidents.co.uk
or direct email: Paul.barker@bbmc.uk.com

Home Tel: 01923 821036 Mobile: 07946 385 474

Paul I. F. Barker



Hello everyone. I am now back as your permanent inspector for the north of Hillingdon after a 15-month spell at Uxbridge filling in for my boss. As she has now returned from maternity leave I can get on with real police work.

Change seems to be constant within the police right now as we continue to modernise. If you didn't know, you have a new sergeant for Northwood; her name is Sam Quinn and I would encourage you to drop her a line if you have any issues you want to address. Another change you will soon see is that every police officer will be getting a laptop or tablet device. This means officers no longer have to return to police stations to write up their numerous reports; they can tap the report in there and then let the interweb do the rest. This is excellent news and we should see these devices in Hillingdon by the end of October or early November.

Another change to tell you about is the Public Access and Engagement Strategy being proposed by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC). There has been a public meeting and a public survey seeking your thoughts on how this strategy will affect Hillingdon. Part of the strategy will encompass the future of front counter provisions, but covers much more too. As I write, my understanding is that each borough will go to one 24/7 front counter. It is proposed that the station open 24/7 would be Hayes, not Uxbridge, but the public is against this. At this time, no decision has been made. More importantly to the residents of the north of Hillingdon, the plan is that both Ruislip and Northwood will be sold or disposed of. This is a 3 to 5-year plan and things may very well change. In the interim our volunteers will continue to open those front offices anyway. The strategy is still in consultation phase but when I know anything definitive I will let you know. If you want to read the full report just Google "MOPAC Public Access and Engagement".

The nights are already getting dark earlier and Northwood tends to suffer from burglaries at this time of year. Please review your home security now. House alarms are a real deterrent if you can afford one. Your boundary needs to be secure and difficult to get over otherwise burglars will have all the time in the world to force entry from your back gardens. If you can put up motion sensitive lights please make sure they are high enough not to be tampered with. And finally, a home under renovation makes a nice target for a burglar. Ensure your builder secures the site every night as their tools tend to get targeted by the thieves.

Thanks for reading,
Inspector Rob Bryan

*Northwood Police Station is open to the public:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 11.00 to 13.00*

Northwood Ward Team can be contacted on
Telephone - 0208 721 2545 or 0208 246 1823
Email - Northwood.snt@met.police.uk
Twitter @MPSNorthwood

Inspector: robert.bryan@met.police.uk
Mobile: 07500 097 182
Address: Ruislip Police Station, The Oaks, HA4 7LF
Sergeant: samantha.quinn@met.police.uk

Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre

... supporting people affected by cancer ...

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the **Moor Park 10k & Junior Fun Runs** which took place at the beginning of October. We were thrilled to welcome a record number of nearly 2,000 runners of all ages to Merchant Taylors' School for this annual fundraising event and hope you enjoyed your day.

Planning has already started for 2018 and the first item on the list is to seek a new headline sponsor. We have enjoyed magnificent support from our previous sponsor but they now feel the time is right to pass on the baton.

We are proud that the Moor Park 10k has gained an enviable reputation for being well organised with a great family atmosphere and we are confident that it is an event with which a company would be equally proud to be associated.

If you would like to find out more about sponsorship opportunities for the event, please get in touch with Fiona.



The LJMC's selection of Christmas cards is now on sale. Drop in to the LJMC or visit our website to view the collection. If you would like to help sell our cards, we will be very pleased to hear from you. Perhaps you could take them to your place of work or local clubs and groups? We are happy to provide samples or stock on a 'sale or return' basis. We also welcome offers from people who can spare a few hours to help sell them here at the Cancer Centre.

Contact Fiona on 020 3826 2550
or email: fiona.hussey@nhs.net
For more information visit www.ljmc.org

Coffee with a Copper

Monday 13th November, 12noon to 1pm
Monday 18th December, 12noon to 1pm
at Costa Coffee in Green Lane

Crime Prevention Stalls

The Safer Neighbourhood Team will be on hand to offer you a one-to-one consultation session in conjunction with crime prevention advice. The next scheduled sessions:

Saturday 18th November, 4pm to 5pm

Sunday 17th December 12pm to 1pm

Waitrose, Murray Road entrance

Neighbourhood Watch:

www.hillingdonnhw.co.uk

email all@hillingdonnhw.co.uk

or call 0208 246 1869.

