



# Northwood

## Residents' Association

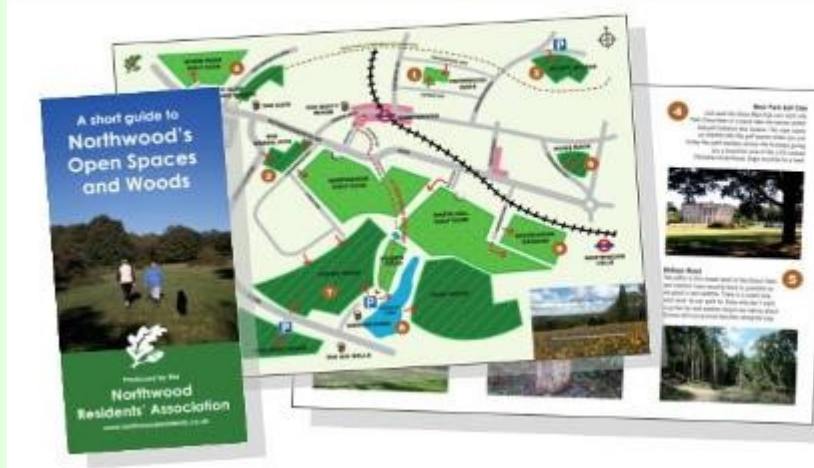
[www.northwoodresidents.co.uk](http://www.northwoodresidents.co.uk)

Newsletter 177, Autumn 2020



**NRA Executive Committee - still working on your behalf!**

### FREE Northwood Walking Guide in this issue



We hope you enjoy and make use of the FREE guide in this Newsletter. After lockdown we were made aware that not all Northwood residents knew of the open spaces available to them and hope this short resume will help access them. It shows general entry points to parks and woods and the ones that have parking with a brief write-up of each area.

*"Hillingdon has a wealth of award-winning parks and green spaces that residents and visitors can explore in their leisure time, and I would encourage residents to use this fantastic new walking guide and map that has been created by Northwood Residents' Association to discover Northwood's diverse open spaces and woods."* Cllr Richard Lewis

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At VDBM, letting and managing agents based in Green Lane, we have seen unprecedented activity in the shop premises market in Northwood town centre which is good news for all and not what people would have expected in these times.

For every business that decides to close or fails there seems to be a new one willing to take on a new property and an encouraging number of entrepreneurs. The optimism around is bucking all the trends. There is optimism not only from people starting businesses but also from residents. At one point it looked as though the community would be suffering badly from a large number of empty units but now hopefully people have finally started to realise that shopping online for all goods is only destroying their own community and environment. Judging by the number of customers using Fruity Fresh for example, there seems to be a new willingness to support local businesses at last.

When we reported in the Autumn 2019 Newsletter there were a couple of shops under offer. The old kitchen showroom for example, has been progressing slowly but we are pleased to confirm that a different kitchen company should be opening there shortly.

The former Santander unit has of late been a blot on the

landscape. The tenant we had lined up for this messed about and withdrew from the transaction at the last minute. However, within a week we had re-let it and indeed have a reserve lined up should that party not proceed.

The demise of ASK, not only in Northwood but throughout the country, will be mourned by some. However, we are pleased to have been involved with the sale of the property and can reveal that it will continue to be a restaurant but in private ownership.

Even the long-empty former Jackdaw unit in Maxwell Road has finally been re-let after a couple of false starts and we are hoping that should complete shortly.

The demand we have seen in Northwood for shop premises has been replicated across other areas that we deal with in similar suburban areas such as Pinner, Eastcote and Hatch End.

On a more general note, the Government has announced the biggest overhaul of the Use Classes Order since it came into being in 1987 and this will also encourage the market. In summary, any shop unit can become a restaurant or office or healthcare facility. Fortunately, takeaways are not included on this list and still have to be applied for separately.

We hope the optimism will continue to flourish.

Neil Altman FRICS, Director, VDBM

## Business As Usual - or Not?

Surveying our shopping areas in early September it feels as though Northwood has come through the last six months pretty much intact. Most businesses have now reopened, albeit with varying levels of restriction for customers.

It is interesting to observe the different ways in which shops have overcome the challenges that have faced them by adapting their premises and working practices to safeguard both staff and customers. Many are limiting the number of customers that can be in the shop at one time, some of the smaller stores in High Street have set the limit at just two. Some have footprints and lines marked on the pavement outside to encourage people to queue sufficiently far apart. There are shops open 'by appointment only' such as Kenways and Kajal's Couture, some request you ring the bell and wait to be admitted.

Once inside a shop, you are likely to find a one-way system in place, floor markings 2m apart and plastic screens to protect the assistants.

Some businesses have been busier than ever; the Cycle Store has a waiting list for repairs and the various smaller convenience stores have come into their own – where else could you buy flour when the supermarkets had none?

One or two owners have taken advantage of the enforced closure to revamp their premises, most notably Northwood

Kebab shop on Green Lane has had a complete refurbishment and reinvented itself as Northwood Mangal.

It's good to see a few more tables and chairs outside cafés and restaurants adding to the general ambience of the town centre.

A little further afield, we saw the emergence of two outdoor food markets. During the summer months, there was a fresh produce market at the Holland & Holland Shooting Ground and there is a fruit and vegetable stall on the Greene Manne car park every Wednesday and Friday.

At one stage we thought we had lost Bowley's shoe shop next to the war memorial; it looked so desolate when the parent company went into administration and it was emptied of stock. Fortunately, the company that bought Johnson's Shoes out chose Northwood Bowleys as one of the stores they wanted to retain.

With many using lockdown as an opportunity for a massive clear-out at home, it was a relief when our charity shops reopened their doors, not just because we could take our donations in, but because the lack of income has been devastating for the charities.

Northwood's businesses have shown they can adapt and survive, let's help them to flourish -

[editor@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:editor@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

Ros Plume

**USE THEM OR LOSE THEM - SHOP LOCAL!**



Remember the empty shelves and the queues?



Non-essential businesses closed



Hurray!





## From the Chairman

### INTRODUCTION

In February, when I wrote my last article, the world was normal. Many of us had holidays planned, family parties to look forward to and other arrangements made. How different life is now. Just when we thought that life was showing a semblance of normality again, the Government has introduced

more limitations to our activities (9<sup>th</sup> September). We all have our own thoughts about how the Government has handled Covid-19, but we have to get on with our lives as best we can.

Your executive committee has continued to meet monthly by video conferencing and dealt with the usual affairs such as planning and roads. In fact, the number of planning applications has slightly increased.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The pandemic caused us to postpone our spring AGM. We were advised by our solicitor to hold a limited agenda AGM in order to conduct our basic business – the appointment of officers and committee, approval of 2019 accounts and the setting of our annual subscription. We have arranged to hold a virtual AGM using Zoom on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> October and further details are on page 19. We have decided to limit questions to the basic agenda. Should you have any other questions please contact me by email, letter or telephone.

As usual, we will accept nominations for officers and committee members. Once again, I will offer my services as chairman as do present committee members offer theirs.

### THE HILLINGDON HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

The Trust's Hillingdon buildings are in very poor condition, some of them being wartime Nissen huts, and it's very good news that plans are underway to build a new hospital on the same site. More details can be found on page 6. The Trust is also preparing a masterplan for the Mount Vernon site which will continue to carry out elective surgery, urgent care, blood tests, physiotherapy and diagnostics. The other organisations on the site are tenants of the Trust.

As Lead Governor at the Trust I am very much involved in the planning at both sites. Please do take part in the consultation. I would also suggest that you become members of the Foundation Trust to have your say in how the Trust is run. Use the following link to see details [www.thh.nhs.uk/about/ft/foundationform](http://www.thh.nhs.uk/about/ft/foundationform) or telephone 0800 876 6953.

### NORTHWOOD

Most of our local businesses seem to have survived the lockdown. In fact some of the vacant premises are waiting for new tenants – see report page 2. Please do support all of these businesses in the Green Lane and High Street areas.

The restaurants and cafes are safe to visit and all the shops take the required precautions.

There has been an enormous amount of voluntary work during the pandemic and I'd like to thank all of the volunteers and organisations on your behalf. It is great to see such community spirit.

In past years we have held a Christmas Carol event. Unfortunately it is very unlikely we will be able to do so this year.

With the advent of winter, I would ask you to make sure that any elderly neighbours are cared for. Please check whether they need any shopping, would like a socially-distanced chat, are getting the right medical care and have sufficient heating. If you have any concerns, please let me know and I will endeavour to help.

No lecture on speeding drivers this time. You know who you are!

