

Northwood Residents' Association

Newsletter 145



October 2009

Chairman's Report - Tony Ellis



Introduction. The first six months of my Chairmanship have been extremely busy. I'm happy to say that everyone I have met and/or spoken to has been very helpful and it is gratifying to know that the great majority of

residents are appreciative of the work that your Committee does. It is pleasing that so many residents take an interest in making Northwood a better place to live and we welcome your continued support, comments, and sometimes, justified criticism. I would like to remind members that, unlike councillors, the Committee members are all unpaid volunteers who give up their time to ensure that the aims and objectives of the NRA are met.

As always, thanks are due to the continued support of our ward councillors and London Borough of Hillingdon (LBH) officials with whom we have excellent working relationships and who are usually able to resolve problems speedily.

Forum. Our second Forum will be held at the Oaklands Gate Methodist Church on Thursday 12th November. Full details are given on the separate notice delivered with this newsletter. Please do come and join us and make your views known. The NRA depends on your participation in order to fulfil its objectives.

Green Lane Development. Green Lane has been looking splendid with the refurbished war memorial, flower baskets, new road surface and pavements. Unfortunately some of the surfaces have become disfigured as the result of the poor quality of reinstatement work carried out by utility company contractors. We are working with our councillors and LBH to resolve this problem.

The proposed installation of traffic lights at the junction with Eastbury Road and Station Approach has yet to be approved by Cabinet (council's ruling body). At last year's Forum, NRA members voted by a large majority against the installation of these lights. The majority of the NRA Committee is also against the plan. LBH has stated that it does not need to consult Northwood residents concerning the installation of the signals and will not do so. It is adamant that the decision is correct in the light of advice given by traffic experts and the emergency services. However this does seem to be an affront to local democracy and it is our intention to raise a petition to that effect. Please do complain to Cllr Seaman-Digby if you agree with our point of view.

Committee Changes. We have decided that the Environment portfolio has become too large so we have transferred the traffic and roads section into a new sub-committee named Traffic and Highways.

President. After some 40 years of active participation in the NRA, Tony Goom has tendered his resignation as President, reasoning that it was time for a younger man to take over. Tony has been a good and faithful servant to the people of Northwood and we thank him for his invaluable contribution to the NRA. We are fortunate that Alan Prue has agreed to be our President – his appointment will need to be ratified at the next AGM. Alan is well known to most residents as he was Chairman of the NRA for 6 years and was also the Committee member responsible for Planning. Welcome back Alan!

New Members. In recent months we have welcomed three new committee members; Anna Davis, Rachel Owen and Tina Williams.

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Chairman's Report continued

Local shops and businesses.

The blight of closure continues with Starbucks, Northwood Sports and Edmunds being recent casualties. Please do support our local businesses, as we need them to maintain a thriving town. Also remember that the shops and cafes in Northwood High Street welcome your business and are an integral part of Northwood. (See the article on Page 10 - Ed)

Recruitment. We will be holding a NRA recruitment and information session at the car park entrance to Waitrose on Saturday 17th October between 10 am and 2 pm. Please do stop by for a chat if you are in the area and encourage any non-member friends and neighbours to join us.

In conclusion I would like to express my thanks to the Committee members who give so freely of their time to make the NRA a viable organisation and to our Road Stewards who are our umbilical cord to the community.
Tony Ellis



Driving Standards. Sgt Stacey has explained in detail the efforts that are being made to combat anti-social and illegal driving in Northwood. (See page 5) Poor driving standards are a great cause for concern and in particular dangerous speeding on Rickmansworth Road. 170 drivers have received Fixed Penalty Notices for speeding offences in the past few weeks. Speeding is both dangerous and illegal.

Policing Priorities. Our Safer Neighbourhoods Panel has to identify policing priorities for the ward. We need to know your priorities, so do come along to the NRA Forum on 12th November and let us know your concerns.

Police

Theft from cars. Do keep on remembering that items left visible in cars are tempting to those on the look out for booty!

Personal Safety. I am sure that the news of the assault suffered by a young woman walking in the Gravel Pits in July is known to many residents, not just those living in the Copse Wood area. We all want to enjoy our lovely green open spaces, but the watchword is "Be Aware" when you are alone. Not just young women are vulnerable but young men and the elderly as well. Thankfully incidents of assault are very rare. High praise is due to the Serious Crimes Squad who dealt with the last incident so swiftly and professionally but nobody wants to hear of any future problem.
Ann Bailey

Personal Safety. The Home Office publishes a number of useful crime prevention leaflets, available from Neighbourhood Watch (See Page 11) and via the web site: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents

Here are a few points to observe when you are out:

- * If you can, go out with friends or someone you know.
- * Look like you know where you are going and you know how to get there.
- * If you can, keep away from quiet, dark places.
- * Wear your bag across your body or under your coat.
- * Keep your bag with you at all times.
- * Do not carry all your money and important things in one bag.
- * If you use a wheelchair, think about where would be the safest place to carry your bag.
- * Do not get into a car with someone you don't know.
- * Try not to advertise your valuables such as mobile phone, MP3 player or jewellery.

