

# Northwood Residents Association



Newsletter no 137

February 2007

## Chairman's Report - Colin Harris

### AGM

For the AGM on the evening of 27th March at St John's Church Hall at 8.00pm I have arranged for a discussion panel, comprising of Sgt. Paul Ratcliffe, two Ward Councillors and two members of the NRA Executive. They have kindly agreed to field and answer questions on matters which may be of concern to Northwood residents.

If you would like to ask any of the above panel a question relating to issues in Northwood please can you pass them on to me **by 20th March** either by email to:

colinyvonneharris@fsmail.net

or by post to: 75 Copse Wood Way

Northwood

HA6 2TX

### Contacting LBH

Some members of the Northwood Residents' Association have reported a general lack of responsiveness when contacting the London Borough of Hillingdon. They feel they are passed from one department to another without resolving the matter to their satisfaction. We suggest to members who experience this to escalate the matter by contacting your Ward Councillor, Democratic Services or the CEO by letter.

A Major concern that your Executive Committee faces is the fact that we (on your behalf) are not consulted beforehand on proposed changes in and around Northwood. Witness for example the idiotic site chosen for the zebra crossing in the High Street. This I am told cost £18,000! Despite a petition this still remains, dangerously close to Rickmansworth Road awaiting a major accident.

## Saving The Cancer Centre At Mount Vernon Hospital

Nick Hurd, our MP has taken up the cudgels on behalf of the Ruislip and Northwood residents, in his campaign for the retention of the Cancer Centre at Mount Vernon Hospital. Nick is keeping the date of our AGM free and has been invited to attend and speak regarding this matter of importance to the Northwood Residents' Association.

Please see Page 2 for details on how you can help

### The Met Line looks to the future

For further details please see page 6



### BEWARE!!!

The clampers are active again on the private car parking facility that the Reindeer offer to their customers. There is a warning notice to this effect.



Please use the LBH PROVIDED PARKING SPACES. The first half-hour is free and there are plenty of them!

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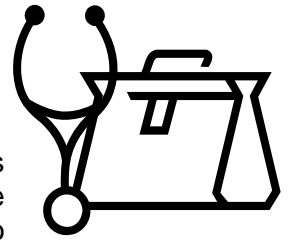
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## Mount Vernon Cancer Centre

The big news is that the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre will NOT be moving to Hatfield. This is really good news for local residents. We now have to work hard to make sure that the Cancer Centre stays on the Mount Vernon site and is not moved elsewhere – to Hammersmith Hospital, for example.

**How YOU can help...** Please contact local MP, Nicholas Hurd, who has set up a website for this purpose in conjunction with Community Voice, & needs your support. Go to [www.supportmountvernon.com](http://www.supportmountvernon.com), add YOUR support then ask friends & relatives to do the same. Numbers count - & we need thousands of supporters!

You might also like to view the new Community Voice website: [www.communityvoicehealth.org.uk](http://www.communityvoicehealth.org.uk).

## Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

This is a supportive service providing advice, information and on the spot help to patients, carers and relatives. Their aim is to offer prompt, confidential help and advice to resolve problems quickly relating to NHS care provided by GPs, dentists etc; to help contact other organisations that offer help; to listen to patients, carers and relatives to improve patient care; to provide information about local health service and support groups and to give guidance on how to access the NHS Complaints Procedure.

## News from RAFT

It is planned that the Mount Vernon Centre will join forces with the Royal Free later this year to form a new centre of excellence, but Mount Vernon will continue with day cases and outpatient clinics for local patients.

RAFT's closeness to the Plastic Surgery Centre at Mount Vernon has always been a strength, giving research a sharp edge through the marriage of clinical work and science. That will not change, as it is planned that they will follow as soon as is feasible. This is seen as a positive move by RAFT and the research team is particularly excited since the Royal Free is the Hampstead campus of

University College London, giving access to other academic departments.

## Central London Congestion Charge Extension. What you need to know for 2007

The Central London Congestion Charge western extension covers the Royal Brompton Hospital. The extension comes into effect on Monday 19 February 2007 and operates from 07:00 am to 6:30 pm, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, Bank Holidays and the three days between Christmas and New Year.

NHS patients who have a compromised immune system and who require regular therapy, assessment or recurrent surgical intervention and are clinically assessed as being too ill, weak or disabled to travel to an appointment on public transport, will be able to claim reimbursement by completing a form widely available through the hospital and having it signed by the health professional they are visiting.

