

# Northwood Residents' Association



Newsletter 154

Autumn 2012

## Chairman's Report - Tony Ellis



### Introduction

Summer is now a distant memory. After the excitement of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the Olympics, life has returned to normal.

As was shown in the Olympics, committed volunteers are the key to the success of most organisations and events. Many of you are volunteers in the various clubs, societies, churches and other organisations which make up the rich fabric of life in Northwood. Those of you who are not volunteers, I heartily recommend your becoming one as volunteering results in a more rewarding and satisfying life.

With the dark evenings and inclement weather upon us, I would remind you that the elderly become more isolated, often not able to leave their homes. If you have an elderly neighbour, please make the effort to check that he or she is OK; that bit of kindness and human contact will make all the difference to their lives.

### Police

This year the local Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) has been continuously understaffed. This is a problem that is common throughout the Borough of Hillingdon. The Met has promised that the situation will be resolved as part of a reorganisation in 2013 which is supposed to put more constables and PCSOs on the streets, but we are not confident that this will happen as many promises have been broken in the past.

I have written to the Borough Commander, Chief Superintendent Steve Kershaw, expressing our concerns and asking when we can expect a full contingent again. Watch this space.

### Northwood High Street

We have been lobbying our councillors for several years to find money for improving this area. Recently they succumbed and held a consultation with local residents. A summary of that meeting appears on Page 9.

The Old Folks Dining Club, formerly the Old Cinema, has been replaced with a new building

containing eight flats above the Kate Fassnidge Community Hall. Details are on Page 8.

### Highfield Road railway bridge

Earlier this year, Transport for London (TfL) announced that the bridge was falling down and that as they couldn't afford to repair or rebuild it, they were proposing to close it to vehicular traffic. Now they have had a change of heart as it is not possible to build turning circles both sides of the bridge as required by law. We will keep you informed.

### The Committee

I am pleased to announce that we have a new Chief Road Steward. Paul Barker, who is known to many of you as an Area Road Steward, took up office in August. Now he is on board, we hope to make progress on improving our membership database. One aim is to communicate with members by email.

Sadly Rachel Owen (Health), Jayesh Patel (Business) and Charles Ellis (Planning) have resigned for personal reasons. Thank you all for your support and hard work.

We now have four vacancies on the committee as we have yet to fill the Traffic and Highways position vacated by Lisa Maclay in March. **This is your opportunity to make a difference in Northwood by volunteering to take one of these positions.** If you are interested, please contact me. If you would like to attend a committee meeting, let me know. We meet at 8pm in the Holy Trinity Parish Rooms on the second Tuesday of every month.

### Conclusion

I still thoroughly enjoy meeting members, answering your phone calls and emails. Once again, thanks are due to our Road Stewards and Area Road Stewards. Without you, the NRA wouldn't function. Thanks to committee members for your loyalty and hard work and finally, thanks also to our two hardworking councillors.

Tony Ellis

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

Tel: 01923 821237

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## Environment



### Garden Matters

Autumn leaves are piling up fast. They all need clearing up, but not by adding to the burden of clearing public roads and pavements. So, a message to whoever is wielding the leaf blower or rake, whether it is you or your

gardener, please ensure that all YOUR leaves are composted or go into your green recycling bags.

While on the subject of gardens – we have all seen unusually vigorous growth of trees and shrubs this year, making it difficult to keep up with pruning. Please check that growth from your garden is not overhanging or impeding the pavement to an unreasonable degree.

### Christmas Rubbish Collections

Take a deep breath, Christmas is coming, and with it the potential changes to our rubbish and recycling collection times. Last year there was confusion about the dates which led to some appalling mess in Northwood over the holiday period. Currently the LBH website indicates that

there will be collections as normal over the holiday period in Northwood. Please check the website at [www.hillingdon.gov.uk](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk) carefully for new information as we approach Christmas. Despite our pleas for clarity, the information may still be displayed on more than one web page.

### Litter Bins

Disappearing litter bins? This happens because of misuse. When street bins are used for bags of domestic rubbish and are therefore left overflowing most of the time, LBH will eventually remove the bin completely. This has happened recently in a number of locations in Northwood, and the bins are then sorely missed by those who would use them for litter.

On the bright side, the Council is not averse to installing new bins occasionally at our request, and a new litter bin should be in place in Eastbury Road by now, as well as a new dog waste bin at the junction with Frithwood Avenue.

*Anna Davis*

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

## Traffic and Highways

**Speed Humps not fit for purpose.** We have expressed concern over the seemingly constant breakup of speed humps in the Northwood area with the on-going need to repair these. The break-up of road surfaces in the area and poorly seated manhole covers, which generate twenty-four hour annoyance to residents from the noise generated as traffic passes over them, has also been made known to the Council together with a request that action be taken.

**Dangerous Turns.** Our local councillors have been informed of vehicles making illegal and extremely dangerous turns around the traffic island at the junction of The Avenue and Rickmansworth Road and requested to consult with council officers to determine how the island can be extended or otherwise modified to prevent this occurring.

**Illegal Turns.** The Hillingdon Police have been informed of the fact that vehicles are frequently turning illegally into Northgate from Ducks Hill Road ignoring the signage prohibiting this and requesting action be taken. As yet we have not had a response.

*Alan Prue*

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

## Metropolitan Line

**New trains:** there are no “old” trains on the Met Line any more, the last having been recently decommissioned.

There are 58 new-style “S” stock trains. Of these, 37 will have to go back to Derby for various modifications and improvements. This will all be done under “guarantee”, so at no cost to London Underground. They will be going back a few at a time, over the next year and trains will be brought in from other lines to bridge the gap.

All new trains will eventually be fitted with hanging straps (as suggested by FOMLUC during the design stage!) in response to many complaints about the horizontal bars being too high for many passengers to hold on to.