### DONATIONS TO LOCAL CHARITIES

At our March meeting the committee decided to make donations of £250 each to four local Health charities - Michael Sobell Hospice, Paul Strickland Scanner Centre, Mount Vernon Cancer Centre (Linda Jackson Macmillan Centre) and The Hillingdon Hospital Charity (supporting staff and patients at Hillingdon and Mount Vernon Hospitals). We accept that there are many other deserving charities but we felt that we should limit our donations to local health charities.

### COMMITTEE, ROAD STEWARDS

As ever, I am very grateful to the members who perform the valuable services of committee members and road stewards. You all freely give up much of your time in order that the NRA continues to thrive as a strong organisation. Without you Northwood would be a much poorer place in which to live. THANK YOU!

### CONCLUSION

I cannot finish without praising Hillingdon Council for the efficient way in which it has continued to conduct its business during the pandemic. One reads horror stories about rubbish collection in other boroughs – ours has continued as normal. Council officers have regularly checked the wellbeing of residents who were shielding.

Congratulations to Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE who has received a well-earned knighthood for his services to Hillingdon. Thanks to MP David Simmonds and our councillors for attending to our needs.

Finally, I do hope that you all manage to steer clear of Covid, stay well and live as normal a life as possible.

**Tony Ellis**  
[chairman@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:chairman@northwoodresidents.co.uk)  
Tel: 01923 821237

All views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors.

## Traffic and Highways

### NORTHWOOD TRAFFIC STUDY

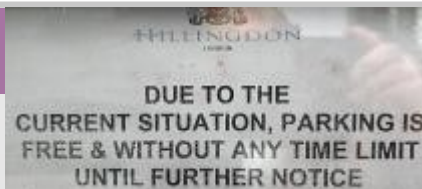
As a reminder, in mid-2018 a transport study was carried out for LBH, including the following roads:

- A404 Rickmansworth Road
- B469 Green Lane between Rickmansworth Road and Maxwell Road
- Maxwell Road

You may remember that many months ago the study report was submitted to Cllr. Burrows, Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation and Recycling, for review. So far little has been done and the project appears to be almost dormant. At my request Cllr. Lewis has asked Cllr. Burrows for an update, so far not received.

### RICKMANSWORTH ROAD/GREEN LANE

Because of recent changes to double yellow lines, the number of pedestrians crossing at the junction of Rickmansworth Road and Green Lane, particularly with young children, has increased. At present, as the traffic lights now operate, there is no safe time for pedestrians to cross. Local residents have raised a petition to try to rectify this, suggesting the installation of a Pelican crossing. The council has agreed that a survey will be carried out during term time and at 'rush hour' to reflect the true usage of the crossing by the local community. This has been delayed owing to the present



*Nice while it lasted!*

restrictions, but with schools returning and traffic building, perhaps it can now go ahead.

### GREEN LANE

Resurfacing of Green Lane between Hallowell Road and Rickmansworth Road has been promised for several months. Preliminary curbing work has been carried out and resurfacing is now scheduled for completion by mid-October 2020.

### GENERAL

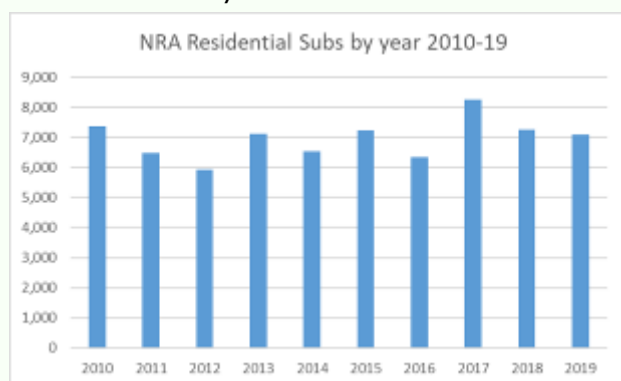
I am pleased to note that the council and various utility and roadwork contractors seem to have taken advantage of the recent reduction in traffic during the spring and summer to carry out a number of maintenance projects with minimum disruption.

[traffichighways@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:traffichighways@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

*Peter Lansdown*

## From the Treasurer

Normally in the first newsletter following the AGM I would provide some details of those approved accounts. Since Covid has prevented us from holding an AGM we have audited accounts, but they await approval by the AGM. However, the subs were marginally down compared with 2018, being £7092 compared with £7261. For reference below is a bar chart of subs for the last ten years.



Our financial year is the calendar year and sometimes subs are received in the year following that to which they refer. 2017 was a good example since some of that apparent 2017 success was due to the late 2016 receipts. Unfortunately, Covid has been problematic since it prevented our Road Stewards collecting and our subs receipts so far this year have only been around £2400. The average for the last ten years has been a smidgen under £7000 so we are a long way off that. Even now it is not easy, social distancing remains a great concern for both residents and Road Stewards so closing the gap may prove challenging, but please, if you have not paid your subs, do strive to do so. Cheques, made payable to Northwood Residents Association can be deposited at

Sharmans or Carters Chemist, either in our collection envelopes, or just write your name and address on the back of the cheque and leave it in a plain envelope marked 'for NRA'. Some Road Stewards will be collecting in person, but others may not because of their circumstances.

At the AGM I shall propose that subs remain at a minimum of £2 for residents and £10 for businesses. Many members pay £5 or more and whilst I am often asked why is the sub not £5, there is no need to mandate it if many do pay £5 or more.

Our net income over the last ten years amounts to £237. In other words, on average, each year we tend to break even. This year shows a deficit of £3087 but that is due to higher donations and the clock. The overall balance also means that our reserves remain largely unchanged, currently at £28K. It is prudent to have reserves so we can spend should an urgent requirement demand it, but they do not need to be too high. If there is anything you believe we could use some of the funds for to benefit Northwood, do please make the request. We will not spend money on items the council should cover, we will chase them to meet their responsibilities, but our objectives are to maintain the amenities of Northwood and encourage interest in the welfare of Northwood so ideas are always welcome. The physically visible NRA items are the clock, the two notice boards and some of the benches, the most recent addition being the circular bench around the tree at the junction of Green Lane and Eastbury Road.

I shall end once again by thanking our Road Stewards for their ceaseless efforts especially in these even more difficult times. If they do request subs, please make their task as easy as possible by having cheques or, ideally folding money, ready for them.

[treasurer@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

*David Blowers*

## Planning Matters

It has been very busy since the last Newsletter with 185 planning applications, and I made a comment or objection on 90 of them. Most applications are for rear or side extensions and loft conversions, but there are an increasing number for works to trees covered by Tree Preservation Orders, and they accounted for 49 of the applications.

Don't forget, where an application affects your property, you should make objections or comments on the portal if there are planning reasons to do so; it is too late once consent has been granted.

You can search for a planning application using this link:

<http://planning.hillingdon.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningSearch>

Just enter the first part of the address in the 'Location' box. After viewing the documents press 'Enter Comment.'

There have been some recent changes to planning law that are of significance.

From 31st August 2020 **PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT** where a full planning application is no longer required, this now covers the addition of up to two storeys to a house, whether detached, semi-detached, or terraced, and one floor on to a single storey house. These additional floors can even be flats. There are maximum heights limits relative to neighbouring properties. However, if approved they will have quite an impact on the street scene. This change applies to houses built between 1 July 1948 and 28 October 2018.

A statement must be included in the application on the impact on neighbours from overlooking or loss of privacy or light and the external appearance. Only the *adjoining* neighbours or occupiers will now be notified by the Local Authority, not even those who live opposite.

From 1st September 2020 the **USE CLASSES ORDER** has been amended. In shopping streets there is no longer the need to obtain planning permission for a change of use between shops, and banks, building societies, restaurants, cafes, indoor gyms and day nurseries, but not including takeaways, pubs, or wine bars. In the main, that will help when one tenant leaves and a new tenant takes the premises for one of the other uses.

There are also major changes to other parts of the planning system currently under consultation, for 12 weeks from 6th August 2020. This is in effect a total overhaul of the planning system and would have a major impact. The NRA will be making a submission to the consultation. For those willing to read the 84 page, 'Planning For The Future,' document, and answer 26 questions, then the link is:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/907647/MHCLG-Planning-Consultation.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907647/MHCLG-Planning-Consultation.pdf)

You will also find this link on the NRA website, easier to click on it rather than type in the URL!

[planning@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:planning@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

Trevor Sherling

## NRA Membership

**NRA ALERTS WILL KEEP YOU IN TOUCH.** At the risk of sounding like a cracked record, or an auto-renew request from a subscription service, can I urge any of you reading this Newsletter who are not currently receiving emailed alerts from the NRA to let me know BY EMAIL as soon as possible.

**Reasons why you may not be receiving emailed alerts:**

- You haven't in the past supplied your current email address and indicated your wish to receive them.
- You have changed your email address and not advised us to update our records.
- You may have supplied an email address in the past which was incorrectly transcribed. If you re-apply by email, I can copy/paste correctly.
- If there is more than one member at a residence you can supply more than one email address to receive separate notifications.

