

Northwood Residents' Association

Newsletter 143



February 2009

Chairman's Report

First NRA Forum. The Forum we held in early November was very well attended by some 100+ residents. Following brief introductions by Executive members, there was lively discussion. Numerous questions were raised, ranging from improving Northwood to policing matters. Many have since been taken up further with LBH officers and our Councillors.

Listed Building Status for Police Station. The NRA's application to English Heritage was successful and Northwood Police Station is now officially a Grade II listed building.

Planning. The Reindeer site recently had a planning application turned down. It was for two five-storey blocks of flats with shops beneath.

The Appeal mentioned in our October newsletter for 42-46 Ducks Hill Road by Beechwood Homes to the Secretary of State was turned down. This had earlier been refused by LBH Planning department.

The Christmas lights this year drew many favourable comments. Thanks are due to NRA vice-chairman, Miles Gillman, who negotiated a generous grant from the London Borough of Hillingdon and then managed the installation by contractors. This year red lights were added to the existing blue ones to give a warmer feel to the overall effect. We are grateful to Waitrose for agreeing to let us include their tree near to the Green Lane entrance in the scheme. In the High Street, two more lampposts were added to last year's display.

The "Improvements to Northwood" are progressing well and on schedule, with the recently restored War Memorial looking absolutely splendid. The seat that circles the oak tree was originally made by local carpenter, John Chapman, in 1991 on

behalf of NRA. We are extremely grateful to John for refurbishing the seat as part of the current scheme. I'm sure you agree that it looks very smart.



More attractive station platforms. Mrs Tina Williams responded to the plea in our last newsletter regarding the appalling condition of the station flowerbeds. She volunteered her services and has prepared the beds with fresh compost and planted them with shrubs. We thank Tina for her hard work and look forward to seeing the plants flourish under her care.

Our **AGM** this year will be on the 31st of March at St John's Church Hall. See Page 9 for details. David McVittie, the Chief Executive of The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust, has accepted our invitation to speak at the AGM. He will bring us up to date on the various changes affecting our local hospitals.

Northwood ward by-election. At the by-election on 11th December, brought about by the removal of Councillor Ian Oakley, the winning candidate was Mrs Carol Melvin.

You will have seen references to NRA in some of the political leaflets that were in circulation around the time of the by-election. I would point out that the Northwood Residents' Association is, and always has been, **non-political**. We welcome members whatever their political persuasion.

Colin Harris

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**AGM: Tues 31st March
See Page 9**

BT Phone Kiosks/Advertising Boards in Green Lane

At long last it appears that we are about to see the removal of the two BT kiosks near the war memorial. The move is scheduled for March.

Many residents will know that NRA has campaigned long and hard for their removal ever since their arrival in the autumn of 2007. They had replaced fairly innocuous old-style glass telephone boxes, and it was generally felt that the new kiosks were entirely inappropriate in a position so near to the war memorial. Despite being told at first that nothing could be done, we were determined that they would not remain without a fight.

They are not disappearing entirely; they are to be relocated in two separate places in Green Lane – one near to HSBC bank and the other near The Misty Moon. BT is under no obligation to move them, and is only doing so because of the strength of the opposition against them. We are very pleased that BT has listened to our appeals, and we are most grateful to LBH officers and especially to Councillor Seaman-Digby for his efforts.

It is particularly pleasing that the kiosks are being removed now that the war memorial has been cleaned and the pavement renewed and extended. It would be nice to make more use of the space in that area in the future.

Lisa Maclay

Planning

Our thanks are due to Alan Prue who has been reviewing Planning Applications for the NRA on a temporary basis. He is now handing over that role to Malcolm Ruddock. All Planning questions and problems should be directed to Malcolm.



Individuals contemplating making minor alterations to their properties are urged to view the recent changes in planning law brought about by changes to the Town and Country Planning Act as some of them may obviate the need to make an application to the council.

On the other hand, there are also some changes which people may unwittingly fail to comply with such as the requirement to keep any newly erected television aerials below the level of the chimney!

Details of the planning changes can be obtained by calling Alan on 01923 821541 or Malcolm on 01923 836440

There is also a lot of information on the LBH web site; go to www.hillingdon.gov.uk and follow the quick link to Planning.



