



Northwood

Residents' Association

Newsletter 167, Spring 2017



Acting on behalf of residents and businesses of Northwood



The NRA committee keeps abreast of all aspects of life in Northwood





In Touch with Northwood's Younger Residents

A big welcome to Avinash Doshi who joined the NRA executive committee last year to take on the new role of "Youth Participation".

Avinash introduces himself:

My wife and I recently moved to Northwood from St Johns Wood where I was an Oslo Court

Residents' Association committee member. Moving to Northwood brings back memories of growing up in Goffs Oak, Hertfordshire, where local community played an important role in my life. Joining the Northwood Residents Association provides a great opportunity to help support and nurture the close-knit village spirit which I value so highly.

My role on the NRA committee is to promote and increase youth participation. So, what is the Association and how does it assist the

local community? The NRA exists to protect local amenities, oppose the erosion of the 'Green Belt', maintain communication with local authorities, provide regular information to members and consult with them, encourage the interest of members in the welfare of Northwood, provide a medium through which they may express their views on matters of local interest, and work with existing local organisations.

Over the coming weeks, I will be reaching out to the local schools, youth clubs and religious groups, communicating the purpose of the Association and how we can help these important community organisations. If you're a parent, a member of one of these organisations or have anything you would like to bring to the attention of the Association, I will be pleased to hear from you.

nra.avinash@gmail.com

Avinash Doshi

Welcome to Hoda Lacey who joined the NRA executive committee last year and has taken on the role of co-ordinating our Business Members. Hoda introduces herself:

I love Northwood where I have lived for 12 years. Most of my working life has been spent in the travel industry, where I spent over 20 years working both in the UK and abroad, in a broad range of positions up to Board level Director.

I started my training and development business in 1992 and have acted as consultant to both the public and private sectors. As the travel industry "agony aunt" for over 10 years, I was passionate about resolving differences amicably. I am the author of "Powerful Win/Win Solutions", a toolkit for resolving conflict at work.

I am so pleased to join our excellent association to serve our business members and as an Area Road Steward.



BUSINESS NEWS

The NRA is delighted to welcome Amar Vig of Buy to Let Investments 40 High Street, Northwood as a new business member.

During December, our local branch of Santander on Green Lane, held a business networking evening. We had some interesting presentations. Special thanks to Caffé Casa Mia (another of our members) for the excellent food and wine they provided.

In January, Seabourne Lawleys, solicitors at 62 High Street, also held a welcome reception for their business contacts and clients with bubbly and good cheer. Attendees received a complimentary 15% discount on legal services to use during 2017. Thank you to Santander and Seabourne Lawleys, both of whom are NRA business members, and we wish you all a prosperous and excellent 2017.

Please keep us updated with your business ideas; we all want to do our best for our Northwood community.

*Residents are encouraged to support our many and varied local businesses.
For a complete list of Business Members, see the NRA website.*

business@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Hoda Lacey

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From the Chairman

INTRODUCTION

Last year we received more requests for advertising space than we could accommodate. Also our editor was receiving so much copy that she was having to severely curtail, and omit, content. Therefore the committee took the decision to add four more pages to the Newsletter, the cost of which is funded by the increased advertising revenue.

I know some of our readers would like a different pin-up on page 3 but we are a respectable organisation. We hope you enjoy the extra pages and would love to have your feedback.

CHAIRMAN

For the last two years I have been seeking, unsuccessfully, to find a successor. As I am still enjoying the privilege, I have agreed, subject to members' approval at the AGM, to continue for a ninth year. However, as I cannot continue indefinitely will someone please volunteer?

PROPOSED STATION DEVELOPMENT

As you are aware, TfL withdrew its planning application after the change of Mayor. Since then, TfL has confirmed to me that it is still committed to continuing with the development and is in the process of re-designing the scheme, taking into account residents' criticisms of the architecture on the bridge and the GLA's requirement to include 35% of affordable housing. No major alterations to the previous scheme are expected. TfL has informed me that it appreciates the uncertainty is unsettling for residents and tenants and has confirmed that it will keep us up to date as plans evolve and will consult with us before the revised plans are finalised. I will keep you all informed about the progress.

2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM will be held at Oaklands Gate Methodist Church on Thursday, 6th April. The agenda is shown on page 19. Our speaker this year will be Squadron Leader James Tenniswood who will talk about the history and current role of RAF Northolt. There will also be the usual question and answer session with our three councillors. Please make every effort to join us.

TRAFFIC CONGESTION

The customary gridlock in Green Lane and Maxwell Road has now spread to Rickmansworth Road, Kewferry Road and

several others. We have asked council officers to visit Northwood to seek ways of alleviating the situation. A parking ban on Ducks Hill Road has caused cars to park in other nearby roads, such as Kewferry Road, and has just moved the problem to another area. A radical solution is required.



REDEVELOPMENT

Virtually every road in Northwood has some form of redevelopment. Whilst some inconvenience to neighbours is inevitable, residents have a responsibility to ensure that sites and surroundings are kept safe and clean and that pavements are unobstructed and repaired after work is completed. No work is permitted between 1pm on Saturday and 7am on Monday. Please ensure that your neighbours get some peace and quiet over the weekend.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Our display of Christmas Lights is now inadequate. Very little financial contribution is made by shops and businesses and we are looking into ways of changing that. Hopefully we will have some more news to discuss at the AGM.

ANNIVERSARY CLOCK

Progress on the clock has been painfully slow. There are problems with the electrical connection which have still to be resolved. Hopefully I will have more definite news by the AGM.

THE COMMITTEE AND ROAD STEWARDS


My thanks, as always, to the hard-working Committee members and Road Stewards without whom the NRA would not exist. Our thanks go to Rikin Patel, Mithu Chelleram and Richard Field who are not seeking re-election which leaves us with three vacancies. Please let me know if you would like to join the committee. There are always vacancies for Road Stewards; their work is invaluable and enables them to meet their neighbours so please consider joining their ranks. A special mention goes to Ros Plume, our secretary and editor, who keeps us in order and produces such a splendid newsletter. Ros, you do a fantastic job and we are very grateful.

CONCLUSION

Our MP, Nick Hurd, and three councillors continue to work hard on our behalf. Thank you all.

The population of Northwood is constantly changing and we have many newcomers. If your neighbours are new, please let them know what an important part the NRA plays in the life of Northwood, and encourage them to join.

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



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AGM Thursday 6th April, 7.30pm for 8pm start.
DETAILS ON PAGE 19

A Message from Nick Hurd MP ...

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT is an inevitable part of life in communities like Northwood where land is so valuable. Sometimes we have to consider proposals that have profound implications for the future of the area. As your MP, I am keeping particularly close to three situations, which I think are important.

THE MAIN EVENT remains TfL plans for Northwood Town Centre. The potted history is that we saw off the first proposal, which was completely inappropriate for Northwood; they consulted and came forward with new proposals, which divided opinion and so they withdrew. I now expect them to come back with a new application later this year, which will be broadly the same as the last application but with more “affordable” housing. They are likely to have the support of the Mayor of London, and we will have to take a local view. I believe that development of TfL land in the centre of Northwood is inevitable and so we should do everything we can to engage and try to shape a proposal that works. The stakes are high because this will shape the future of Northwood Town Centre for a long time. In the meantime, I continue to press TfL to deal fairly with a number of their shop tenants, who understandably feel very unsettled by the process.

THE SECOND SITUATION is the Mount Vernon site. This is dear to my heart, ever since we mobilised as a community to see off the plan to move the cancer centre into Hertfordshire. Every visit, I get frustrated by the lack of a master plan for a site that has always been hard to get your head around, but which now looks run down in parts. The Cancer Centre is first class but some of the wards are in urgent need of an upgrade. So I have been pressing the two NHS Trusts who are responsible for the site to knock heads

together to come up with a plan that allows them to develop some of the sites in order to upgrade the NHS offer to the community. There is a will but progress is glacial.