With the COVID situation being likely to worsen during the Winter months, we may not necessarily be able to print and distribute paper newsletters, but email alerts will keep you up to date.

At present we hold only about 850 email addresses from a membership of nearly 2,000 households. So, let's have a flood of new email addresses so we can stay in contact. (Each email we do send will always include an opt-out capability if you wish to discontinue).

[chiefroadsteward@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:chiefroadsteward@northwoodresidents.co.uk)  
or [pifbarker@me.com](mailto:pifbarker@me.com)

Tel: 01923 821036

Paul I. F. Barker  
Chief Road Steward and Data Protection Officer

## Jean McFarlane, 1939 - 2020

*Jean was a regular contributor to this newsletter and a member of the police ward panel. She made a valuable contribution to Northwood Residents' Association and often kept us on our toes. She died in April this year. Jean's close friend shares her memories:*

Jean was born just two months before the outbreak of WW2, these early childhood experiences would be the catalyst which formed her jovial and sometimes outspoken community spirit. She believed community was the fabric that held us all together, that each of us played our part in supporting the greater good. Her father and Grandfather were both in the police force, so community justice became Jean's natural predisposition - from fighting to keep her local police station open to fighting with the charity RAGE.

Her strong determination culminated in the creation of her own successful business which she operated out of an office in Bond Street. Over the years she became a well-respected businesswoman working with some of the largest names in advertising and media.

Jean always loved telling stories – she was never short of material from her travels across the Middle East to her days of modelling and mixing with icons in the 60s. She also loved nothing more than spending time out in beautiful gardens in the area and was never short of a coffee date. She will be missed by not only her loved ones but by her community in Northwood.

Gillian Simson



## Plans to redevelop Hillingdon Hospital



**The Hillingdon Hospitals**  
NHS Foundation Trust

The Hillingdon Hospitals Foundation NHS Trust has announced that their redevelopment plans are now underway with their preferred option being a rebuild on the current site. As anyone who has visited the hospital will realise, the current Hillingdon Hospital is an old building - parts of the estate were built in the 1930s as emergency wartime accommodation. Some of the older wards have become unsafe and have been closed to protect patients and staff, and in total 81% of the hospital building will require major repair or replacement soon.

For patients, the maze-like layout of the current site makes it difficult to get around and the condition of buildings can make the experience of being in hospital more difficult. The site layout and state of disrepair can also make it difficult for staff to do their jobs as efficiently and effectively as they would like.

The Trust has set out a number of benefits that they feel will come from a new hospital:

- The same range of services that are currently available at the hospital, but in a high quality and purpose-built facility
- Better connectivity between departments making it easier for patients to move through the hospital
- Greater adoption of digital technologies to enhance patient care and safety
- Improved privacy with significantly more side rooms
- A more efficient building that is environmentally friendly
- Flexibility to adapt facilities in response to potential future pandemics
- Improved ability to recruit and retain a high calibre workforce
- Potential for other health and social care facilities to be provided on the site in the future to create a health and social care hub

- Sufficient capacity for the future and further expansion potential

The Trust has launched a new website dedicated to the redevelopment and is starting a community conversation to allow staff and residents to shape the emerging plans. Currently on the website you can read more detail on the plans, the process and the hopes for the future. In addition, there is an initial survey to allow you to ask questions and provide your feedback at this stage. This is also how you can sign up to the soon to be launched newsletter.

The Trust will be working with community groups, places of worship, schools and residents' associations to share information and meet more people. They are also hoping to be able to come out into the community and run events where you can see the latest plans and talk to staff, when it is safe to do so.

The plans are at an early stage but there is an ambitious timetable which would see construction starting in just a couple of years' time. It is important to note that the hospital will remain open throughout the build.

The Trust is keen to hear from as many residents as possible so if you have any views, suggestions or questions, please do get in touch with them.

[www.thh.nhs.uk/redevelopment](http://www.thh.nhs.uk/redevelopment)

*Sarah Bellman*

*Communications & Engagement Lead (Redevelopment)  
The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust*



## Poppy Appeal 2020

The pandemic has knocked many, many events out of our calendars this year and the Poppy Appeal is no exception. Sadly, there will be no face-to-face collections which, of course, means that the normal Waitrose Collection will not take place.

The Poppy Appeal is making arrangements directly with supermarkets for donations at check-outs. A Just Giving page for the Northwood 2020 Poppy Appeal has been set up (see [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/northwoodpoppyappeal2020](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/northwoodpoppyappeal2020)) which can be used by all who wish to participate in the Northwood Poppy Appeal.

It is also unlikely that the public Remembrance Parade in Northwood will take place, because large public gatherings are being discouraged. However it is anticipated that wreaths will be laid by organisations and individuals separately, prior to Remembrance Sunday.

This situation is very disappointing for all of us, but we remain very grateful for all the support you have given over the years and hope that next year we can return to our normal activities with our Poppy Appeal Collection.

*Chris Boulton*

*Poppy Appeal Organiser, Northwood*



**Paul Strickland Scanner Centre** is an independent medical charity based at Mount Vernon Hospital. We provide comprehensive scanning services to the NHS and private health sectors for the diagnosis, treatment monitoring and research of cancer and other serious diseases, using leading edge PET-CT, MRI and CT scanners.

Legacies and donations help fund new scanners which have to be replaced every few years.

On **Friday 27 November** we will be holding another of our very popular **Virtual Quizzes** hosted by Hilary and Alan Coulson. You can have up to six team members who can be spread across up to four different households.

Suggested donation is £10 per person.

For lots more info and to book your place visit  
[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/virtual-quiz-tickets-11827356642](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/virtual-quiz-tickets-11827356642)  
or you can call us directly on 01923 886315

## A Message From Our MP, David Simmonds

When I was first elected as your Member of Parliament in December 2019, I anticipated tackling a number of challenging issues both locally and in Parliament. This was certainly the case when the country faced a nationwide lockdown and a level of disruption to our daily lives unknown in generations. These measures have meant that, regrettably, it has been necessary to curtail constituency visits. My last coffee shop surgery before restrictions were imposed was at Village Express, a long-standing business in Northwood, and I am grateful that I was able to meet with residents to discuss concerns about issues affecting the local area.

Village Express is just one of many local businesses hit by lockdown. We should not underestimate how difficult recent months have been for these businesses and how vital they will be to our local and national recovery. After the incredibly successful Eat Out to Help Out scheme, we are seeing a return to the high street and to our local businesses. Businesses old and new, like Fruity Fresh on Green Lane – a fresh produce and juice bar and a fantastic addition to the high street, need our support. These are locally owned employers and it is essential that we support them at this time and in the weeks and months ahead.

Of local concern, I continue to follow the plans for Northwood and Pinner Cottage Hospital. In the most recent update I received from the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group), I was pleased to be reassured that the character and tone of the hospital will be preserved. At this stage the discussions are between the care providers and the NHS Estates team. I remain committed to protecting our fantastic local care provision and I look forward to a new and improved Cottage Hospital site playing its part in that.

Another major local issue that has been placed on hold is the redevelopment of Northwood Town Centre. I know that residents were especially unhappy with the Mayor's apparent policy of removing the station car park, which seems flawed in my view. TfL has recognised that their previous development plan does not work and requires a rethink – meaning there should be no imminent planning application, which should be a temporary relief for residents. The priority should now be, particularly in light of the current circumstances, to concentrate on filling the empty shop units to help boost the local economy. I will continue to urge TfL to work with residents on this matter and will be taking up concerns alongside other MPs in affected areas.

I look forward to the hopefully near-future when I can meet with residents again in person, but please be assured that I continue serving Northwood as your MP – albeit digitally for the most part at present. A reminder that I am holding regular telephone surgeries, and if you would like to get in contact, please do so using the details in the box.

### To contact Northwood MP, David Simmonds CBE:

Email: [david.simmonds.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.simmonds.mp@parliament.uk)

Post: House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel: 01923 822 876

You can follow his work on the website: [www.davidsimmonds.org.uk](http://www.davidsimmonds.org.uk) and on Twitter: @DSimmonds\_RNP or Facebook: DavidSimmondsMP



## News from the Woods

Ruislip Lido beach and water play area remain closed but the car park, path round the Lido and café are open. A floating boom has been installed round the bird breeding islands to protect them from predators.

A call has gone out from Colne Valley Groundwork for members of the public to help spot invasive plant species such as Giant Hogweed which can burn and blister the skin. It looks like an oversized Cow Parsley. If seen do report to [chloe.crompton@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:chloe.crompton@groundwork.org.uk)

A very rare *Convolvulus Hawk Moth* has been spotted in the Ducks Hill car park. Its body is at least two inches long and highlights the diverse nature in our woods.