Sgt Ratcliffe has written to inform you of the changes that have been made in our Safer Neighbourhood

Team - see Page 7. Whilst we welcome the new officers who are joining us, I must express my personal disappointment at the extent of the changes and also pay tribute to PCSO Ricky Soler who has now left Northwood for South Ruislip. Ricky has been a tower of strength and during his five years with us has helped new officers, not only by example, but also by sharing his vast store of local knowledge. Ricky has set an example of true Community Policing and it seems inadequate merely to say, "Ricky, we will miss you!"

Local knowledge cannot be overestimated and we need more of it and more representation on the Safer Neighbourhood Panel. I would be delighted to hear from residents who might be interested in being on the Panel which meets quarterly, particularly residents who take an active interest in local affairs

Police

and are aware of and concerned about problems we face.

At our request, Police priority is safety on the roads. The poor driving standards exhibited by many drivers are being monitored and addressed. Do remember the speed limit when you drive – it is there for your protection and the safety of others. Regular enforcement measures are being taken against offenders with breaches of driving regulations incurring a written warning in the first instance.

Ann Bailey

NRA representative on the Safer Neighbourhood Panel

**Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators:
Don't forget you can collect your monthly newsletters from Northwood Police Station,
Mon - Fri 11am to 1pm**



Health Matters

The 17th Public Meeting of the **Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust** was held on 24th September 2008. An actual surplus of over £2 million for 2007-2008 will be reinvested for healthcare.

Strict hand hygiene was largely responsible for reducing the numbers of MRSA cases and the hospital has undergone a 'Deep Clean'.

Bevan Ward, a pilot ward, has been opened where the 24 beds are in single en-suite rooms. It is hoped to prevent cross-infection, to speed up recovery and discharge from hospital and to give patients privacy.

Vulnerable patients who cannot feed themselves easily should be helped by new procedures: food on a red tray indicates to staff that the patient needs help with feeding. Staggered timing in the delivery of trays is intended to help staff to give this help, assisted by volunteers. There are protected meal times which clinical staff are requested not to disrupt.

Car parking and the cost of car parking at Hillingdon and Mount Vernon hospitals remain two big problems for Hillingdon residents. Permission has been granted for a new car park at Mount Vernon Hospital. Finding a space in Hillingdon Hospital car park remains difficult.

Patients who attend for frequent and regular treatment can buy car park tokens, but one may wonder why, when decisions have been made to cap or to abolish car parking fees in Scotland and Wales, the Trust's Executives maintain that there are no solutions locally.

The Mount Vernon Treatment Centre should be open by the time you read this. Costing £13 million, the Centre is combined with the Princess Christian Building on two storeys and will have four operating theatres. Many procedures will be carried out with minimally invasive surgery (keyhole surgery) and many patients will return home the same day. All surgery will be elective, not emergency, so treatment should not be cancelled at the last moment. Patients can book admission on a date that is convenient to them and pre-admission screening should ensure a low infection rate. General surgery as well as orthopaedic surgery will be undertaken. Emergency and complex cases will be seen at Hillingdon Hospital.

The fortunes of **Watford General Hospital** have been 'turned around' under the guidance of West Herts Chief Executive Jan Filowchowski.

The Mount Vernon Cancer Centre Services Steering Group is examining the future direction and development of cancer centre services for people who currently use Mount Vernon Cancer Centre. The interim report that the Group promised would be published by December 2008 will now probably be published in February 2009. We hope that moving Cancer Services away from the Mount Vernon site will no longer be an option.

The NHS Trusts of our local hospitals

(Hillingdon/Mount Vernon, Watford, Harefield) are all seeking Members and Governors in their applications for Foundation Trust Status. **They Need YOU!!** Get involved in your local health care system. Help to make a difference. Contact the following for information:-

Hillingdon/Mount Vernon Hospital Trust:

Tel: 0800 8766953

Email: foundation@thh.nhs.uk

Write: Foundation Trust Communications Office,
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust,
Field Heath Road,
Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3NN

West Herts NHS Trust:

Tel: 08444 776321

Email: foundation.trust@whht.nhs.uk

Write: Foundation Trust Office,
FREEPOST NAT2520,
Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4BR

