

Northwood Residents' Association

Newsletter 152



February 2012

Chairman's Report - Tony Ellis



Introduction

No, I haven't had a facelift but I thought you would like a change from the usual photograph of me. The carving of The Green Man appeared at the junction of Eastbury Road and Green Lane on 20th December – an unusual Christmas present for Northwood. It was provided by the council's Green Spaces department

and was carved by William Lee out of an oak tree that used to stand near the junction of Green Lane and Myrleside Close.

Most comments have been positive – I think that it is a splendid addition to the junction and it almost makes up for those dreadful traffic lights. One resident however felt very strongly, calling it "The Totem Pole" and describing it as a hideous carbuncle. Do let me know what you think of it.

The Green Man is a symbol of rebirth. Can we hope for a revival in Northwood's town centre?

Post-Christmas rubbish

A large number of our residents seemed to be unaware of the council's refuse collection timetable for Christmas and the New Year and put their rubbish out on the wrong days. Consequently Northwood took on the appearance of a slum for the first week of January. The strong winds exacerbated the problem and many residents did nothing to tidy up the mess. Every year there is a week without a collection over the Christmas period. The revised collection dates are well advertised in Hillingdon People and on the council website. If you were one of the defaulters, please make an effort to check the dates next Christmas.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Detailed planning for the celebration on Saturday 2nd June is now underway. If you are interested in being involved in the organisation of the event, please let our editor, Ros Plume know.

Ladbrokes

Much against some residents' wishes, a new betting shop has opened in Green Lane. Ladbrokes did not need Planning Consent for change of use of the premises and we were advised by the Licensing Officer that there were no grounds for the refusal of the appropriate licence. The quickest way to get rid of Ladbrokes is not to patronise them. An unprofitable business will not last for long.

Shop Locally

The old High Street is in need of a facelift and we are pressing councillors to find funds. There is a good selection of small shops and restaurants that we need to patronise more to maintain their viability. If you haven't been there lately, do take some time to explore what is available. There are also several interesting small businesses round the corner on Pinner Road.

The shops and restaurants in Green Lane, Station Approach and Maxwell Road also need your custom if we are to maintain a lively Northwood.

Forum

Over 100 members attended our last Forum held in November. Councillors' answers to members' questions are published on page 11 of this newsletter. We have held three autumn Forums and they are now an established event in our calendar. If you have any suggestions about the format or possible speakers, please let me know.

Continued on Page 2



CONTENTS

Page 1

• Chairman's Report

Page 2

• Nick Hurd MP

Page 3

• Jubilee

• Traffic, Website

Page 4

• Health

Page 5

• Met Line

Page 6

• Environment

• SNT

Page 7

• Councillors' Corner

Page 8

• Planning

• Gravel Pits

• Treasurer

Page 9

• Library

• Guides, U3A

Page 10

• Crafts, RAFT

• CCJ, MSH

Page 11

• AGM notice

• Lions

Page 12

• Contacts, ads,
What's On

Chairman's Report ctd.

Committee

This March we shall be losing Lisa Maclay who has served on the committee for over 25 years including being Chairman from 1996 to 1999. We are grateful to Lisa for being such a dedicated member of the committee – she has served Northwood well. If you are interested in taking over Lisa's role on Traffic and Highways, do get in touch with me.

Welcome to Charles Ellis who is taking over Planning from Alan Prue, (unfortunately Jo Hunter had to resign for family reasons).

Once again we are in need of a Chief Road Steward as Marietta Richardson is resigning owing to other commitments. This is a vital role in the NRA and would suit someone who is computer literate and can spare two or three hours a week, possibly more at newsletter distribution time. Also there are always vacancies for new committee members; particularly in the 35 – 45 age bracket. Please contact me if you are interested. Remember, if we do not get a steady stream of new blood your Association will gradually wither and die.

Annual General Meeting

Just to remind you that the next Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th March. See P. 11 for details. If you have never been before, do make an effort to come and meet us. Refreshments are served prior to the meeting when you will have a chance to meet committee members. I'm sure you will find the meeting interesting.

Conclusion

Once again it is my pleasure to thank our councillors for their contribution to the Association, committee members for their sterling work and the Road Stewards for pounding the streets. Without you, there would be no Residents' Association.