*Convolvulus Hawk Moth*



*Dealing with Giant Hogweed*

[woods@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:woods@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

Miles Gillman



*Ruislip Lido beach closed from 1st June*

## Members, this is your newsletter!

I am always eager to receive comments, articles and suggestions for topics that you would like us to cover.

Do get in touch.

[editor@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:editor@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

Ros Plume

## Michael Sobell Hospice Charity



The disruption to our regular fundraising and retail activities resulted in a charity-led hospice appeal to address the shortfall in income expected this year. Understandably, many of our events had to be cancelled or postponed. Details of all our fundraising events are updated regularly on the charity's website and via the social media channels.

**STORE COLLECTIONS HELP NEEDED.** We are appealing for volunteers to help support upcoming store collections in the run-up to Christmas. **Waitrose, Northwood, Saturday 5th December**, and further dates for collections at Waitrose, Ruislip and Tesco, Pinner Green. Please contact Ophelia.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS COMING SOON.** We have a festive selection of cards available – what a great way to keep in touch with people you haven't seen during lockdown. Cards are available to buy from our website and three charity shops.

**BOOK STALL NEWS AND HELP NEEDED.** Our wonderful Book Stall volunteers have raised a fantastic £4,750 since returning to the Amersham and Chesham markets in June. Simply fantastic! Would you like to come on down and help support our Book Stall on a Tuesday at the Amersham Market or on a Wednesday in Chesham (8.30am-2.30pm\*)? If so, we would love to hear from you. Please contact **David Brameld on 07900 342778** or email **vmansell@michaelsobellhospice.co.uk** for more details. \*Flexible hours to suit/no need to commit to volunteering every week.

### FUND-RAISING EVENTS COMING UP SOON:

**Chinwag Sofa Virtual Coffee Mornings.** Keep an eye out on our website for forthcoming dates. Supporters get to keep in touch via Zoom and choose the topics of conversation over a cuppa! Thank you to those who have already attended - we've had a good laugh!

**A Questions of Spook Halloween Virtual Quiz, Friday 30th October, 8pm on Zoom.** Will it be TRICKY or TREATY?! This Halloween quiz evening is planned to be great spooky fun, there will be a prize for the best horror costume and a raffle. Sign up on our website.

**Hospice Care Week Coffee Morning with Friends, Monday 5th – Sunday 11th October.** As the current pandemic is controlling much of how everyone is interacting and socialising, we are inviting supporters to host their own Coffee Morning fundraisers during Hospice Care Week. We can supply donation collection boxes/tubs and balloons! Don't forget to upload your pics to our social media pages using #HospiceCareWeek too!

**Two London Marathon Charity Places up for grabs in 2021!** See our website for details.

For more details on MSH and our fundraising events visit **www.michaelsobellhospice.co.uk**

or call Ophelia on **0203 826 2362**

Email: **mshevents@michaelsobellhospice.co.uk**

Facebook: /michaelsobellhospice

Twitter: @MSobellHospice

**Michael Sobell Hospice,**

Gate 3 Mount Vernon Hospital,

Northwood, HA6 2RN; SATNAV: WD3 1PZ

## Health Matters

### Covid-19

As I write in early September, the number of cases in Hillingdon is currently relatively small. As such, our rate of infection since the pandemic began is lower than many other London boroughs. However it is important to note that because of the small numbers, a few cases can change the infection rate (per 100,000 of population) quite considerably. There are several factors that can affect the number of cases including demographic profile, number of care homes, population density and other social and economic factors.

During the early stages of the pandemic, most hospitals were providing only essential services. However, slowly there is a return to normality with emphasis on preventing the spread through several safety measures. Most hospitals are now offering outpatient appointments, both face-to-face and virtual. Visitors to the hospital wards are not allowed but relatives can

communicate by online or phone communication with the patients. Blood tests, X-Rays and scan facilities have resumed.

The Minor Injuries Unit at Mount Vernon Hospital is temporarily closed. The Urgent Treatment Centre at Watford General Hospital is open from 8am to 2am every day. If anyone needs medical advice when the Urgent Treatment Centre is closed, they need to call 111. The NHS 111 service will get them the treatment they need. In an emergency dial 999.

### GP Practices, A&E, Urgent Care and Walk-in-Centres

Most GP practices in North West London are minimising face-to-face consultations. The NHS in North West London is clear that in these very challenging times it is essential that health services can be as flexible as possible to provide safe and effective care to patients, whilst protecting vital frontline staff. Some surgeries are using online E-Consult facilities.

In line with all current requirements, if anyone thinks that he/she may have the symptoms of COVID-19, they are advised not to go to hospital or attend their GP. Stay at home and visit the NHS 111 website for advice. **Do not attend A&E, Urgent Care or Walk-in centres.**

NHS 111 website: **111.nhs.uk/Covid-19** can tell the individual if he/she needs medical help and advises them what to do.

**health@northwoodresidents.co.uk**

**Dr Amir Lakha**



Masks and gloves may protect your health, but not when discarded like this.



## Councillors' Column

The role of the council and its councillors didn't stop during the coronavirus lockdown. We've been on hand as usual, on the phone, by email and, once allowed, in person, to help residents access services or answer questions. The usual post bag of emails continued, although there was a noticeable reduction in planning letters after May; this has started to pick up again.



Carol, Scott and Richard - pre social distancing introduction!

The council mounted an extensive effort to support residents and businesses, with officers doing an amazing job at sorting out any urgent problems despite having more to do but with fewer staff on hand. Essential services continued to be delivered and new services, including a community support hub were created to support residents most at risk, including those being shielded.

During lockdown there were more 'emergency contacts' via telephone to the office where people had an urgent need for support. These are usually deftly dispatched to the relevant officer by the team who take the call with us copied in on the details.

Council meetings were briefly suspended in April, but since new regulations were introduced by the government to permit virtual meetings, key meetings have been held online including full council meetings, planning and licensing committees.

We hope residents agree that, while this time has certainly been challenging, we have worked hard to keep putting our residents first, and the council has kept most services running well during this difficult time.

Playgrounds, outdoor gyms, ball courts, skateparks and tennis courts have now reopened, and signage is in place at each site to instruct users how to keep themselves and others safe. As part of the council's 2020/21 Chrysalis programme, £58,000 has been awarded to Northwood Recreation Ground for a range of improvements, including the resurfacing of the basketball area, a new basketball goal, a new outdoor gym and a pathway to link the outdoor gym and basketball area to the

entrance onto Chestnut Avenue. The work is expected to be completed by Christmas.

Gyms, fitness classes and pools have also now reopened at Hillingdon Sports and Leisure Complex, Highgrove Pool and Fitness Centre, Botwell Green Leisure Centre and Queensmead Sports Centre.

In August, we reopened 14 of our libraries, including Northwood and Northwood

Hills, to allow residents to browse and borrow books, request recycling bags and/or pick up hearing aid batteries. All have slightly modified layouts and access to ensure the safety of employees and residents. For more information visit [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries).

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, the Battle of Britain Bunker and Visitor Centre is delivering a series of virtual offerings, including: a wreath-laying ceremony; behind-the-scenes film; lectures delivered by Stephen Bungay, Paul Beaver and Howard Cook covering the Dowding System, the Spitfire and the Hurricane; educational material; and a brand new installation in the underground bunker. Please keep checking the bunker's website for more information: [www.battleofbritainbunker.co.uk/virtual-resources/](http://www.battleofbritainbunker.co.uk/virtual-resources/)

The council is also interested in hearing from residents of all ages who may have a fascinating story to tell about living or working in the borough for a new Hillingdon Stories campaign. For more details visit [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/stories](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/stories)

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

Tel: 01895 250316 - Civic Centre office (9am - 5pm weekdays)

Email: [rlewis@hillington.gov.uk](mailto:rlewis@hillington.gov.uk)  
[cmelvin@hillington.gov.uk](mailto:cmelvin@hillington.gov.uk)  
[sseaman-digby@hillington.gov.uk](mailto:sseaman-digby@hillington.gov.uk)

## Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch

In the Spring edition of this newsletter I expressed optimism that HNW's service was back to normal following the office move. Of course, that optimism was short-lived. Nevertheless, throughout the lockdown HNW was able to provide crime alerts and crime prevention information via OWL and email traffic to the office was actioned remotely. However, the setting up of new watches was curtailed for obvious practical reasons.

The office at Manor Farm House has now re-opened on Fridays between 10am and 1pm but owing to LBH restrictions, only one volunteer can occupy it and visits by residents are not possible at present. This restriction does hamper our established routines, but we are finding ways to overcome this. The bi-monthly newsletter has continued to



be published, albeit by electronic means only. Paper copies for watch members will be reinstated once the Covid situation becomes more settled.

Signing up to OWL is a must if you wish to receive up to date alerts and news relevant to your location. To do so is very straightforward - go to [www.owl.co.uk](http://www.owl.co.uk) (over 15,000 Hillingdon residents have already done this). There is also wealth of crime prevention information as well as back copies of the newsletter on the NHW website.