Blue Badge holders will not have to pay the charge, provided they register with Transport for London and make an annual payment of £10 per vehicle. For more information visit [www.cclondon.com](http://www.cclondon.com) or call 0845 900 1234.



## Would you like to raise money for the Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre by doing something you do every day?

The LJMC is now listed on [everyclick.com](http://everyclick.com) a search engine that gives 50% of its revenue to charity. Using everyclick.com as your search engine does not cost you or us any money, but every time you use it you raise money for LJMC.

Please start raising money for us whenever you search the web.

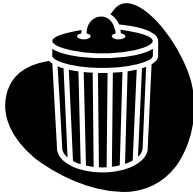
Just go to [www.everyclick.com/uk/lyndajacksonmacmillancentre](http://www.everyclick.com/uk/lyndajacksonmacmillancentre) - you can then click on the links in the top right hand corner to set it as your Home Page and add it to your Favourites. It's helpful if you can also 'Sign In' as an LJMC supporter at some time too.



### Refuse Collection

With Christmas and New Year falling on a Monday, there obviously had to be some changes to the normal collection. This was particularly unfortunate over New Year, where the replacement collection was a whole week later than normal, resulting in unsightly bags of rubbish left for long periods out on the street. We hope to persuade LBH to publicise the changes more widely in future, and to make the notice more prominent in *Hillingdon People*. Any changes can be found on various websites or telephone numbers (see *Recycling* below).

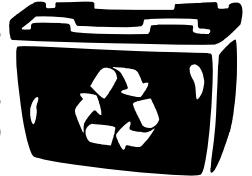
### Litter Bins



LBH is apparently going to phase out the unattractive yellow bins and replace them with black ones. We are hoping to persuade LBH to let us have them sooner rather than later to smarten up the centre of Northwood a little.

### Recycling

Hopefully most people will be aware that it is now possible to put glass bottles and jars in the weekly "dry" recycling bags. These items should be mixed in with plastic and paper, to cushion the glass.



The fortnightly collection of "green" garden waste was resumed on 5 February following the usual winter suspension. Please ensure that you know on which day of the fortnight there is a collection to avoid bags being left out for any longer than is necessary. Northwood is a "blue" week (renamed from "green" to avoid obvious confusion!) For information, visit [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/environment](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/environment) under *waste services*, or ring the LBH Customer Contact Centre on 01895 556000.

Don't forget to try the NRA website for information. We endeavour to keep it as up-to-date as possible.  
[www.northwoodresidents.co.uk](http://www.northwoodresidents.co.uk)



## TREASURER'S REPORT - Ros Plume

I am writing this at the end of December, a busy time of year for most people, but made even busier for me as the NRA financial year ends on 31<sup>st</sup> December. During the last month I have banked just over 25% of the total of the year's subscriptions. This means that I have had to check and record membership details for about 500 households in that time. I do this job very willingly, but you could all help to make it a little easier by spreading the work-load more evenly through the year:

**Road Stewards**, there's no need to wait until you have every last subscription in before letting me have your list and money, especially if it includes cheques that can time-out. You can collect at any time of the year, so why not start in the Spring when the evenings are lighter?

**Members**, if your Road Steward uses the envelope system, please help him/her by filling in your details on the front, sealing your subscription inside, and then returning it as soon as possible. By the way, our printed envelopes are not designed to be delivered by Royal Mail; it's hand delivery only.

I am pleased to report that our accounts are looking healthy. It has always been NRA policy to keep fairly high reserves for that 'rainy day' when we may need to enlist the services of a solicitor or other professional, but we do have sufficient surplus to help fund community projects. For example, this year we have made a donation to fund the tree planting at the Jubilee Playing Field. If you are involved with any project that will benefit the Northwood community, the executive committee would like to hear from you.

## Rapid Growth of Business Membership



We are delighted to report that recruitment of Business Members to the Association has started well. Business Members are important because they provide much of the daily life and character in the town centre. The Association will support the collective voice of local businesses and organisations to ensure that their needs and expectations of Northwood are met as far as possible.

We expect that by the new year we will have a Business Members Sub-Committee with a chairperson who leads them and represents them on the Executive committee.

If you are a business that hasn't joined yet, please do so soon. Not only will you get to meet and share ideas with other local businesses, but also your membership will enhance your reputation in the community.

We would ask our resident members to encourage the businesses they use to join the Association, and to support our business members with their custom – look out for the NRA Business Member sign in business windows.

These are the businesses that have joined the Association, as at 20 November 2006.

