

Northwood Residents' Association

Newsletter 146



February 2010

Chairman's Report - Tony Ellis



Introduction. As I write this we are in the grip of Winter. On your behalf, I would like to thank London Borough of Hillingdon (LBH) employees who have worked round the clock

gritting the roads enabling us to get about. LBH is also to be congratulated for the efficient organisation of its service.

Once again, it is my pleasure to thank our local councillors for their continued support and to thank the many LBH officials who have unstintingly given their time to answer our many questions and taken any necessary remedial action.

Please keep contacting us with your comments and queries, as it is your interests that we on the NRA Committee represent.

Green Lane. The project is now in the final stages of completion (see Traffic and Highways on Page 6) with a total cost of circa £950,000.

Planning. Planning decisions depend on accurate information so it is disappointing to note several errors of fact in planning reports submitted by the Planning Department to the Planning Committee. Whenever these have been discovered, the NRA has taken it up with the Planning Department and made representations to our ward councillors. It is to be hoped with the constant pressure from the NRA and councillors, more care will be taken in future. I intend to take the matter up with the LBH Chief Executive.

Funding. This year saw some new funding from LBH which benefited Northwood enormously.

Through the implementation of the Ward Fund whereby the councillors in each ward

in Hillingdon were given £25,000 to spend on local charities, societies etc, we were granted £1,500 to defray the costs of planting and maintaining the station flower beds and £3,000 to install new Christmas lights. Other beneficiaries included Hawes and Bennett Close Tenants and Residents' Association for their garden, Northwood Holocaust Memorial Day Events to educate children about the Holocaust, Northwood Football Club and Northwood Choral Society.

In addition, the Leader's Old Peoples' Fund granted Northwood Live at Home Scheme £8,000 to fund a weekly lunch club and £3,235 for equipment. Crowe's Nest playground received £20,000 from LBH and £20,000 from Hillingdon Homes. Work has also commenced on the new youth centre in Hallowell Road with a budget of £650,000.

Thanks go to our councillors for their generosity in supporting the community in Northwood.

AGM. I look forward to meeting you at the AGM to be held at the Oaklands Gate Methodist Church on Tuesday 16th March with refreshments being served at 7.30pm and the formal meeting starting at 8pm. If you have any subjects that you wish to discuss please contact me by email: chairman@northwoodresidents.co.uk or telephone 01923 821237. Prior notice will enable us to research your question. Naturally, we will also try to answer any questions raised on the night.

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AGM: Tues 16th March
See Page 11 for details

Chairman's Report ctd

Selling Cars from the Road A motor dealer has some 20 plus cars parked around Northwood with a view to selling them. Many are causing obstruction and inconvenience to residents. One car was parked for five months! As they don't display a "for sale" notice and they are taxed, the dealer isn't technically breaking the law provided that they are parked legally. Some cars were parked facing the oncoming traffic at night, which is an offence.

The NRA is liaising with LBH to find a way round this impasse.

IF YOU ARE THE DEALER, PLEASE HAVE SOME CONSIDERATION FOR FELLOW RESIDENTS, REMOVE YOUR VEHICLES AND CONDUCT YOUR BUSINESS OFF THE ROADS.

Tony Ellis

From the Editor

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and find the articles interesting. The main purpose of the newsletter is to enable the executive committee members to report on the work that they carry out on your behalf, but we also welcome input from YOU, the members. If you wish to write about anything you think would be of interest to other Northwood residents, please do contact me. Photographs are especially welcome.

Ros Plume

nraeditor@blueyonder.co.uk

Tel: 01923 827409



Police

Burglary Scams. Sgt Stacey has written a very helpful article about Crime Prevention (Page 5). This is timely as there has been an increase in residential burglary in the North of the borough and everybody is urged to be extra diligent about the safety of their property and on the look out for any suspicious behaviour. A recent incident of a burglar gaining entry to a house by masquerading as a postman highlights the need for watchfulness and the exercise of common sense. Do not permit strangers who are unidentified and not proven to be bona fide to enter your home.

Under-age Drinking. Recently, there have been references on TV to the serious problem of under-age drinking. It is alarming to know that alcohol-related admissions to Hillingdon Hospital are the 7th highest in London (7 out of 18) and that there was a significant increase in admissions in 2008. In the borough, a child under 10 is admitted to hospital for alcohol-related problems every three days with a staggering 24,000 under 16s hospitalised between 2002 and 2007. This is a problem that should alarm us all as it leads to crime in many cases.