**Water ingress in the Finchley Road area:** The vast majority of leaks in the area between Baker Street and Finchley Road have finally been repaired by Thames Water. This has been an ongoing problem, but the repairs and improved drainage should mean that, even when it rains, flooding should be far less likely to happen.

**Croxley Link:** The Public Inquiry took place during October into the proposed link which will re-route the

Watford branch from Croxley up to Watford Junction via Watford General Hospital and the High Street. This will entail closing the current Watford station in Cassiobury Park. A decision will be made shortly by the Secretary of State as to whether it will go ahead. If so, work will start in late 2014, with a view to being completed in 2016.

**“Good Service” announcements:** complaints about the recorded announcements continuing even when service is disrupted continue to fall on deaf ears. This is one of the biggest sources of irritation for passengers. London Underground insists that people say they want to be given the “reassurance” that there is a good service, which is all well and good **if** that’s really the case. We don’t know who their focus groups are, but they surely don’t represent the vast majority of passengers who would like to assume that there is a good service unless they are told otherwise. We will continue to press the point.

*Lisa Maclay*

*Federation of Metropolitan Line Users’ Committees*

## Autumn in the Woods

In November the cows leave the common for their winter break. However there are still jobs to be done by the Rangers and the volunteers through the winter months. The focus will be on clearing and widening the paths. This allows air to get to the damp ground and help dry it out quicker. The regular work of coppicing will also continue.

It has just been announced that contracts have been awarded by LBH to contractors. This is for the building of the new overflow car park and Woodland Centre at the Lido. Work is expected to start shortly.

Miles Gillman

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## Planning

Unfortunately Mr Charles Ellis has decided to stand down as Planning Advisor and for the time being I will take over this brief.

Since the last Newsletter meetings have been held with James Rodger, who has responsibility for Planning and Planning Enforcement at Hillingdon Council and also with members of the Planning Enforcement team, to enable the NRA representatives to establish a better relationship and

understanding of the council's policies in the general planning arena.

It had been intended to give an overview in this issue of the legitimate reasons for objecting to planning applications, however due to the timing of the changeover in responsibilities this will now be deferred until the next issue.



Alan Prue

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

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## From the Treasurer

**Feel Good Boost.** The Olympics have proven a great success, both in terms of the organisation and execution of the event and in the bucketsful of medals won by Great Britain. The debate about whether it was good or bad for Britain continues. It generated infrastructure projects for East London and certainly provided a massive boost to the feel good factor in the UK. Whether tourism gained by it remains to be seen as does the trade in shops, bars and restaurants.

**NRA income down.** The games have been blamed for reductions in house sales since people have been pre-occupied with the incredible events. Hopefully that is also the case for a lull in subscriptions! Receipts are slightly lower this year than at the same time last year. But now the Games and school holiday season is over normality returns; euphoria can continue and the positive benefits continue to enhance the UK. Let the good will aid in subscription collection.

**Please make life easy** for the Road Stewards. You can help by ensuring one visit is enough to collect all subs, have cheques pre-written, payable to "Northwood Residents' Association", or return envelopes without delay. That makes life so much easier.

**Our mandate.** The subs remain at a modest level because membership rates are high and the NRA is a voluntary organisation. Having high membership levels

provides the NRA with a strong mandate and proven representation; it is for this reason your membership is so important.

**Communication is important.** The Road Stewards also provide a conduit for information flows so if there are any concerns they can be passed on to the committee. Of course, communication direct to the committee is another route.

Since the membership database is up and running the NRA has the capability to email all members so information can be circulated, or opinion sought. Please provide your email address to your Road Steward or send an email stating your name and postal address to either [membership@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:membership@northwoodresidents.co.uk) or to [chiefroadsteward@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:chiefroadsteward@northwoodresidents.co.uk) so the mailing list can be completed. We will not use your email address for anything other than NRA business.

Not all members will have email addresses, but there are still means of communication via the newsletters, the notice board in Waitrose and word of mouth. Members can disseminate information and also encourage non-members to join. Do please keep the subs flowing and membership thriving.



David Blowers

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

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## Northwood Recipe Book.

A group of Northwood residents are raising funds for **Macmillan Cancer Support** by publishing their own recipe book. Many of the contributors first met as members of the 'Northwood International Babysitting Coop' in the 1990s. Once our children were grown we continued to meet regularly. As more of us gained first-hand experience of dealing with cancer we turned our regular September meeting into a 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. This year we also compiled a book containing the many recipes we have shared with each other over the years. It contains dishes from all over the world, reflecting the international nature of our members. Priced at just £5 it makes an ideal small gift, a memento of Northwood and a good way to support a charity which does so much for so many people. If you would like a copy please email [joannelawrence@talktalk.net](mailto:joannelawrence@talktalk.net)



## Health Matters

**Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group (HCCG)** will replace Hillingdon Primary Care Trust (HPCT) on 1 April 2013, but it is unlikely that the HCCG will be authorised to commission services without a 'mentor' for the first year due to a large financial deficit inherited from the PCT. Were adequate funding to be invested and adequate staffing assured, the CCGs should provide improved health care, but given the financial shortfall in Hillingdon, we may wonder where the inevitable cuts will come.

**A draft Care and Support Bill** proposes to help people remain active and independent, to provide specialised housing for the elderly or disabled and to offer greater support to carers.

**The Consultation on the paper 'Shaping a Healthier Future'** closed on 8 October. It proposed changes to NHS services in North West London, covering a population of nearly two million, and it is worth noting some important points from the document, relevant to Northwood residents. In respect of hospital services, three options were under consideration. In all three options

- (a) Hillingdon and Northwick Park Hospitals, remain as two of five major hospitals, retaining all the services they currently provide.
- (b) Harefield and Mount Vernon Hospitals remain, amongst others, as specialist hospitals.
- (c) Northwick Park Hospital retains a hyper-acute stroke unit (HASU) for initial treatment of patients having a stroke. The hospital will become a centre for vascular surgery.
- (d) The major centre for the care of N W London patients having a heart attack will be Hammersmith Hospital.