The office at Ruislip Police Station is manned every Friday between 1000 and 1300 – a telephone call beforehand would be welcome if a personal visit for information is preferable.



Northwood Police Station under threat again?

See Pages 4, 10

Local Policing from the NRA Police Liaison Officer

We are delighted to welcome back **Inspector Rob Bryan** to cover North Hillingdon as he offers an experienced honesty regarding local policing. Please read his very informative column.

The closure of local stations will on the surface concern residents but is also an opportunity. Few residents go to a police station to report crime and we now have dedicated ward officers who are more visible. If you have any safety worries there are numerous occasions when you can meet with a Copper (perhaps even have Coffee with them). You can also join the **Virtual Ward panel** which feeds into the actual ward panel that represents residents' concerns to the police. It takes just a few minutes each quarter to give your opinion online, so sign up and answer some basic questions. It couldn't be easier and it really helps us to know what you are concerned about.

Further down the time line, the possibility of larger Command Units where a smaller number of senior officers control a larger area seems to be more likely. Hillingdon will be in with Hounslow and Ealing to create a huge area. We have some serious concerns about this new structure and the Hillingdon Safer Neighbourhood Board has made representations to the Borough Commander, the Deputy Mayor for Police, Sophie Linden, and others.

Northwood continues to be a **low crime area** although not without its problems. Our Ward officers, PCs Dave Bell and Nathan Martin continue to engage with residents at a variety of events and they would be

delighted to hear from you if you want them to speak at any group, religious or school events. It is so important that we keep connected.

As usual **speeding and inconsiderate driving** are high on your list of concerns. The vast majority of roads in Northwood have 30mph speed limits, some 20mph yet we always have reports of people doing twice that speed on school runs or dashing to or from work. It is so much easier to leave five minutes earlier.

Inconsiderate parking is another issue and our officers do their best to calm things down so please find a safe and convenient place to stop for the schools and ensure that children are not walking into the middle of the road or occupied with their mobiles. **Safety comes first.**

Another couple of irritations from residents is that cars are often parked on pavements not allowing pedestrian access and cycles are ridden on pavements and not the road. Our older residents particularly find these issues a worry.

Although there are some frustrations with the **101** service it is your first contact number for a **non-emergency**. For an **emergency**, **999** is the appropriate number.

Chairman, Northwood Police Ward Panel
nwdpolicepanel@gmail.com

and NRA Police Liaison
police@northwoodresidents.co.uk
H: 01923 450497 M: 07831 116570

Philip Green

New Christmas lights for Northwood

This year the Northwood Residents' Association has managed to secure a larger grant from Hillingdon Council for our Christmas lights display.

On the strength of this, a new company has been commissioned to revamp the lights including Mistletoe Star Bursts in the trees and lamp post mounted illuminations in both Northwood town centre and the old High Street.

For the first time we are also having a traditional illuminated Christmas tree thanks to sponsorship from Robsons Estate Agents and the kind permission of the land-owner where it will be sited at Greenhill Court on the Green Lane corner of Dene Road.

The plan is to have our sparkling new display enhancing Northwood's shopping streets from November 27th. We hope you enjoy them.

Miles Gillman



News from St Matthew's Church

The windows of St Matthew's Church Hall in Hallowell Road have been boarded-up for some weeks now, and it's been wrapped in scaffolding. Passers-by have been asking questions, "What's going on?", "Not going to be a block of flats, is it?"

Happily, not a block of flats, but a major refurbishment of a 40-year-old building.

The project will result in greatly enhanced facilities: in addition to renewing the flat roof, there will be new windows and doors (hopefully no more draughts) and it will be warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. The small hall will be reconfigured with a new tea bar, and the main hall gets a new kitchen, with new washrooms for both areas. With three rooms upstairs, a meeting room and two communicating halls

downstairs, the refurbished building will offer a variety of great meeting space options not only for St Matthew's parishioners but also for those in the local community wishing to hire space for celebrations, meetings or classes.