Ann Bailey

New Metropolitan Line Timetable

The new timetable was introduced in December. It was hoped that it would iron out some of the imbalances between Uxbridge and Watford services, but there are still six times in the evening peak (between about 5.15 and 6.45 pm) where there is a 10-minute gap between Watford trains out of Baker Street. When that happens it means that the service is actually no better than a normal Sunday one. Add in delays from the City, and there are still likely to be times when there are three Uxbridges and an Amersham between Watford trains. The Uxbridge timetable never has more than six minutes between trains during the evening peak.



S Stock Train

The running times of trains between Baker Street and Northwood (and vice versa) have also been very slightly extended (supposedly to allow the trains to run more to time!).

You will be aware from previous newsletters that the entire rolling stock is to be replaced within the next year or two. The first of the new "S stock" trains will join the old fleet in May (just one train to start with). You will also be aware that the seating capacity of the new trains is 30% less than the old ones. Eventually, with the completion of new signalling, track and points, there will be the same number of seats per hour as there are now (i.e. fewer seats per train but more trains per hour). You'll have to wait some years for this however. Still, at least you'll be standing in air-conditioned comfort!

Please continue to email your "horror" stories of delayed journeys, lack of information etc. to met@northwoodresidents.co.uk so that we can pass complaints on to Met Line management.

Engineering work at weekends: to find out what closures there are on any line for a specific weekend, go to www.tfl.gov.uk/plannedwork

Live departure boards: if you can access the internet on the move, you can check the next two or three trains due to arrive at a station by logging on to www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/livetravelnews/departureboards/

Lisa Maclay

FOMLUC representative

Environment

Reindeer Site

This problem site was successfully cleared last autumn. Signs of the rubbish accumulation building up again recently have been dealt with swiftly by LBH.

Pavements

We have been attempting to get something done about the poor state of many pavements in Northwood, with limited success so far. After a detailed report on Dene Road, Moor Park Road and Kewferry Road was submitted to LBH, only two paving slabs were deemed worthy of attention! Action will be taken only where there is a 'trip hazard' of 20mm or more. The large areas of broken paving are deemed unsightly but serviceable.

The debate is complicated by the existence of so many active building sites in Northwood, as it would be wasteful to repair pavements where more damage is likely to occur. Unfortunately there appears to be no reliable mechanism for clawing back the costs of builders' damage without witnesses and photographic evidence of damage being caused.

LBH has stated that it is proactive in seeking methods of funding to finance remedial work.

One area which may see an improvement in the near future is Hallowell Road, where LBH has promised to carry out urgent pavement repairs outside numbers 105, 113, 115 and 159.

Anna Davis

Planning

There has been a smaller number of planning applications than usual over the past 12 months. The site of the former Reindeer Public House has seen plans for two developments. The first was five storeys high and was quickly rejected by the London Borough of Hillingdon. The developer's appeal was dismissed. Recently, a plan where part of the development would be four storeys high was submitted and the NRA objected. Local residents also presented a petition objecting to the plans. We await a decision.

The former Cinema / Old People's Luncheon Club in High Street has had applications for changes but these have failed to meet the criteria of the Hillingdon Unitary Development Plan (UDP), and were therefore refused.

The LBH sought local opinion before defining parts of Murray Road, Maxwell Road and Green Lane, as a Conservation Area. Similarly, the Frithwood Conservation Area has been extended. The NRA did not participate in the opinion forming process, as this is a matter for local residents to decide. Nevertheless

we welcome the decision, as it tends to preserve the unique qualities of Northwood.

The NRA has objected to other private plans where breaches of the UDP were detected.

Please note that local residents are usually advised of planning applications that may affect them. If you receive such a notice do be sure to view the plans either online or at the Civic Centre. As the NRA Planning Officer, I review all planning applications relevant to Northwood. Please help by contacting me if you have any objections, questions or queries on planning applications.

Please feel free to e-mail me at planning@northwoodresidents.co.uk or phone me on 019238 36440.



Malcolm Ruddock

From the Treasurer



As we start the New Year may I firstly wish you all a happy, healthy and successful 2010 and for the decade ahead.

We have been busy trying to gather all the last collections of subscriptions for 2009 and if you are a member who has not yet paid, or a Road Steward with funds please can you pass the subscriptions on so that I can get my books to balance!

If no-one has been around to collect your subscriptions and you would like to pay then please send me a cheque, payable to "Northwood Residents' Association", to 7 College Way, Northwood HA6 2BL - with your Name and Address; or contact one of the Stewards or a

Committee member and settle up with them.