THE PACE IS NOT MUCH FASTER at the third site. Again it involves the NHS operating at their own, very frustrating pace. Some of you will know the history of the Northwood and Pinner Community Hospital site much better than I do. The local NHS declared the site surplus to requirement, and I have been working with both your chairman, Tony Ellis, and Andrew Riley, chairman of Northwood Hills Residents' Association, to make the case that the NHS should consider a redevelopment that honours past promises and offers the community some health service, including an upgraded Northwood Health Centre. The GPs are supportive but the bureaucracy is unbelievably slow. I remain hopeful that we can avoid a situation where the historic site is simply sold off for flats. That would be a waste.

As usual, I am interested in any views or information from constituents; do get in touch.



To contact Northwood MP, Nick Hurd:

Email: nick.hurd.mp@parliament.uk

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

Tel: 0207 219 1053

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

Traffic and Highways

RICKMANSWORTH ROAD

There is a growing incidence of traffic approaching the lights at the Ducks Hill Road junction from Northwood Hills in the left turning lane when the lights are red, then going straight on when the lights change. I have seen this twice and I understand that another incident has been reported to the SNT with all the necessary details.

I have previously mentioned the problem of vehicles exiting The Avenue and making a U-turn around the end of the central reservation in Rickmansworth Road, to then head towards Northwood Hills. The council has taken this on board and is considering possible solutions, but there are a number of difficulties to overcome.

DUCKS HILL ROAD

Single yellow lines are now in place on both sides between Cygnet Close and the entrance to Riverside, with associated notices for no parking from 8am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday.

THE AVENUE

In January, footpath maintenance work began in the whole of this road, and will carry on until the scheduled finish on 10th March.

NORTHGATE

Also last month, National Grid Gas began pipe replacement work in the whole of Northgate and part of Copse Wood Way (from no. 19 to Northgate). This work is scheduled for completion by 1st March.

PAINTED LINES

It has been suggested that many painted lines and instructions on the roads in Northwood are in a very poor state and sometimes unreadable, e.g. parking bays, yellow lines, other road markings, etc. I am compiling a list of the worst ones and I would be grateful for any specific, detailed contributions to add to this before passing it on to the council.

traffichighways@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Peter Lansdown

We have just heard that residents of Kewferry Road have lodged a petition with the council to exclude Heavy Goods Vehicles from using their road as a through-road - watch this space, or check the Petition Tracking page of the LBH website: www.hillingdon.gov.uk/petitionstatus to monitor progress.

From the NRA Treasurer

THE NRA FINANCIAL YEAR has just ended. The accounts are not yet audited, but will be prior to the AGM where they will be presented to the meeting. However, I do not wish to wait until the next newsletter to thank you for the continued support you provide and particularly to thank the Road Stewards for their wonderful efforts throughout the year collecting subs and delivering newsletters, whilst also providing a conduit for information to flow between members and the committee. Unfortunately, 2016 has been somewhat disappointing in subs receipts.



SUBS ARE DOWN. In the last eight years the residential receipts have been lower only once, back in 2012. The problem this year I believe has been due to changes in Road Stewards. We are always in need of additional Road Stewards and the more we have the lighter the load for each individual. We frequently discuss ways to make subs collection easier. One member previously mentioned *gocardless.com*. That does sound promising but will require members to have an email address with which to register and a willingness to set up a direct debit with that organisation. Cheques will cease to exist at some point; that will make life more difficult. At present a cheque made payable to 'Northwood Residents Association' and given to the Road Steward is an excellent, auditable method. It is rather labour intensive but it does work. Cash also works well but rumours suggest cash may eventually follow cheques into oblivion. However you wish to pay, please make it easy for the Road Steward, have your payment ready when the RS calls, or return the envelope promptly (remembering to add your name and address of course).

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO? In general we break even, give or take a few hundred pounds, our expenditure is similar

to our income. For 2016 the total income was £8,687 and total expenditure was £8,304. The small surplus will add to our reserves. We do receive donations, bank interest and last year we earned £500 from the sale of the Membership Database Software that we designed and own. Our largest outgoing is in the production of the newsletters; £3,586 last year was spent on printing. It has been asked why we do not go digital only. If we did, it would mean only members with internet access would receive the newsletters. The other significant drawback is that it removes the physical delivery of them by the Road Stewards and therefore reduces opportunities for discussion. Road Stewards can actually show a newsletter when recruiting new neighbours and colleagues. It is the most significant physical thing the NRA has.

The NRA has financed some of the benches in Northwood, most recently the one around the tree at the Eastbury Road junction with Green Lane. We also have three notice boards, one in High Street, one in Green Lane, the third in the Waitrose lift lobby.

Other items of expense include donations and subscriptions, web site, room hire and insurance. Last year we donated £1000 to the highly-praised and well-attended Music in the Park event, celebrating the NRA's 50th anniversary as well as HM The Queen's 90th birthday.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD WE FUND? We do seek ideas from members as to what we can spend to meet our aims and objectives. We would not wish to spend our members' money on items that the council should cover, eg pavement repairs. But if there is something you believe will benefit Northwood please do let us know.

I cannot stress enough the amount of voluntary effort that goes into the Association: Road Stewards who secure the income required for existence, the committee members who work on their individual areas, Tony our long serving chairman who puts in massive effort discussing issues with members and challenging and working with our councillors and MP for our benefit.

All we ask of our members is that they pay their subs promptly, ideally with folding money so the NRA can continue to support our members in maintaining Northwood as the wonderful gem that we all enjoy so much.

treasurer@northwoodresidents.co.uk

David Blowers

Health Matters

THE HILLINGDON HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST (THH), which includes part of Mount Vernon, has seen record demand this winter with a 14% increase in A&E patients. Although it has not met the Government requirement of treating 95% of patients within 4 hours, Chief Executive, Shane De Garis said that it has treated all patients in a safe and caring manner. Patients with the highest level of need are given priority and those who do not need to be seen in A&E are encouraged to go elsewhere. The public is asked to go to primary carers such as pharmacies, GPs and using the NHS 111 telephone service if their conditions don't need hospital care. More information can be found at www.rightcareinlondon.nhs.uk. And, do not forget that there is a Minor Injuries Unit at Mount Vernon.

SKIN CARE TO BE CONSOLIDATED. THH plans to build a new skin centre at Mount Vernon and is currently going through the planning process. There has been a 75% increase in cases since 2010 and the hospital needs to consolidate outpatient and inpatient treatment in one centre. Better facilities will also enable THH to offer more complicated types of treatment which will increase much needed revenue.

health@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Tony Ellis

Minor Injuries Unit, Mount Vernon Hospital
Open: 9am-8pm daily. Telephone: 01923 844201

Local Policing

NEW PERSONNEL I thank our new Inspector, Paul Trice for submitting his first update. He is committed to neighbourhood policing in its purest form. So hopefully you will have seen more of your local Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) out and about, at a coffee morning, at a school event, at a place of worship, or at one of the local care homes.

We also welcome our new **Sergeant, Ben Phipps** to the neighbourhood policing team. Another solid character determined to interact with the community and ensure our priorities are taken on board. We have also had a recent change of local Pc and we welcome **Pc Nathan Martin** who takes over from Pc Groome. Make sure you relay any concerns (or congratulations) to our local team.

TWITTER

You can follow the work of the Northwood SNT @MPSNorthwood

EXPENSIVE GATES OR A CAR STEERING LOCK ?

Whilst we have seen some thefts of vehicles we have also seen an increase in the number of residents who feel that constructing expensive gates is the only deterrent. Actually the cheapest and best deterrent is to buy a steering wheel lock. Being aware of the possibility of car thefts surely doesn't mean we have to see fortresses being erected? Even gates can be penetrated especially when they are left open to allow access. A steering wheel lock costs no more than about £50, security gates many thousands and planning permission can be awkward too.