- |                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Ambience                   | 7 Rowland Place, Green Lane    |
| • Bowleys Fine Shoes         | 7 Clive Parade, Green Lane     |
| • Brisa 36                   | 36 Green Lane                  |
| • Complete Golfer            | 1-2 Clive Parade, Maxwell Road |
| • Corbett Altman             | 35 Green Lane                  |
| • E Spark Ltd                | 104 Pinner Road                |
| • Earth Hair.com             | 126 Pinner Road                |
| • Edmonds                    | 41-43 Green Lane               |
| • Green Lane Dental Practice | 27 Green Lane                  |
| • Grosvenor Gallery          | 8-10 Rowland Place, Green Lane |
| • Haringtons Salons          | 31 Green Lane                  |
| • HOB                        | 48 Green Lane                  |
| • Impressive Dry Cleaners    | 30 Green Lane                  |
| • Lamertons Opticians        | 65 Green Lane                  |
| • Let's Let                  | 34 High Street                 |
| • London School of Theology  | Green Lane                     |
| • Northwood Health Foods     | 3 Rowland Place, Green Lane    |
| • Northwood Sports           | 2 Rowland Place, Green Lane    |
| • Petros Ladies Hairdressers | 110 Pinner Road                |
| • Robsons                    | 3 Maxwell Road                 |
| • Sharman Chemist            | 3-4 Clive Parade, Maxwell Road |
| • Thatphone                  | 60 Green Lane                  |
| • The Television Place       | 32 Green Lane                  |
| • Travelcare                 | 9 Clive Parade, Green Lane     |
| • Waitrose                   | 52 Green Lane                  |

### Rotary International

The Rotary International recently celebrated its 100th Anniversary of formation. In 2007 the Ruislip/Northwood club celebrates its 60th Anniversary. This dual gender club meets weekly at Northwood Golf Club at 1pm and currently has a membership of 30 business and professional persons.

The club would welcome active people who may have recently retired and/or moved into the area. The club undertakes projects of a community and international nature. Membership is by invitation but anyone interested in attending one of our meetings is sure to be invited again.

For further information contact: John Harden 01923 822709 or Ken Newton 01895 632140

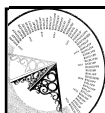




## PLANNING - Alan Prue

Since the last Newsletter publication the number of Planning Applications investigated by the Association has been thirty-one with only six of these giving sufficient cause for concern for us to raise objection. Most significant amongst these was the issue of No 34 Chester Road, where application had been made for a three storey residential care home incorporating twelve single en-suite rooms. Development then proceeded without planning permission. The Association notified the Planning Enforcement Department who in turn notified the developers that the work they were undertaking could undermine the ability to re-develop Nos 36 and 38 since this was in direct contravention of the directive given by the Adjudicator at the recent Appeals Hearing.

The Association has also been chasing the Planning Enforcement Department to halt the sale of flowers etc at the Texaco garage on Rickmansworth Road since no Planning Application for this purpose has been lodged with the Council. The Enforcement Department have apparently been told by the stall operator that they intend initiating an application in February and have consequently been allowed to continue trading! The Association finds this situation astounding when seemingly anyone can set up a stall and start trading to the detriment of honest traders who are required to pay rates and taxes! The Residents' Association had also objected to the extension of hours request for the Hand Car Wash also operating at this garage however approval for this extension has been granted by the Council.



### Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society

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

For further information contact: **Delia Montlake** on **01895 676663**

19 Feb	London's Medieval Port	Gustav Milne (Institute of Archaeology)
19 Mar	Kensal Green Cemetery	Henry Vivian-Neal (Head Guide, Friends of KGC)
16 Apr	History of Lords Cricket Ground	Glenys Williams (MCC Archivist & Historian)

## POLICE - Ann Bailey

It was disappointing that a mere handful of residents came to the meeting at Frithwood School in November. The meeting was arranged so that residents could voice their concerns about policing to our Safer Neighbourhood Team. A panel has now been appointed to confer regularly with the police about local issues. It really is our priority to address the matters that concern you. To date the most mentioned problems relate to traffic - ie standards of driving, speeding, the flow of traffic and the use of mobile phones when driving. Sgt Ratcliffe and his team are urgently seeking ways of ensuring that drivers in Northwood not only drive their vehicles with consideration for other road users, but that they keep within the law.



At this time of year we all need to be particularly vigilant regarding residential security. The crime prevention team are always ready to advise residents about security measures that can be taken to protect their homes. Our CPSOs are trained in crime prevention and are very willing to give advice on home security.