I would take this opportunity of thanking all those that have worked so hard to collect the subscriptions over the past year and also all of you, the members, who have contributed your subscriptions and donations – you are a most generous group and I hope that we can meet your expectations in 2010.

*David Wilson
Treasurer*



Health Matters

Mount Vernon Cancer Centre

The new Cancer Treatment Research Trust Centre at Mount Vernon mentioned in our last Newsletter will provide

improved surroundings for patients receiving chemotherapy. It will also enable the Centre to treat more non-research patients and will improve facilities for research with the assistance of chemotherapy patients participating in clinical trials.

The latest Cancer Review carried out by Hertfordshire Primary Care Trusts concluded that the Cancer Centre should remain at Mount Vernon, with a satellite unit in East & North Herts, especially for radiotherapy, with improved access for patients.

Networking Northwood for Well-being and Quality of Life.

Are you an elderly resident? Would you like to be more involved in social activities? Networking Northwood would like to hear from you with the aim of possibly improving your quality of life. Do you like the occasional coffee or inexpensive lunch with friends? Walking? A game of bridge or bowls? Music groups? Your local library will have much information. Do you have difficulty with transport? If so, Dial-a-Ride might be the answer.

Angela Flux, Head of Health Promotion, Healthy Hillingdon is working on improving health and well-being for those of us 'of a certain age'. You can contact Angela on 01895 277615.

Watford General Hospital

Things are certainly improving at Watford Hospital. Not only did they have a financial surplus of £4.4 million last year, but they also have one of the lowest infection rates in the country. Waiting time targets have been met and delayed discharges reduced, as have the number of cancelled operations. There is a new 120-bed Acute Admissions Unit. It is hoped that Foundation Trust status will be granted soon. Tough economic times lie ahead, but Watford is planning a Health Campus with a new acute hospital to be built by 2016.

Diabetes

It has been calculated that at this time in the UK, 2.6 million people have been diagnosed with diabetes and it has been estimated that by 2025 there will be more than 4 million. It is thought that approximately 500,000 people in the UK have diabetes, but have not yet been diagnosed (Information from Diabetes UK, the charity for people with diabetes). A survey of diabetic people by 'Balance', the magazine produced by Diabetes UK, indicated that more than half of those diagnosed within the last 12 months had little or no awareness of the symptoms of diabetes beforehand.

Given that diabetes is a complicated condition and potentially a rather serious one, what are the symptoms to look out for? Feeling generally unwell, maybe unusually tired, abnormally thirsty, and/or frequent urination might be enough to ask your GP whether a test for diabetes is appropriate. If you have been diagnosed as having the condition, consider joining Diabetes UK. You will receive a regular magazine, called 'Balance', which is always full of useful advice and you will realise that you are not alone. Once diagnosed and with treatment initiated, many people start to feel much better and live easily with their diabetes.

Diabetes UK: Telephone 0800 138 5605 to join, or call 0845 1232399 for Diabetes UK Supporter Services.

Caring for Dementia

Are you aware that The Templeton Centre in Joel Street, Northwood Hills exists both for people with dementia and for their carers? Linda Matthews, the Branch Manager, and her assistants can provide advice, information and support. Dementia can affect the young as well as the elderly, and the Branch offers care and support 5 days a week for younger people, whilst it is open on Saturdays for people of all ages with dementia. Carers can join a Carers' Programme to get some professional training. Support groups, a café and a monthly tea party enable clients and carers to share problems with others in the same situation.

Telephone: 01923 823999

Email: HarroandHillingdon@alzheimers.org.uk

Valerie Mellor & Lesley Davis

Wanted: Ideas for Community Action

Is there a piece of Northwood you think we should take more pride in? If so, please let me know, because for the right idea, we can put together a Community Action Team to make it happen. We don't have to rely on anyone else; we can just take responsibility for our own community. Before Christmas we did just that in Eastcote. A group of us just got sick of seeing the banks of the River Pinn looking such a mess. With the support of the Council, we got the money and a "Green Team" of volunteers together to clear the land and replant it with beautiful spring bulbs and wildflowers. Through community action at its best, we made a difference. Could we do something similar in Northwood? Yes we can! If you have that sense of community spirit, please send me your ideas.

The best way of contacting me is by email: hurdn@parliament.uk or leave a message with Ann on 01923 822876.

Nick Hurd, MP

Northwood Safer Neighbourhoods Team

Crime Prevention Advice

This is a timely reminder to householders, whilst the evenings are still dark, to ensure they do everything possible to deter burglars. Houses which are easily identified as unoccupied are particularly vulnerable from mid-afternoon onwards.