GET CONNECTED

Only by connecting with local residents can the police keep you informed of matters of local interest. Please ensure you are on the database for Northwood. Connect with PC David Bell David.Bell@met.pnn.police.uk or any SNT colleague. There will continue to be opportunities to meet the Police at Waitrose; see NRA website and information boards for details of dates and times.

NORTHWOOD POLICE WARD PANEL

Thank you to Adam Stapley who served a short but useful period with us on the panel. His increased work commitments and overseas travel mean he is unable to continue but we thank him for his time and support. Can you step up and take his place? We also have a vacancy on the

ward panel for a 16-25 year old who would like to represent their community. Please contact me or the SNT if you want to volunteer.

The panel continues to represent the views of the community directly with the police and we value your input. If you have any concerns or comments please feel free to contact me.

Minutes of Ward Panel meetings are held at Northwood Library.

NORTHGATE – NO TURN FROM DUCKS HILL ROAD

This issue has been discussed for far too long now and it is disappointing that our local councillors are unable to resolve the matter. Despite the wishes of the residents and a traffic report we have seen little action with regards monitoring the illegal turn. We are promised a camera but still no details are emerging. The Inspector and I are now trying to find alternate routes to resolve this matter.

SEE ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS – CALL 101

It is being suggested that residents are reluctant to call the police, either because they think they are too busy or because the incident is not that serious. It is important that **all crime**, however it is perceived, is reported to the police. Unless we do so we could lose our local resources. Plus the police want to cut down on low-level but annoying crimes that blight all our lives. So if you see anything call 101 and report it; it may be more serious than you think.

HILLINGDON / LONDON NEWS

The Mayor's Office for Police and Crime (MOPAC) is completing a public survey into priorities for London. We now anticipate that a full and detailed police paper will be ready for implementation by the end of March or beginning of April. It could introduce some significant changes. The most talked about is that boroughs will be combined to cut costs and reduce numbers of high-level officers. Trials are already under way in three areas of London; it looks inevitable despite many concerns. We will however retain our two ward officers. I will report further in the summer.

Chairman, Northwood Police Ward Panel
nwdpolicepanel@gmail.com

Philip Green

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

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

You can contact the Northwood Safer Neighbourhoods Team on Tel: 020 8721 2545 or email: northwood.snt@met.police.uk web: met.police.uk/Team/Hillingdon/NorthwoodTeam

Crime Prevention Stalls at Waitrose

The Safer Neighbourhoods Team will be on hand to offer you a one-to-one consultation session in conjunction with crime prevention advice.

Wednesday 22nd March 2017, 12noon - 1pm
Sunday 16th April 2017, 2pm - 3pm
Saturday 20th May 2017, 2pm - 3pm

Our Local Councillors' Responsibilities - Richard's turn

I BECAME CABINET MEMBER FOR CENTRAL SERVICES, CULTURE AND HERITAGE for Hillingdon Council in May last year, taking over the Central Services portfolio previously held by fellow Northwood Councillor, Scott Seaman-Digby.

I am one of the council's leadership team of seven Cabinet Members who are responsible and accountable for the portfolio of services they are assigned. Cabinet Members make the day-to-day strategic decisions of the council, alone and collectively. I monitor the performance and development of the council services within my portfolio, proposing policy changes, new policies, strategies or improvements.

I have been a councillor for 15 years now, representing residents of Northwood, but this is my first year as a Cabinet Member. The portfolio was expanded last year, with culture and heritage joining central services (legal services, human resources and procurement policy and commissioning of services) as my areas of responsibility.

NEW ARTS CENTRES FOR LBH. This is an exciting portfolio and an eventful time for culture and heritage, as I am overseeing several big new projects. These include the creation of a borough museum on the former RAF Uxbridge site and a theatre. Work on the museum is due to start later this year.

Construction is well underway on the new state-of-the-art visitor and education centre at the Battle of Britain Bunker, Uxbridge, which will be completed later this year. The centre will offer visitors the opportunity to learn more about the site's fascinating history and its part in helping to win the Battle of Britain.

LIBRARIES are also included in my portfolio. Hillingdon has a fantastic set of libraries which are really well used by our residents. We have seen an increased footfall since all 17 libraries were renovated and modernised, and the events programmes and facilities on offer are encouraging both young and old to visit, turning them into real community hubs.

On the cultural side, what never ceases to amaze me is the breadth and depth of talent in the borough. This is showcased at our festivals and events held across the borough. I also oversee the Manor Farm site, including events held at the Winston Churchill Theatre and Great Barn, and the Compass Theatre, where there's a range of entertainment on offer, often including local shows and their famous pantomime.

We try to provide something for every age group and taste here in Hillingdon and it's really good to see residents enjoying and benefitting from the varied and excellent arts offerings here on their doorsteps rather than having to journey into Central London.

I'm thoroughly enjoying my new role in the Cabinet, especially the culture and heritage elements which reflect my interests as well as my experience working with major artists and galleries helping to create and restore works of art. I also enjoy being able to use some of my hard-won business skills helping to ensure that the Council is getting the best possible value for the services we offer our residents.



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

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

01923 822876 - Northwood Office

Email: rlewis@hillingsdon.gov.uk
cmelvin@hillingsdon.gov.uk
sseaman-digby@hillingsdon.gov.uk

Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch (HNW)

Although HNW continues to register new watches in Northwood, there are still significant areas within the ward without watch coverage. So why start or belong to a watch? Besides providing members with the wherewithal to protect themselves, their belongings and properties against criminal acts via the monthly newsletter, there are additional benefits, to which watch members may avail themselves.

SmartWater forensic property marking kits allow residents to mark their valuables such as jewellery, mobile phones, computers, bikes, etc. with a code unique to each individual purchaser. If the property is stolen and recovered by the police, the owner can be easily identified and the property returned. Members of HNW registered watches can purchase this product for £25, which represents a saving of £50 on the RRP of £75. More details are available on our website. Residents in Northwood are currently unable to receive the product free of charge via the MetTrace Scheme, so this offer does represent good value.

CCTV is proving to be invaluable both in deterring would-be criminals and in bringing law breakers to justice. Members aged 65 and over and those considered especially vulnerable, can take advantage of an offer detailed on the website.

A few insurance companies still offer a small discount to members of active watches. Coming to the website soon will be details of a 10% offer to watch members who purchase house insurance from the Co-operative Insurance Company.

If YOU are interested in becoming a co-ordinator, there is a wealth of useful information at www.hillingdonnhw.co.uk. Alternatively, contact the office at Ruislip Police Station by E-mail all@hillingsdonnhw.co.uk or by telephone on 0208 246 1869. The office is manned every Friday between 1000 and 1300 – a telephone call beforehand would be welcome, if a personal visit for information is preferable.

Lynette Bridger
Secretary, HNW Steering Group



ENVIRONMENT – one resident's musings

TRAFFIC FLOW AFFECTS OUR ENVIRONMENT

Traffic flow is being seriously impaired at drop-off and collection times near our centrally located schools, Northwood College and St Helens. These establishments should be held to account for this as it affects the quality of our environment and amenity.

Northwood College has little or no parking available for parents while their children are taken into school, dropped off or collected. The process of parking cars and coaches waiting causes traffic build-up and overspill onto nearby roads. This is detracting from the amenity of the area. Furthermore from time to time when a coach arrives and reverses back into a fairly narrow school service entrance and parking area, the manoeuvre causes grid lock for motorists.

In Maxwell Road and adjacent roads residents wishing to use their cars are seriously inconvenienced on a regular basis, and bus drivers have enormous difficulty in proceeding along Maxwell Road at daily peak school drop-off and collection times. With the influx of many new pupils from Heathfield school to Northwood College the problem has increased.