Web: [www.hillingdonnhw.co.uk](http://www.hillingdonnhw.co.uk)  
Email: [all@hillingtonnhw.co.uk](mailto:all@hillingtonnhw.co.uk)

**Lynette Bridger**  
Secretary

Dear Residents,



METROPOLITAN  
POLICE

From Sergeant James Last

This is a special news article and the last I will be writing in my capacity as your local ward Sergeant, I have a transfer to Acton Police Safer Neighbourhood Team due on the 31<sup>st</sup> August. My replacement will be Sergeant James Bishop to whom I wish all the very best in his new role.

What a year 2020 has been so far! I do not believe any one of us could have foreseen the coronavirus pandemic last year and how it would affect our daily existence on so many levels. It is on that note I wish to offer my sincere best wishes to all of my residents in Northwood on behalf of the MPS and hope you have all found the most productive way of coping throughout this difficult time and received support when needed. I naturally offer my condolences to anyone who has suffered loss as result of this virus.

Along with the onset of COVID-19 regulations have been many changes to how we police. A big part of what your team has been involved in, along with business as usual, has been the enforcement and management of COVID-19 regulations; this has been an extremely challenging operational time. Throughout this time and moving into the Autumn months it is important for you to know that your local policing team is always there to help and support you. This has not changed due to the pandemic.

The Northwood team continues to send out monthly newsletters via OWL detailing seasonal and practical crime prevention advice. With the darker autumn months ahead, I hope these will prove useful in reducing burglary, robbery and motor vehicle crime over this challenging period.

I would like to finally put on record I have been very proud to serve the residents of Northwood these last 18 months. There have been many highlights and good work done including having built some excellent ongoing relationships with Hertfordshire constabulary to reduce burglary and vehicle crime. It is on this positive note I would like to bid you all farewell.

All the very best and stay safe,  
Sergeant Jim Last

## Environment

### Keep Your Spirits Up      Do More Gardening Enhance the Environment

We are all effected by the COVID-19 Pandemic even if we appear to be well. At the very least it can dull the spirits and sap strength, physical and mental.

A pick-me-up strategy is a helpful antidote and personally speaking I advocate gardening as one form of exercise. By that I mean if you are not a gardener or leave it to others to do, get stuck in and get started. If you are presently someone that does gardening try a different tack, start with a "to do list", then prioritise that list of tasks and for the adventurous, add in goals to be achieved.

At this time of year there are always tasks to do such as weeding, cutting back bushes and hedges, mowing grass plus trimming edges. Very soon as colder weather sets in it will be time to start pruning. Advice on how to prune different types of plant or tree frequently can be found on YouTube. A simple search request such as, 'how to do xyz' or 'what type of fertilizer should be used on a abc' can often produce a good result.



While in gardening mode, don't forget to cut back boundary hedges so pavements retain their full width. And please don't allow your gardener to sweep fallen leaves into the road – far better composted or bagged for council collection than blocking the drains.

[environment@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:environment@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

Andrew Egan

For all information about local environmental issues, visit the council website, [www.hillingdon.gov.uk](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk) and follow the links or use the Search box  
**Email:** [contactcentre1@hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:contactcentre1@hillingdon.gov.uk)  
**Tel:** 01895 556000

The Team members are:

PS James Bishop, PC Max Christmas, PC Danny Verrall and PCSO John Usher.

The Neighbourhoods Inspector is Insp Zubin Writer

Northwood Ward Team can be contacted on

Telephone: 020 8721 2545 or 020 8246 1823

Email: [Northwood.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:Northwood.snt@met.police.uk)

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

Website: [www.met.police.uk/your-area/](http://www.met.police.uk/your-area/)

**Address:** Ruislip Police Station, The Oaks, HA4 7LF

**Sergeant:** [james.last@met.police.uk](mailto:james.last@met.police.uk)



'Amazing Grace' at Emmanuel

## Easter 2020



St Matthew's Church



## Local Policing from the NRA Police Liaison Officer

We wish Sgt Jim Last all the best in his new post. I have worked closely with Jim and he has been an excellent Sergeant always willing to listen and help. We welcome Sgt James Bishop and I look forward to meeting him shortly. Moving between posts has now become the normal situation and of course no one can begrudge officers wanting to gain promotion. That said, we should be very grateful to stalwarts like PCSO John Usher who has remained with us for many years and offers a valuable stability to the community. We now have an excellent and experienced team of officers in our Safer Neighbourhood Team and we should be using their skills and knowledge to the maximum. **By signing up to OWL you will gain useful insights into their work in Northwood and more importantly get advice to keep you and neighbours safe.**



It will not surprise you to see that during the Covid period recent figures suggest big falls in Burglary (-83%), Robbery (-33%) and drugs offences (-33%) although theft from motor vehicles shows only a small reduction. We do have to remember that Northwood is generally a low crime area so to see such falls is even more impressive. Perhaps whilst we have been at home more, we have also considered our home and personal security as well as our online presence. I know that many people have been walking around their

neighbourhoods noticing more unusual behaviours. Also, WhatsApp and Facebook groups have appeared that not only keep neighbours connected but also advise about crime issues. Please maintain these connections for as long as possible.

As we approach winter when the longer nights usually see an increase in crime, be aware that this winter criminals may be more determined to take advantage of any lapses in your home, personal and online security. If you are concerned please contact your SNT for advice. The contact sessions with the police have been halted due to the Covid crisis but they are around and can be contacted easily.

Our Police Ward Panel has been unable to meet physically but the work continues. If you want to help us please contact me.

Together with the police we have been trying to establish a business "Shopwatch" group. The businesses seem reluctant for some reason but if you own or work in a local shop and want to get involved please get in touch with me or the police. It really would help keep the shops safe and, of course, the customers and residents of Northwood.

If you have any policing concerns please feel free to call or email me as we want to ensure our police know about and deal with the worries of our residents. And please keep abiding by the Covid rules. Keep safe and well.

Chairman, Northwood Police Ward Panel  
[nwdpolicepanel@gmail.com](mailto:nwdpolicepanel@gmail.com)

and NRA Police Liaison  
[police@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:police@northwoodresidents.co.uk)  
H: 01923 450497 M: 07831 116570

Philip Green



*A socially-distanced camp fire.*

## 6<sup>th</sup> Northwood Scouts

Needless to say, our programme of activities has been restricted over the past few months. At the beginning of lockdown the Scout Association stopped all face to face meetings so after a bit of thinking we signed up to Zoom so that we could stay in touch with all of our members and to keep up with activities, badges and awards but in a virtual meeting. We have had two or three Zoom meetings each week with everyone still working towards their badges which were adapted to deal with the situation, but more importantly enjoy fun based activities including much appreciated Kahoot quizzes and Scavenger Hunts around the house.

Recently we have been able to start meeting in small groups outside so taking advantage of the good weather we've met for a sausage sizzle and have had our 'Summer Camp in Northwood' - a mixture of face to face and virtual activities. Not being able to stay away overnight, we met for lunch cooked over a real campfire followed by the traditional mastermind quiz before leaving for home to camp out in our gardens overnight. Sunday saw us on a hike around Northwood with everyone returning home in the virtual minibus.

As the evenings draw in we hope to be able to meet in small groups inside. Scouts are nothing if not adaptable and the experience of the last few months has shown what we can achieve.

We meet next to Northwood Methodist Church in Oaklands Gate. For further details or if you would like to join please contact Julian by emailing: [gsl@6nscouts.org.uk](mailto:gsl@6nscouts.org.uk)



## VE Day Celebrations 8th May 2020

Hallowell Road residents made the most of the glorious sunshine and enjoyed driveway picnics, 1940s music and a toast to the heroes of WW2 - "TO THOSE WHO GAVE SO MUCH, WE THANK YOU."

A great community event at a time when we most needed it!







## Walk or run in October to support Mount Vernon Cancer Centre and Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre

As for most charities it has been a particularly difficult year for us, so we very much hope the local community will join us once more for this event that raises vital funds to support the thousands of people affected by cancer. We are delighted to let you know that **entry is now open** for this year's socially distanced and closed road Moor Park 10k event, which will take place on **Sunday 11th October 2020 at Merchant Taylors' School**.

Throughout the month of October you are also invited to join us for the **Virtual Moor Park event** - choose your distance: 10k 5k, 2k, 1k and walk or run, anytime or anywhere. As a huge thank you, anyone who raises over £50 as part of their fundraising efforts will be entered into a special prize draw.

For more information and to sign up visit [moorpark10k.org.uk](http://moorpark10k.org.uk) or find us on Facebook & Twitter @MoorPark10k



## Northwood Area Women's Club

WE ARE NORTHWOOD AREA WOMEN'S CLUB (NAWC), a social club that brings women together. We are a local non-profit organisation that welcomes women of all ages

and nationalities.