It is proposed to close certain services (such as A & E) at certain hospitals so as to provide enhanced 24/7 cover at the major hospitals. Unfortunately, this means that some patients will have to travel further for some aspects of their care, although clinicians believe that it is more important to get the right care under the supervision of the right clinicians. It is anticipated that community services will be strengthened, thus often bringing medical care nearer to the patient's home. It is planned to give patients better access to GPs and more support to take better care of themselves. Specialist care would be more centralised and medical care would, where necessary, be integrated between the various clinical agencies.

It is expected that the changes will improve care both in hospitals and outside. It is worth noting that the centralisation of stroke and trauma services has had a very good outcome, with many lives being saved.

**Hillingdon Hospital Foundation Trust** has a new Chief Executive, Shane DeGaris, and the hospital has been given over £12 million to improve the A&E department and Urgent Care Centre and to create a new Admissions Unit. The Hospital has been designated a cancer unit for the London Cancer Alliance, whilst Mount Vernon Cancer Centre is one of four designated cancer centres.

*Valerie Mellor*  
[health@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:health@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

### Eastbury Surgery

Eastbury Road, HA6 3BG

Are you a patient registered at the Eastbury GP Surgery?

If so, look out for information about the **Patient Participation Group** and the **Inaugural General Meeting** which all adult registered patients will be welcome to attend.

Date, time and location will be publicised at the Surgery, on the Surgery website, [www.eastburysurgery.com](http://www.eastburysurgery.com) and at Northwood Library.

Nominations will be invited for the PPG committee to be elected at the IGM.

### The Mount Vernon Comforts Fund

charity continues to thrive. Through its book shop, general stores, ward trolley, radiotherapy tea bar and book shop it raises considerable amounts of money each year which is spent on all sorts of equipment for the hospital.

Recent purchases have included 14 electric beds and an operating trolley for Trinity Ward, costing a total of £21,800, plus equipment for cancer treatment and physiotherapy.

The sweet shop now contains a small seating area where patients, relatives or staff can sit and rest away from the hustle and bustle of the hospital. It is open between 10am and 3.30pm, Monday to Friday. Newspapers and magazines are available to browse and you can purchase from our wide selection of snacks, chocolates and cold drinks.

Please do continue to support our shops, which are all located in the area adjacent to the Minor Injuries Unit.

*Lisa Maclay*



**Badgers.** We have recently received a number of reports of badgers being active in Northwood gardens. Often the only evidence is of a large hole in a garden fence and signs of digging, but a lady in The Avenue actually witnessed a badger breaking into her coal shed. By law, badgers are protected and we are not allowed to interfere with a badger sett. If you wish to badger-proof your boundary use chain-link fencing buried 15cm in the ground and at least 45cm high. You can also use an electric fence for a while to deter the badger without harming it. Dave Kirby of Old Bill's Pest Control (see ad on Page 12) can organise this for you.

## Northwood Safer Neighbourhoods Team



The current Northwood Safer Neighbourhoods Team is PC Sarah Fordham and PCSO John

Usher. Northwood Hills SNT has also moved into Northwood Police station and their team consists of PC Max Christmas, PC John O'Brien and PCSO Ann Marie Chapman-Bennett.

In recent weeks we have conducted a burglary initiative in response to daytime burglaries in the area. This involved both Northwood and Northwood Hills teams working together on plain clothes patrols in an unmarked car for two days. During this operation vehicles and people were stopped and searched to deter offenders.

Northwood SNT has also been responding to many calls from local residents regarding parking issues around some

schools. In particular we have had increased patrols outside Northwood College and Frithwood Primary School when appropriate tickets have been given to motorists committing offences.

Sarah Fordham PC 150XH

Tel: 020 8721 2545

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

Northwood Police Station is open to the public Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 11.00 to 13.00 when the volunteers will do their best to deal with your issues.

The Metropolitan Police Service has recently launched a new community messaging service called Neighbourhood Link that provides news and information about policing activity or initiatives, crime prevention advice as well as major incidents affecting your area. Register at [www.neighbourhoodlink.met.police.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodlink.met.police.uk)

## Northwood Community Sports for All

Northwood Residents' Association is seeking a Trustee to act for the Northwood Community Sports for All charity, replacing their nominated Trustee who is due to retire shortly.

Northwood Community Sports for All was formed as a registered charity 10 years ago to promote sport in the local community through use of the Jubilee Sports Field located next to the Northwood Cricket Club ground in Ducks Hill Road. Since 2006 the Field has been used regularly by organised groups from Holy Trinity School and Holy Trinity Church youth groups. It is available to hire by others.

The charity is managed by The Trustees who are accountable to the Charity Commission and Fields in Trust who granted the charity a 999-year lease in 2004. Three Foundation Trustees are nominated by Northwood Residents' Association, Holy Trinity C of E School and Holy Trinity Church, Northwood respectively; other Trustees are elected.

A Trustee of this charity would have an ability to work in committees with other Trustees and organisations as well as independently where required. They would be likely to have a passion for promoting sport particularly for school-aged children and would relish the opportunity to make a difference within our community. No remuneration is paid.

If you are interested in representing the NRA at Northwood Community Sports For All, please contact Chris Boulton at [cjb@boulton5.com](mailto:cjb@boulton5.com) or phone 01923 825564.

### Northwood Tennis Club

This summer our teams have had mixed fortunes in the various leagues we enter. In the inter-club summer tournament two Northwood residents were successful: Duncan Chorley won the men's singles and Ruth Holubecki won the veterans' mixed doubles.

At the social following our finals David George, another Northwood resident, was presented with a garden chair in recognition of his forty years of service as Hon Treasurer for the club.