We are looking forward to welcoming visitors to the "new" Hall early in 2018!

timothyhutton@rcdow.org.uk
01923 825639

Fr Timothy Hutton, Parish Priest



The Music Never Stops for Harrow Choral Society

Rehearsals are underway for Harrow Choral Society's popular Christmas Concert on Saturday 16th December in Harrow School's historic Speech Room. Each year Christmas music old and new is interspersed with seasonal readings by a celebrity guest, marking a very special start to the festive season.

The 100-strong choir, many of whose members live in Northwood, ended its triumphant 80th season with a tour to the Netherlands, performing in and around Amsterdam with a programme of music by Tallis, Byrd, Pachelbel, and Bach. "The highlight was our concert in the Westerkerk in Enkhuizen where we sang to an audience of 600," said Chairman Peter Miller. Watch the choir in Enkhuizen at:

<https://youtu.be/7SOkITvG65k>

Anyone wishing to join either Harrow Choral Society or Singing for Starters is welcome to come to St Alban's Church Hall, Norwood Drive, North Harrow HA2 7PF on Monday evenings at 7.45 pm.

Visit www.harrowchoral.org.uk

Membership Secretary Jill Mans: Tel 020 8248 7625

Email: membership@harrowchoral.org.uk

Membership is free for full-time students.



This autumn marks an exciting new chapter for Harrow Choral Society's training choir, Singing for Starters under its new leader, Julie Bale. For 20 years Singing for Starters has provided a stepping-stone into HCS for beginners and those wishing to brush up their vocal skills. They also plan to run a short Singing for Improvers course starting in January one evening a week for 8 weeks, which will be open to members of Harrow Choral and other choirs.

Northwood & District Community Association

Our new season started in September so we are back to fighting the flab at the Keep Fit Classes, Table Tennis, Yoga, Line Dancing, and Tennis. The Short Mat Bowls sections are honing their skill to compete in the Constable Cup this winter. At the various Cards and Board Games (Cribbage, Bridge, Whist, Rummikub etc), where there is friendly competition interrupted by tea and cakes, we catch up on each other's news.

There is also German Conversation, Walking and Rambling; all our activities are held in four local churches, all on bus routes, so easy to get to.

We are holding our annual Quiz in November, and a Ploughman's Lunch in February which gives members of the different sections a chance to meet up.

Want to know more? Contact me on **01923 836346**

Pat Dunhill

Scouting Centre Update

Fundraising for our new Scouting Centre at 1st Northwood continues apace. Since I last reported to you in the summer, we have received a large number of small donations, and a small number of large donations! Large donations of note include a £10k pledge from the Bernard Sunley Foundation, a £10k donation from the Garfield Weston Foundation, and a £5k donation from Paradigm Housing Foundation. As we reach the middle of October, we have received just over £64,000 in total. This is a wonderful achievement and reflects well on the local community here in Northwood, which is where many of the donations originate. The donation of £5,000 from Northwood Residents' Association is still the largest from any organisation that is not a Charitable Trust.

We are not just sitting back waiting for donations to roll in; various members of the Group have been raising funds with activities such as selling left-over Jumble at boot sales and online; putting on a Swing Band evening; a Quiz Night; some of us even ran stalls at a very wet and windy Norfest, RAF Northolt's Open Day.

Planning for the new Scouting Centre is going well. We are currently out to tender to four contractors for our foundations, which will be based on piles because of the sloping ground and the large number of adjacent trees. A draft

25-year lease has been issued by the council, and is under review. We plan to start work clearing the site and demolishing the old building immediately after next year's Jumble Sale in May.



Putting on a brave face in the rain at Norfest 2017

If you would like to keep track of our progress, and see details of our fundraising events and activities, please visit <https://www.1stnorthwoodscouts.org.uk>

Richard Plume
Scouting Centre Project Manager
1st Northwood Scout Group

Eastbury Horticultural Society

The Society held its annual show on September 16th at Eastbury Farm School. County Councillor Frances Button kindly gave out the prizes awarded by our three judges: Christine Edwards – cut flowers, garden produce and pot plants; Aurie Andersson - floral exhibits and Carole Hamwijk who judged Home Crafts.