NRA Website

Hopefully, those of you with access to the internet regularly check our website www.northwoodresidents.co.uk

We try to keep it up to date with news items, information on how to access local services, charitable organisations and so on.

Our webmaster is currently redesigning the site, so it should be even easier to navigate in the near future. Meanwhile, if anyone has any queries about the site, or notices any out of date information or problems with links, then please email us at info@northwoodresidents.co.uk

*Lisa Maclay
Communications Officer*

Environment

Green Lane Refurbishment

The refurbishment of Green Lane Phase I has been a great success overall. The hanging baskets, although installed at a remarkable height, did in the end have a strong impact when the plants developed and spread out, and have attracted many favourable comments. What a pity that the effect has been rather spoiled by a sudden proliferation of large advertising banners on the new railings.

The Reindeer Site

The long running saga of unsightly and rat-attracting mounds of rubbish at the site of the former Reindeer pub has caused annoyance to many Northwood residents. After all the efforts to improve the local street scene, this eyesore has seemed even more prominent. As we go to press, LBH officers are still wading through a procedural morass in attempting to get the site cleared. The main stumbling blocks are that the rubbish is on private land and that the owner lives abroad. There is a possibility that LBH-appointed contractors will clear the site at the end of September, but the question remains of how to prevent the rubbish building up again.



*What a contrast!
From floral beauty to unsightly rubbish.*

Burst Water Mains

There is a continuing problem in Northwood of burst water mains – as soon as one is repaired, another seems to appear. Presumably this is a function of the age of the system. However, there is sometimes room for improvement in the speed with which these leaks are tackled, and most certainly in the makeshift way the carriageway and footway are repaired. One particularly poor example is at the corner of Green Lane and Rowland Place.

LBH Recycling Lists

Hillingdon Council have recently revised their lists of acceptable items for the recycling collection. Shredded paper can now be put into the clear recycling bags, although we are requested to put no more than a shopping carrier's worth in any one bag. Fruit and vegetable peelings can now be put into the garden waste bags.

Gardening Issues

We all appreciate the attractiveness of our green environment in Northwood, but this is a good time of year to take note of any of your trees and shrubs that overhang the footway and cut them back. As a rule of thumb, it might be helpful to imagine creating enough space for a mum with a double buggy to pass, or a tall man with an umbrella! More seriously, branches or spiky leaves at head height could cause injury to a blind or partially sighted person, and foliage can obscure traffic sight lines at junctions. Finally, those of you who use leaf blowers or employ gardeners who do, please make sure that your leaves are picked up and bagged for the recycling collection and not blown into the road.

Anna Davis

Barry Crowe 1944 - 2009

It was with deep sorrow that we learned of the death of Barry Crowe who died in July after a short illness. Barry was a member of the NRA for many years and recently, chairman of the Environment sub-committee. He was an active member of the Northwood community. As chairman of the Hawes and Bennett Close Residents' Association he was instrumental in obtaining LBH funding to re-develop a piece of waste land into a playground which local children named Crowe's Nest in his honour. A senior LBH manager described Barry as "a gentleman and a dedicated advocate for Northwood residents". Cllr Scott Seaman-Digby stated "Barry embodied the very best of community spirit and always seemed to put others before himself."

Barry was a good friend and is sorely missed.

Membership

Most NRA members pay their annual subscription when their Road Steward delivers a newsletter. However, we also have a subscription envelope scheme which some stewards and members find more convenient. The Road Steward delivers the envelope to the member's house; the member completes the details on the envelope, encloses a subscription, and delivers it back to the Steward's home by hand.

It is confirmed that the current NRA membership is a minimum of £2 per household per year, but donations in excess of this figure are very welcome. The current batch of subscription envelopes do not make the official subscription position clear, for which we apologise. Volunteers for Road Steward are always needed. The job requires you to (1) deliver newsletters to members in your catchment area, and (2) collect a subscription from those members. Anyone interested, please contact me for further details.

Adrian Paterson, Chief Road Steward

The Northwood Residents' Association Committee values the work of **Community Voice**, 'the voice of the local community using NHS hospitals and health services in NW London and SW Hertfordshire', and has donated £500 to the organisation.