We will be doing everything we can to try and prevent burglaries but we would urge householders to take some simple steps to reduce the opportunity for burglars to strike.

Leave a light on inside the house - choose well-used rooms such as the lounge or bedroom. The intention is to create the impression that someone is in - this is a significant deterrent.

Timer switches are an excellent way of triggering one or more lights. We have free timers, if required.

Are you part of a Neighbourhood Watch? Many of us choose to shut ourselves away from the outside world with high hedges, or thick and tall conifer trees. Sadly in this day and age, privacy can quite often cause you, the householder, serious security problems. Please look out for each other.

Use lighting outside the house at both the front and back. Fit low energy dusk to dawn lights. They are cheap to install and run. They will lighten up any areas where would-be burglars could hide, and they don't annoy your neighbours.

I would urge you to do a security check around your house. Check the locks on doors and windows; check gates and hedges and ask yourself if you would be able to gain access without being noticed. If you can gain access, so can a burglar. If you would like crime prevention advice, please do not hesitate to contact us.



We regularly hold street briefings, drop-in surgeries and crime prevention days. Please come along and speak to us if you have any concerns or issues. The dates are published on the Metropolitan Police

website:

www.met.police.uk/teams/hillingdon/northwood

Those dates planned for the next few months are listed below.

Sergeant Ian Stacey

PC Dave Kirby & PC Louise Kennedy

PCSO Leanne Park & PCSO Louise Griffiths.

2 Murray Road
Northwood
HA6 2YW

Telephone: 0208 721 2545

Email: northwood.snt@met.police.uk

Northwood Police Station front counter is open to the public

11 am to 1 pm, Monday to Thursday

Please note the temporary reduction in opening hours - we need more volunteers to keep the station open to the public.

Wanted - Volunteers for the Met

A message from Inspector Lance White (Citizen Focus Unit):

I would encourage those of you with a few hours to spare each week to become a Volunteer with the Metropolitan Police. There are a number of roles in Specialist Departments, Safer Neighbourhoods Teams as well as the Front Counters. By undertaking these duties Volunteers enable officers and staff to use their time and powers more effectively.

If you would like to know more, and can spare the time, please contact Karen Jackson or Sue Crockford at Ruislip Police Station on 020 8246 1848.

Meet your Safer Neighbourhoods Team:

Friday 12th February	5pm to 6-30pm	Drop-in surgery	Northwood Police Station
Saturday 13th February	11am to 1pm	Crime Prevention Day	Waitrose Car Park
Monday 22nd February	5pm to 6-30pm	Drop-in surgery	Northwood Police Station
Friday 5th March	5pm to 6-30pm	Drop-in surgery	Northwood Police Station
Saturday 3rd April	11am to 1pm	Crime Prevention Day	Waitrose Car Park
Thursday 15th April	5pm to 6-30pm	Drop-in surgery	Northwood Police Station



Traffic and Highways

Rickmansworth Road

The 30mph limit has now been implemented. We are consulting with LBH with regard to putting clearer road markings at some of the junctions such as Copse Wood Way and

Kewferry Road. We have also asked for some sort of electronic signs to alert drivers who are driving too fast.

We are still not happy with the Ducks Hill Road junction as drivers continue to cross the red light. LBH is consulting with TfL to see if a camera is justified.

A pedestrian crossing will be installed outside Holy Trinity School later this year. The type has yet to be determined.

Kewferry Road and Moor Park Road

A 20mph scheme and road-calming measures are to be introduced in Kewferry Road from Rickmansworth Road to the county border and in Moor Park Road between the junction of Kewferry Road and a position near Grove Road. The scheme has been approved by councillors and the schools and residents are to be consulted in February. This will be Northwood's first 20mph limit designed for the purpose of slowing traffic near schools. The scheme will probably be implemented in the summer holidays.

Green Lane

By the time you read this the traffic lights should be working at the junction of Eastbury Road. After pressure applied by the NRA, LBH has agreed to have a formal review with us after six months of operation. For at least a month TfL officials will be monitoring the lights and adjusting the phasing as necessary. Please let us have your comments.

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

The final stages of the scheme from Hallowell Road to Watford Road, including the reversal of traffic on Rowland Place, should be completed by early April.

Motorists are still failing to stop for pedestrians using the crossing outside ASK. We have asked LBH to find a way of making the crossing easier for drivers to see. If you are one of the pedestrians ignored by motorists, the police have recommended that you take a note of the registration number of the vehicle concerned and the time and date and report the incident to the Safer Neighbourhoods Team (tel 020 8721 2545 or email Northwood.SNT@met.police.uk).