There were the usual stunning displays of freshly cut flowers, exquisite orchids, magnificent veg and fruit including lemons the size of grapefruits (I'm really not kidding and they smelt gorgeous!) Sausage rolls, poppy seed plaits and shortbreads made the mouth water along with many tasty jams, jellies, marmalades and chutneys.

Eastbury Farm School pupils were also represented with their wonderful entries of miniature bug gardens and wacky fruit and veg animals. The winning entry of the latter by Ariana Patel included an apple elephant, penguin pear and even a cauliflower sheep while Euan Fawcett's mini bug garden was replete with appealing homemade snails and ladybirds. The large school hall looked stunning and thanks go to all who helped make this friendly community celebration of the joys of gardening and home crafts such a delight.

Our season of evening Winter talks, held at Eastbury Farm School on Mondays from 8pm runs from October to March with the following programme:

6th November, John Amand, *Unusual Bulbs & how they reach your garden*

22nd January, Martin Heard, *Gardens of Impressionism*

19th February, Stephen Lee, *Quiz evening*

19th March, Stephen Harmer, *The history of Sissinghurst Castle & Gardens*

For more information about the Society, please contact our Membership Secretary:
Tel: 01923 822162
email: ehs.members@gmail.com

Tim Ellison



We are now in our 6th Year and have over 700 Members, around 55 Interest Groups and what is very gratifying, over 200 members attending our Monthly Meetings at Fairfield Evangelical Church in Northwood Hills. Unfortunately, this means that we no longer have the space to entertain visitors at these meetings. However, it is still possible to join at the door.

This year there were two visits to Highgrove House. The first group returned raving about the beauty of the gardens, the weather and what a lovely day they had spent. The following week was the second group visit and it RAINED all day. Their story was somewhat different!!

There is a new Bowls Group which started in May and weather permitting seems to be doing very well. You are not obliged to wear a white uniform or a trilby!

This year we have had a varied selection of speakers and two of them were particularly memorable. In April Tom Way, a wild life photographer, showed us some stunning photographs of animals and spoke with great knowledge and passion. In May, Tony Eaton turned everything we thought we knew on its head about the "Death of Glenn Miller".

In May the Ukulele Group gave a performance at the Churchill Hotel in Portman Square. We are usually very happy to play without charge but on this occasion, we were paid £200 which we donated to our charity, The Harefield Hospital. Please note, in the audience was Princess Diana's sister.

Golf and Tai Chi have been requested but we have nobody to lead the groups. If you are interested in leading please get in touch.

On Saturday 25th November 2017 there will be a Christmas Quiz and Supper at Fairfield Church. Tickets are now on sale: £5 to members, £7 to non-members.

Christmas Concert and Grand Raffle Prizes on December 6th. A date for your diary !

For more information please visit our website or contact any Committee Member.

Happy Christmas and a Prosperous and Healthy New Year.

u3asites.org.uk/northwood

Maureen Crimmins

Northwood Christmas Craft Market - Saturday 2nd December 2017

VENUE: Methodist Church Hall, Oaklands Gate, Northwood HA6 3AA

TIME: 10am-3pm **FREE ADMISSION**

The Christmas Craft Market is an ideal place to find original, high quality gifts, all handmade by local craftspeople. Crafts for sale will include seasonal decorations, fabric bags & purses, jewellery, knitted items, children's clothing, crocheted toys, artwork, household accessories, a children's book by local author, and much more.

Children will be able to visit Father Christmas in his grotto and there will also be hands-on Christmas crafts for them to make something to take home. The Northwood Live at Home Scheme will be there selling homemade jams and jellies and other festive fare to raise funds for their charity. As always, you can take a break in the church coffee shop for tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes.

After the Christmas Market, we will be taking a break until March 2018, when we will resume our monthly markets. For more information about the market, including future dates and photos of the crafts, do look at our website.