Brompton/Harefield NHS Hospital Trust:

Tel: 01895 828631

Email: foundation@rbht.nhs.uk

Write: Robert Craig, Foundation Trust Project Director,
Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Trust,
Sydney Street,
London SW3 6NP

Hillingdon LINKs is also looking for Members. This organisation, a statutory body, aims to monitor and improve local health and social care services. To find out more, contact Hannah Cooke, LINK Administrator on 01225 701126, email her at hannahcooke@hapuk.co.uk or write to Hillingdon LINK, c/o HAP UK, PO Box 3409, Melksham SN12 7WS

Valerie Mellor & Lesley Davis

Streets Ahead is coming to Northwood - Thursday 23rd April*

This Council-led initiative will be a day when council officers and local partners engage with the community to make the area safer, cleaner and greener. It is effectively a sweep of key hotspots and can include, for example, truancy sweeps, graffiti removal, litter picks and bulky waste removal. Make your concerns known to the Streets Ahead team via your local councillors by calling 01985 250316 or email northwoodward@hillington.gov.uk For more details of the programme call 01895 556247.

** Postponed from 27 November 2008*

Environment

Rickmansworth Road

The consultants employed by LBH have yet to complete the survey necessary prior to the implementation of the 30 mph speed limit between Murray Road and Batchworth Heath.

The traffic lights at the junction of Ducks Hill Road seem to be working satisfactorily, but the problem of traffic ignoring the red light when turning right from Ducks Hill Road has yet to be resolved.

Mount Vernon

The new Treatment Centre opens in early February. However, work has yet to be started on the new car park and it is unlikely that this will be completed before May. The bus stops are to be repositioned on the site and all traffic to the new centre, including the buses, will enter and exit by gate no 2. The traffic consultant, referred to above, will make allowance for this in his recommendations.

20 mph Speed Limits

Many towns in the country have successfully introduced 20 mph speed limits near schools and in residential roads. We have discussed the possibility of introducing such limits, where appropriate, with LBH and our councillors. Our councillors have stated that they will carry out a full consultation with residents early in 2009.

School Congestion

The worst of Northwood's traffic congestion is around schools during term time. LBH has been coordinating discussions with Holy Trinity and St Martin's schools and local residents with the aim of introducing a traffic scheme that is safe for all concerned. The Council has now bid for 2009/2010 funding from TfL for a new 20 mph zone and raised crossing point in Kewferry Road, outside Holy Trinity School.

Parents at St Martins School have submitted a petition to LBH requesting that the speed limit be lowered to 20 mph for part of Kewferry Road near the school. Cllr Seaman-Digby is to consult both schools and Kewferry Road residents to see if they want the 20mph limit applied to the whole length of Kewferry Road.

Pedestrian Crossing – Junction of Green Lane and Watford Road

In conjunction with the School Travel Plan at Frithwood School, we have made a formal request to LBH to install a pedestrian crossing in Green Lane, on the St Helen's side of the mini roundabout at the junction with Watford Road.

Barry Crowe and Tony Ellis

Pupils' Successful Petition

In 2008 Holy Trinity School pupils presented a petition to Councillor Keith Burrows asking for a safe crossing point on Rickmansworth Road for them to go to the Jubilee Playing Field. Following the Petition Hearing on 9th January, we are delighted to announce that Cllr Burrows has asked the officers to liaise with TfL to ensure the existing traffic lights at the junction of Rickmansworth Road and Ducks Hill Road are upgraded to include "Puffin" facilities. A Puffin crossing has detectors that ensure the signal for vehicles remains red until the pedestrians have finished crossing, thus enabling a class of children to cross in one go, rather than only a few at each change of the lights. TfL has agreed the upgrading will be completed by March 2009 – in time for the Summer term when the field gets maximum use. The funding will be met by TfL's School Travel Plan Programme budget.

This is excellent news and is the result of the determination of primary school children who learned both of the dangers of speeding traffic and a lot about the workings of the local council. Cllr Burrows was particularly impressed by the very professional presentations made by the Holy Trinity Year 6 children.

Sue Boulbee

From the NRA Archives

Here is an extract from an article in the NRA Newsletter from Autumn 1970.