Inconsiderate Driving

Again I make no apology for returning to the subject of drivers using mobile telephones. PLEASE DON'T - You are an accident waiting to happen and, as likely as not, an innocent party will be injured.

Tony Ellis

Suspension of Rubbish & Recycling Collections over Christmas.

Because of the way in which the holidays fell this year, Northwood had one general waste collection cut out completely, and garden recycling was suspended for six weeks. The NRA will be taking up the issue of LBH's lack of communication with residents over collection dates – information buried in Hillingdon People, and on the LBH web site is insufficient. However, many residents added to the general untidiness by leaving their rubbish bags out for the foxes to tear apart, when it was quite obvious that the waste collection would not take place until the following Monday. The result was that the streets of Northwood were cluttered with rubbish for days on end.

Are you guilty of leaving your rubbish out on the pavement for up to a week? If you got the wrong date for waste collections, did you try to find out the correct dates? If so, what was your experience? Let us know.



Rubbish, rubbish ...

NRA for local information.

All Christmas and New Year collection dates were published on the NRA web site and on the notice board in the car park entrance to Waitrose.



... and yet more rubbish

Posada at Holy Trinity

Posada is an old Mexican tradition where young people dressed as Mary and Joseph travelled from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling people about the imminent arrival of Jesus in the weeks leading up to Christmas. On Christmas Eve they would visit the local church to re-enact the nativity and place figures of Mary and Joseph in a crib.

Modern day Posada uses figures of Mary and Joseph who travel from place to place. At our Advent Carol Service, each 'host' took home a sheep (of the woolly knitted kind) and at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve, Mary and Joseph and the sheep (all 24) returned to the Church to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

We asked families to take a photo of Mary and Joseph – and sheep!



Councillors' Corner

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

Q. Earlier this year, councillors carried out a consultation process on introducing 20mph limits. What were the results and in view of the latest thinking that introducing 20mph limits in residential areas reduces road accidents, what is the councillors' view?

A. The feedback from the consultation was varied but over 60% of responses supported further zones, albeit in a range of ways, these suggestions included:

- borough wide residential 20mph zones
- around all schools
- around all public buildings serving children or the elderly
- in specific traffic hotspots

The Councillors have had a series of meetings with officers to prioritise the roads where 20mph zones will be considered and the funding applications have been prepared for the first of these.

The first of the new 20mph zones will be Green Lane followed later in 2010 by Kewferry Road, two areas identified by residents as priorities.

The Mayor of London has expressed his desire that

20mph zones should be more widely rolled out, but in light of likely reductions in funding available in 2010, we are waiting to see how these may be delivered in Hillingdon based on the success of bids submitted across the borough. If you have particular concerns about speeding you should in the first instance contact the local Safer Neighbourhoods Team, contact details on Page 5 (please do not call 999 to report speeding) or you may email your Councillors who will also pass concerns on to the local police and log residents' responses.

Q. There is only one electronic speed warning sign in Northwood. Do the councillors support the introduction of more?

A. We have asked for an urgent review of the signage and warning signs for the new scheme on Rickmansworth Road as we feel that the speed changes are not sufficiently clear to motorists. Officers have visited the area already this year and will report back in late January on their proposals and findings.

To contact your councillors:

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

Email us all at:

Northwoodward@hillingdon.gov.uk



Northwood Lions Club

We are looking forward to continuing our fundraising at Carpenders Park Garden Centre where, having frozen in Santa's grotto during December, we will be having a stall at some of the Saturday morning Farmers' markets in 2010. (See www.carpenders.co.uk for dates).

Once again we will be raffling large Easter Eggs at various outlets around Northwood. If you see one do buy a ticket – as you know, every penny raised by us goes to a good cause; we take out no administration costs.

The Saturday morning Lions' Den market on the Pinner Road continues to thrive and our thanks go to the volunteers there who make it all possible. In November we were able to donate a further £10,000 to local charities from monies raised there.

Belonging to Lions is not all work – we have enjoyed several meals out and a quiz night over the past few months.

We meet at Haste Hill Golf Club on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 8pm. For further information please telephone 0845 833 7853.

Hillingdon Branch Of The Council Of Christians And Jews

We held three very successful meetings in the last quarter of 2009. In October, Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton & Fr. John Deehan presented "The Jewish and Christian St. Paul", in November Rabbi Hillel Athias-Robles explored and explained "Anthropology in the Bible" and in December we held our traditional Christmas and Chanukah Social at which we were entertained by 40 members of the One Voice Watford Community Choir.