Northwood Craft Market – The Home of Handmade!

www.northwoodcraftmarket.co.uk

Like us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter @CraftNorthwood

Email: northwoodcraftmarket@hotmail.co.uk

Telephone Susan on **07780 601842**

Moor Park Decorative & Fine Arts Society - forthcoming talks, open to all

Wednesday 15 November 2017 **MOSAICS OF RAVENNA** by Richard Thomas

Wednesday 17 January 2018 **LES PARISIENNES - HOW WOMEN LIVED & DIED IN PARIS 1939-49** by Anna Seba

Wednesday 21 February 2018 **WATTEAU THE REBEL - COURT VERSUS THE COMEDIA dell'ARTE** by Timothy Wilcox

All talks at **Winston Churchill Theatre, Ruislip** at 10:50am; Coffee/tea available from 10:15am

Free car parking available

Cost: donation on the door of £5.00 each is invited; Contact: moorparkdfas.com



20 Years of Northwood Live at Home Scheme

Northwood Live at Home Scheme supports older people still living independently in the community but who can't get about as they used to and may be feeling isolated. With the help of trained volunteers, our staff organise a range of regular activities to enable our members to socialise, exercise, share healthy meals, visit places of interest and generally improve their wellbeing and enjoyment of life. There is a befriending service for those unable to get out.

The Scheme has had a busy summer with members enjoying various outings in addition to our regular activities. A canal trip with lunch proved very popular, as did the day trip to Whitstable.

As Northwood Live at Home is celebrating its 20th year, volunteers are being encouraged to take up a challenge on the theme of the number 20 to support the Scheme. The '20' ideas include:

- * Tell **20** friends about us to increase awareness in the community.
- * Collect **20p** pieces over the year.
- * Do a **20**-mile sponsored walk or swim.
- * Host a tea party for **20** friends.
- * Commit to helping an older neighbour for **20** minutes a week with a chat or volunteer to be a phone befriender with us.
- * Distribute **20** leaflets to potential sponsors, volunteers or to people who could refer potential members.
- * Bake **20** cakes and have a cake sale.
- * Write a list of **20** things that make you smile.

We aim to increase our membership and volunteer base by 20% by 2020. 20 more drivers could improve quality of life for 20 older people . . . could you be one of them?

Donate £20, £40, £60 or £2 a month for 20 months. £40 supports a Live at Home member with a range of services for a whole month.

We are very happy to receive enquiries from both new volunteers and potential members. **Drivers** are particularly needed, but all volunteers are welcome. Anyone in the Northwood area age 60+ is eligible to become a member.



Day Trip to Whitstable

Membership is free, but a small charge is made for activities to help cover costs. We aim to provide transport for those who need it.

To find out more about us, please contact the office on **01923 842494** and visit www.mha.org.uk/community-support/live-home/northwood

Jo Wild, Chairman



RUN! SANTA RUN!
For PAUL STRICKLAND SCANNER CENTRE

Sunday 3rd December 2017
VICTORIA PARK, LONDON

- * FREE SANTA COSTUME
- * 5K/10K OR MINI RUN FOR KIDS

For more information or to book:

email:

appeals@stricklandscanner.org.uk

or call: 01923 844290



Northwood Lions Club

Northwood Lions Club has had yet another busy year. Our fundraising activities included having stalls at fêtes: Eastcote House Summer Picnic; Uxbridge Auto Show; Eastcote Cricket Club Fête and Pinner Village Show. Also, of course, we have our weekly Saturday Market at the 'Lions Den' - 195 Pinner Road, next door to the Royal Mail Delivery Office, near the Iron Bridge, 9.45am to 11.45am. For this we welcome donations of clothes, toys, bric-a-brac, small furniture - in fact practically anything, except for electrical items! Contact Robert for collections.

This popular weekly event, which is like a combination of boot sale, social club and charity shop, has been established for more than fifty years. All this fundraising enables us to support local organisations. In mid-November we'll be holding another of our twice-yearly presentation evenings, when we hand over cheques to deserving local causes; we give away around £25,000 a year, and with your support at our various events we hope to continue for many years to come!

Among our public service activities, we support the '**MESSAGE IN A WALLET**' scheme, which provides users with a printed form on which they can record any medication, illnesses or allergies they may have, together with a contact name, in case they are taken ill whilst away from home. It also includes information about any dependent who is left at home or even a much-loved pet that may need looking after. The form folds up into a small plastic cover, designed to be kept in a wallet or handbag, and is obtainable from local pharmacies and GP surgeries.