The club is still active in spite of everything. Our monthly General Meetings are normally held at St John's URC, Hallowell Road but until government guidelines allow us to meet up again in person, our meetings including speakers will be via Zoom.

Most of our activities have resumed online or in a socially distanced way and we welcome new members. Depending on the interests of current members these activities may change but at present they include: virtual guided walks & tours, Mah Jong, Walking Groups, Book clubs, Knitting & Stitching, Dancercise classes, Zoom tea/coffee chats.

Each year our members select a local charity and raise funds to assist their work. Our charity for 2020/21 is Hillingdon Women's Centre.



Members enjoy a London walk - before Covid restrictions kicked in

Join us today, the annual subscription for 2020/21 is £35 and the half-yearly fee from January 2021 onwards is only £20. You are welcome to attend your first meeting as our guest.

For more about NAWC visit:  
<https://www.northwoodareawomensclub.co.uk/>  
Email: [info@northwoodareawomensclub.co.uk](mailto:info@northwoodareawomensclub.co.uk)

Lynnette Morrow  
President, NAWC



## News From Eastbury Horticultural Society

Not surprisingly, most of our usual activities over the last 8-9 months have been considerably curtailed.

We did hold a Virtual Summer Show whereby members submitted photographs of their various entries via WhatsApp. There were 14 classes and overall we received 150 entries. Two of the winning entries are shown here: Lesley Grieve's Vase of 3 or more kinds of Mixed Perennials and Jo Wild's "Shady Corner".



All of our summer visits, including the annual holiday, had to be cancelled, although we did manage a small visit in September to Theobalds Farmhouse Garden near Potters Bar which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

We also held an Autumn Plant sale in Hash Patel's lovely garden where it was nice to meet up with old friends, albeit socially-distanced!

Our next Speaker event this season is on Monday 12th October, subject to any Government restrictions which may be in place at the time. The talk will commence at 8.00pm and is about propagation by Capel Manor's Tom Cole; we meet at Eastbury Farm School. We are also hoping to have another evening on 9th November.

In view of the disrupted year, the committee decided to extend this year's subscription through until March 2021 so any new members joining now will still get 18 months for the price of 12!

Enquiries should be sent to our Membership Secretary, Tim Ellison at 43, Knoll Crescent, Northwood, HA6 1HH or email [ehs.members@gmail.com](mailto:ehs.members@gmail.com)

Want to know what's on in Northwood?  
Just head to the NRA website:  
[www.northwoodresidents.co.uk](http://www.northwoodresidents.co.uk)

To advertise in the NRA newsletter, please contact the advertising manager:  
[ads@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:ads@northwoodresidents.co.uk)



## Coronavirus Community Help

Bringing people together in our communities

Northwood, Northwood Hills,  
Pinner, Oxhey and Ruislip

The first news reports of a new strain of coronavirus reached us in January 2020. By March 2020, it was clear that the UK would not escape the ravages of a pandemic. It was also clear that many of our elderly and vulnerable neighbours would need help just to do everyday things like shopping and picking up prescriptions.

In Northwood and the surrounding areas, lots of people offered to help. Very soon, a mutual aid group was formed – Coronavirus Community Help (CCH). Within a few days, hundreds of people joined the group and a network of volunteers was soon in place. We leafleted the area and created a central administration system so that people could phone or email with requests.

At its peak, CCH had 1,000 members online and almost 200 people who volunteered to help. They have brought essential shopping to elderly residents, picked up and delivered vital

prescriptions and are even walking dogs and lending books for people who can't leave their homes.

We also managed to show our appreciation for NHS and other key workers by arranging weekly baking and snack collections for staff rooms in local hospitals, charities, supermarkets and waste centres.



Baking for NHS Workers

The group has also procured and delivered approximately 50 carloads of food for our desperately overstretched local foodbanks. Volunteers in Eastbury and Moor Park have also coordinated donations of garden furniture and plants for care homes to brighten outdoor spaces.

Fortunately, things have quietened down with the relaxation of lockdown and the easing of social distancing. CCH wasn't intended to be a permanent organisation and is in the process of winding down its central administration.

Our volunteers will continue to help the people they are helping and we'll signpost the availability of services from established charities. In addition, many members have developed an appetite for volunteering and we've found other organisations that they can work with.

It has made for a busy year, with many of our volunteers working from home as well as helping neighbours. But it has brought many people together and helped to prove that community spirit is alive and well in Northwood.

Ian Chapman-Curry  
Email: [cuzglc@gmail.com](mailto:cuzglc@gmail.com)  
Tel: 01923 820861

### Dene Dental Practice

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**COVID SECURE**

### Metropolitan Line

Gerry Pimm represents the NRA on FOMLUC, the Federation of Metropolitan Line User Committees.

No report this time, but remember Gerry is always pleased to receive your Met Line tales, whether woeful or complimentary!

[met@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:met@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

Gerry Pimm



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## Pharmacies and Covid-19

*All pharmacies have had to adapt their working practices, here is a first-hand account from one of the NRA Business members.*

Sharmans first had an extreme surge in demand for prescriptions and shop goods from around the second week of March. As the news of a possible lockdown spread, so did the panic buying of goods and ordering of prescriptions. Our team was working tirelessly from 6am until midnight, ensuring that we were still able to meet the needs of our patients and customers. This time was the busiest that we have ever been.

There were major stock shortages, not only of prescription medicines, but also for over-the-counter medicines and shop goods. We were dealing with a 3-fold increase in footfall but also desperately trying to obtain stock that was in short supply. We often had to spend hours sourcing medications and had to pay inflated prices for these. During that time, additional safety measures were introduced including protective screens for our staff, one-way flow of customers and restricted access to certain parts of the shop floor.

Once the lockdown occurred, the heightened demand for shop goods and prescriptions continued with a heavy foot-fall, causing Sharmans to strengthen measures even further to reduce the risks of transmission. We also had to suspend all our clinics including Podiatry, Osteopathy and Ear Wax removal. We found that an increasing number of shielding patients were using our delivery service not only for their

prescriptions but for shop goods. The number of deliveries increased by around 50% at this time, we had to employ extra drivers and rely on the kindness of local volunteers to meet the ever-growing delivery orders. Many GP surgeries had to reduce face to face appointments at the surgery and close their doors, this led to an increase in patients turning to the pharmacy for expert advice and treatment from our pharmacists instead.

Towards the end of April, Sharmans began to return to some state of normality. The demand for goods and prescriptions began to normalise, but we were still delivering to many patients and seeing more people consult with our pharmacists in the absence of the GP surgeries.

Towards the end of May all our clinics had restarted seeing patients face to face. We have had to put many measures in place including PPE, extra cleaning, increased intervals between patients, ventilation and adjustments to equipment. We have seen the largest number of bookings for Flu Vaccinations at the pharmacy this year and will be providing them on a safe appointment only basis.

We are slowly returning to normal or at least the 'new normal' albeit with screens, facemasks, hand sanitiser and gloves. We hope to see you all in-store soon and thank you for all your lovely messages and support that you have given during this time.

**Rikin Patel MRPharmS**  
Director, Sharmans

## News Update from Northwood Library

All Hillingdon Libraries were closed to the public during lockdown but maintained a service to residents through provision of online resources, Home Library Service and regular Zoom meetings for specific groups.

Here in Northwood, we have been gradually increasing the services offered to residents since mid-July. For a month we delivered a successful Reserve and Collect service, where books could be ordered online or via the phone, and then handed out at the front door.



We have now taken the next tentative steps towards our New Normal. Visitors are welcome into the library for restricted browsing and for PC use. Everyone should wear a face covering if possible and should hand-sanitise on entry. PC bookings are for 45 minutes on the hour each hour, and whilst

we are unable to handle cash, we are providing five free prints per session.

Three browsers are invited in at any one time to peruse the ground floor selection of books, with one family at a time in the Children's Library. These visits are limited to 15 minutes, and we ask that any books that are touched and then not chosen are put aside to be quarantined. We can still provide non-fiction stock and books from our collection upstairs but cannot allow access to the public on the first floor.

Meanwhile, we continue to provide the full range of recycling bags to anyone with a Hillingdon First Card.

For the foreseeable future, all events and meetings in libraries are suspended, so we have had to be creative about other ways of maintaining momentum. Our social group for people living with Dementia has continued to meet via Zoom throughout Lockdown, and we plan to trial a Zoom meeting for the Northwood Library Book Group this month. Libraries across the borough will also be providing Storytimes on Zoom, so keep an eye on the Hillingdon Libraries website for details of these events.

The only other change is that our opening hours are slightly different, including a one-hour closure for lunches.