2009 was very successful in terms of the interesting, varied and entertaining programme of events that were organised. The meetings have been well attended, and feedback indicates that the policy of the branch in inviting speakers of different faiths or of no faith to address meetings on various subjects of topical interest has proved to be a "winning formula".

Diary date: Tues 9th March. "Jewish & Muslim Pilgrimages in the 21st Century" by Rabbi Moshe Freedman & Mrs Renu Ayesha Khan. Northwood United Synagogue, 21-23 Murray Road at 8.00pm. Entry £1.50 (CCJ Members £1) EVERONE IS VERY WELCOME.
E-mail: hon.secretary@ccj-hillingdon.org.uk

'Ladies in the Night' Walk

Ladies, join us on a summer's Night Walk on Friday 4th June 2010 to raise much-needed funds for Michael Sobell House. Ladies of all ages and fitness are welcome, perhaps you can get together a group of friends or if you are alone we will join you up with a walking partner. You can choose between a 5 mile and a 9 mile walk around Northwood and Moor Park beginning at 10pm, whether walking in memory of a loved one or just for fun.

Registration will be £20, which includes a T-shirt, medal and fundraising pack. There will also be refreshments and comfort stops en route. Full details will appear on our website and in the next MSH newsletter.

For more information: call 01923 844829; sign up at www.ladiesinthenightwalk.co.uk; or email o.chambers@michaelsobellhouse.co.uk

Northwood Craft Market

The Christmas Market was a great success again with record numbers of visitors attending for the third year running. We were delighted that our local Councillors, Carol Melvin and Richard Lewis, were able to come along to meet our crafters and do a little shopping of their own.



Cllrs Melvin & Lewis

Visitors enjoyed Christmas Carols and craft demonstrations and could purchase books from two of our local well-known authors, Cynthia Harrod-Eagles and Wendy Lowes. St Helen's School joined the market under the Young Enterprise Company, 'Forget-me-not'. The talented young entrepreneurs design and make their own decorative scrapbooks which sold very well. Residents may be fortunate enough to buy one of these lovely books at a future market, do keep a look out.

We hope that residents who have not yet visited the monthly market, will do so and enjoy investing in a unique gift as well as supporting a local crafter. Our banners will be up and around Northwood one week prior to a market. They are erected on a Sunday and taken down the following Sunday. Please look out for them or visit our website for future market dates at www.northwoodcraftmarket.co.uk or call Cheryl Lamb on 01923 450928.

Northwood Craft Market is a non-profit-making organisation supporting local artists and crafters.

Northwood Town Cricket Club

NORTHWOOD TOWN Cricket Club is currently holding winter nets at Nower Hill School on Sunday mornings, 10am - 11am. All players of all abilities are welcome to attend.



NORTHWOOD TOWN is based in Chestnut Avenue, Northwood and competes in the Hertfordshire Saturday league and Chess Valley Sunday league. The club has excellent facilities and enjoys a friendly atmosphere. For more information, please contact Ben Rawson-Jones on 07977 938249.

The Northwood Choral Society

Spring Concert will be held on **Saturday 13th March** at 7:30pm at St. John's Church, Hallowell Road, Northwood. The programme includes John Rutter's Requiem and the Chichester Psalms by Leonard Bernstein.



Tickets will be available in advance from Sally Rogers sallyrogers01@aol.com or Northwood Bookshop.

Any singers interested in joining the choir are welcome to join us at a rehearsal. There is no audition for new members.

Go to www.northwoodchoralsociety.org.uk for more information.



Northwood Live At Home Scheme

Plans for 2010

Northwood Live At Home Scheme continues its weekly Lunch Club in St John's URC hall in Hallowell Road and Tea and Chat afternoons in the Oasis Lounge in Oaklands Gate. A West End theatre trip to see Blood Brothers, and shopping trips to Asda and London Colney are also on the schedule. The Scheme provides support for elderly people in Northwood and Northwood Hills to assist them to remain living in their own homes. New NLAH members and volunteers are always welcome – contact the Scheme Manager, Angela, on 01923 842494.



Christmas Dinner at Batchworth Golf Club

Northwood's Grange

I recently came across an architectural and historical survey included with a planning application and have précised most of the data relating to Northwood. Part 1 covered Roman to Mediaeval Times; this second part deals with The Grange in Rickmansworth Road.



*The Grange, Rickmansworth Road.
The main building as it is today*

Grange System. By the mid 13th century the northern sector of the manor and parish of Ruislip was managed from a grange at Northwood, while another grange at Bourne controlled the arable lands at the south end of the manor.