I would like to remind certain individuals that committee members and Road Stewards are all unpaid volunteers who give their time in order to improve life in Northwood, so please be patient if answers aren't always produced promptly or if we make the odd mistake.

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

From Nick Hurd MP

A new year is upon us and with both the Olympics and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee around the corner, 2012 is sure to be a very exciting year for us all. The New Year also brings with it resolutions, many of which do not survive into February. One of mine is to lose some weight: so if you see your MP running through Ruislip Woods, please stop and say hello.

On the political front, I'm sure many of you are aware that following the statement by the Secretary of State for Transport, Justine Greening, on Tuesday 10th January, the proposed HS2 rail line from London to Birmingham has been given the go-ahead. Following serious concern raised by those along the line of the route, much of the original plan has been revised. There has been a positive improvement for the local area as there will now be an underground tunnel which will pass from Northolt through to West Ruislip.

I am still highly concerned about this High Speed Rail route running through the local area and as such I am continuing to make sure the thoughts of all those affected in the local area are taken into account by those involved in HS2, to ensure the least amount of disruption to local residents. I have met with representatives and mitigation experts from HS2 Ltd as well as many Ickenham residents whose properties lie on the line of route.

Many of you will know that one of my priorities is to help create better opportunities for young people. As the father of four teenagers, I know how tough and complicated the world is in which they are growing up.

The media are so quick to present negative images of our young people which in my experience is well off the mark. So I was really pleased to have helped raise the money to save the Kickz project which offers local youngsters the opportunity to get off the streets and play football at Ruislip High and Harefield Academy.

I am excited too that we will have pilots of the National Citizen Service this year in Hillingdon. As the Minister responsible for this programme, I know just how powerful it can be in changing how teenagers see themselves and their opportunity to make a difference in their communities. Last but not least my team was really thrilled with the response to my invitation to local youngsters to form a Youth Council to advise me. We had 18 young people from nine different schools, including Northwood School and Northwood College, come to the House of Commons to talk about their priorities. I was hugely impressed by these young residents who are full of ideas for improvements they want to see in the area. Working with them to make some of it happen is something I am looking forward to in 2012.

Nick Hurd, MP for Ruislip, Northwood & Pinner

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House of Commons
London
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Telephone: Westminster Office: 020 7219 1053
Constituency Office: 01923 822 876

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What are you doing for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee?

Will you be going to London to watch the Flotilla or lighting a beacon or joining in the Big Lunch?

There's nothing like a street party for bringing communities together. It just needs a few people to come up with a plan and the word will soon go round the neighbourhood. If you fancy organising a street party, check out the Hillingdon Council website at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/jubilee or call Lyn or Glenda in the LBH Special Events Team on 01895 556640/556072. Applications for permission to hold a street party must be submitted by 16th April.

Whatever else you plan, be sure to come along to **Northwood's very own Diamond Jubilee Celebration**. NRA is joining forces with Northwood Hills Residents' Association to stage a once-in-a-lifetime community event. It will take place on **Saturday 2nd June** on the recreation ground in Chestnut Avenue from 11am to 4.30pm. There will be arena events, many of which we hope will be staged by local organisations, schools, sports and performance groups as well as professional displays. Other local organisations will have sideshows and exhibitions. Full details will be published nearer the time – watch the website for developments.

Put the date in your diary NOW!

In order to put on this extravaganza we will need lots of help in the form of volunteers to take on such tasks as selling programmes, marshalling the car park, clearing up afterwards or generally being useful. If you would like to help contact us at jubilee@northwoodresidents.co.uk or call me on 01923 827409.

However you decide to celebrate the Jubilee, do let us know, and send us photos of your events. It would be great to have a "Northwood's Jubilee" photo gallery on the NRA website.

Ros Plume

Traffic and Highways

Northwood Centre Parking Charges Petition

The petition presented at the Civic Centre on 16th November 2011, and signed by 41 representatives of local businesses, requested that the council should reconsider the increase in charges for non-HillingdonFirst card holders. This was done because of concern that the charges would drive away those residents who live on the Hertfordshire side of Northwood.