You can have your say in improving local health services by joining Community Voice. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month (not January or August) in the Postgraduate Centre, Mount Vernon Hospital. Doors open at 7.30pm and if you would like to know more, come along to one of the meetings as a visitor, telephone 01895 636095 or visit the website www.communityvoicehealth.org.uk

Mount Vernon Chemotherapy Unit. Anyone who has received chemotherapy treatment here will appreciate the wonderful dedication of the staff and be pleased to know that renovation and expansion are under way. At a cost of £1.43m, the existing Unit will be refurbished and a new facility provided for patients involved in chemotherapy trials. It is anticipated that the first patients will be treated in the new Unit in December 2009. A maximum of 18 patients will be able to receive treatment simultaneously; the 16 treatment chairs and 2 beds will be used by up to 12 receiving standard chemotherapy and up to 6 patients taking part in clinical trials.

Mount Vernon Car Park charges

The new car park was opened in September and barriers have been replaced with Pay & Display machines in all the car parks. The previous rate of £2.60 a day has become a graduated payment from £1 for up to 30 mins to £6 for 10 - 24 hrs. Concessions are unchanged.

Northwood & Pinner Community Unit at Mount Vernon Hospital

The Patient Environment Acton Team from the National Patient Safety Agency has inspected this Unit. The categories of 'Food' and 'Privacy and Dignity' were each awarded the grade of 'Good', whilst the grade 'Acceptable' was awarded to the third category of 'Environment'.

Following the successful opening of the new **Mount Vernon Treatment Centre, the Hillingdon Hospital Trust**



Mount Vernon Treatment Centre

would like to recruit more members to its Foundation Trust from Northwood residents. Details can be obtained from www.thh.nhs.uk/foundation or tel: 0800 8766953. Membership gives residents a say in how the hospitals should be run.

North West London Hospitals NHS Trust

a) Northwick Park Hospital has been selected as one of the 8 hyper-acute stroke centres which should be fully operational by the summer of 2011.

b) Central Middlesex Hospital has a 'Walk-in-Walk-out' Hernia Centre. Patients can choose the date of their operation and will make only one visit to the hospital both for their consultation and their operation.

Consultation on proposed changes to NHS Stroke and Trauma Services in London

Proposals to improve NHS Stroke and Trauma services in London have received broad support from Londoners during the consultation period 30 January – 8 May 2009.

Stroke care: Approximately 11,500 Londoners suffer a stroke each year, of whom approximately 2,000 die. In an attempt to reduce this figure, it is proposed that stroke care should be provided in 8 hyper-acute stroke units, 20 local stroke units and Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA) Units.

Trauma care: Approximately 1,600 major trauma incidents occur in London annually. It is proposed that trauma care should be provided in 4 major trauma networks – possibly The Royal London Hospital, St George's Hospital, King's College Hospital and St Mary's Hospital.

The Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals have at last been granted Foundation Trust status. This makes the combined Trust independent of the Strategic Health Authority and gives power to its Board of Directors, Council of Governors and 11,000 Members.

The Trust will no longer have to return surplus money to the Government but will be able to invest such profit in the hospitals.

West Herts Hospitals NHS Trust

Jan Filochowski, who was largely responsible for 'turning around' Watford Hospital, is to stay on as the permanent Chief Executive.

The recently opened Acute Admissions Unit at Watford Hospital has proved very successful with fewer patients dying and fewer patients being readmitted. Most emergency patients are seen within 30 minutes, with better access to specialist services. Most patients are happy with the quality of service they are receiving.

Macmillan is opening a new information centre at Watford General Hospital where anyone affected by cancer – patients, family, friends – can go for information on all aspects of cancer, treatment and care.

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Northwood Safer Neighbourhoods Team



Well, I am pleased to say that the police station is back to being staffed by volunteers Monday to Friday 11 am to 1 pm. Not all services are provided, but we will try our best.

I am also pleased to say that there has been stability with our Safer Neighbourhoods Team and although both PCSOs Paul and Leanne have been accepted as trainee constables, it may be some time before they leave. We also have a new Inspector for the North of the borough - Stuart Pilgrim.

There has been an increase in the anti-social use of motor vehicles both on and off road. This has an impact on the safety of the public and other road users. It is quite common that a driver does not do quite enough to warrant a charge under the Road Traffic Act 1988, e.g. careless driving, due to the brevity of the incident, e.g. wheel spins, sudden bursts of speed etc.

To fill this gap and combat the use of vehicles being used in this manner the police utilise powers granted to them under the provisions of Sections 59 & 60 of

the Police Reform Act 2002. This basically means that an offending driver is issued with a warning about the manner of their driving and the warning subsequently lasts for a 12-month period. If an offending driver is stopped by the police during this 12-month period and the manner of their driving requires addressing then the vehicle that they are driving at the time can be seized. A driver can get their car back from the recovery company but at the minimum cost of £105.

Once a driver is issued with a warning a marker is placed on the Police National Computer regarding the vehicle used plus their personal information. The offending driver is also issued with a letter stating the police action taken.

I would encourage you to report incidents of anti-social driving to us so that we can consider the above powers and use them where appropriate.

The police have other powers that can be used to tackle the anti-social use of vehicles and has resulted in 29 drivers being issued with warnings from April to August this year.