The grange system was adopted by monastic orders at this time as a way of managing their land-holdings. A grange might consist of a number of buildings, usually within an enclosure, including a hall, a chapel and agricultural buildings. At Northwood there must have been at least a hall, a kitchen, a chapel, a barn, a cattle house and a stable.

Custumal Details. These granges were mentioned in a custumal of the manor (a document detailing units of tenure and the customary law of the manor) drawn up in 1248. There were two reeves (magistrates) on Ruislip manor called Walter de la Burne and John Robyn, probably based respectively at Bourne and Northwood, where there was also a manorial servant called John de Cumbe. A list of wages of manorial servants in 1300/1 was copied into the earlier custumal, and included a kitchen boy at Northwood, who also looked after the bullocks. There were at Northwood in 1324 three ploughs with coulter and ploughshares, pulled by six plough-horses, working on the demesne land of the manor. Wheat, oats and beans were grown there in that year.

The Grange Buildings. The mediæval grange at Northwood partly survives in the houses called The Grange and Green Close, both listed as Grade II buildings. The Grange is a 15th-century timber-framed building. Until the 19th century there were two separate buildings, probably a hall and a barn. An outhouse to the north was called the Monk's Chapel at this time, and contained a foliated cross. The original entrance was from Green Lane.

Tenants. From the late 14th century the demesne lands of the manor at Northwood were no longer managed directly, but leased out to tenants:

- Pre 1384 the tenant was called Roger Reading
- In 1384 a new lease was made to John St George and his wife Joan of "a piece of ground with a house on it in Ruislip, called Northwode".
- Another lease was made in 1392 to Richard Randulf.
- In 1404 the English properties of the abbey of Bec were finally confiscated by Henry IV. The manor of Ruislip was granted to his son John, later Duke of Bedford, who held it until his death in 1435.
- In 1434/5 the tenant of Northwood was Richard Bradesfere.
- In 1437 Henry VI leased the manor with a plot called *Northous* to his chancellor John Somerset.
- The reversion of the manor with a plot called *Northwode* was granted to King's College at Cambridge, which gained possession in 1451, confirmed by Edward IV in 1462. The College then remained the lord of the manor until the early 20th century.

Finds from a trench dug on the boundary of The Grange estate in 1934 included a half-groat of Henry VI minted at Calais, at that time a possession of the English crown. The find-spot was 18 inches (0.46m) deep, under a holly bush. The coin was mounted to be strung on a necklace.



Green Close

Also In The Vicinity. Tiles were made on the claylands of Northwood from the 14th century onward. A mediæval kiln has been noted *c* 300m to the south-west of The Grange and three 15th-century tile kilns 400m to the east. Kiln Farm at the corner of Rickmansworth Road and Maxwell Road 500m to the south, probably existed by 1565, when it was described as a messuage with an orchard and a tile yard.

In the next newsletter, Part 3 will bring us up to the present day.

Malcolm Ruddock

When was the last time you visited your local library?

Northwood (formerly Oaklands Gate) library has been completely refurbished. It has been redesigned and decorated both inside and out, and now benefits from an enlarged and improved children's library, updated computers, new stock and a Starbucks coffee facility. Opening hours have been increased. There is also a fully accessible public toilet with a nappy changer.



Oct 2009. Official opening by Mayor of Hillingdon

Plenty of books. As you might expect we offer a full range of fiction and non-fiction titles, including a special collection of the latest ten fiction bestsellers. There is a range of titles in Urdu, Hindi, Bengali, Gujarati and Polish, also large-print books. Talking books are available on cassette, CD and as new digital audio-books, called Playaways, similar to an MP3 player, which are proving popular with all ages.

Computers as well. The library has six PCs including a fully accessible computer for people with disabilities and a computer for children only. We also have four iMacs. All computers have internet access, email and Microsoft Office. We also offer CD-writer and scanning facilities. For those new to computers, we provide introductory taster sessions.

Online facilities. The library catalogue can be searched online either in the library or at home and books can be ordered or renewed online via the web site:

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries

An online reference library is available, including collections of encyclopaedias and dictionaries, including Encyclopaedia Britannica,

offering information at university, secondary or primary level. The Ancestry family history website is accessible free of charge at all our libraries.

There's more. We have a photocopier, educational workbooks for purchase, recycling bags and council forms. We host events on a regular basis, including health promotions, charity coffee mornings and the children's summer reading challenge. We will be arranging class visits from local schools.

Last but not least it's **free** to join so why not come and visit us soon?

Tel: 01895 588262

Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9-6, Tuesday 9-7, Saturday 9-4

Were You There?