At the end of the First World War a public meeting was held and the "Northwood War Memorial Committee" was appointed to prepare and carry out a Memorial Scheme. Its first objective was to erect a Monument bearing the names of those who had given their lives in the war, and its second was to provide a hospital. The committee consisted of representatives of the Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council, the churches, doctors, the Red Cross VAD committee, Friendly Societies and other local organisations.

The site chosen for the monument was at the junction of Green Lane and Maxwell Road and was granted in perpetuity, free of rent, by Benskin's Watford Brewery. The design was that of a local resident, Mr F D Bedford, and it was constructed by Aumonier & Sons, also a local firm. The monument was unveiled on Sunday 13th February 1921 by Brigadier S V P Weston DSO, MC, and it was estimated that between 4,000 and 5,000 people were present. After the ceremony the monument, with the agreement for the site, was handed over to the District Council to be held in trust for the people of Northwood. The cost of the monument was £571 0s 3d raised locally by donations.



Remembrance Sunday 2008

Councillors' Corner

Each edition of the newsletter now carries our Councillors' response to questions put by members of the NRA committee.

Q. What roads in Northwood are considered to be suitable for 20 mph limits, what traffic calming methods are proposed and how will the limits be policed?

A. Every road needs to be considered on its own merits, and the Council does not have a blanket view on which of the many roads in Northwood would automatically meet the criteria for a 20 mph zone.

In general, though, the most effective areas for a 20 mph zone would be a small network of residential roads which are not normally part of a busy through-route; for example, an area of roads surrounded by a feature such as a rail line, river or distributor road which as a consequence would not see a great deal of traffic going through the middle of the area other than local residents and their visitors. The council does not seek to impose 20 mph zones on such networks of roads but will, of course, consider any requests; funding requirements can be considerable and so would be dependent upon a bid to TfL. Northwood Councillors are widening their consultation through local groups and schools in January.

20 mph zones can also be considered for single roads of a length of more than 500m, which is why the selected section of Green Lane is viable. Similar zones

have recently been implemented in other parts of the borough.

Formal 20 mph zones need some form of physical traffic calming to ensure that speeds really are lowered; the term used is 'self enforcing' which means that the police should not have to 'enforce' a speed limit. In some cases, where existing speeds are, on average, already at a lower level, there may not need to be any physical traffic calming, but this obviously needs to be explored on a case by case basis.



As you know, we are planning to make the section of Green Lane between Dene Road and Hallowell Road a formal 20 mph zone (i.e. with a traffic order) now that we have the funding for 2009/2010 (available for spend from April onwards). Some residents have asked if we could extend the eastern end of the 20 mph zone beyond the Hallowell Road junction, thereby benefiting pupils coming to and from St Helen's School, and this is something we are now exploring as we develop the detailed design brief.

To contact your councillors:

Tel: 01895 2502316 (Civic Centre Office) or 01923 822876 (Northwood Ward Office)

Email us all at Northwoodward@hillingdon.gov.uk

Improving Northwood

Thanks to David Knowles, LBH Service Manager for Improvement Projects, for providing this information.

Green Lane and environs: the work is proceeding according to plan.

As part of the footway works between the war memorial and the Green Lane car park, the areas of **private paving** in the front of the shops have been upgraded.

Additional funding from TfL has been obtained to **resurface Maxwell Road** between Green Lane and the junction with Murray Road. The actual carriageway will be one of the last things to be done in Green Lane and Maxwell Road. Once all the kerbs are in place and the footways fully resurfaced the main resurfacing can be carried out in one programmed sweep through the site, with the minimum of road closures.

The council made a successful bid to TfL under the annual 'Local Implementation Plan' process for the necessary **funding for the 20 mph zone** in Green Lane. They are now exploring the best options to take this forward; one of the key issues which came out of the consultation with residents at the start of last year was that many people want much better pedestrian crossing arrangements near Waitrose. As you may know there was a fatal accident last autumn when a pedestrian was knocked down by a car coming out of Station Approach. Clearly the junction of Station Approach, Eastbury Road and Green Lane will be important.