Monday to Friday 09:00-13:00 and 14:00-17:00  
Saturday 09:00-13:00 and 14:00-17:00

We look forward to seeing many of you soon.

**Maggie Ross**  
Branch Manager

Northwood Library, Oaklands Gate, Northwood, HA6 3AB  
Tel: 01895 558262  
Email: [northwood-library@hilligdon.gov.uk](mailto:northwood-library@hilligdon.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries)  
Twitter: [www.twitter.com/Hill\\_Libraries](https://twitter.com/Hill_Libraries)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/HillingdonLibraries](https://www.facebook.com/HillingdonLibraries)



## Northwood Live at Home Scheme

**MHA NORTHWOOD LIVE AT HOME** exists to combat loneliness and isolation among older people locally. Like so many other organisations, coronavirus has severely impacted the way we have been able to support our members. Telephone befriending by both staff and volunteers has increased to keep in touch with members, have a friendly chat and check they are staying well. As for so many during his time, the online world has come to our rescue and many members have taken part in virtual exercise classes and an online book club. Luckily one of our activities was an iPad training session, who knew how useful this was to become!



Seated Exercise with Yvonne

Volunteers have also been helping people with their shopping and collecting prescriptions.

Recently our umbrella organisation, MHA (Methodist Homes Association) has given permission for face-to-face befriending visits. Although these are limited to half an hour and have to be in members' gardens, they have brought much pleasure to those involved. One member, when asked if she'd like a visit, said "Oh, you've really made my day". It was so lovely seeing people properly again after so long.

In late August it was finally possible to organise a few outdoor activities. Assistant Manager Yvonne held her first outdoor exercise class which was much appreciated by those who could participate. It took place in the grounds of Frithwood School who didn't hesitate to give their permission when asked. The Scheme is very grateful to the school for its ongoing support. In addition to the 1:1 befriending and seated exercise other outdoor activities we hope to offer soon are yoga and guided walks.

We look forward to the time when all of our activities can resume safely.

If you would like to know more about the scheme, as a potential member or volunteer, please contact the office on **01923 842494** or email **Northwood.LiveatHome@mha.org.uk**.

A member of staff will pick up the message and get back to you.

[f MHAnorthwoodLaH](https://www.mha.org.uk/live-home/live-home-near-me/northwood/)

Web: [www.mha.org.uk/live-home/live-home-near-me/northwood/](https://www.mha.org.uk/live-home/live-home-near-me/northwood/)

Jo Wild, Volunteer

## Mount Vernon Hospital Comforts Fund Charity

When we took the decision to close our three shops, tea bar and trolley service early in March, I don't think any of us had any idea what was about to happen in our country and throughout the world. The impact of Covid-19 on all our lives was huge. The months went by until we could make plans for reopening our outlets. We had to work hard to get screens in place, one-way systems operational and hand gel strategically placed. However, I am delighted to report that our Shop and Book Shop are again open for business. Our Look-In second-hand goods shop should be open by the time you read this. We are opening for shorter hours than before, closing the outlets at 1pm, but we are eager to resume our job of raising funds to be used for the benefit of patients at Mount Vernon Hospital.

As the hospital clinics, wards and Minor Injuries Unit reopen, we expect to increase our hours as footfall on site increases. If you have to attend the hospital or bring a friend or relative for an appointment, please pop into one of our shops and help support our fundraising efforts.

Robert Elkeles  
Chairman of The Comforts Fund



We're ready to serve you safely!

Want to get involved?

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## RELIGION IN A PANDEMIC

Maintaining religious practice in a pandemic is easier for some than others. Churches can move all their services online. But what about the Jewish community in Northwood? How have they maintained their religious services? Northwood is privileged to have two synagogues: the Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue and the Northwood United Synagogue. The latter is somewhat more orthodox with its interpretation of the laws of the Bible, such as the law

that forbids work, and indirectly the use of electricity, on the Sabbath (Friday night to Saturday dusk). The Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue has therefore been able to maintain its religious connection with its community via Zoom and live streaming for all the main services even those on the Sabbath. However, Northwood United Synagogue does not have that ability. It can stream live services only up until dusk on Friday night, then nothing more due to its interpretation and stricter observance of Sabbath rules.

The relaxation of lockdown has at least allowed for more praying in person but with social distancing, only 30 people are permitted in the synagogue. To compensate there have been many more mid-week social and cultural events run online. To ensure that each and every member can participate the community has donated ipads and IT training for those members who would otherwise not be able to connect. Authors, MPs, medical professionals and academics have all run very well-attended programmes on Zoom, helping to fill the gaps left by the lack of face-to-face activities.

Northwood United Synagogue  
21 - 23 Murray Road, Northwood, HA6 2YP  
Tel: 01923 820004  
Email: [admin@northwoodus.org](mailto:admin@northwoodus.org)  
Web: [www.northwoodus.org](http://www.northwoodus.org)

Jeremy Stern,  
Council member



## Northwood Methodist Church

We are an outward-looking, warm-hearted Jesus-centred Church and everyone is very welcome to come to our 10.30 am service each Sunday. At present, because of the coronavirus restrictions, it is necessary to collect contact details from all our worshippers and wear face masks. We have a one-way system while walking round the church and the

chairs are arranged to comply with social distance regulations. At the moment no singing is allowed! Before we could physically worship together in church we were holding "Zoom" services.

On Sunday October 4th at 10.30am we will be holding our Harvest Festival service and then on Sunday October 25th at

4pm will be our annual "In Loving Memory" service, when we remember family and friends who are no longer with us. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

We are continuing our "Discovery" groups on Zoom, our next course of study is on the first book of Peter. Please contact our minister if you would like to join a group.

At the moment we are unable to open the Oasis coffee lounge due to Covid-19.

For hiring any of the church premises please contact the church administrator.

Oaklands Gate, Northwood HA6 3AA  
Tel: 01923 840633  
Email: [nmc@totalise.co.uk](mailto:nmc@totalise.co.uk)  
[www.northwoodmethodistchurch.org](http://www.northwoodmethodistchurch.org)  
Minister: Rev. Andrew Pottage  
Tel: 01923 821034  
[andrew.pottage@methodist.org.uk](mailto:andrew.pottage@methodist.org.uk)



## Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society ....

... is back up and running from September onwards, but with meetings initially on Zoom. The aim is to make these as close as possible to normal speaker meetings, with an illustrated talk followed by questions from the audience. These meetings are on the third Monday of each month at 8pm are open to everyone free of charge. Non-members will need to apply to [secretary@rnelhs.uk](mailto:secretary@rnelhs.uk) for a password.

**19 October:** Headstone Manor, a moated manor house, Pat Clarke

**16 November:** Construction-based archaeology in the Colne Valley, Emma Tetlow

**21 December:** Ruislip in the 1920s, Philip Toms

We look forward to welcoming you!

For further information, please contact:  
[membership@RNELHS.uk](mailto:membership@RNELHS.uk)  
or visit [www.RNELHS.org.uk](http://www.RNELHS.org.uk)



## NORTHWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB

It's been a summer of change at Northwood F.C. The club begins a new season after the previous one was cut short by the Coronavirus pandemic which impacted on the club on a personal note with the loss of much-loved President Pat Byrne.

The renovation of the Chestnut Avenue ground has been completed and the club celebrated the awarding of its new "C – Grading", which allows the club to play one level up from its present Step 4 status, by renaming the ground the Fenton Civil Engineering Stadium in recognition of a new sponsorship partnership.

Much work has been done to allow the club to welcome back spectators in a safe environment with a rigorous risk assessment having been undertaken and protocols put in place under the watchful eye of the club's Covid Officer, John Joyce.

The club is once again offering a fantastic season ticket deal which allows spectators to watch all the Isthmian League games and Under 18 midweek matches for a mouth-watering £45. With professional clubs still unable to welcome back fans there is no better time to support your local club and get your football fix.

Season ticket info plus fixture details can be found at [www.northwoodfc.com](http://www.northwoodfc.com) plus you can keep up to date by following on twitter @northwoodfc.

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Alongside the Food Hall, you can also enjoy a healthy and delicious drink from the Juice Bar. Choose from a huge range of exciting flavours and fresh produce, and if you're feeling inventive, you can even create your own. There's also a range of healthy snacks and meals for you to take home.