Sgt Ian Stacey

2 Murray Road
Northwood
Middlesex
HA6 2YW

Telephone: 0208 721 2545

Email: northwood.snt@met.police.uk

Northwood Police Station front counter is open to the public 11 am to 1 pm, Monday to Friday

Health continued

Park and Ride at Watford. Patients and visitors to Watford General Hospital can now park their cars and use a free bus to take them to the hospital departments. The new courtesy bus service picks up and drops off patients and visitors at Accident & Emergency/AAU, Maternity, Main Reception, Patient Car Parks. It can also be hailed anywhere *en route* around the hospital site. This service runs on weekdays from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm at 10 minute intervals.

Swine Flu.

Hopefully, by the time you read this report, swine flu will have abated.

However, if you are amongst the groups entitled to vaccinations this autumn against regular flu and swine flu, do consider accepting the offer. If you are in doubt, just ask anyone who has suffered flu this summer!

Valerie Mellor and Lesley Davis

Asperger's Syndrome - Local Support Group

As a result of her appeal in the last newsletter, Linda Knight has made successful contact with two local families. She feels there must be more people in need of support or advice. So she is asking again - do you have Asperger's Syndrome, or does an adult member of your family have this condition? If you do and would like to know more about this condition, or would benefit from attending a support group or carers support group, then please get in touch. Leave a message on 07948 217383 giving a land line number if possible. Linda will return your call as soon as she can. Or email: aspiehill@googlemail.com

Traffic and Highways

Rickmansworth Road

By the time this Newsletter is published, Balfour Beatty should have completed laying the new water main. The road surface looks a mess – unfortunately utility companies are only obliged to reinstate roads with a smooth, durable surface.

The long-promised 30 mph limit is to be introduced this autumn. There are no funds for making any physical changes or introducing the promised pedestrian crossing outside Holy Trinity School. We have asked our councillors why there are no funds as we were told that money was available last year.

Drivers continue to ignore red traffic lights when turning right from Ducks Hill Road. We have asked LBH to investigate the possibility of installing a camera.

20 mph Speed Limits

Funds have been made available to introduce 20 mph speed limits and traffic calming measures in Kewferry Road and Moor Park Road near Holy Trinity and St Martin's schools. LBH is designing the schemes and will be consulting schools and residents shortly.

Green Lane

The 20 mph limit and allied traffic-calming measures will be completed after the installation of the controversial traffic lights at the Eastbury Road junction. LBH plan to have the work completed before Christmas.

Utility Company Repairs

As mentioned in the Chairman's report, we are very unhappy with the standard of repair work carried out by utility companies. Committee Member, Tina Williams, will concentrate on this problem for the next few months. If you wish to report any incidents, please contact Tina at traffichighways@northwoodresidents.co.uk



Inconsiderate Driving

As in most communities, we have a minority of drivers who think that speed limits, pedestrian crossings and the ban on the use of mobile phones do not apply to them. If you see blatant disregard of any of these, you are entitled to report them to the local police (Northwood.SNT@met.police.uk or tel 0208 721 2545) giving the registration of the vehicle, date, time and brief details of incident. They will send a warning letter to the offender.

And finally, a plea about **parking**. There is sufficient provision for legal parking in Northwood; please use it.

Tony Ellis



Northwood Lions Club

Northwood Lions Club meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at Haste Hill Golf Club, where we discuss ways of raising money and what deserving causes to give it to!

There are Lions Clubs all around the world – they exist to raise money and serve their local communities, and also as a social group where you'll quickly make friends. Each club has its own unique way of raising funds – Northwood Lions Club benefits especially from its involvement with the Saturday Market at 195 Pinner Road which is open each week from 9.45 till 11.45.

We have also recently been fundraising at the Carpenter's Park Garden Centre in Little Oxhey Lane and will be manning their Santa's Grotto during weekends in December.

Northwood Lions are always happy to welcome prospective new members. For any information please ring Robert on 07860 324395.

Holy Trinity Holiday Club 2009 – Razzamatazz Robots

In late July, over one hundred local primary school children attended Holy Trinity's popular holiday club.

We believe God created humans in his image with the ability to work things out, be creative, to communicate and make choices. Robots are controlled and limited in what they can do and will never be human. Razzamatazz Robots was a fun-filled week, designed to help children understand the important truth of God's plan for each one of us.

The hall was decorated with home-made robots from a few inches tall to over six feet and entertainment was provided by some of Holy Trinity's young people in the guise of the "Watt family" series of dramas. Singing was led by Nutty Bolt and Loose Screw complete with robot actions. No-one could forget Gunge-the-leader and the clapometer!

The week culminated in a huge service in the church with all the children, the leaders, families, friends and robots!

Carl Landsbert

Councillors' Corner

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

Q. LBH appears to have little control over the workings and standards of the utility companies when they carry out both planned works and emergency repairs. How can our councillors enforce better control?