INCREASED POLLUTION

Another annoyance is parents waiting in their cars with the car engine running whilst outside the college or in nearby side roads. This pollutes the atmosphere for all.



Idling engines cause pollution

We understand that a number of residents have voiced their concerns directly to the schools, as well as to the NRA and to local media, but with little result. It is time that Northwood College had proper on-school / off-road parking for its car-driving parents together with decent access/exit arrangements. The school head and governors should consider acting to make necessary improvements.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

One suggested solution is to link Maxwell Road and Murray Road into a one-way traffic scheme. This could not work as it fails to address and mitigate the volume of school traffic. Several years ago, another solution was proposed – this was for parents to park in the Green Lane car park and walk children into the college grounds by a footpath. LBH Planning department refused permission to open up the footpath due to a discrepancy in its positioning, but the project is not dead and could well proceed.

St Helen's has managed to provide an amount of on-site parking, but their access and exit facilities off Green Lane leave much to be desired with frequent blockages and slow moving traffic being caused in Green Lane at peak usage times. This road is quite narrow so it is easy for blockages to occur. A thorough planning exercise is required to see how best to enable parents to swiftly enter and to leave school grounds by altering entrance and exit facilities away from Green Lane. A joint exercise by the school and the council to see how to achieve improved access and exit, and how quickly that can be organised, would be ideal.

ENVIRONMENT AND DANGEROUS PARKING

Parking on both sides of Rickmansworth Road by the Golf Club and between the exits of Maxwell and Murray Roads, now extending beyond the car wash facility can cause problems. If wide cars park on both sides of the road there, the ability for two vehicles going in opposite directions is impaired. If a large lorry, ambulance or bus approach from different directions, vehicles have to wait for the first vehicle to pass. All that is required is two impatient or pushy drivers passing from opposite directions to cause an accident. Surely it is time for Hillingdon Borough Council to designate one side of Rickmansworth Road here as a no parking at any time area? Rickmansworth Road should not be considered a free of charge convenient parking area for commuters and retailers.

Northwood and Northwood Hills residents driving towards Pinner on Pinner Road A404 from the roundabout have to circumvent similar serious blockages by the new Northwood School where cars, vans and lorries parked on both sides of the road constrict reasonable traffic flow. Here is a second area where no parking at any time should be assigned to the school side of the road. I have to give full marks to the school and the borough traffic planners for creating a large area for on school site car parking and a very large gated entrance and exit.

So, residents, if my musings mirror your own thoughts, please write or email LBH to get their traffic planning department to sort out the traffic congestion around these schools together with the parking issues in Rickmansworth Road and Pinner Road.

ENVIRONMENT & BROKEN PAVEMENTS

Finally, if you have damaged paving outside or near your home please let the council know. We should strive to have safer pavements.

environment@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Andrew Egan

For all information about local environmental issues, visit the council website, www.hillingdon.gov.uk and follow the links: Residents > Environmental Issues.
Email: contactcentre1@hillingdon.gov.uk
Tel: 01895 556000

New Laws for mobile phone use.

Changes to the laws concerning the use of mobile phones whilst driving, or **whilst sitting with the engine running** came into effect on 1st March 2017. The key differences are that the penalty has risen from 3 points to **6 points** on your driving licence, and the fine has risen from £100 to **£200**.

What's happening at Northwood Library?

BIZZY BEES IS TOO BUSY! Due to the increasing numbers of children attending our Bizzy Bees storytime on a Wednesday we have decided to start running an additional session on Thursdays. Sharing stories and rhymes with children and babies is a great way to encourage language and social skills and teach them about the world they live in. The sessions include stories, songs and simple crafts and are open to all children and babies under 5 and their parents or carers. There's a relaxed and friendly atmosphere and it's a great way to meet other parents and for small children to play together. There's no need to book, just turn up: Wednesdays or Thursdays at 10am (term-time only). We look forward to seeing you!



ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN. Northwood Library continues to host a range of activities for children. In February we ran an Origami Workshop to celebrate Chinese New Year and a

'Hearts and Crafts' workshop to mark Heart Month. More activities are planned for the Easter holidays, check <http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/events> or contact the library for up to date information about what's happening.

FOR ADULTS

- Our Reading Group meets on the last Thursday of every month to discuss moving and thought-provoking books by a wide range of authors. Contact the library if you would like to borrow a copy of this month's book.
- If you're feeling a bit left out of the world of email and the internet, or you've got a new tablet or smartphone and are not too sure where to start, why not book one of our IT taster sessions for beginners?
- Alternatively we have newspapers and periodicals, Starbucks coffee, free computers and wifi, information about local activities and organisations and we also have lots of lovely books!

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

Email: northwood-library@hillingdon.gov.uk

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

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HillingdonLibraries

Opening hours:

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

Janet Clements

Metropolitan Line

WHEN my last report was published I received a polite and statistical response from one analytical resident who gently chided me with 'stats' that suggested the met service was far better than I portray in these pages. I reflected on this the other day (a Monday morning at 6.30am as you ask) as I sat on a train for 30 minutes in the tunnel between Finchley Road and Baker Street with no idea what was going on because the driver did not know how to use his PA system (or it was broken). Either way an occurrence that happens far too much. Meanwhile the online status service declared just 'minor delays' which really should have read '100% delays as we are not running trains between Harrow and Aldgate for the foreseeable future and those of you already on the trains are a bit stuffed as we are stuck'. The power of social media and regular furious commuter 'tweets' did nudge them into declaring 'severe delays' a couple of hours later. There was a passenger survey conducted a few years back when the (old stock) Met line was even more unreliable – and yet the survey declared something like a 98% satisfaction rate. I never met anyone who was given one of these surveys. Indeed, as many commented recently on the Southern Rail issues, who were the 22% 'satisfied' passengers after a year and a half of daily turmoil?!

MET LINE ISSUES CONTINUE despite the constant closure of tracks at the weekend and now the closure beyond 10pm in the early part of the week. Yes, these closures are meant to improve the system; we are told that we are still years away from a good service. Meanwhile we continue to make representation about dreadful communications, broken or

non-usable PA systems and other various gripes. My latest favourite being a Met line train slamming its doors shut and departing despite a Jubilee line train drawing in alongside it to deposit Met line customers on a day full of severe delays. The next train was not for another 15 minutes on a freezing cold night. Management know this is an issue but have yet to do anything about it.

Perhaps I am just unlucky and I must provide some sort of balance; the trains are cleaner and much better than the old stock and when they work the service is pretty good. The problem is that delays are regular during the rush hours (whatever the stats say!) but the line seems to work well in the 'quieter' hours. So of course there may be many who feel it is an excellent service whilst others feel let down for their £2500+ season ticket payments. Still, we live in hope for improvements.

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

Gerry Pimm

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





Hello to all residents. I am Inspector Paul Trice and I am now responsible for Policing the North area of Hillingdon. I would like to thank Inspector Rob Bryan for all his hard work and wish him well in his new position as Chief Inspector. My vision is to build upon his achievements. I want to focus on Crime Prevention, reduce Anti-Social Behaviour that affects the quality of life for residents, ensure victims of crime receive the best service my staff can deliver and bring offenders to account. The local Police will continue to work with residents, businesses and partnership agencies. If there are topics you want to hear about please send in your comments to me.

There have been some organisational changes within the Police; each ward will now have two dedicated ward officers and a community support officer, Northwood has - Pc David Bell, Pc Nathan Martin and PCSO John Usher. The team is led by Sergeant Ben Phipps.

The team sends out weekly updates, if you would like to be added to the mailing list, please email - **Northwood.snt@met.police.uk**.

Within the last month all police officers and community support officers on Hillingdon borough have been personally issued with body worn video, these are fantastic pieces of kit, please feel free to ask my staff about them.