The resolution was as follows:

1. That there would be a meeting of LBH with the petitioners to discuss in greater detail their concerns regarding the recent increase;
2. It was reaffirmed that the current differential parking rates should remain unchanged; and
3. Officers were instructed to provide the Cabinet Member and Ward Councillors with a breakdown of the usage figures so that a comparison could be made between the number of HillingdonFirst

cardholders and non-residents that were using the machines.

Town Centre Traffic Lights

LBH has the penultimate draft of the report prepared by Steer Davies Gleave, the independent consultants. NRA had hoped to be able to see the report by the end of December but, so far, it is not available. We will put details on our website as soon as we have them. We are of course hoping that significant improvements will be made to the lights, which are still far from satisfactory.

NB. The report was received as we went to press – Editor

New Zebra Crossing, Green Lane

Approval has recently been given for a new zebra crossing, near the junction with Wilford Close. It will be installed in the near future.

Lisa Maclay

traffichighways@northwoodresidents.co.uk

NRA Website

Don't forget to check www.northwoodresidents.co.uk to see what's going on locally. There's lots of information about organisations, photo galleries, useful contacts and much more. New items are always welcome; send your contribution to webmaster@northwoodresidents.co.uk.

Thanks to the website, the NRA committee receives emails from far and wide with varied queries. A few of the more interesting ones have been from: the lady in Leicester who wanted to know when the next Scout Jumble Sale was (12th May), the man looking for photos of Allens the Greengrocers formerly in Green Lane, and the man complaining about the smell of the Tannery - in Northwood near Christchurch, New Zealand!



Health Matters

Update

The Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust

You will have read in our October 2011 Newsletter that there was to be a judicial review of the process leading to the public consultation on the future of paediatric cardiac surgery at this Foundation Trust. You will no doubt be pleased to learn that in his High Court judgement, Mr Justice Owen ruled that the Trust's challenge was successful. The consultation process was considered to be unfair and unlawful and therefore should be quashed. However, there will be an appeal against his judgement.

National Matters

As you have probably heard, the **Health and Social Care Bill** is on its uneven path through the Houses of Parliament. The controversial Bill of over 400 pages and more than 300 clauses was introduced into the House of Commons in January 2011, the aims being 'to create an independent NHS Board, promote patient choice and reduce NHS administration costs.' There are several key areas:

- The Bill establishes an independent NHS Board to allocate resources and provide commissioning guidance
- It increases GPs' powers to commission services on behalf of their patients
- It strengthens the role of the Care Quality Commission
- It develops Monitor (the body that currently regulates NHS Foundation Trusts) into an economic regulator to oversee aspects of access and competition in the NHS
- It cuts the number of health bodies to help meet the Government's commitment to cut NHS administration costs by a third, including the abolition of Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities
- It underpins the creation of Public Health England and takes forward measures to reform public health bodies

In September 2011, 1,000 Government amendments – 363 of them considered significant – were tabled.

In October 2011, ahead of the second reading in the House of Lords, the Daily Telegraph published a letter signed by 400 public health specialists opposed to the Bill, yet the enormous reorganisation of the NHS has already started even before legislation has been passed.

At the time of writing this report, the Bill has been passed by the House of Commons and has passed 2 Readings and the Committee Stage in the House of Lords. The date of the Report Stage in the House of Lords has yet to be announced.

Local Matters

The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has increased its public car parking charges as follows:

	<i>To 31 Dec '11</i>	From 1 Jan 2012
0-10 minutes	<i>No charge</i>	No charge
10-30 minutes	<i>£1.10</i>	£1.50
30 minutes-1 hour	<i>£1.80</i>	£2.50
1 hr – 1hr 30mins	<i>£2.60</i>	£3.00
1hr 30mins-2hrs	<i>£3.00</i>	£3.40
2hrs-10hrs	<i>£3.70</i>	£5.00
10hrs-24hrs	<i>£6.70</i>	£10.00
Over 24 hrs	<i>£19.00</i>	£20.00
Each extra 24hr	<i>£19.00</i>	£20.00

20-minute drop off points provided free

Hillingdon Hospital

	<i>To 31 Dec '11</i>	From 1 Jan 2012
0-30 mins	<i>No charge</i>	No charge
30 mins-2hrs	-	£3.40
2hrs – 12 hrs	-	£5.00
30 mins-12 hrs	<i>£3.70</i>	-
12hrs-24hrs	<i>£6.70</i>	£10.00
Each extra 24hrs	<i>£19.00</i>	£20.00

Mount Vernon Hospital

Concessionary rate remains at £1 a day for patients receiving regular cancer treatments.