A. The council, as Highway Authority, rightly expects and demands well-planned and quality works on our roads. Officers meet regularly with utility companies on a formal basis as well as carrying out daily liaison via our accredited staff. The companies are required to inform the council of planned works and to reinstate the roads and paths back to their original condition after works are completed.

Your three councillors are active in their work with officers in terms of feeding back issues raised by residents in Northwood and ensuring that these are resolved to your satisfaction. This is not always a simple matter and sometimes we have had to approach personnel at higher levels within these companies to get resolution. The utility companies are empowered to start works in emergency or public safety situations without logging them, although they should do so retrospectively within two hours. Our officer teams work closely with the companies to ensure that planned works cause the minimum disruption possible. We also have statutory powers to fine utility companies who do not make good public property following their works and this recourse can

be and is applied, although it must be noted that in some cases, a temporary reinstatement is made on condition that a full and proper repair is subsequently made to our satisfaction.

Your Councillors and the officers in Hillingdon share

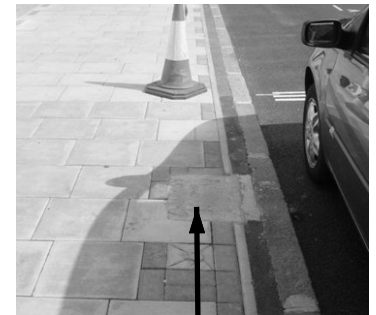
residents' frustrations when this work is not undertaken in a quality way, and we are taking up many of the recent issues in Green Lane with the companies concerned. In the case of this particular road, 'defect levies' have been raised against the offending utility company. Unfortunately, these problems are not unique to Hillingdon, but rest assured that all of these issues are continually monitored and actioned through to satisfactory outcomes.

Cllr Seaman-Digby has also requested a meeting in the ward with officers to raise concerns that residents have expressed via the NRA and to bring a better understanding of the issues that all too often seem to arise.

To contact your councillors:

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

Email us all at Northwoodward@hillingdon.gov.uk



Poorly reinstated pavement

Nick Hurd MP

To contact our local MP, you can write to Nick Hurd, MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Tel: 0207 219 1053 or 01923 822876

Email: hurdn@parliament.uk

Surgeries are held by appointment; please call Ann at the Constituency Office - 01923 822876

Wanted - Volunteers for the Met

If you have a few hours to spare each week do consider becoming a volunteer with the Metropolitan Police. There are a number of roles in specialist departments and with Safer Neighbourhoods Teams as well as at the Front Counters. By undertaking these duties volunteers enable officers and staff to use their time and powers more effectively. If you would like to know more, and can spare the time, please contact Karen Jackson or Sue Crockford at Ruislip Police Station on 020 8246 1848

Northwood Community Arts Group

The Northwood Community Arts Group seeks volunteer Members to join an enthusiastic and committed local organisation dedicated to delivering high quality community arts activities and facilities for everyone in the Northwood area.

The Group meets every two to three months to plan and deliver a programme that includes circus skills for children, family theatre events, visual arts activities, participatory dance, and arts programmes for older people.

We need Members who can bring community development, arts, fundraising or marketing expertise, or who are simply passionate about local arts development.

The Group is a formally established voluntary organisation operating from a base at St John's United Reformed Church in Hallowell Road. It is independent of the church and has funding support from Arts Council England, London Borough of Hillingdon and Charitable Trusts.

If you would like to play a role in Northwood Community Arts and have time and skills to offer, please contact northwoodarts@artreach.biz or telephone 01628 675800.

Who Are We?

This well-known football chant could apply to the **Northwood & District Community Association**. We have been around for 60 years – but new members (who may have lived in the area for a long time) say 'I never knew there was a local association here'.

WHO ARE WE? Members are predominately over 50, and many of our sections are held in the daytime – Keep Fit for Ladies, Bridge, Whist, Line Dancing, Table Tennis, German Conversation and a monthly afternoon stroll. I joined at the age of 35 (a few years ago now!) and we do have younger people in the out of work-hours sections – Badminton, Tennis, Rambling, Indoor Short Mat Bowls, monthly speakers on varying subjects and an evening of card and board games.

So if you would like to know **WHO WE ARE** - why not give me a ring and come along and try out some of our sections? You will be very warmly welcomed.

Pat Dunhill
01923 836346

Northwood Craft Market

Northwood Craft Market has celebrated a second successful year and continues to attract many talented local artists and crafters. Its success has been largely dependant on visitors supporting our crafters and we hope it still provides interest for our community. The market recently benefited from the Waitrose Community Matters Project. A big thank you to Waitrose and everyone who supported us, it has been most appreciated.