## **The Arts Society Moor Park** - Forthcoming talks, open for all to view online via Zoom **Morning talks – join the Zoom session at 10:45, lecture begins at 11:00**

**Wednesday 21 October** John Ruskin: his impact, achievement and legacy, by David Cross

**Wednesday 18 November** Catherine de Medici, poor Queen: The story of three in a marriage; by Caroline Rayman

**Wednesday 20 January 2021** The Subtle Art of Fake News, by Geri Parlbby

**Wednesday 17 February 2021** A Life in Fashion: The Wardrobe of Cecil Beaton, by Dr Benjamin Wild



To receive the link to a particular 'live' lecture, email [moorparkdfas@gmail.co](mailto:moorparkdfas@gmail.co) at least 24 hours before the relevant talk. For enquiries and more details of the talks please visit our website: [moorparkdfas.com](http://moorparkdfas.com)

## **Harrow Choral Society Rises to the Virtual Challenge**

Harrow Choral Society has worked hard over the last few difficult months to ensure its members can still look forward to their Monday evening meetings. At the core has been an integrated programme of 'virtual' rehearsals and recordings devised by music director Simon Williams, and plans are already in hand to collate members' individual voice recordings in due course for a commemorative CD. They have all been added to the HCS YouTube channel.

Dame Emma Kirkby, our new president, gave an interview in which she talked to Music Director Simon Williams about her long and distinguished career. As well as appreciating her wisdom and musical experience, members were struck by Dame Emma's warmth and enthusiasm and look forward to welcoming her once concerts are allowed to resume.

Another new face at HCS, Paul Ayres, gave a fascinating online talk about his work as a freelance composer arranger and organist. In a further enjoyable online event Peter Miller, HCS chairman, persuaded Simon Williams to share his choral Desert Island Discs choices, while composer Lorna Dawson gave an illustrated presentation about her Cantata Caledonia which HCS plans to perform in the future. Julie Bale, HCS's regular voice coach, also delivered a number of lively online workshops.

With a full programme of online rehearsals and activities planned, HCS is still anticipating attracting new singers. If you would like to join us, and for more information about Harrow Choral Society, please visit our website: [www.harrowchoral.org.uk](http://www.harrowchoral.org.uk)



*Singing through a straw placed in a glass of water!*



## Northwood Tennis Club Finals Day



Henry Peart in action

The ladies' singles, men's singles and doubles were a repeat of last year's finals: Hannah Ghosh defeated Alita Davern, Lazar Andelkovic beat John Ghosh before John and Fergal Davern triumphed against Lazar and Guiseppe Messina.

In the ladies' doubles Hannah and Hermione Peart failed in their bid to retain the title losing to last year's runners-up, Angela Ghosh and Alita Davern.

The mixed doubles final was won by Alita Davern and Duncan Chorley, who overcame Angela and John Ghosh.

The veterans' mixed doubles was won by Andy Smith and Jo Fuller who edged past Monika Laudenska-Sobik and John Mangan.

The junior girls' singles was won by Hannah Ghosh and the runner-up was Alicia McCarthy. The boys' singles winner was Teddy Mangan who beat Henry Peart.

We will play through the winter months with a tournament and matches and, if permitted, several social events.

If you would like any information about the club, please email: [david-cameron5@sky.com](mailto:david-cameron5@sky.com)



## Northwood and District U3A

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

In the early days of complete lockdown so were we. Gradually the introduction of Zoom made us realise that we could resume some of our meetings albeit in a different way. We have also managed to have three of our monthly meetings using this format.

The first one was a little strange with lots of names showing on the screen but not faces and voices calling out "am I in?" or "can you see me?" Gradually we became more able to use this new technology and are now much more "down with the kids."

The three speakers were experienced Zoomers and Tom Way, a wildlife photographer, was able to show us some stunning shots and also explained how he had obtained them. No Box Brownies here! Helen Fry talked to us about Latimer House and the important role it played during WW2. September saw the return of Andy Thomas; last time he had us all riveted by his tales of crop circles. This time he talked about English Freedom. For over an hour. It was

amazing, his knowledge is remarkable and to keep going when you are getting no physical response is a real tour de force. Wendy Wyatt, our volunteers co-ordinator, has done an amazing job making sure that those members who do not have internet access are kept in the loop by either telephone or letter.

Alan Lester, our Vice Chairman, has been producing an online (and hard copy) magazine called 'Viral Times'. It has kept us all smiling and feeling connected. Members have contributed articles, photos and quizzes. I fear the jokes are Alan's own! Unfortunately, all physical trips, visits, holidays and meetings at Fairfield have been put on the back burner for the moment. However, through the good offices of our hardworking committee, virtual trips have been organised.

A very big thank you to Rob Thomasson and all the other members of the team who have kept us from feeling isolated during this dreadful time.

[u3asites.org.uk/northwood](http://u3asites.org.uk/northwood)

Maureen Crimmins



**SOUTH OXHEY CHOIR** of BBC TV fame. Hello everyone from SOC and hope you are keeping safe at this time. SOC has been keeping in touch with virtual Zoom Meetings every week to keep spirits up throughout the summer months, but are hoping that from October, with limited numbers, we shall be able to get together meeting on Tuesdays for rehearsals at Oxhey Wood School, 7pm-8.30pm. We would love to welcome new "voices" to our choir at any

time, so, if you enjoy singing please come along and see for yourself. It is really good for your health and wellbeing. Regrettably we are unable to confirm a Christmas Concert at this time. Hoping to see you.

For more details call Ann Cox on 07852 369 935  
Email: [southoxheychoirs@gmail.com](mailto:southoxheychoirs@gmail.com)  
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## Virtual AGM, Thursday 29th October 2020

As you are aware the annual general meeting (AGM) scheduled for 23rd April 2020 was postponed due to Covid-19. Owing to the ongoing social distancing requirements, we are proposing to hold this year's AGM virtually, using the Zoom Webinar platform, a video-conferencing service. This meeting will have a very limited agenda – appointment of officers and executive committee, approval of accounts and setting of subscription for 2020.

If you wish to attend the AGM please email your name, address and email address to Sue Mansfield at [mansfieldsr@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mansfieldsr@blueyonder.co.uk). This information will allow us to verify that you are a member. In order to check that all requests to attend are valid please make sure that your application is received **no later than 9.30am on Monday 26th October**. You may be unable to attend if your request is received after this time.

Attendees will be sent an invitation with a link to the meeting together with a copy of the accounts for 2019. Questions, which will be limited to the agenda items, should be sent to the Chairman by 9am on 29<sup>th</sup> October. (Questions on other matters should be sent to the Chairman in the usual way.)

If you need assistance, or have any questions, please call Paul Barker on 01923 821036 or email him at [pifbarker@me.com](mailto:pifbarker@me.com)

It is important that you have an email account as you will receive your invitation to the AGM via email. You will also need access to a computer, tablet or smart phone at the time of the AGM as you will need to use Zoom's online portal to attend the meeting. Please note that the AGM starts at 8pm on Thursday 29th October. Registration will commence at 7.45pm.

I look forward to welcoming you to our AGM on 29th October.

Tony Ellis, Chairman  
Tel: 01923 821237  
[chairman@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:chairman@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

## Northwood Residents' Association 54<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Thursday 29th October 2020 at 8pm  
via Zoom

### AGENDA

- 1) Welcome and introduction from Tony Ellis, Chairman.
- 2) To receive the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.
- 3) To set the rate of subscription for the year 2020  
(currently set at a minimum of £2 per household and £10 per business).
- 4) To elect the Officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Hon Auditor;  
currently Messrs Tony Ellis, Miles Gillman, David Blowers and Chris Rogers respectively,  
all of whom are willing to stand again.
- 5) To elect an Executive Committee:  
**Members standing for re-election:** Mr Paul Barker, Ms Emma Brown, Mr Andrew Egan, Mr Philip Green,  
Ms Hoda Lacey, Dr Amir Lakha, Mr Peter Lansdown, Mrs Ros Plume and Mr Trevor Sherling
- 6) To elect the President, currently Mrs Valerie Mellor.

**NOMINATIONS** in writing for Officers and Members of the Executive Committee [other than those named in 4) and 5) above], with the written consent of the candidate, must reach the Chairman by 15th October 2020.

**QUESTIONS** relating to this agenda must be submitted to the Chairman by 9am on 29th October.

The minutes of the 2019 AGM can be found on the NRA website: [www.northwoodresidents.co.uk](http://www.northwoodresidents.co.uk) under "The Association" tab, scroll down to "NRA's 53rd AGM".

Accounts for 2019 are available on application from the Secretary, Tel: 827409; [info@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:info@northwoodresidents.co.uk)



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Or doing something nice

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And give you something to admire

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Vice Chairman	Miles Gillman	825599
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Secretary & Editor	Ros Plume	827409
Minutes Secretary	Sue Mansfield	
Chief Road Steward	Paul Barker	821036
Membership Secretary	Frances Meyer	
Business Members	Hoda Lacey	828085
Communications, Woods	Miles Gillman	825599
Environment	Andrew Egan	
Health	Amir Lakha	
Planning	Trevor Sherling	
Police Liaison	Philip Green	450497
Traffic & Highways	Peter Lansdown	
Community Liaison	Emma Brown	

Website: [webmaster@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@northwoodresidents.co.uk)  
Editor: [editor@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:editor@northwoodresidents.co.uk)  
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