My team has been listening to the views of the community:

- Traffic issues - speeding and parking. All of my team have been specially trained in the use of speed detection equipment, we have been out using this equipment, we are trying to educate motorists. Please remember that there are speed limits for a reason. We are working with the council and schools to target parking offenders.
- Visible policing - my officers have been deployed to patrol around the town centre and surrounding area. You should have all noticed an increase.
- Community events - my team has held coffee mornings and is always looking to spend time meeting residents to ensure that your views are listened to. If you would like to meet my team, please contact us on the details below.
- School engagements - my team is working with both primary and secondary schools attending as many school events as possible. We have been providing personal safety advice to all ages. I feel it is vital to engage and invest time in educating the children. We will be patrolling around schools at the start and end of the school day.

Northwood ward team can be contacted on
Telephone - 0208 721 2545
Email - **Northwood.snt@met.police.uk**
Twitter @MPSNorthwood

I can always be reached at
Paul.Trice@met.police.uk or on 07500 817970

Unfortunately, due to the darker evenings this time of year has seen a slight increase in burglaries within Hillingdon, please can readers take time to ensure that all doors and windows are secured and locked. My officers will be more than willing to provide crime prevention advice; alternatively readers can go onto the advice section of the Metropolitan Police Service web site - **www.met.police.uk**.

Together we can reduce crime.



Eastbury (and Northwood) Horticultural Society

As we approach what is probably the busiest time of year in any garden, we are able to provide you with some light relief from the magnitude of gardening tasks requiring attention.

OUR PROGRAMME OF WINTER TALKS concludes on Monday 20th March when member, Helen Gordon, will tell us about Bach Flower Remedies. Discovered by Dr Edward Bach some 80 years ago, this is a system of 38 flower remedies that correct emotional imbalances, where negative emotions are replaced with positive. Working in conjunction with herbs, homeopathy and medications these remedies are safe for everyone including children, pregnant women, elderly people and even pets.

OUR AGM takes place on Monday 24th April. Do come along and make yourself known to us. Talks take place at Eastbury Farm School in Bishops Avenue at 8pm. There is plenty of room for parking and we finish the evening with coffee, tea & biscuits.

OUR SPRING PLANT SALE takes place on Saturday 20th May at 10am at 17 Sandy Lodge Lane – opposite the entrance to the visitors' car park of Sandy Lodge Golf Club.

The arrival of Spring & Summer sees us directing our attention to activities further afield. We have organised coach outings to three gardens; on each occasion we will leave from Bishops Avenue outside Eastbury Farm School at 9am returning by early evening. The venues we have selected are as follows:

- * Wednesday 31st May – Cottesbrooke Hall & Kelmarsh Hall, Northampton
- * Wednesday 26th July – Stourhead House, Wiltshire
- * Saturday 26th August – Hyde Hall

Interested in joining us? Do contact our Outings Organiser, John Harden, on 01923 822709 or **t.j.harden@btinternet.com**
For more information about the Society, please contact our Membership Secretary on 01923 822162 or **ellisontwg@yahoo.co.uk**



Paul Strickland Scanner Centre

There are three great events coming up in support of Paul Strickland Scanner Centre, an independent medical charity based at Mount Vernon Hospital.



Bank Holiday Monday 1st May, Chenies Spring Walk, 11am start. This is a 10km walk through the beautiful Chess Valley starting from Chenies Manor, and if 10km seems too much, there are three shortcuts you can take. Sponsorship is encouraged, but is not essential. Registration starts at 10am, and the cost is £8 if you book in advance, or £10 on the day, and includes free entry to the Tulip Gardens at Chenies Manor. Under 14s go free of charge.

Monday 15th May, Plant and Cake Sale, Mount Vernon Hospital, 9am to 2pm. The Head Gardener from Royal Ascot, Jeremy Lockwood, will be there to offer you advice and answer your gardening questions. There is always a beautiful array of plants and lots of delicious home made cakes too, any donations of cakes for us to sell are very gratefully accepted.

Tuesday 6th June, Golf Day, Denham Golf Club. The day starts with coffee and a bacon roll followed by 18 holes on the wonderful, challenging golf course, after which you can enjoy a fabulous carvery meal in the clubhouse. The cost is £100 per person, and we are offering local businesses the opportunity to advertise their business while supporting the Scanner Appeal by sponsoring a hole.

Proceeds from these events will help us to continue working at the Centre to diagnose and monitor cancer and other serious conditions, and undertake medical research to help improve treatment and care for future patients.

For further details on any of these events or to book your place, please contact Caroline:

Paul Strickland Scanner Centre,
Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood HA6 2RN
Tel: 01923 844290
email appeals@stricklandscanner.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @scannercentre
website www.stricklandscanner.org.uk

We are delighted to report that our guest speaker at this year's AGM will be Squadron Leader James Tenniswood, Media & Communications Officer at RAF Northolt. RAF Northolt is an active military airfield with lots of diverse aviation activity taking place on a daily basis. Operational for over 100 years, it is the only RAF flying station within the M25 which means it is a strategically important establishment to both the military and the government.

THE RAF NORTHOLT STATION SAFETY TEAM offers the following advice that everyone can support to keep the airspace over and around Hillingdon safe.

DRONES

Drones, when flown irresponsibly, present a danger to aircraft. As technology progresses, the cost of drones is decreasing which has made them more accessible to people. When you fly a drone in the UK it is your responsibility to be aware of the rules that are in place to keep everyone safe:

- * Make sure you can see your drone at all times and don't fly higher than 400 feet.
- * Always keep your drone away from aircraft, helicopters, airports and airfields.
- * Use your common sense and fly safely; you could be prosecuted if you don't.

If you think a drone is being flown dangerously then call the local police on 101.



LASERS

We have received many reports of laser illumination from crews operating from RAF Northolt. Fortunately, the consequence is often minor distraction, but if targetted at a critical stage of flight, the results could be more serious. As with drones it is a criminal offence to endanger the safety of an aircraft in flight which means persons shining laser-pens at aircraft can be open to criminal prosecution. Once again, if you see someone targeting aircraft with lasers, please call the local police on 101.

SKY LANTERNS & FIREWORKS

The use of lasers, searchlights, fireworks, helium-filled toy balloons and sky lanterns is now widespread and their use has the potential to impact upon aviation activity. Unexpected fireworks could distract and confuse pilots and cause damage to aircraft in flight. Helium-filled toy balloons and sky lanterns have the potential of causing damage to engines through ingestion. Additionally, debris from sky lanterns dropping to the ground could damage aircraft should any remnants land on the manoeuvring areas of the airfield. If you are planning an event in the vicinity of RAF Northolt that involves these items, please talk to us in advance to avoid any problems.

RAF Northolt contacts:

Email: NOR-OPSSFSO@mod.uk

Twitter: @RAFNortholt

Facebook: www.facebook.com/rafnortholtoff

Don't forget NorFest! RAF Northolt's Community Festival will take place on Saturday 22nd July, a day of family entertainment for the whole community.

Mount Vernon Comforts Fund

IS IT YOUR TURN TO VOLUNTEER? Have you ever thought about becoming a volunteer for a local charity? Everywhere we go these days, charities are asking for us to volunteer our time. We, too, need more volunteers to continue the valuable work we do at Mount Vernon hospital. We are a registered charity providing services to patients, both admitted and day, five days a week. We have been in existence for 80 years.

WE HAVE THREE SHOPS near the Minor Injuries unit: a second hand bookshop, a general newsagents store selling sweets and gifts, and a Look-In shop, which sells good quality second hand clothes and bric-a-brac. We also run a tea bar in the radiotherapy department and a trolley service round the wards and departments. These services generate an income of at least £75,000 every year. We use the money to buy equipment for departments and wards which the hospital could otherwise not afford to fund but which provides considerable benefit to the patients.

OUR VOLUNTEERS WORK IN SHIFTS to provide our services; we currently have 150 helpers, but always need more. The commitment could be weekly, fortnightly or monthly depending on the area you would work in and how much time you have available. If you cannot commit to a regular time, but have practical skills in publicity and advertising, we could use your expertise.