Landshare - Linking people who want to grow their own food to space where they can grow it

Do you have garden space that you're not using? Do you want to grow your own food close to home? Channel 4's River Cottage is launching a scheme called "Landshare" to match unused land (gardens, space around community buildings, anywhere) with people who would like to grow fruit and vegetables but don't have their own garden or allotment. The landowner and the grower share the produce. Let's make use of our gardens and get Northwood growing - sign up now as a grower or a landowner at www.landshare.net



Stephen Plume

Met Line Woes?

Is your journey on the Metropolitan Line a nightmare? Do you wait ages for a Watford train while three Uxbridges and an Amersham come first? Do you wait in vain for any information, only to hear the automatic announcement that "there is a good service on the Metropolitan Line"? Do you race to the next platform at Harrow for the "first train"; only to see the one you left go out first?

If you experience any of the above and more over the next few months, we'd like to hear from you. All complaints/comments will be collected and passed on to Met Line management. Contact us (emails only please) at met@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Lisa Maclay

Federation of Metropolitan Line Users' Committees (FOMLUC)

Mount Vernon Comforts Fund

As many of you will know, we have been working for 73 years on the Mount Vernon Hospital site as a registered charity run by volunteers to raise funds to improve patient comfort. However, things are changing. During 2008 we were requested to close our Atrium coffee lounge in the Princess Christian building and in February 2009 our Out Patient refreshment kiosk will also close. These facilities will be replaced by a commercial enterprise running a shop and coffee area in the new Treatment Centre due to open in February 2009. This will significantly reduce our income and our ability to provide financial support to wards and departments.

However, our coffee area in radiotherapy and our Look-In charity shop, Bookshop and General goods shop will remain open. We need your support to continue our fund-raising efforts on behalf of patients and staff. Please do visit us if you are at the hospital and if you have any books, clothes or bric-à-brac that you would like to donate we would be happy to receive them. Our General shop is open Monday to Friday 10 am – 3.30 pm and the Bookshop and Charity shop Monday to Friday 11 am – 3 pm

Jan Sutton

Could You Steer a Trolley? The Comforts Fund also operates a trolley service selling goods to in-patients. It's amazing how much can be loaded on the trolley; from newspapers to cosmetics and confectionery – all the small items which make a stay in hospital more comfortable. More volunteers are needed to take the trolley round the wards, especially on Fridays 9.50 am to 11.30 am.

If you would like to help, please call me on 01923 825999.

Josefina Pacey

Making dialogue make a difference

The Council of Christians and Jews was established in 1942 to

- (1) promote religious and cultural understanding between Christians and Jews
- (2) work for the elimination of religious and racial prejudice, hatred and discrimination
- (3) promote religious and racial harmony on the basis of ethical and social teachings common to Christianity and Judaism

Today this is still the main thrust of our work. However, the Britain of the early 21st Century is very different both demographically and in its faith-mix from that of the mid 20th Century. CCJ has responded to these changes by working within a multi-faith context. E.g. it will have interfaces with **Muslims** and **Hindus** as part of its practical project work.

The Hillingdon branch holds very interesting monthly meetings in and around Northwood at which members of all faiths are very welcome.

For further information visit www.ccj-hillingdon.org.uk, email chairman@ccj-hillingdon.org.uk, or call our Hon. Secretary on 01923 825872.



Northwood and District Community Association

I am glad to say that many people reading previous issues of this newsletter have responded and phoned me to ask for details of our activities and have become members.

Anyone for Keep Fit or German?

Our Friday Keep Fit sessions have moved to Tuesday, so anyone who had wanted to join Ladies Keep Fit for the over 50s but could not manage Fridays, there is now another option.

Also our German/Anglo section would welcome more members. If you want to keep your German up to scratch in a non-teaching environment – here's your chance. Please phone 0208 421 4369 for more information.

Our next Ploughman's lunch is in May, but before then we have two monthly meetings with guest speakers: our March talk is called 'A perfect Cup of Tea', and the April one is about the Paramedics.

You can contact the secretary on 01923 836346 if you want more information about this friendly organisation.