During the winter months we hold a tournament and have a floodlit league for ladies and mixed teams involving other local clubs. We also enter sides for veterans' matches and continue with four club sessions weekly.

Our coach Simon is hoping to build on the success of the Olympics and encourage young and old to pick up a racquet either for the first time or to dust off their racquets and renew their tennis careers.

We are a small friendly tennis club run by volunteers so why not contact us and give tennis a try. Visit us at [www.northwoodtennisclub.co.uk](http://www.northwoodtennisclub.co.uk)

### Northwood & District Community Association

Well what a summer we have had, Wimbledon, Olympics, Paralympics, French Open – everyone I meet has square eyes from being transfixed with all these wonderful events. So it is back to normality now; our programme restarted in September and we would always welcome newcomers to any of our sections.

I attended the opening of the Kate Fassnidge Community Hall in September, a lovely building and hopefully when details are known of its facilities and costs, will be well used by the community.

November is a busy month for us, with a Ploughman's Lunch; then on 20th a Mini German Christmas Market, 2.45pm at the Oasis Lounge – do come, and in late November our annual Quiz Supper. It only costs £5.00 for annual membership of the Association – so why not join us? All our sections are value for money, cheapest being 50p per session and the most expensive £5. See the NRA website for more details.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Pat Dunhill, Secretary  
01923 836346

## Focus On Old Northwood High Street

Northwood High Street is a very special place - where else can you find a parade of independent shops and businesses offering such diverse services? From school outfitters to ironing, launderette to EBay agent, music lessons to swimming pool maintenance, High Street has got them all. Then there are several convenience shops, places to have your hair done, a lady who will alter your dress, another who will make covers for your sofa. And you can eat! Choose from Indian, Chinese or Portuguese food, or traditional fish 'n' chips. And the word on the street is that a greengrocer will be opening soon!

Councillors recently consulted with residents and business owners on what improvements they would like to see in High Street. (See Page 9). Hopefully, we will soon see the results of our councillors' endeavours to improve the Old High Street. In the meantime, take a walk down there and see for yourself all that High Street has to offer - and don't forget to go just round the corner to Pinner Road, there are even more useful businesses there.



### Alternatives Complementary Therapy, Podiatry Centre & Shop

Therapies, Podiatry, Gifts, Cards, Candles, Jewellery  
plus Planters, Baskets and Outdoor Plants in season

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

118 High Street On the corner of Emmanuel Rd. 01923 828832

**Alternatives** is primarily a therapy centre established 1993 with a shop that supports the practice. Our practitioners are Professional, Experienced, Qualified and Insured. We have an Osteopath, Podiatrist, Acupuncturists, Massage Therapists, Reflexologist, Counsellors, Psychotherapists, Pilates Instructor, Nutritional Therapist, Herbalist, Cranial Sacral Therapist & Dermalogica Beauty Therapist.

Our Podiatrist works closely with most of the local GPs providing a full Chiropody Service plus Gait Analysis and supply and fitting of Orthotics.

The shop sells quality cards, gifts, jewellery and candles alongside health products and in season we sell reasonably priced hanging baskets, planters and outdoor plants. You can park in Emmanuel Road.

### Let's Let Est 1996

Specialising in Lettings & Property Management  
Tailor Made Service for Landlords & Tenants  
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**34 HIGH STREET, NORTHWOOD, HA6 1BN**

Tel: 01923 822886 [lettings@letslet.com](mailto:lettings@letslet.com)  
[www.letslet.com](http://www.letslet.com)

**Let's Let** first opened in the Spring of 1996 and situated in Northwood High Street, which was then a quaint road with small individual businesses.

Specialising in residential lettings, we have built our reputation on honesty, efficiency and hard work providing a service second to none.

If you have a property to let, why not come in to see us? We can then take you smoothly through the lettings process and advise on any issues that may arise.

### Cosy Café

The Great British Café



Open  
Monday – Friday, 7am to 3pm  
Saturday, 8am to 3pm  
Sunday, 9am to 3pm

58 High Street, Northwood HA6 1BL  
Tel: 01923 840620

**Dawn's Cosy Café** is a traditional British place to eat. It is managed and run by Dawn who is always here to welcome and serve you. Cosy Café prides itself on good old home-cooked food: all-day breakfasts, snacks and lunches, freshly made sandwiches and rolls. If you fancy some traditional sweets, then Cosy Café also sells everything from flying saucers to pear drops.

We also provide daily papers, free Wi-Fi and all the latest gossip!  
We look forward to serving you soon.

### CHRISTIAN SCHAFFER

Musculoskeletal Podiatrist/Chiropodist  
BSc (Hons) Podiatry, MChS, HPC Reg

#### ALTERNATIVES

Complementary Therapy Centre  
118 High Street, Northwood  
Middlesex HA6 1BJ

Tel: 01923 828832

I am a Musculoskeletal Podiatrist/Chiropodist, working for many years in NHS clinics and hospitals; at Alternatives I have my private practice.

I carry out all normal Chiropody procedures, e.g. Corn and Callous removal, Verruca Treatments, Nail Cutting, etc.

I also treat and operate on Ingrown Toenails, deal with Plantar Fasciitis and carry out Gait Analysis (How your foot moves when walking or running and diagnosing musculoskeletal problems, etc) and the provision of Modular and Casted Orthotics where necessary, to correct problems.

**I receive referrals from local GPs and I am registered with most insurance companies.**



**Sunday Buffets  
12 - 4pm**

**Sunday & Monday  
Banquets £12.95**

**Free Home Delivery**

**Discounts  
on collections**

**36 High Street, Northwood**

**Tel: 01923 841561 [www.secretsofindia.co.uk](http://www.secretsofindia.co.uk)**

**At Secrets of India** you will find a fun, relaxed and friendly atmosphere combined with classical Indian dishes which retain their identity but are given a contemporary twist, mirroring the historic culture that has been given a modern day makeover. By creating individually crafted dishes, the restaurant takes the essence of traditional Indian flavours and seeks to provide a new style in which to appreciate them.