We are waiting for the appointment of two new CPSOs to our team. Ben who has been on the team has now gone to Hendon Police College to train with the MET. We will miss Ben but we look forward to the new officers joining us.

Our Safer Neighbourhood Team is:

Sgt P Ratcliffe,	PC D Woods
WPC L Stevenson &	CPSO Ricky Soler with 2 more to come

There is much concern about antisocial behaviour on the buses. Additional PCSOs are being recruited for the London Transport Network.

Finally if you see or hear anything that raises suspicion REPORT IT. The police rely strongly on members of the public to help them in their task of keeping us all safe. Please play your part.



## Following the report in the June 2006 newsletter the following information regarding the New Rolling Stock Trains has been supplied by Mr G Armstrong, NRA Representative to the Met Line Users' Committee.

Last September's meeting was held at Harrow on the Hill Station and the Met Line Users' Committee was given a presentation by the LUL Upgrade Project Manager on the development of the new 'S' Stock trains, which are due to be introduced in late 2009 or early 2010.



Fig.1 General view of the new train

The design is almost complete and it was reported that Customer Acceptance testing undertaken so far, based on a sample size of 427, including 58 Met Line users returned 93% either 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied'. Some of the main issues influencing the design

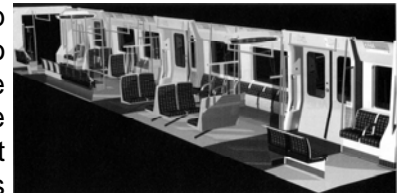
and the key messages which emerged from the consultation are further explained below.

**Wheelchair Access** - Under present legislation there is a legal requirement to provide a minimum of three wheelchair areas per train. The new design has four. It is also a requirement to have a wide access along the whole length of the train (The door can be seen in fig 1.) This means that there is free access between the carriages, in a manner similar to the bendy-buses.

**Station Dwell Times** - The time taken to disembark and board passengers is the critical factor in the time a train has to remain in a station. A reduction in dwell time would allow greater train frequency. This has been researched in some depth and it has been found that gangway width is as important as width of doors. Generous circulating space in the door areas is also critical.

**Train Capacity and Number of Seats** - The new trains would mean a reduction of 31% seat capacity. This is of major concern to Met Line passengers who have longer journey times than those taken in the city. This reduction in seating capacity is offset, according to LUL, by increased frequency of trains to all destinations due to improved signalling, so that the number of seats per hour will remain almost at the present level. However, the new trains are expected to be introduced from late 2009, but the new signalling system will not be available until 2012. There will be an overall loss in seating capacity for almost three years. However, the new 'walk-through' layout allows passengers access to the whole length of the train to find a seat.

The provision of grab poles and rails is also an issue relating to the carriage layout. The present arrangement on Met Line trains is clearly unsatisfactory as many passengers are not tall enough to



reach the rail above head-height when standing in the seating area. The aim in the new design is for all standing passengers to have access to a hand-hold.

**Other Features** - We have lost our overhead luggage racks. Apparently they are deemed to be unsafe. Instead, there is to be space for luggage under the seats and the trains are to be fully air-conditioned.



### THE NORTHWOOD LIONS CLUB

Members of Northwood Lions Club continue in their tradition of helping others whilst still finding time to enjoy themselves. Over the last few months we have organised a Fish and Chip Supper for local senior citizens and held a tin shake outside Waitrose, the proceeds of which will go to Hillingdon Young Carers. Thanks to those who were kind enough to contribute.

Some boys from St John's School took part in the international Lions Peace Poster competition, giving them the opportunity to express their thoughts about world peace in art form.

Our Christmas dinner was, as always, a splendid affair and we were delighted to welcome representatives from the Paul Strickland Scanner Appeal and Michael Sobell Hospice to receive their shares of the proceeds from our Carnival.

If you are interested in learning more about our Club, please contact Andrew Allen on 0208 863 4626.

Are you looking to hold a Local Meeting or a Celebratory Party in Northwood and require a Central location with modern facilities? Then look no further than St. John's Church at the top of Hallowell Road at the junction with Green Lane.

A theatre style Hall with 120 seats and stage extension as well as a 40 seat carpeted meeting room. Use of modern kitchen, microphones and lighting facilities.