Pat Dunhill

Northwood Safer Neighbourhood Team

New Year, new team. With the New Year come some changes to the Northwood Police Team. PCSO Ricky Soler has moved on to pastures new at South Ruislip where he will be making full use of his experience in a different Policing environment. We all wish him well. PCSO Louise Griffiths joins the team straight from initial training at Hendon; you may notice that she is a different model from Ricky but just as keen to meet and help the people of Northwood. PC Dave Kirby has transferred to Northwood from South Ruislip; he has nearly 30 years Police experience so will only require a little assistance in adapting to the 'Northwood style'. PCSO Paul Onslow also joins us from South Ruislip where he has worked for the past few years. PC Jesse Antonelli has transferred from Northwood and now works at the Royal Palaces.

SNT back up to strength. This brings the depleted team up to full strength but will mean yet another Team photograph! We are doing our best to make the transition as smooth as possible. The new staff will bring new and fresh ideas to our efforts on your behalf but please take every opportunity to pass on your thoughts and concerns to them. Local Policing priorities will continue to be set by the Northwood Ward Panel based upon the insight given to us by these key individuals who represent Northwood residents and users.



Crime Prevention more important than ever. With the much-publicised down turn in the economy there is likely

to be a greater temptation for the more dishonest members of society to steal; please take greater care that you do not become a victim. We can offer extensive crime prevention advice but it will be successful only if you act upon it. Please contact us and we will arrange a free Crime Prevention Survey of your home and lifestyle; it will be practical and realistic. Do pass this advice on to your friends and family.

One simple message - **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR VALUABLES IN THE CAR;** under the seat or in the boot are not safe places.

We all wish you a very happy, safe & successful 2009.

Sgt Paul Ratcliffe
Northwood Safer Neighbourhood Team

2 Murray Road
Northwood
Middlesex
HA6 2YW

Telephone: 0208 721 2545

Email: SNT.Northwood@met.police.uk
Metropolitan Police website: www.met.police.uk

Northwood Live At Home Scheme Celebrates Christmas in Style!



More than forty members and volunteers of the Northwood Live At Home Scheme enjoyed a Christmas Dinner at the Batchworth Golf Club in December.

The Scheme provides support for elderly people in Northwood to assist them to remain living in their own homes. The Northwood Residents' Association has provided much-appreciated funding for training for volunteers in relevant areas of support for the elderly. 2009 plans are to expand the Scheme to include more activities – it is the only such support scheme for older people in our area.

New members and volunteers are welcome –
For information, please contact the Scheme Manager, Angela, on 01923 842494.



Ruislip-Northwood Flower Arrangement Society

Let me introduce you to the Ruislip-Northwood Flower Arrangement Society, where a warm welcome awaits. Relax and watch excellent flower demonstrators using their skills to produce beautiful designs to delight and inspire you at our monthly meetings.

It is an entertaining evening with many anecdotes and useful gardening tips. Tea and coffee are served in the interval when you will have an opportunity to chat and make friends. At the end of the demonstration the arrangements are raffled, so you may go home with a beautiful prize.

Our club also hosts Workshops, and arranges outings, so do come along. We look forward to seeing you.

Next Meeting: **Tuesday 3rd March:** Demonstration by National Demonstrator, David Thomson entitled "ITMA"

Venue: Northwood College, Maxwell Road, Northwood (excepting June and July), on the first Tuesday of the month. Doors open 7 pm for 7.30 pm. start. Please call 01923 829621 for further information.

Sandra Dace

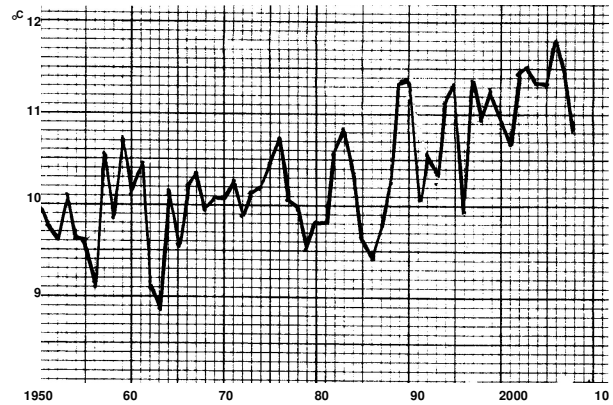
Global Warming in Northwood?