Come and join us for an evening full of fun, entertainment, brilliant food and great company, but remember...

... it's a Secret.

### Don't let pain hold you back



**Suzanne Cooper BSc Hons(Osteo)**  
Registered Osteopath  
& Medical Acupuncturist

Evening and weekend clinics

Call Alternatives of Northwood 01923 828832  
[www.alternativesnorthwood.co.uk](http://www.alternativesnorthwood.co.uk)

**Aches, pains or discomfort** can make everyday tasks and work difficult, affect sleep and generally stop us from enjoying life to the full. This is why we dedicate our energy to getting you relief from your pain quickly.

**Osteopathy** is a hands-on manual therapy which can help a wide range of conditions including back and neck pain, postural problems, minor sporting injuries, shoulder problems, knee pain and neck-related headaches. It is suitable for patients of all ages, including children and the elderly. We also offer medical acupuncture.

To find out more or book an appointment call 01923 828832.

## A response to the kind words in the last newsletter

We would like to thank Jill Besant for her kind words in the last newsletter. The support is comforting at what is a very difficult time for us. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our local community for their continuing support. After our father's death, we were overwhelmed with all the people who came over to offer their condolences, with hugs, tears, cards, flowers and food.

Everyone in the community has been amazing, and we have found comfort in your kind words. Our mother has also appreciated our female neighbours and customers who have visited her while she observes a period of mourning. We would like to take this opportunity to thank a few people in particular. First of all, our kind neighbours at Emmanuel Church, who took turns coming to the shop at 6am to help us deliver newspapers in the first few weeks after our father's death. Keith Barritt has been a true gentleman, delivering many of the newspapers for the first month, and he still continues to help us out today. Sharanjit Kaur has been a constant source of emotional support as well as pitching in and helping out without hesitation. And finally, Renate Majumdar. Many of you will have met her in the shop, where she has kindly given us her time and energies, so that we can both continue with our jobs. She is truly an amazing woman, to whom we owe so much we wouldn't even know where to begin.

Our parents moved to Northwood 27 years ago, as it had always been our father's dream to be his own boss, and Pat-a-Cake seemed like the perfect opportunity. Neighbours who have been here for that long know that the High Street was completely different then, with fresh meat, bread, fruit and vegetables sold on a street that was full of hustle and bustle. As the years have passed, and supermarkets have opened and people's lives have got busier, the High Street has felt the impact with shops having either to close down, or adapt to the changing needs. Echoing Jill's words in the last newsletter, we would urge you to continue to support local businesses, whose livelihoods rely on the custom of their neighbours.

Many, many thanks again for all your support,

Nisreen Mohamedali and Zainab Mamujee, daughters of the late Zakiyuddin 'Zak' Mamujee, Pat-a-Cake Shop.

## Please support Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre this Christmas.

Please can you help us? If you are able to spare some time to help with the sale of Christmas cards this year, we would be hugely grateful. There are a number of ways in which you may be able to help us:

- We run a stall selling cards in the reception area of the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre. The volunteers who spare a couple of hours each week to run this service would welcome more help. No special skills needed!
- Perhaps you'd like to hold a coffee morning or take the cards to your place of work? We can let you have packs of cards on a 'sale or return' basis or provide samples for you to take orders which we will despatch.

Of course, if you'd like to support the work of the LJMC more directly, please buy our cards. You can view the range at [www.ljmc.org](http://www.ljmc.org). To offer your help or find out more contact Sue Hordyj on 01923 844589 or [sue.hordyj@nhs.net](mailto:sue.hordyj@nhs.net)

## A New Community Hall for Northwood

The Kate Fassnidge Community Hall at 76 High Street, Northwood was officially opened on Friday 14th September 2012.

Following an introduction by Cllr Andrew Retter, Nick Hurd MP declared the Hall officially open. Mr Hurd said how much he had looked forward to this day. As his constituency office is nearby, he would drive past regularly and each time would think, "What a waste" and give a little sigh. He congratulated all parties involved for their persistence in seeing the project through. His final words were, "I declare the Hall open - let's use it!"

The site has had quite a history; many older Northwood residents still remember visiting the old cinema which was housed here and known variously as Northwood Picture House, The Picture Theatre, The Ritz, Northwood Cinema, The Playhouse and The Tatler. Then for many years it was the Northwood Old Folks Dining Club. In 1997 it was sold by the council to the Kate Fassnidge Memorial Trust. Kate Fassnidge was a wealthy landowner

in Uxbridge, who, with her husband, bequeathed Fassnidge Memorial Park and certain properties in the High Street in Uxbridge to the Council.

The building in Northwood High Street stood derelict for many years during which time various schemes for its use were put forward, then rejected. Finally, plans were agreed, the old building demolished and a new Community Hall has risen from the rubble.

The Kate Fassnidge Community Hall will be used as a Dining Club for the elderly once more, but will also be available for use by community groups. It boasts a state-of-the-art kitchen, plenty of storage space and the main hall is large enough to seat 60 people. Above the Hall are eight one-bedroom flats. The Hall will be run by a management committee.

To enquire about booking the Hall, please contact Frazine Johnson by email, [frazine@frazinejohnson.co.uk](mailto:frazine@frazinejohnson.co.uk) giving full details of your proposed use.



Northwood Cinema in 1913



Dining Club Demolition, August 2011



Community Hall Opening, September 2012

## Northwood's First Cinema

The newly-opened Kate Fassnidge Community Hall in the High Street is on the site of an interesting building that has had many uses over its life of nearly 100 years.