The Christmas Market will take place on the 28th November at the Methodist Church Hall, Oaklands Gate, between 10am and 1pm. Cancer Research UK and Northwood Live at Home Scheme will be joining us at the market. Please support them during this festive season. For further information about the market, please visit our website at www.northwoodcraftmarket.co.uk or contact Cheryl Lamb on 01923 450928.

Northwood Residents' Association

Open Forum

Thursday 12th November
7.30pm

Oaklands Gate Methodist Church

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 7.30 pm | Tea and coffee served; meet the committee |
| 8 - 8.30 pm | NRA sub-committee presentations |
| 8.30 - 9.30 pm | Open forum |
| 9.30 - 10 pm | Local councillors available to answer our questions |

We look forward to seeing you at the Forum. Do bring along any non-members you know who are interested in hearing about the work of the NRA.



Northwood Live At Home Scheme Weekly Dining Club

The Live At Home Scheme has just successfully started a weekly Wednesday lunch club at St John's United Reformed Church in Hallowell Road, open to anyone over 60 living in Northwood or Northwood Hills. Cost £5, payable on booking in advance, on 01923 842494.

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



At the AGM of the Hillingdon branch of the **Council of Christians & Jews** in July, Judith Kramer was elected as Chairman; Sidney Moss relinquishing the Chairmanship after eight very successful years during which the branch has gone from strength to strength.

The branch holds meetings throughout the year covering a variety of topics presented by diverse speakers. The topics discussed are not confined to specifically Christian and Jewish matters, or visiting speakers only drawn from these faith traditions, but we invite speakers of other or no faith. Some of our most interesting meetings in recent months have been those with input from members of the Muslim and Hindu faiths.

The branch extends a warm welcome to all, regardless of faith, to come to our meetings. Entry £1.50 (CCJ Members £1.00). Complimentary light refreshments are served at all meetings.

Tues 17th Nov: "Anthropology in the Bible". With Rabbi Hillel Athias-Robles. 8.00 pm at Emmanuel Church Africa Lounge, Church Road, Northwood.

Tues 8th Dec: 8.00 pm at Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue, Oaklands Gate, Northwood our traditional **Christmas & Chanukah Kosher Mince Pies & Doughnuts Social with entertainment** by interfaith, multi-cultural **One Voice Watford Community Choir**.

Northwood from Roman to Mediaeval times

I recently came across a historical survey included with a planning application and have produced a précis of most of the data relating to Northwood. Whilst this information may be known to some residents and other local historians I thought it may be of interest to serialise excerpts from the survey for our readers.



In Roman times Northwood was rural, lying 10 km to the West of Watling Street. It has been suggested that there was a North-South Roman road running through Ruislip parish along the route of Ducks Hill Road and Bury Street, but this is unsubstantiated.

There is no evidence of Roman settlement or activity in Northwood itself, although a

Roman villa is known in Moor Park, Hertfordshire. Following the withdrawal of the Roman army from Britain in the early 5th century AD the whole country fell into an extended period of socio-economic decline. In the 10th and 11th centuries, the local parochial system replaced the earlier Saxon Minster system, with defined areas of land centred on nucleus settlements served by parish churches. Large middle Saxon estates were replaced by an emerging manorial structure.

On the grain-producing lands on the gravels of Southwest Middlesex, there may have been an element of continuity of agricultural units from the Roman to the Saxon periods, in contrast to the claylands of Northwest Middlesex where Romano-British occupation sites were covered by regenerated woodlands. The distribution of early Saxon settlements in Middlesex is likely to have been less dense overall than that of its Romano-British predecessors. There was a retreat from the heavier clay soils after a dramatic fall in population, in favour of the more easily worked free-draining soils. There are no finds of the early mediaeval period known from the vicinity of Northwood.

Later mediaeval period (AD 1066–1485)

The manorial structure of the tenurial landscape in the Northwood area can first be traced in detail in Domesday Book, a survey of 1086, which also refers back to conditions at the end of the reign of Edward the Confessor in 1066. Before the Norman conquest of this year, the manor of Rislepe (Ruislip) was held by Wulfweard White, a thegn of King Edward. In the reign of William the Conqueror it passed to the Norman lord Ernulf de Hesdin. Ernulf granted the manor to the Norman abbey of Bec in about 1087. The abbey controlled its overseas possessions in England through resident monks or priors at Ruislip

and Ogbourne in Wiltshire. In times of war and tension between the kingdoms of England and France in the 14th century, the lands of these alien priories were periodically confiscated by the Crown, as in October to December 1324.