Northwood's Own Weather Station. I started recording the weather here in 1957. There was a break from 1974-86 but I do have the records for this period from Eastcote. In 1986 I started again and became a climate station for the Met Office. I have weather records for Northwood going back to at least 1939.

2008 Weather. So what was 2008 like and how did it compare with recent years?

January was the wettest since 1995 and the 2nd mildest on record (1947). The main feature of **February** was the outstanding period of sun and cloudless skies from the 8th-18th making this the sunniest February on record. **March** was wet and windy with no days above 15.5°C (60°F). **April** was the coolest since 2001 and in contrast **May** was the warmest since 1992 with a fine sunny spell from the 6th-13th. From **June** things went downhill. It was the coolest since 2002 with only 8 days with a max temperature of 21°C or more, the fewest since 1998. **July** was wet and again with below average temperatures. A cool **August**, wet in some areas and the dullest on record. **September** also was the coolest since 2001 and the dullest since 1984. **October** for a change was bright and sunny but coolest since 2003. The evening of the 28th saw the first October snowfall here for over 60 years. **November** was the dullest since 1994 becoming cold at the end of the month. The cold weather continued into **December**. There was a mild spell from the 18th-22nd becoming very cold at the end of the month. Provisional figures indicate this was the coldest and driest December since 2001.

Global warming has been in the news for some time. Long term data on mean temperature anomalies from the 1971-2000 averages show that many earlier years were below average. 1989/90 was especially warm then in recent years most months are above



Mean Annual Temperature for Northwood 1950 - 2008

average. However in the last half of 2008 temperatures are all below average. Monthly charts show a strong warming trend in January and February in the last 10 years. Seasonal charts also show a strong warming trend particularly for recent autumns and winters.

Turning again to 2008, the most notable feature was the lack of any really warm spells during the summer. In 2007 there was only one day when the maximum temperature reached 26.7°C (80°F) and this year there were just three, all in July, the fewest since the early 90s. Likewise there were only 49 days with a max. of 21°C (70°F) or more this year, the fewest since 1988. In 2006 there were 86. The last day the temperature reached 15.5°C (60°F) was 20th October, the earliest since Oct 2001.

It will be interesting to see if this is just a blip in the warming trend or if in fact a cooling period has begun. Already there has been much more early snow in the USA and the Alps.

For any current or past weather information you are welcome to contact me by email at mctallen80@hotmail.com or phone 01923 822016.

Clive Allen

Northwood Craft Market

Community Project. The market has developed enormously in the last year, with around 80 local crafters exhibiting. In 2009 we will see an even greater variety of crafts exhibited with new crafters joining us. The market has become a true community project and it is most rewarding to see how our regular visitors, local charities and organisations, and local stores, become involved to help make the market a success. Thanks to all of you!

Banners Go Missing. We have purchased three new banners to advertise the market in Northwood and the surrounding areas. Unfortunately, one of these was stolen shortly after being put up (with Council permission) at the junction of Ducks Hill Road and Rickmansworth Road, on either the 23rd or 24th November 2008. As we are a non-profit organisation, purchasing banners is a costly expense. If you happen to have seen anything or have any knowledge as to the whereabouts of our banner, we would very much appreciate your call or email.

Christmas Market. On a brighter note, the Christmas Market was a great success with two halls full of crafts, carol singing by the Methodist Church choir and a fabulous turnout of visitors, including Santa.

For future market dates and to view some of the wonderful arts and crafts sold at the Northwood Craft Market, please visit our website at www.northwoodcraftmarket.co.uk

You can email the committee at northwoodcraftmarket@hotmail.co.uk or call me on 01923 450740.

Cheryl Lamb

Northwood Residents' Association 43rd Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 31st March 2009

Starting at 8.00 pm

At St John's Church Hall, Hallowell Road, Northwood

AGENDA

- 1) To receive the Chairman's Report for 2008
- 2) To receive the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2008
- 3) To set the rate of subscription for the year 2009 (currently set at a minimum of £2 per household)
- 4) To elect the Officers, currently:

Chairman	Mr Colin HARRIS
Vice-Chairman	Mr Miles GILLMAN
Treasurer	Mr David WILSON
Hon Auditor	Mr Chris ROGERS FCA
- 5) To elect an Executive Committee:
Members standing again are Mrs Ann Bailey, Mr Barry Crowe, Miss Lesley Davis, Mr Tony Ellis, Mr Colin Harris, Mrs Lisa Maclay, Mrs Valerie Mellor, Mr Jayesh Patel, Mr Malcolm Ruddock
- 6) To elect the President, currently Mr Tony Goom
and Vice President, currently Mr Leonard Hall
- 7) **Guest Speaker:** David McVittie, the Chief Executive of The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust
- 8) Any Other Business.