In the early 1990s, Northwood (Oaklands Gate) Library came under threat of closure, as part of money-saving plans by LBH.

I felt very strongly that our library was pivotal to our community and suggested to the rest of the NRA committee that we should have a protest march to show the council how serious we were about resisting plans for closure. The idea was met with some scepticism, but the committee members were willing to let me go ahead if I could organise it.

I approached various friends and like-minded residents and gradually the idea grew. We went about printing leaflets, sending round press releases and generally encouraging people to join in.

I spoke to the local Police Sergeant telling him we wanted to hold a march in Northwood, starting at the war memorial and finishing at the library. I wish I could remember his name, but he was extremely helpful and said yes almost straight away. There were no risk assessments and health and safety forms to fill in back then.

On the day itself, Monday 19th October 1992, I arrived at the war memorial in a state of trepidation. What if nobody turned up? I needn't have worried; as the advertised time approached, more and more people arrived until there was barely enough room for everybody to stand on the pavement. The gratifying thing was that all ages were represented, from the very young (yes, I dragged my two children along) to the elderly. Many had brought their own banners.

At the due time, the sergeant stepped into the road, stopped the traffic with the aid of a colleague, and we were off, waving our banners and chanting "save our library!" (All very civilised I hasten to add). At the library we were met by photographers and reporters from the local press, and there were a few speeches, including one by a councillor who spoke against his own party's plans. We made the front page of the local papers, and I was interviewed by phone for Bob Holness and Douglas Cameron's popular LBC breakfast show.



Northwood Residents' Association 44th Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 16th March 2010
At Methodist Church, Oaklands Gate, Northwood

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

AGENDA

- 1) To receive the Chairman's Report for 2009
- 2) To receive the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2009
- 3) To set the rate of subscription for the year 2010 (currently set at a minimum of £2 per household)
- 4) To elect the Officers, currently:

Chairman	Mr Tony ELLIS
Vice-Chairman	Mr Miles GILLMAN
Treasurer	Mr David WILSON
Hon Auditor	Mr Chris ROGERS FCA
- 5) To elect an Executive Committee:
Members standing again are: Mrs Ann Bailey, Mrs Anna Davis, Mr Colin Harris, Mrs Lisa Maclay, Mrs Valerie Mellor, Mrs Rachel Owen, Mr Jayesh Patel, Mr Adrian Paterson, Mr Malcolm Ruddock, and Mrs Tina Williams
- 6) To elect the President, currently Mr Alan Prue
and Vice President, currently Mr Leonard Hall
- 7) **Guest Speaker: Nick Hurd MP on The Sustainable Communities Act**
- 8) Any Other Business.

Please 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 four days before the AGM.

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

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

More Road Stewards Needed

The NRA newsletter is delivered three times per annum thanks to the sterling efforts of our loyal band of road stewards. Every effort is made to deliver these newsletters on a timely basis, but occasionally this is not always possible, eg illness etc, for which apologies are given. Many of the NRA road stewards have been with us for many years; new volunteers are always very welcome to help share the load. The delivery area taken on by a new road steward can be of any size, ranging upwards from say a cul-de-sac or a block of flats, with a perceived optimum "patch" being in the range of 30-50 houses.

Unless new road steward volunteers are forthcoming for certain roads, continuation of delivery of the NRA newsletter to the roads in question may not be possible, which would be a loss all round.

For example, Jackets Lane, Hurst Place, Ducks Hill Road (part), Manor House Drive, Drakes Drive, Farm End, Kingfisher Close, Northgate, Butts Mead, Sevenoaks Court, and Rising Hill Close all currently need road stewards. Ideally, a road steward should be local to his/her delivery area, not only for convenience but also to be available to field enquiries from residents.

Please contact me if you would like to volunteer.

*Adrian Paterson
Chief Road Steward*

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Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society



15 Feb Researching Manor Farm. Geraint Franklin, English Heritage

15 Mar Mr Waite & Mr Rose, their first Waitrose shop.

Janet Hobbs, Action History Group

19 Apr Museums & Archaeology, their relationship.

Hedley Swain, Museums, Libraries & Archives Council

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

NRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

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

And the final word goes to David Wilson in nostalgic mood ...

The Last Bowler

I took the Metropolitan Line
Straight back in time;
He held a bag with a fraying patch
Oxford shoes and a coat to match
His suit was oldish too I'd say
He'd a detachable collar - cutaway...
and on his lap a Bowler Hat
Suddenly - just like that
I'm young again and on a train
To London Bridge of years ago
To join the never ending flow
of grey and black;
Oh my! that hat
It took me back.