Ready for the trolley round

If you think you would like to join our friendly group of volunteers, contact us and we can explain in more detail what we do.

Please contact us on 01923 844629.

The office is not manned every day, so if we are not there, please leave your details and we will get back to you.

*Jan Sutton
Chairman, Comforts Fund*

Northwood Craft Market and Plant Stall *First Saturday of the month*

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

FORTHCOMING DATES: Saturdays 1st April, 6th May, 3rd June

TIME: 10am-2pm **FREE ADMISSION**

After our winter break, the Northwood Craft Market, together with a Plant Stall, is running once again on the first Saturday of each month. All crafts for sale are handmade by local craftspeople and it is a perfect place to find beautiful original gifts, or something to enjoy for yourself. Crafts for sale vary each month and range from jewellery, fabric bags & purses and artwork to greetings cards, knitting & crochet, soaps, children's clothing, household accessories and much more.

Two of our crafters who are keen gardeners have been nurturing a variety of cuttings and seedlings which they will have on their Plant Stall, all at very reasonable prices.

Children can try some hands-on crafts to make something to take home, and teas, coffees & delicious homemade cakes are available in the church coffee shop during the morning. For more information about the market, including future dates and photos of some of the crafts, take a look at our website.



www.northwoodcraftmarket.co.uk

Like us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter @CraftNorthwood

Email: northwoodcraftmarket@hotmail.co.uk

Telephone Susan on **07780 601842**

Love your bike? Then it makes sense to register it at www.bikeregister.com

Once you register with BikeRegister, you will enjoy a number of benefits which mean your bike will be a less attractive target for thieves, and if stolen and recovered by the Police, your bike can easily be returned to you. It is free to register, then you have the option buy various security kits if you wish.

The scheme is recommended by the Metropolitan Police and CrimeStoppers.



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

www.northwoodresidents.co.uk

WALKIES!

You never saw fat people when I was a child. This was partly because it was just after the war, and there was nothing to eat except spam and beetroot. Gluttony never stood a chance.

But also, it was because we walked everywhere. No-one had a car, and bus fare was money needed elsewhere. We walked to school. My father walked to work. My mother walked to work. We walked to the park, the library, the swimming baths, the pictures. At weekends, for a change, we took a green-line bus into the country and went for a walk.

Humans were designed by Nature to walk. It doesn't only exercise the legs and the lungs: it lowers blood pressure, improves blood flow, strengthens the back, aids digestion, and massages the internal organs – heart, liver, kidneys, the whole mixed grill.

It frees the mind to sort out problems, write poetry, or just drift pleasantly away like a big soap bubble. And while you drift, those legs scissor away down there all on their own, without instruction, taking you from A to B absolutely free of charge. It's a miracle.

These days our poor children, taken everywhere by car, don't get to splash through puddles, crunch through snow, scuff

through leaves, smell the sweet pungency of hot pavements in summer, enjoy the simple satisfaction of getting from one end of the street to the other without mechanical intervention.

In this, as in so much, America leads the way. Nobody walks. Indeed, many towns are designed so that you *can't* walk. They have no pavements, just ten lane highways, lined with malls, in which every service, from Mothercare to Funeral Home, can be reached in a few steps from your giant, easy-to-use parking space. People even drive from one side of a shopping mall to the other.

A Californian university recently calculated that the average American walks less than 1.4 miles a week. That's about 350 yards a day - what the average person clocks up looking for the remote.

But we're catching up. My next-door neighbour and I belonged to the same gym. It was eight minutes walk away, about half a mile. One day I said to her, "Why don't we walk up together?"

She gave me an odd look and said, "I go in the car."

**And what did she do when she got there?
Thirty minutes on the treadmill.**

Cynthia Ellis



NRA Member to run London Marathon for MS Research 23rd April 2017

Stephanie Lindley has a place in the London Marathon to run for the MS Society. She says, "My daughter who is 38 was diagnosed with MS 10 years ago, just after her son was born. Every month she has an infusion but the side effects of this infusion can cause a deadly brain disease. I am trying to raise money to help MS sufferers to be free from this unbearable worry. My other reason for doing this is that I will be 70 this year and have wanted to enter for some years now, so I thought if I don't do it now I never will. Please be generous."

So far, Stephanie has raised £3,050 towards her target of £3,500 – keep on running!

JustGiving: <http://www.justgiving.com/Stephanie-Lindley>
or call **07958 643307** if you would like to give a **cheque or cash**

THANK YOU!

The Harrow Marquetry Group

THE HARROW MARQUETRY GROUP is a long-established group and has been going since 1978. It is one of 22 groups throughout the country which are affiliated to the Marquetry Society.

You might well ask 'Just what is Marquetry?' Well, it's the craft and art of making pictures, decorative designs and patterns by the skilful use of the grain, figure and colour of both natural and coloured wood veneers. Other materials can also be used. The separate parts of the picture or design are cut to shape, assembled and glued to a prepared base.

In June 2016 we participated in the Marquetry Society's 64th Annual Exhibition and Competition which took place in Bexley. Members from around the country exhibited some of their beautiful pieces of work, both pictorial and other items to which marquetry had been applied. Several of our members were successful in winning prizes in some of the categories. As a group we came joint first with the Staffordshire Group.

Marquetry is simpler to do than you might think and we can show you how! It is a hobby that anyone regardless of age or gender can learn.

For further information, you can contact our chairman, Tony Gillett on 0208 203 1190 or view our page on the Marquetry Society website: www.marquetry.org. We meet on Friday evenings in the Hatch End Free Church Hall, Rowlands Avenue, corner of Uxbridge Road, Hatch End, HA5 4DF between 7.30 and 10.00pm.



Winning exhibits by two of our members

Friends of Michael Sobell Hospice - Events

Michael Sobell Hospice at Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year and will be holding some very special events to mark this milestone. Here are a few:

Easter Egg-stravaganza Easter Egg Hunt Saturday 8th April 11.30am – 1.00pm

Join in our new and egg-citing Easter egg hunt where no child will leave empty handed! Find as many eggs as you can within the time limit, the more you find, the bigger your delicious prize egg will be. There will also be lots of Easter-themed crafts, games and activities to keep the little ones entertained on the day! Fun for all the family, ages 5-12 years welcome. Early bunny offer of only £6.50 in advance or pay £8.50 on the day. Registration at 10.45am.

MSH Plant Sale Saturday 6th May 10.00- 12.00am

Get your gardens ready for Spring and pick up some blooming marvellous plants and flowers at the annual MSH Plant Sale organised by the award-winning team of volunteer gardeners at the hospice. Entry and parking is FREE!

On Your Bike Cycling Challenge Sunday 14th May, 8.00am

Get on your bike and pedal 40 miles to celebrate 40 years of care provided by Michael Sobell Hospice. This challenging route takes riders throughout the beautiful local countryside and starts and ends at the hospice in Northwood. Registration

at 07.30am ride starts at 08.00am. Riders are asked to raise sponsorship for this event.

Ladies in the Night Disco Fever Walk Friday 16th June, 10pm

Join us for a very special 70s themed Ladies in the Night Disco Fever Walk this summer to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the hospice. Choose from a 5½ or 9-mile challenge through the local area. Tickets to this event are £20 before 9th June and £25 thereafter or on the night. Entry fee includes a T-shirt, fundraising pack, refreshments and breakfast. So, bring out the disco diva or the soul man in you and get your ticket online today for the biggest disco party of the year and raise money for your local hospice. Children 11-16 years old are welcome as long as accompanied by an adult.



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

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

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

Michael Sobell Hospice,
Gate 3 Mount Vernon Hospital,
Northwood, HA6 2RN



Northwood and District U3A

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

As we enter our 6th year we have over 700 members. Due to the increase in members attending our monthly meetings at Fairfield Church we have now "moved the walls back" as we were beginning to fill the hall and there was just not sufficient room for people to see and hear properly.