**Booking Contact Point 01923 829166**  
Or E-mail: [stjohnsnorthwood@btconnect.com](mailto:stjohnsnorthwood@btconnect.com)

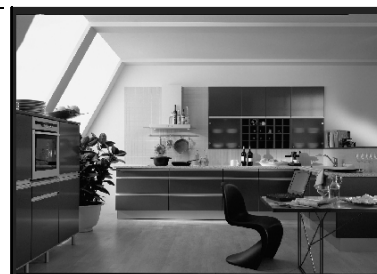
**St. John's United Reformed Church**  
Hallowell Road  
Northwood HA6 1DN

## MEN'S CRICKET

Northwood Cricket Club  
Welcomes new players.  
Three teams in  
Herts. League  
(Divisions 2, 5 and 10)

Contact:  
Steve Dickson

01923 828298



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**ELTHORNE-HILLINGDON ROTARY CLUB**  
Will be organising a

### CHARITY BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

At St. John's Church Hall, Hallowell Road  
On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2007

Tickets are available, price £12/person  
Phone 01923 821541

### Ruislip - Northwood Flower Arrangement Society

Meetings held monthly at Northwood  
College, Maxwell Road, Northwood

Visitors and new members most welcome  
Visitors £3

For further details please contact:  
01923 822026

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email.

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## NORTHWOOD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2007

President:	Tony Goom	24 Cygnet Close, HA6 2SZ
Vice President:	Leonard Hall	Temple Bar, Green Lane, HA6 2UY
Chairman:	Colin Harris	75 Copewood Way, HA6 2TX, 823897
Vice Chairman:	Miles Gillman*	The Coach House, Rick'th Rd, 825599
Treasurer:	Ros Plume	45 Hallowell Rd, HA6 1DT, 827409
Secretary:	Wendy Jordan	
Chief Road Steward:	Sue Boulton	102 Copewood Way, HA6 2UB, 825564
Area Road Stewards*:	Chris Duffy	7 The Broadwalk, HA6 2XF
Committee Members:	Ann Bailey	Flat 2, Southhill, 75 Murray Road, HA6 2YS
	Keith Baker	22 Murray Rd, HA6 2YJ
	Barry Crowe	33 Bennetts Close, HA6 1EB
	Lesley Davis	43 Hallowell Rd, HA6 1DT
	Lisa Maclay	Carisbrooke, Carew Rd, HA6 3NH
	Valerie Mellor	3 Moor Park Rd, HA6 2DL
	Alan Prue	12 Kewferry Rd, HA6 2NY
Website:	Cathy Kim	<a href="mailto:webmaster@northwoodresidents.co.uk">webmaster@northwoodresidents.co.uk</a>
Newsletter Editor:	Wendy Jordan	<a href="mailto:nraeditor@blueyonder.co.uk">nraeditor@blueyonder.co.uk</a>



# **Northwood Residents' Association 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting**

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2007  
8.00 pm

The AGM will be held at 8pm on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at St. John's Church Hall, Hallowell Road, Northwood. We hope that our local MP, Nick Hurd, will be able to talk to us about his campaign to save the Cancer Centre at Mount Vernon Hospital. We will also be hearing from Jon Harris, the editor of the Northwood Town Crier.

All members are invited to attend and a cordial invitation is extended to other Northwood Residents, our Member of Parliament and our Ward Councillors.

## **AGENDA**

- 1) To receive the Chairman's Report for 2006.
- 2) To receive the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006.
- 3) To set the rate of subscription for the year 2007 (currently set at a minimum of £2 per household).
- 4) To elect the Officers:

Chairman	Mr C HARRIS
Vice Chairman	Mr M GILLMAN
Treasurer	Mrs R PLUME
Hon Auditor	Mr C ROGERS FCA
- 5) To elect an Executive Committee:

Members standing are Mrs Ann Bailey, Dr Keith Baker, Mrs Sue Boulton, Mr Barry Crowe, Ms Lesley Davis, Mr Chris Duffy, Mrs Lisa Maclay, Mrs Valerie Mellor, Mr Alan Prue.
- 6) To elect the President, currently Mr Tony Goom and Vice President Mr Leonard Hall.
- 7) Discussion Panel to receive questions previously put forward by residents via the Chairman. (Please see page 1 for details.)
- 8) Discussion and vote on using NRA Funds to back Sgt. Ratcliffe's appeal for a speed gun for the Northwood area.
- 9) Any Other Business.

### **Please Note:**

NOMINATIONS in writing for Officers and Members of the Executive Committee, with the written consent of the candidate, must reach the Chairman at least four days before the AGM.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS proposed and seconded by two members must be delivered to the Chairman at least ten days before the AGM.