Please Note: Colin Harris will not be standing for re-election as Chairman. There are vacancies for membership of the executive committee. Do consider joining us.

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.

All members are invited to attend and a cordial invitation is extended to other Northwood residents, our MP and our Ward Councillors.

Membership. Newsletters are delivered by nearly 100 volunteer road stewards to whom we offer our grateful thanks. We endeavour to keep the number of newsletters each Road Steward delivers to approximately 25 so as to avoid making the task too onerous. It is essential that the newsletters are distributed promptly and subscriptions collected. We also want the Road Stewards to have the time to talk to neighbours – communication is vital so that we, as a Residents' Association, can know our members' concerns and wishes.

We have the following vacancies for Road Stewards

Ducks Hill Road – nos 9-61, 20-24, Hurst Place, Jackets Lane, Fringewood Close, Manor House Drive, and Rising Hill Close. **Dene Road**, Trinity Close. **Morgan Close**

We would also welcome new Road Stewards in other roads to lighten the load for existing road stewards.

If you would like to volunteer or find out more, please contact me on 01923 825564.

*Sue Boulbee
Chief Road Steward*

Executive Committee Vacancies. During the last year several members have stood down from the committee and vacancies now exist. The fact that you are reading this means that you are interested in Northwood and the issues that affect life in Northwood, so why not become more involved and join this dynamic pro-active group? Do feel free to contact any of the members listed over the page for a chat. In particular, there is a vacancy for Chief Road Steward, who coordinates the Area Road Stewards/Road Stewards and distribution of the newsletters.

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Northwood Choral Society

- Sat 7 Mar:** Spring Concert. St Cecilia's Mass by Gounod.
7.30pm at St John's URC, Hallowell Road, Northwood
- Sat 28 Mar:** Choral Workshop & Concert from Scratch
Crucifixion by Stainer. Open invitation to singers,
Workshop: 11am, Rehearsal: 2.15pm, Concert: 5pm
- Sat 16 May** Summer Concert. 7.30pm Holy Trinity Church Hall

Tickets from Sally Rogers on 01923 8277521 or sallyrogers01@aol.com

NRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:	Tony Goom	
Vice President:	Leonard Hall	
Chairman:	Colin Harris	823897
Vice Chairman:	Miles Gillman	825599
Treasurer:	David Wilson	827298
Secretary:	Ros Plume	827409
Chief Road Steward:	Sue Boulton	825564
Committee Members:	Ann Bailey Barry Crowe Lesley Davis Tony Ellis Lisa Maclay Valerie Mellor Jayesh Patel Malcolm Ruddock	

Website: webmaster@northwoodresidents.co.uk
Editor: nraeditor@blueyonder.co.uk



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Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society

- 16 Mar** Hillingdon's Sporting History after the Second World War
Don Taylor (Journalist, Charity Worker & Former International Athlete)
- 20 Apr** Harrow in the Roman Period
Isobel Thompson (Stanmore & Harrow Historical Society)
- Meetings are held in St Martin's Church Hall, High Street, Ruislip at 8.15pm.
For information, please call 01895 673299 or go to www.rnelhs.flyer.co.uk



Michael Sobell House

- Sun 1 Mar** Look Good, Feel Good Day. Relaxing & reviving therapies: book by Mon 23rd Feb on 01923 844152
- Tue 28 Apr** Alex Goodwin, the Pampered Chef Event. Cookery demonstration at MSH Lecture Hall via Gate 3, Mount Vernon; £6; call Ophelia on 01923 844829 to book.
- Sun 31 May** Bike Ride
- Sat 20 Jun** Jazz & Tea on the Lawn
- More MSH news at www.michaelsobellhouse.co.uk