Robert can be contacted on **07860 324395**
Visit www.northwoodlions.org.uk

Robert Green

Emmanuel Church Welcomes New Vicar

Emmanuel Church, Northwood is delighted to welcome Reverend Tim Meathrel to the post of Vicar. Tim's service of Induction and Institution took place on Tuesday 5th September and was a joyful occasion where local clergy, visitors from Tim's previous churches, local business and faith representatives and Emmanuel's congregations all gathered to welcome Tim and his family to Northwood.

Tim is married to Kate and they have two daughters, Rebekah (7) and Anna (4). The Meathrel family have moved here from Bristol where Tim was Associate Vicar at Christ Church in Clifton. He is also Assistant Head of Ministry for New Wine's international ministry, so from time to time he travels to different countries to support and equip local churches as they seek to transform their nations.

Tim will watch any sport and is a big supporter of Plymouth Argyle football club. He also enjoys an occasional round of golf and trip to a test match.



Rev Tim Meathrel

Tim and Kate are very much looking forward to getting to know everyone in the church and local community. We look forward to the next exciting chapter in Emmanuel's story.

www.ecn.org.uk
ecnooffice@ecn.org.uk
 Tel: 01923 845200

Emmanuel Christmas Services

Sunday 3 December

6.30pm - Contemporary Advent Carols
 Followed by mulled wine & mince pies

Wednesday 13 December

2.15pm - Midweek Carol Service
 A traditional service with carols led by Herga Swing Band

Sunday 17 December

10.00am - Family Carols
 A carol service for all ages

6.00pm - Carols by Candlelight
 Followed by mulled wine & mince pies

Sunday 24 December (Christmas Eve)

10.00am - Nine Lessons & Carols
 4.00pm - Carols round the tree
 Family Nativity Service - if they would like to children can come dressed up as their favourite nativity character

11.30pm - Midnight Communion

Monday 25 December (Christmas Day)

10.00am - Christmas Celebration
 An all-age celebration - children are welcome to bring a favourite present. All are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper!

11.15am - Christmas Communion
 A short service of Holy Communion

.... and so does Holy Trinity



Ann Lynes grew up in Wallington, Surrey; she studied Sports Science in Edinburgh before pursuing a career as a civil servant for eight years, mostly in London. In 2009 Ann began to sense and follow God's call towards ordained ministry. She resigned from her job in 2010 and moved to Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford, to complete her theological

training. After this she returned to Southwark Diocese for ordination in 2013 and served her curacy in Barnes before becoming the Vicar of Holy Trinity Northwood.

Services at Holy Trinity during December

Sunday 3rd: Christingle service, 10am

Sunday 10th: Blue Christmas service, 6pm

Tuesday 12th: Carols at Costa, 6 to 7.30pm (with Northwood Methodist Church)

Saturday 16th: 8pm, Trinity Swing Big Band Christmas Gig, Church Hall

Sunday 17th: Carols by Candlelight, 6pm

Christmas Eve: 4pm, Nativity Service for Children and Families

Christmas Eve: Midnight Communion, 11pm

Christmas Day: 8am and 10am, Communion services

www.htnorthwood.co.uk
office@htnorthwood.co.uk
 Tel: 01923 822990



Rev Ann Lynes

Ruislip Woods Trust invites you to a
NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK IN RUISLIP WOODS
 led by Dick Middleton

Monday 1st January 2018 at 11am

Mulled wine and hot mince pies on the way.

Parking available in Ruislip Lido car parks (free for Hillingdon residents card holders).

Cost: £2 adults, £1 children. Well behaved dogs welcome.

Duration: maximum of 3 hours.

Wear suitable outdoor clothing and sturdy footwear, it will be muddy or icy or both!

Location: Water's Edge pub (lake side) at Ruislip Lido, Reservoir Road, HA4 7TY

Post Early for Christmas

CHRISTMAS POST FOR NORTHWOOD, EASTCOTE & RUISLIP

The local Explorer Scouts will be running their popular Christmas Post service again this year. Simply post your cards together with 30p per card into the boxes in local libraries and shops (last year including Northwood Health Foods and Just Sew) and the Explorers will sort and deliver them to anywhere in Northwood, Eastcote and Ruislip. Post Boxes will be available from 1st - 16th December.