The agricultural landscape and settlement pattern of the mediaeval manor and parish of Ruislip was divided into several distinct zones. To the south of the River Pinn and the settlements of Ruislip, Kings End and Eastcote lay the large open arable fields; in the middle zone lay a deer park and a belt of woodland; in the northern area around Northwood were grazing commons and small arable fields reclaimed from the woods and scrub. At the time of Domesday Book there was sufficient woodland in the manor to support 1,500 pigs, pasture for the cattle of the settlement, and also a park for wild beasts. Ernulf and his tenants had 15 ploughs working the arable land of the manor. The parish church at Ruislip probably already existed, as a priest was noted. The church was certainly at Ruislip by 1190. The park was stocked with deer in 1270 and its boundary fence was mended in 1436. Wheat and oats were the main crops in 1289, with peas and beans also grown; sales of wood were also important to the manorial economy.

The areas of arable around Northwood were probably carved out of the woodlands in the 12th and 13th centuries by a process

called assarting. This may be the context in which manorial tenants called John Hereward and Richard Horseman held assarts in 1248; another tenant was called Robert de Assart. Green Lane was probably the starting line for these assarts.

The road from Pinner to Rickmansworth (now Rickmansworth Road) ran North-westwards through this area, its junction with Green Lane providing the nucleus for a hamlet at Northwood. The hamlet acquired its name because of its northerly relationship to the parent settlement at Ruislip. Kewferry Farm is a distortion of the name John Kevere, a tenant whose name occurs in the manorial court records in the 1290s.

The shape of field boundaries on the later enclosure map suggests the presence of a 'stock funnel' for the management of cattle movements running southwards to Green Lane.

The next instalment starts with the 13th century and construction of The Grange.

Malcolm Ruddock



The Original Northwood High Street



The High Street in Northwood is a colourful combination of cultures, with Mediterranean cafés and Asian restaurants working side by side with local shops and businesses. Once the hub of the town, the High Street hasn't changed much architecturally and is in Old Northwood Area of Special Local Character. The street is lined with Victorian and Edwardian terraced buildings. Some of the shops and businesses retain much Victorian charm, which comes alive with magical Christmas lights and decorations in the winter, pots of flowers line windows and hanging baskets provide colour throughout the summer months. Combine this with the clatter and charm of Mediterranean dialogue spilling out of the doors of niche cafés, the wonderful aroma of Asian cuisine filling the air mixed with the general camaraderie, and you have an excellent High Street. In days gone by, the High Street was the hub of the community, with a butcher, a baker, maybe not a candlestick maker, but there was a cinema, which can still be seen today. Everything anyone needed was to be found in the High Street but as Green Lane became busier, the High Street reluctantly took a back seat, and gained an air of slight neglect.

As an "outsider", not born in Northwood, I have been amazed by the welcome and warmth shown when using the many shops in the High Street. My journey up the High Street starts with the rumours of a ghostly lady living in the pub by the Iron Bridge. I can leave my laundry for a service wash en route, book a trip to Lapland, buy material to make a new outfit, order some Victorian radiator covers, stop for a Portuguese coffee, have my highlights retouched, pick up a prescription, buy some wine, birthday cards or presents and finish off with a manicure and pedicure before buying a hanging basket or bedding plants.

Come evening time, Emmanuel Church is often alive with concerts and other events, and waking up on a Sunday morning to the sound of soulful singing spilling from the church really does make me welcome another day in High Street, Northwood.

Alison, formerly from Peterborough



Neighbourhood Watch - are YOU a member?

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is one of the biggest and most successful voluntary crime prevention initiatives in this country. Neighbourhood Watch or "Home Watch" as it is known in some areas originated in the USA and came to this country in the 1980s where it quickly became very popular. At its simplest, NHW is based on groups of neighbours getting together to help reduce crime in their area, thus making their homes and communities safer.



The basic objectives of Neighbourhood Watch are:

- To prevent crime by improving security, increasing vigilance and reducing the opportunities for crime by increasing crime prevention awareness.
- To assist the Police by reporting suspicious or criminal activity promptly.

The 2008 British Crime Survey showed that in Britain, Neighbourhood Watch had about 10 million members and covered around 3.8 million households. An estimated 16% of households were members of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and 75% of households who were not members said they would join a scheme if there was one in their local area.

Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch exists in every part of the Borough with around 27,500 members in 400 Watches. The numbers given are always changing because of new Watches being added and some older Watches being removed because no one can be found to take over as Watch Co-ordinator.

I am afraid that apathy reigns in some areas and when a Co-ordinator leaves it can be difficult to find a replacement – until there is a burglary in the road! In Hillingdon there seems to be a North/South divide where there are significantly more Watches in the North than there are in the South.

What is expected of Hillingdon Co-ordinators? The very minimum we ask is that he/she/they collect or arrange to collect and distribute to their members the monthly Newsletters and quarterly colour "Watch Out" newsletter. They are expected to receive and pass on the occasional Police/NHW message. How that is done is left to the Co-ordinators, the Watches are theirs to run as they think fit. We work closely with Safer Neighbourhoods Teams (SNTs) and they in

turn like to know the Co-ordinators in their area. This means that contact with the Police can become more like the old days when one actually knew the Beat Police Officers. As a matter of interest,

before a Watch can be started in a road a good proportion of residents must be in favour of a Watch being formed – and someone **MUST** have volunteered to become the Co-ordinator or Joint Co-ordinator.