### A family concern

This structure was one of the first purpose-built cinemas in north-west London. The *Northwood Picture Theatre* opened in 1913, over 15 years before Ruislip had a cinema. The construction was commissioned by Mr Lill from the builder E S Reid of Eastbury Farm. It was operated by the Pope family, who lived opposite in what was then called Half Mile Lane. Albert was the manager and his wife Maude was usherette and sold tickets. To accompany the silent films, Winnie Sadler, Bert's sister, was the pianist and her husband Percy provided sound effects by means of a bass drum and coconut shells, as well as being the commissionaire. The team was completed by projectionist George Dale, the only non family member. It seated 425 people, making it the largest in the area.

During the First World War, Maude Pope had to run the theatre alone with the help of her two young sons who collected the films from Northwood Station by cart. After the war the Popes started a decorating business, and the cinema suffered mixed fortunes and many changes of

ownership and name. In 1921 Stanley Cinemas took it upmarket, renaming it *The Playhouse* and providing 'an orchestra' (presumably a small band) at every performance. It could not survive competition from a larger and more modern cinema and it closed in 1936 when the Rex opened in Northwood Hills.

### Eating and working

In 1942 it became a British Restaurant, serving wholesome food without the need for wartime ration coupons for a little as 1s 6d (8p), and in 1954 it was purchased by Ruislip-Northwood UDC to augment their overcrowded offices in Oaklands Gate. After the Borough of Hillingdon was formed in 1965, the building became a local housing office, but in 1975 the council granted a 21-year lease to Ruislip and Northwood Old Folks Association, who ran it as a much-valued dining club and social centre. When this lease was nearing its end, the council balked at the £94,000 estimated for essential repairs and agreed to dispose of the building to the Fassnidge Memorial Trust for a token sum, provided that the community uses could continue. Happily, after a long pause, the site is now back to being used for the community.

Simon Morgan  
RNELHS

## Councillors' Corner - Plans for High Street Improvements

**Cllr Scott Seaman-Digby reports:** On 2nd October Cllr Carol Melvin and I held a public meeting to get the views of residents and businesses regarding how we could improve Old Northwood around the High Street. We have already started to reap the benefits of the investment in Green Lane with new businesses opening and the whole look and feel improved. We wanted to work out what priorities residents and businesses have for the High Street, although we did start off by cautioning that there is currently no identified budget and any investment would have to be found and most likely bid for from other bodies.

Without letting that dampen our enthusiasm (we are good at getting past the negative aspects of local government after nearly 20 combined years as Councillors) we kicked off the meeting by explaining it was about capturing as wide an input as possible and then presenting back to residents and businesses what was feasible, affordable and the timetable that might apply.

A range of information, complaint, comments, praise, and general chitchat was exchanged before we wrapped up by getting the attendees to summarise the top priorities. These were given as:

1. Traffic speed must be reduced but no speed humps wanted
2. Parking needs to be improved
3. Pavements are awful on the residential side
4. Litter is an on-going issue
5. Hanging baskets and planting would be nice, please
6. Crossing safety needs to be improved
7. Shop frontages - can we get any grants for improving them?

Amongst the other points discussed were:

- Lorries that go down it cause vibrations and issues
- Parking not always patrolled - should we have meters with the free 30 mins to help wardens police the area?
- How can we stop people blocking drop kerbs?
- More business permit parking bays - can we do this in adjoining roads?
- Octagan Security CCTV cameras that LBH and the Police fitted have no maintenance contract - why is this? What can be done? Can we get a maintenance contract that the shops would contribute towards?
- Can we have 'nose in' parking like Northwood Hills - increase the parking spaces and take a little of the pavement?
- Can we have some heritage boards in the High Street to show the detailed history?  
Can we have some Welcome to 'Old Northwood' signs?
- 20 mph zones - works well in Green Lane and Kewferry Road. Can we have a 20mph limit in High Street? Cobble beds along the road - like in the continent to slow traffic?
- Can we get information from the police on accidents etc to support the speeding case?
- Visitors to the new hall - what will be the impact about the traffic flow in this area - where will the cars park for an event for the capacity of the hall at 70+. Fassnidge has only 2 public spaces for visitors - how will this impact - what can be done?
- Could we allow spaces at James Court to be hired by businesses for parking - they are very rarely used?
- Could businesses print a leaflet to shoppers - thank you for parking considerately with shopping offers?
- Can Hillingdon People publish an article on Northwood High Street?

Quite a list and one that has been passed to Council Officers for answers and guidance already (we did it live from the meeting - the wonders of modern technology). We plan to have a follow-up article in the next NRA newsletter and any interim points we will report via the NRA website and our Northwood Councillors' website

**[www.northwoodconservatives.org](http://www.northwoodconservatives.org)**

It will be a challenging task to make the changes people want but by taking one step at a time we can start to make a difference and respond to residents' and businesses' concerns and priorities. Thank you to all who came along! In the meantime, please do continue to call or email us with concerns - we are here to get your problems listened to and dealt with by the Council.

### Elected councillors for Northwood ward are:

Richard Lewis, Carol Melvin and Scott Seaman-Digby.

#### To contact your councillors:

Tel: 01895 250316 (Civic Centre Office) or  
01923 822876 (Northwood Ward Office)  
Email all at: [northwoodward@hillingsdon.gov.uk](mailto:northwoodward@hillingsdon.gov.uk)

#### To Contact Nick Hurd MP:

**Write:** Nick Hurd MP  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
**Telephone:** Westminster Office: 020 7219 1053  
Constituency Office: 01923 822 876  
**email:** [nick.hurd.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:nick.hurd.mp@parliament.uk)

## Northwood's Games Makers

### **What an Experience!!** *By Lesley Davis*

As a Games Maker, I was fortunate in that I was at three different venues: Box Hill (road cycling); Greenwich (Eventing) and The Mall (road races and marathons).