For more details, including a map of the areas covered, please see www.renxfmaspost.org.uk

News from St John's URC & Northwood Community Arts

CIRCUS SKILLS came to Northwood during August. As usual it was wonderful to see young people develop in skill and confidence over the week. **THE TUESDAY CONCERTS** brought music and fellowship to Hallowell Road and will continue to do so every third Tuesday of the month between 11.30am and 12noon. Come along at 10am to enjoy a coffee or tea and chat beforehand. The People Not Borders' **I AM ME EXHIBITION** ran for ten days to

coincide with Hillingdon Culture Bits. The artwork was by local textile artist, Paula Watkins who delivers art journaling and other classes at our St Martin's site for Community Learning Partnership, South Oxhey.

On 31st October St John's celebrated the **REFORMED TRADITION** with an insightful talk by the General Secretary of the URC, Revd John Proctor. He spoke about 'unpacking the Reformation roof rack' and what the tradition means for us in the twenty-first century.



I am Me exhibit

Why not pop into St John's; there are various activities happening which you can drop in on:

- Poetry Appreciation, first Monday of the month, 1pm-3pm
- Tuesday Concert, third Thursday of the month, 10am-12pm
- Sew & Sew, every Tuesday afternoon, 1pm-3pm
- Art for Everyone, alternate Wednesdays (Nov 15th, 29th; Dec 13th), 9.30am-11am
- Reading Group, 6-weekly on Friday afternoons between 2.15pm and 3.30pm

During December, we look forward to a number of events:

- 3rd December is our Advent lunch – all are welcome to attend and help fundraise for Crisis and other homeless charities, but please let us know in advance for catering purposes.
- 10th December sees St John's member and viol player Jenny Bullock and friends in Chelys perform during the afternoon.
- 24th December, Christmas Eve service, 10.30am with Communion.
- 25th December – Christmas Day service at 10.30am
- 31st December – New Year service at 10.30am

Some dates for January:

- 21st January – United Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 4pm followed by – Burns Supper, 5.30pm

For further information about any of the above:

Telephone: 01923 829166

Website: www.urnorthwood.org

Email: stjohnsnorthwood@btconnect.com
or email Anne: thesamsonsed@outlook.com

Seeing a bright future for children's eye health

Remarkably only 22 per cent of under-16s have ever had a sight test. Children should have regular eye examinations at an optician to check not only for prescription, but for the health of their eyes. At Lamertons, we offer comprehensive eye examinations for children. Our optometrists are patient and engaging, and very used to testing children's eyes.

We advise that all children have their first eye examination before the age of four to help pick up eye conditions such as amblyopia, or "squint", which if not picked up can have an impact on the child's ability to perform well at school.

Eye examinations for children under the age of 16, or 16-19 in full time education, are funded by the NHS, therefore completely free of charge.



Lamertons offers a comprehensive eye test for children

Should your child require spectacles, Lamertons has fully qualified and friendly dispensing opticians to ensure that they make the best selection of frames, both in fit and style. We stock a wide range of frames and sunglasses to suit all budgets, from free of charge NHS frames to the latest kids designer ranges of Ray-Ban, Nike and Stella McCartney.

Many children can also opt to wear contact lenses, for sport or daily use, and we have access to a huge range of contact lenses to suit virtually every prescription including the revolutionary Eye Dream treatment. Eye Dream is aimed at managing short-sightedness by wearing Orthokeratology lenses overnight to gently reshape the front of the eye so that the lenses can be removed in the morning and give crisp, natural vision all day.

At Lamertons, we believe you should make children's eye healthcare a priority, so please call in to either of our practices in Northwood or Rickmansworth to arrange an appointment.



Rickmansworth: 01923 778704

Northwood: 01923 822066

Friends of Michael Sobell Hospice - FUNdraising Events

SANTA DASH

Saturday 9th December, Registration from 9am for 10am start

Start: Michael Sobell Hospice

Finish: Northwood Methodist Church, Oaklands Gate

FESTIVE GIFT FAYRE

Saturday 9th December, 10am to 3pm

Venue: Northwood Methodist Church, Oaklands Gate, HA6 3AA

It will be HO, HO, HO all the way as the Michael Sobell Hospice Santa Dash returns!