Our charity last year was Harefield Hospital and we were able to donate £870 to help their continuing excellent work. We have decided to continue with this support in 2017.

The number of Groups continues to increase with yet a further Mahjong in the pipeline. Also a new Scrabble Group is beginning shortly. Architecture, Buildings and Places now has

over 170 Members. This group has, apart from the main monthly meeting, several House Groups where members can choose their own format.

Art for Fun continues to help members to develop talents that they had never been aware of as does the Digital Photography Group. These groups are very ably run by John Turner and Howard Hershon respectively who have such enthusiasm for their subject. Who knows where this can lead, maybe a potential Rembrandt or David Bailey in amongst our members!

Other subjects covered are: Reading, History, Current Affairs, Opera Appreciation, American Elections (not to be missed), Reading, Singing for Fun, Ukulele, Transport Studies, London Walks, Bead Needle Weaving, Patchwork I will stop there but the list goes on.

We will be holding a Barn Dance on March 11th, Quiz Night on March 25th and a Beetle Drive on April 8th. Our U3A Holiday this year will be to Telford in Shropshire in September. A full programme of visits is planned which can be viewed on our website.

Unfortunately, due to limited space we are unable to fit in visitors at our monthly meetings but if we have aroused your interest and would like to know more, please use the contact page on our website to get in touch.

Indoor Boot Sales in aid of the Scout Hut Renewal Fund

Sundays: 26th March
28th May
25th June

at Scout HQ, 87 Northwood Way HA6 1RT

Doors open at 2.30pm

Entrance fee £1 from 2.30pm until 3pm, 50p thereafter.

Hot and cold refreshments available



Enquiries: Sharon on 07803 296794 or
Wendy on 07591 100340
beaverwendy@outlook.com

u3asites.org.uk/northwood

Maureen Crimmins

Northwood Lions Club



LOTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO. Northwood Lions Club is looking forward to another busy year. Our fundraising activities will include having stalls at four fêtes: Eastcote House Summer Picnic in June; Uxbridge Auto Show in July; Eastcote Cricket Club Fête in August, and Pinner Village Show in September. We hope to have store collections at Sainsbury's in Pinner and Tesco in Rickmansworth. Also of course we have our weekly Saturday Market at the 'Lions Den', 195 Pinner Road (next door to the Royal Mail Delivery Office, near the Iron Bridge). We welcome donations of clothes, toys, bric-a-brac, small furniture - in fact practically anything! Contact Robert for collections.

IT'S SAFE TO ENTER THIS LIONS DEN! This popular weekly event, which is like a combination of boot sale, social club and charity shop has been established for more than fifty years. All this fundraising enables us to support local organisations, such as Northwood Live at Home, Sunshine School for the Blind, Paul Strickland Scanner Appeal, Hearing Dogs, Hillingdon Carers Cafés, and many, many more.

In April, we'll be holding another of our twice-yearly presentation evenings, when we hand over cheques to

deserving local causes; we distribute around £25,000 a year, and with your support at our various events, especially the Saturday Market, we hope to continue for many years to come!

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

We're always in need of goods to sell; membership enquiries are always welcome.

Robert can be contacted on **07860 324395**

Visit

www.northwoodlions.org.uk

Robert Green

20 Years of the Northwood Live at Home Scheme

FOUNDED IN 1997, the Northwood Live at Home Scheme supports older people locally who still live independently, but find it increasingly difficult to get around and may be feeling isolated. The staff and volunteers organise a range of regular activities to enable members to socialise, exercise, share healthy meals, participate in outings and generally improve their wellbeing and enjoyment of life. For those who wish it, we offer a befriending service.

ALL OUR CHRISTMAS EVENTS were well attended and much fun was had. For the first time, a group went to Weymouth for a "Tinsel and Turkey" holiday. A traditional Christmas Lunch was enjoyed at St John's URC, Cannon Lane Singers led carol singing at Soup & Sandwich and Rachel Hill entertained the Friendship Group by singing seasonal songs.

OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISING MUSICAL EVENING took place on 19th November. It was a great success with everyone present enjoying a champagne and canapé reception, a delicious meal and dancing to Stardust Big Band, as well as raising much needed funds for the Scheme. The atmosphere this year was the best yet with so many people on the dance floor, including the Mayor, Cllr John Hensley, and his wife Diane. The Northwood Councillors together with COOK donated the canapés and many local businesses and individuals contributed in various other ways. The Mayor gave a short speech at the end to highlight the increasing need for support for older people and our importance to the community.

DUE TO DEMAND, we have started an additional exercise class. This is tailored to the needs of older people to maintain balance and flexibility. If you know of anyone who might benefit, please get in touch on the number below. A complete list of current activities is available on our webpage.

VICTIMS OF OUR OWN SUCCESS, the increase in membership means that we are again in need of more **befriending volunteers**. Please contact us if you feel you would like to help by visiting a lonely older person once a week or so for tea and a chat. New **drivers** are also needed to enable vulnerable members to attend activities. Training is given to all volunteers, who also benefit from their involvement.



Rachel Hill entertains the Friendship Group

ENQUIRIES FROM POTENTIAL MEMBERS are very welcome. Anyone in the Northwood area age 60+ is eligible. Membership is free, but a small charge is made for activities to help cover costs. If you are interested in joining either as a member or volunteer, our staff would be delighted to hear from you.

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

Jo Wild, Chairman

Ruislip Woods Festival will be at a new location this year.

Join us in **BAYHURST WOOD ON**
Sunday 14th May, 12noon to 4.30pm

- ♦ **Birds of Prey in action**
- ♦ **Woodland Crafts**
- ♦ **Ferret Racing**
- ♦ **Children's Woodland Crafts**
- ♦ **Charcoal Burning**
- ♦ **Family Pet Dog Show**

FREE ENTRY & CAR PARK
Breakspear Rd N, UB9 6LZ



Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society

20 March: **A History of Harefield Hospital**; Andrew Willis
Harefield Hospital Ex Employee & Patient

24 April: **Mr Guy's Hospital and the Caribbean**; Jane Bowden-Dan
Fulham & Hammersmith HS

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

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



A poster for CHI KRI YOGA with Naika. It features a woman in a black yoga outfit performing a pose. The text includes: "CHI KRI YOGA with Naika", "Northwood Every Tuesday Evening 7:30pm - 9:00pm", "Asana Pranayama Meditation", "Beginners welcome", "Contact me on: naika@chikri.com 07941 57 70 78", and "25% off for a Limited Period only!".

A poster for Northwood Bowling Clubs. It features a hand holding a bowling ball. The text includes: "Northwood Bowling Clubs", "www.northwoodbowling.co.uk", "BOWLS CLUBS OPEN DAY", "SUNDAY 21ST MAY 1:00 PM ONWARDS", "COME ALONG AND TRY YOUR HAND AT THIS GREAT GAME", "COMPETITIONS AND PRIZES", "REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE", "NO CHARGE NO SPECIAL CLOTHES", and "Chestnut Avenue Northwood HA6 1HR".

Christopher Pitta Clocks

Tel: 020 8863 3434
Mob: 07423-054191

email: chrispitta@hotmail.co.uk



If your clock is in need of repair
And you don't know what to do
Just call me up and in a trice
I'll fix it up for you

No hidden shocks or surprises
I will tell you then and there
Just what you can expect to pay
At a price that you can bear.

All my work is guaranteed.