At each venue my duties were different – Box Hill welcoming and directing ticket holders to the two viewing areas; keeping everyone off the road as the race sped by; and at the end making sure that everyone found their way to the exits safely and in good humour.

At Greenwich my main role was to keep everyone moving up and down steps leading to the concession areas, not an easy task as the steps gave a great view of one of the jumps and perfect for taking photos!

At The Mall, my duties were varied. One day I could be scanning tickets, directing ticket holders to the right entrance and the next day checking accreditation, making sure the way was clear for runners who had crossed the finishing line to get to rest areas, or manning the crossing points with soldiers.

Just being able to play a tiny role in such a big event was an amazing experience which I would not have missed for the world. We had a great time, and the general public were so supportive and were behind all the competitors no matter where they were from, showing the true Olympian spirit; I felt so proud of them. Our aim as Games Makers was to make the 2012 Olympic Games an unforgettable event for everyone and I think we achieved it.

### **Games Making At Wembley Stadium.** *By Sue Mansfield*

How often have you been to a sporting event where you are greeted as you walk up to the building with 'Enjoy the game!?' And there are several people to ask if you need to know where the Ticket Office is?

Our team of about 100 was allocated into groups for the various areas of the stadium and briefed every morning, given bottles of water to put in our Games Makers' bags, opposite the umbrella labelled 'just in case'. We got a meal during the eight-hour shift, and usually some opportunity to watch at least part of the football games the Stadium hosted.

And it was fun. Watching people's faces change as you greeted them, being photographed with them and chatting with those from many parts of the world was an amazing experience. There is relief it all went so well, and a great feeling of pleasure in being part of this national success.

### **Driven to Distraction**

*An alternative view from Miles Gillman*

Initially on hearing I was going to be a Games Maker Driver I was overjoyed. I was just pleased to be involved and thought it sounded a lot more exciting than standing outside a station with a large foam finger stuck on my hand. After a driving course to familiarise us with our shiny new BMWs and Walkie Talkie training, we were ready to go. However I soon realised I would have felt more useful with that giant foam finger.....

The predictions of traffic chaos did not materialise, as trains ran, the City employees worked from home and the sun

shone. The estimates for Olympic car transport were based on the Beijing Games; London was very different and we were vastly over-subscribed with drivers.

On my first day there was a near revolt at the Heathrow holding bay, where at least 40 drivers had been waiting for over six hours for non-showing passengers. It was not the fault of LOCOG; it was the fact that the IOC had not informed us when their passengers would be arriving. We just had to be prepared for them to come at any time, any day. There were several days when queues of Olympic cars would be waiting outside London hotels, all day, for non-existent passengers, who had decided to go by other means and not told our central control.

This negative aspect was contrasted by many uplifting moments and the sense of partaking in such a wonderful event for our country that will stay us for ever. Just next time please recruit fewer drivers!



*Jo & colleagues Do The Bolt*

### **A once-in-a-lifetime, exciting, exhausting, exhilarating summer of new experiences!** *By Jo Lawrence*

I worked in the Aquatics Centre and in the Olympic Park for the Olympics and Paralympics respectively. As team leader I was responsible for teams of up to 30 people, allocating tasks, arranging breaks and dealing with any issues – from ticketing to lost children. I tried to experience every role at least once, learnt a lot about the Olympic Park and met some amazing people – not least my fellow passengers and other Games Makers on the late-night trains home.

I wanted to volunteer as I was fascinated to see behind the scenes of such a complex event. The organisation and attention to detail was extraordinary. Of course irritations emerged but the main objective, to deliver a great Games for the visitors and athletes, was never in doubt and the management support for the volunteers and paid employees, exemplary.

Fellow Games Makers described the experience as 'being in a bubble' and it was a little like that. A bubble of positivity, good humour, where the sun (almost) always shone, everyday worries were put to one side and we were given the chance to discover a different side to ourselves, creating wonderful memories in the process.

## Northwood Library Update

The children's Summer Reading Challenge proved very popular with children aged 4-12 years during the summer holidays. We also ran three related events, Dinosaur Days, Terrific Tales and Go For Gold, which also tied in with the Olympics and these were well-attended and enjoyed. We always hold a children's activity during half term and holidays so do come into the library to see what is happening or look on the website, [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries).

Our weekly Bizzy Bees storytime continues to be very popular with under-3s and their parents and carers. This takes place at 10am every Wednesday during term time, when the children listen to stories, sing songs and have a simple craft activity.

Our weekly Chess Club also takes place every Saturday, 2.30-3.30pm and is open to all ages.

Holy Trinity School Choir will be singing carols in the library again on the morning of Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am. It was a lovely event last year, the children sang both traditional and new Christmas songs and reminded us

all of the meaning of Christmas. Refreshments will also be served.

We continue to receive lots of new books for both adults and children, both fiction and non-fiction, so that everyone is catered for. And if you are interested in setting up a Reading Group, to meet either in your own home or in the library, do come in and discuss it with us.

Just a reminder that we distribute the recycling bags for those residents with a Hillingdon First Card, just show your card to collect a roll of bags.

We also sell Starbucks coffee, tea or hot chocolate – all drinks priced £1 - and biscuits, just the thing now that the weather is turning colder!

### Opening hours:

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

*Catherine Livingston, Branch Manager*  
Green Lane, Northwood, HA6 3AB  
Tel: 01895 558262

## Northwood and District U3A – University of the Third Age

At our recent first AGM we were very gratified to have a hall full of seemingly satisfied members, and to welcome two new committee members in Pauline and Fred Butterworth. Luckily for us all Jill Besant has agreed to fill the post of Chairman for another year. We must give many thanks for her sound advice and good humour over the previous year. She is much valued. As are all the officers and committee members who have been instrumental in organising and keeping us afloat during our inaugural year.

During the year our speakers at the main monthly meetings have been full of variety and interest. Thank you David, yet again.