Setting off from outside Michael Sobell Hospice, don your festive attire with family and friends, and take on the one-mile reindeer run, jog or walk along Green Lane, heading to Northwood Methodist Church. You will be greeted by Santa's little helpers, serving well-deserved refreshments, plus an opportunity to browse and buy a variety of Christmas goodies and stocking fillers for those all-important gifts at the MSH Festive Gift Fayre!

All participants taking part in the Santa Dash event are invited to the Festive Gift Fayre free of charge, with a £2 suggested donation on the day for the public.

Santa Dash – how to enter and information:

Entry costs £10pp to include a Santa suit (adults) and a novelty item for children. *Family of four discount offer available of £30 – a saving of £10*.

All ages and abilities welcome to take part. Doggies too! Under two's go free.

'40 years at the Heart of our Community'
1977-2017

For more details on Michael Sobell Hospice and any of our fundraising events visit www.michaelsobellhospice.co.uk or call the Fundraising Office on **0203 826 2367**.

Facebook: [michaelsobellhospice](https://www.facebook.com/michaelsobellhospice)

Twitter: [@MSobellHospice](https://twitter.com/MSobellHospice)

Michael Sobell Hospice,

Gate 3 Mount Vernon Hospital,

Northwood, HA6 2RN; SATNAV: WD3 1PZ



Northwood Methodist Church

Earlier in the year, members of the Methodist Church were invited to join in a multimedia musical "2067 Hard New World" presented by Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue using our church to stage it, set in a world fast approaching 2067 when the earth is overpopulated and running out of resources. As soon as people reached 70 they became avatars and only existed in a virtual reality! This solution didn't work! It seemed a far-fetched idea until discussions on assisted suicide, euthanasia, global warming and its effects on food production were considered. It was good to work with our neighbours at NPLS and we look forward to doing so again.

OUR HARVEST FESTIVAL was held in September when the church was beautifully decorated. Donations of food were made to Hillingdon food bank and monetary gifts to "All we Can", a Methodist charity supporting the relief of poverty and disasters around the world.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS. Everyone is welcome to these events.

Saturday December 2nd at 5pm is our Christmas Messy Church with crafts and fun activities for children from 3 to 11 years, accompanied by an adult.

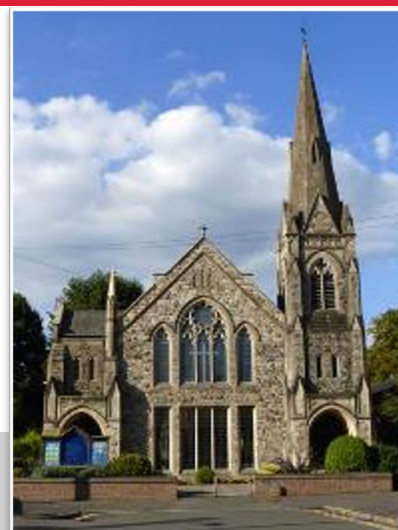
Sunday December 3rd at 10.30am we will be holding our Gift service for Hillingdon refugees.

Instead of a Christmas Tree Festival, we are staging a "**Nativity Festival**" of crib scenes from around the world. This will be open to the public from December 10th when our Oasis coffee lounge is open i.e. Wednesday to Saturday, 10am to 12noon.

Sunday December 17th at 4pm, Carol service.

December 24th at 4pm, come along and sing your favourite carols.

Our **Christmas Day** service will be at 11.15am.



Oaklands Gate, Northwood HA6 3AA

Tel: 01923 840633

www.northwoodmethodistchurch.org

Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society

20 Nov: **Randall's of Uxbridge**; Sir John Randall

18 Dec: **Christmas Meeting**; RNELHS members

15 Jan: **Women in Medieval London**; Prof Caroline Barron

Meetings are held on Mondays in St Martin's Church Hall, High Street, Ruislip at 8.15pm.

For more information, please contact **The Programme Secretary** on **01895 673299**.

rnelhs.org.uk



Kate Fassnidge Community Hall

The hall in the High Street is available for hire by local residents and organisations. Enquiries should be addressed to Andrew Retter:

kfcommunityhall@gmail.com

Tel: 020 8426 1806 or 07956 129046

Christopher Pitta Clocks

Tel: 020 8863 3434

Mob: 07423-054191

email: chrispitta@hotmail.co.uk



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And needs some loving care
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