What is available? In addition to maintaining the NHW and 'Ringmaster' messaging system databases we offer Hillingdon Co-ordinators a variety of things to pass on to members; items such as personal alarms, window alarms, timer switches, purse-bells, all sorts of literature and window/door stickers. We also offer the loan of marking kits that contain everything from a hammer to UV marking pens! We are now offering members the renowned property marking liquid "SmartWater" at a vastly reduced price – this product is like a fingerprint, each batch is unique to the owner which means that property marked by this product can be traced directly to the owner. We also have digital cameras that can be borrowed. They are a bit 'old-fashioned' but they have the advantage that pictures are stored on small floppy discs that become the property of the members who have photographed their property.

We are housed within the Police Crime Prevention Office at Ruislip Police Station from where volunteers will be pleased to answer any questions about NHW and how to get a Watch started in your road. Although the office is staffed on certain days during the week, the very best time to contact us is on Friday mornings between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm – just come along to the Police Station and ask for the Neighbourhood Watch office.

If you are thinking about starting a Watch in your road you can contact us at Ruislip on Tel: 0208 246 1869 or email us on all@hillingdonnhw.co.uk We also have a Website at www.hillingdonnhw.co.uk

We will be pleased to hear from you!

*Ken MacGregor
Chairman, Hillingdon NHW Steering Group*

JOG IT OFF!

Weekly jogging and walking sessions have been arranged for adults. These sessions, lasting approximately 30 minutes, are aimed at beginners and led by experienced runners. Just turn up wearing comfortable clothing and good trainers.

Every **Wednesday** from 16th September at 6.30pm

Meeting Point: South Ruislip Library Car Park, Victoria Road, South Ruislip

Every **Sunday** from 20th September at 9.30am

Meeting Point: Ruislip Lido Car Park, Reservoir Road, Ruislip

For further information contact Yolanda Edwards on 01895 277372, or email yedwards@hillingdon.gov.uk



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holy trinity northwood

MAIN CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 20 Dec, 6pm Carol Service

Thursday 24 Dec, 4pm Nativity
11pm Midnight Communion

Friday 25 Dec, 10am Parish Communion

For details go to www.htnorthwood.co.uk
or call 01923 822990

Northwood Live at Home Scheme & Harrow Opera

Invite you to wine & dine to
Songs From the Shows

Saturday 14th November
6.30pm
Holy Trinity Church Hall

- Champagne reception and supper
- Entertainment by Harrow Opera
- Auction of promises

Tickets £35
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Ruislip/Northwood Flower Arrangement Society

Tues 3 Nov: Demo by David Fawcett-Ropner. "The Magic of Christmas"
Tues 1 Dec: Demonstration by Anthony Williams. "Christmas by Design"

Northwood College, Maxwell Road, Northwood. 7pm for 7.30pm start

All are welcome. Contact: 01923 829621

NRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:	Alan Prue	
Vice President:	Leonard Hall	
Chairman:	Tony Ellis	821237
Vice Chairman:	Miles Gillman	825599
Treasurer:	David Wilson	827298
Secretary:	Ros Plume	827409
Chief Road Steward:	Adrian Paterson	821417
Committee Members:	Ann Bailey	825364
	Anna Davis	
	Lesley Davis	
	Colin Harris	
	Lisa Maclay	
	Valerie Mellor	
	Rachel Owen	
	Jayesh Patel	
	Malcolm Ruddock	
	Tina Williams	

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

Northwood Choral Society

Sat 5 Dec Winter Concert. Holy Trinity Church, Rickmansworth Rd, at 7.30 pm. Messiah Choruses by Handel, Fantasies on Christmas Carols.

Sun 13 Dec Carols in Concert. Oaklands Gate Methodist Church at 3.30 pm. In aid of Northwood Live at Home Scheme.

Tickets from Sally Rogers on 01923 827752 or
sallyrogers01@aol.com

Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society

16 Nov Whitefriars Glass: a Concise History. Mike Beech
21 Dec Ian Tait's Ruislip in the 1920s. Eileen Bowlt, Chairman RNELHS
18 Jan 40 Years at Kodak. Tony Earle, Kodak R&D scientist
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

Sat 31 Oct Halloween Quiz. Michael Sobell Centre. 7.30pm. £15 inc supper
Sat 14 Nov Christmas Gift Fayre. MS Centre. 10am. Adults £1, children free
Sun 29 Nov Light Up A Life. To remember loved ones by dedicating a light that will shine on our tree until 6 Jan 2010. Ceremonies: 4pm to 5.30pm and 6.30pm to 8pm.

More MSH news at www.michaelsobellhouse.co.uk