Our Groups have continued to grow in both numbers and variety. We have recently begun a Singing for Fun Group

and The Trolley Song has never sounded so good. Eat your heart out Judy Garland!

The Architectural Group run by David Burnell has become so popular that it is now divided into three House Groups with plans to develop a fourth. Who could have imagined a walk around Uxbridge would be so fascinating that the second one is fully booked and plans are afoot for a third.

So many walks, theatre outings, book groups, bridge meetings, music appreciation, history, gardening and more and more. How do we Mature Folks find the time to fit it all in? In all truth we don't but at least we have the option to pick and choose whatever suits us.

We still meet on the 1st Wednesday on the month at Fairfield Church. Come and see if you can find a group that's right for you.

*Maureen Crimmins, Vice Chairman*

## Northwood Lions Club

We have just hosted our 6th presentation of money raised by the wonderful Den\* volunteers. This time the recipients who attended the evening were from Chantry School Yiewsley, RNIB Sunshine House, Friends of Bedford House, Woodland Centre for dementia care and the Hillingdon Food Bank. It is really heart-warming to listen to their plans for the future and to hear the various organisations exchanging ideas.

We are hoping shortly to re-launch the Message in a Bottle Scheme in Northwood, initially providing new, simpler forms to be kept in the bottle detailing basic personal and medical information in case of emergency.

If you would like to learn more about what we do and the fun we have doing it, please contact Robert on 07860 324395.

\* 195 Pinner Road, open 9.45 to 11.45 every Saturday, selling all kinds of second-hand goods.



*Gyl Webb*

## Northwood Live at Home Scheme

NLAH's autumn programme continues with the Wednesday Lunch Club, fortnightly Tea & Chat, Breakfast Club and weekly Gentle Exercise Classes. The Monday Lunch Club has had its First Anniversary Celebration; some 30 people came to see a puppetry session and enjoy the usual activities of gentle exercise, healthy lunch and pleasant conversation.

If you would like to take part in any activities, or can spend a few hours a month volunteering to help organise them or visit older people in their own homes, please contact the office on 01923 842494.

*Sue Mansfield, Chairman*

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mmsinclair@btinternet.com  
www.sinclairbb.com

## Ruislip-Northwood Flower Arrangement Society

Tues 4 Dec David Ryland, "Seasonal Splendour"

Venue: St John's Church Hall, Hallowell Rd, Northwood  
Doors open at 7 pm for 7.30 pm start; Visitors £8

Contact: Jean Joseph on 01923 829621



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www.oldbillspestcontrol.co.uk

## Northwood Christmas Craft Market

Sat 1st December

10am to 3pm

Methodist Church Hall,  
Oaklands Gate

Handmade Goods  
Treasure Hunt for children

www.northwoodcraftmarket.co.uk  
Susan on 07780 601842  
Twitter@CraftNorthwood

*Celebrating 5 years of monthly Craft Markets*

## Christmas Tree Festival

Grand Opening

by Deputy Mayor of Hillingdon, Alan Kauffman

Friday 7th December at 6.30pm

Northwood Methodist Church  
Oaklands Gate

All types of trees decorated by local  
businesses, schools & organisations

Viewing 6pm - 8pm through Christmas season

**You will find more information about the  
events listed here if you visit our website at  
www.northwoodresidents.co.uk**

## Council of Christians & Jews

Doughnuts & Mincepies  
Chanukah & Christmas  
Social

With

*The Alison Wood Music Makers*  
*A family mixture of Classical & Jazz*

Tues 11th Dec at 8pm  
Northwood & Pinner Liberal  
Synagogue  
Oaklands Gate, Northwood

Entry £4 ALL ARE WELCOME  
www.ccj-hillingdon.org.uk

## Scouts Christmas Post 2012

Our Christmas Post service for the Ruislip, Eastcote and Northwood area is now in its fourth year. The British Telecommunications Bill permits Scouts to run a post service, so long as we deliver only Christmas Cards. The service is run by the District Explorer Scouts and this year funds raised will be put towards our District Centenary Expedition to Kandersteg in Switzerland in 2014.

How will it work?

- For a cost of just 20p (yes, that's less than half the price of a second-class stamp) we will deliver your Christmas Card for you by hand between 12th December and Christmas Eve
- Post your cards and payment in our boxes between 1st and 15th December
- Boxes in Northwood will be at Just Sew (20 High Street) and Northwood Health Foods (3 Rowland Place, Green Lane)
- Locations for other boxes in Ruislip and Eastcote, together with delivery area maps, will be on our website at <http://www.renxfmaspost.org.uk/>

## NRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:	Alan Prue	
Vice President:s	Valerie Mellor	
	Lisa Maclay	
Chairman:	Tony Ellis	821237
Vice Chairman:	Miles Gillman	825599
Treasurer:	David Blowers	
Secretary:	Ros Plume	827409
Chief Road Steward:	Paul Barker	
Committee	Anna Davis	
Members:	Frances Meyer	

**Remembrance Service:** Sunday 11th November  
10.45am at the War Memorial in Green Lane  
2-minute silence at 11am. All are welcome.



## Friends of Michael Sobell House

Sat 1st Dec. **Santa Dash** from Green Lane to MSH  
Sun 9th Dec. **Light up a Life.** A special ceremony  
at the Hospice to remember loved ones. If you would  
like to make a dedication & attend please contact us.

Tel: 01923 844778 Email: ochambers-henry@michaelsobellhospice.co.uk  
www.michaelsobellhospice.co.uk



## Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society

19 Nov Charles Dickens: Special Correspondent,  
**Dr Tony Williams**, Assoc. Ed *The Dickensian*  
17 Dec Jubilee Christmas, **RNELHS members**  
21 Jan Aircraft Manufacture in the London Area,  
**Dr Ron Smith**, BAE Systems



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](http://www.rnelhs.flyer.co.uk)

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