Perfect Nails

Established 20 years

For Everyday
or just
Special Occasions



Experience the delight in a
Set of Beautiful - *Natural Looking*
Artificial - Nails

Enjoy a relaxing
Manicure and/or Pedicure

All in the comfort of your home



For day or evening
appointments:
Phone **Kryta**
on **020 8866 9879**

News from St John's URC

2017 GOT OFF TO AN EVENTFUL START. By the time this newsletter reaches you, St John's will have had its annual January Burns Supper to celebrate the literary success of Robert Burns and fundraise for ScotsCare, World Prayer Day on 3rd March and its first art exhibition. In fact, depending on when you get your newsletter you might just be able to catch the exhibition if you haven't already. Until 21st March, ex-Northwood resident and founding member of Northwood Community Arts, Petra Geggie has a display of "A few of my favourite paintings" at the church.

There is a lot more planned for the year apart from the usual reading, gardening and Tuesday concerts. This year marks the 500th anniversary of the reformed tradition when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the church doors in Wittenburg, Germany. We won't be nailing any statements to our new glass doors, but have a range of talks and discussions to mark the occasion. And in October we have another Open House event which we hope you'll be able to attend.

Details for all the events will be posted on the church noticeboards and on the website. Please do come along and see what's happening.

Telephone: 01923 829166
Website: www.urcnorthwood.org
Email: stjohnsnorthwood@btconnect.com



Photo courtesy of Pieter Stallinger

Northwood Community Arts at St John's

It's been a busy time since the last newsletter. In October, we had a Bubbling Cauldron event – nothing to do with Halloween other than being around the same time. It was an opportunity for creative juices to be stimulated and to produce some results. Painted pebbles, big knitting, face painting, storytelling and music all featured during the day.



Bubbling Cauldron Activities

Since then we've been planning the programme for 2017.

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: On 27th May we welcome back Garlic Theatre with their production of *Jack and the Beans Talk* In August, Circus Skills will be with us for a week.

More on Jack at <http://garlictheatre.org.uk/jack.html>
And on Circus Skills at

www.albertandfriendsinstantcircus.co.uk

POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP is for the slightly older or more mature and meets on the first Monday of every month between 2pm and 3.30pm. Tuesdays sees the **Sew 'n Sew Group** do their thing between 1pm and 3pm.

An ongoing project is the 100+ years of shopping in Northwood. If you are interested in sharing your stories of Northwood past, finding out what Northwood was like or want to do something a little more creative around the theme, get in touch. There's a role for everyone.

Other developments are in the pipeline: a drama reading group, poetry prose and song, as well as creative events for little people and more art exhibitions. If you would like to get involved in any of these and to explore other art-related avenues, please get in touch as we're looking for volunteers to join our management committee.

Further information can be found on the website:

www.northwoodcommunityarts.co.uk

or email northwood.community.arts@gmail.co.uk

Facebook: NorthwoodCommunityArts

Twitter: @NorthwoodArts

Northwood & District Community Association

What we need in these drab winter days is a chance to do things to cheer ourselves up - and hopefully this is what our various sections offer. I know that although we enjoy the bowls, card games, keep fit etc, a lot of the enjoyment comes from the social side with a chance for a chat over a cuppa! The bowls section now has new mats and bowls and this has necessitated applying new techniques - a challenge but people are adapting quickly.

Our AGM is on 24th April at 8 pm in the URC, Joel Street, Northwood Hills and you would be made very welcome if you wanted to come along to meet the members and see what

the Association has to offer. There will also be a chance to chat over light refreshments after the meeting.

Next year the Association will be celebrating its 70th anniversary and we hope to hold a celebratory luncheon to mark the occasion.

Not having our own hall is sometimes a disadvantage - but by using the three local church halls and rooms our meetings are all accessible by public transport - so give me a call to find out which of our activities you would like to try.

For more information please call **01923 836346**

Pat Dunhill

£100,000 APPEAL FOR NEW 1ST NORTHWOOD SCOUTING CENTRE

An enlarged and modern facility for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers

APPEAL LAUNCHED. On the 1st of March at Fairfield Church in Northwood Hills, the 1st Northwood Scout Group launched its £100,000 appeal to replace the existing Scout Hut with an enlarged Scouting Centre. The launch was attended by the Mayor of Hillingdon Cllr John Hensley, and the Deputy Mayor Cllr Carol Melvin.



Artist's impression of the new Scouting Centre

We are fortunate to have as our Patrons for the appeal Nick Hurd MP and Councillor Carol Melvin. Nick Hurd was unable to attend, but addressed the meeting via a pre-recorded video.

The current Hut in Northwood Way was built in 1956; after 60 years of hard use it is no longer economical to maintain and repair. Building the new centre is planned to commence in the summer of 2018.

Whilst Scouting is better known for its challenging outdoor activities and adventures, many skills taught by the Scout Leaders take place inside the Hut. These include cooking, IT skills including computers and iPhones, map reading including use of GPS, first aid, bicycle maintenance and DIY. The existing hut is in use five days a week throughout the year.

DOING THE SUMS. The budget for the new building has been set at £170,000. We already have a considerable sum of money set aside in reserves from the last 10 years of Jumble Sales, and we shall be getting a Capital Grant from our Scout District. We have set ourselves the challenging target to raise the remaining £100,000 in the next 12 months, so that we can place orders for the building during the Spring of 2018.

YOU CAN HELP TOO! We are appealing to all current and past scouts and their parents and grandparents to make contributions, either by donating personally or organising their own fund-raising activities with the slogan "Raise £274 per day for a year." **Were YOU a scout? Would you like to give something back in return for the great times you had?**

We are also asking local businesses, clubs and organisations to support the Campaign, in the spirit of "Supporting the Young People of Northwood". Major donations will be recognised on a Donations Wall when the new building is finished.

If you would like to find out more please contact Richard Plume on 01923 827409, email: fundraising@1stnorthwoodscouts.org.uk or visit www.1stnorthwoodscouts.org.uk
Your donation can be gift aided. By the time you read this newsletter, we will have an online donation capability, using MyDonate, see website for details.



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Our advice centres on finding the best possible direction to head, for all situations faced in the current but constantly evolving property market. For example, due to the changes in tax implications commencing April 2017, the government's decision to limit tax relief on buy-to-lets could result in landlords paying tax on their entire rental revenue, in comparison with the current requirement of paying tax on just the profit accumulated. This could result in many landlords being forced to sell up. A potential and quite sought-after solution to this drastic change is for landlords to switch their property to a HMO, where they are then able to increase their rental income, ultimately leaving them with more profit after tax!

If you would like to discuss your individual property or portfolio requirements with one of our experienced team, please feel free to contact us on 01923 602 760, or for any mortgage enquiries, please call 0208 427 5057.

We look forward to meeting and working alongside as many people in the local area as possible.

Northwood Residents' Association 51st Annual General Meeting

Thursday 6th April 2017

at Northwood Methodist Church, Oaklands Gate, Northwood

Tea & coffee served from 7.30 pm; meeting starts at 8.00 pm

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome and introduction from Tony Ellis, Chairman.
- 2) To receive the Chairman's Report for 2016.
- 3) **Guest speaker.** Squadron Leader James Tenniswood will talk about the history of RAF Northolt.
- 4) To receive the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2016.
- 5) To set the rate of subscription for the year 2017 (currently set at a minimum of £2 per household and £10 per business).
- 6) To elect the Officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Hon Auditor
- 7) To elect an Executive Committee:
Members standing for re-election: Mr Paul Barker, Mr Andrew Egan, Mr David Goodman, Mr Philip Green, Mrs Marie-Françoise Meyer, and Mr Peter Lansdown.
Co-opted members seeking election: Ms Hoda Lacey, Mr Avinash Doshi
- 8) To elect the President, currently Mr Alan Prue; and Vice President, currently Mrs Valerie Mellor.
- 9) Any Other Business.
 - a. Request from 1st Northwood Scout Group for funding for a new Scouting Centre
- 10) Open Forum with our local councillors and representatives from the police present.
Nick Hurd MP will attend if his ministerial duties permit.

Note: 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 28 days before the AGM.

All Northwood residents and businesses are invited to attend.

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