Continued opposite ➡

Metropolitan Line

A new timetable came into effect in December. The main change is in the off-peak period when, due to trains from Amersham and Chesham becoming all-stations, there will, in theory, be a service interval of about 7½ minutes instead of 10.

The peak timetable unfortunately continues to give us for example three Uxbridge trains and an Amersham in between Watfords on many occasions, particularly in the critical 6 to 7 pm period. It seems only to take one small delay in the City for the timetable to be thrown out, resulting in severe imbalance in the service. This is something that will be taken up with Met Line management, yet again, at a meeting with FOMLUC.

Croxley Link. After many years, the Croxley Link has finally been given the go-ahead, having been given the necessary Government funding. From Northwood, Watford trains will stop at Moor Park and Croxley as usual, and then proceed via new track to Watford Junction via Watford High Street. This will make a huge difference, as the current Watford station in the Cassiobury Park estate (which will cease to exist) is a long walk from the centre.

A station is also planned at Vicarage Road, for Watford General Hospital.



The plan was to commence the project in 2015, with a completion date of 2018. However the Department for Transport wants the work to commence a year earlier, with completion in 2016, as this will reduce the cost of construction.

For more information, go to www.croxleyraillink.com

New S Stock Trains. Following complaints at the lack of provision for those standing on the new trains, TfL is looking at ways to provide more hand holds, possibly adding strap hangers on horizontal poles and an increase in the number of vertical poles.

Finally, some residents might not be aware that the doors on the new trains can be opened from the outside with the button if the train is standing in a station (as is the case on mainline trains). If you arrive on the platform to find that the train has been held for some reason, but the doors are closed, you can try pressing the button rather than wait for the driver to open the doors.

As ever, please address any comments to met@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Lisa Maclay
Federation of Metropolitan Line Users' Committees

Health ctd

At both hospitals:

Disabled spaces remain free.

Weekly permit for patients and visitors approved by ward manager – no alteration at £12 a week .

Monthly permit for patients and visitors approved by ward manager – no alteration at £25 a month.

The £19 and £20 tariffs for extra 24-hour parking are not Pay & Display.

The timetable for the Minibus which travels between the Hillingdon Hospital and Mount Vernon Hospital has been slightly changed. This service can be used by staff, patients, relatives and visitors. See table alongside.

People In Partnership. Have you thought of attending one of the People in Partnership (PiP) Meetings hosted by the Hillingdon Hospital NHS Foundation Trust? PiP is a forum where members of the public and Foundation Trust members (including staff) can hear about the latest Trust plans and ask questions. Meetings for the rest of 2012 are as follows:

14 March - Mount Vernon Hospital Postgraduate Centre

23 May - Hillingdon Hospital Education Centre

11 July - MVHPC

12 September - HHEC

14 November - MVPC

All forums take place from 7 pm – 9 pm with refreshments from 6:30 pm. Please register your interest with Catherine Holly by calling 01895 279973 or by emailing Catherine.holly@thh.nhs.uk

Hillingdon Hospital	Mount Vernon Hospital
Dep. A & E Ramp	Dep. Main Entrance
07.15	07.45
08.15	08.45
09.15	09.45
11.15	11.45
12.15	12.45
13.15	13.45
14.15	14.45
15.15	16.00
16.30	17.00
17.45	18.30

Valerie Mellor
health@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Environment

It's All About Rubbish...

Northwood has been having a pretty bad time with rubbish problems during the last few months. Your committee had already identified several issues to do with rubbish and recycling collections last autumn, and I wrote to Environmental Services at LBH at the beginning of November. Amongst the problems listed were the increasing frequency of fox-strewn litter due to putting out bags instead of bins; the lack of care by refuse collectors in stowing green recycling bags, particularly on windy days; rubbish sacks left by the pavement sweepers not collected for several days.

Meanwhile, we have experienced the great New Year 'muck up'. Information about Christmas and New Year collection times given out in Hillingdon People and duly repeated on the NRA website was also on the LBH website. However, on the general Rubbish & Recycling LBH web pages it states that on bank holiday weeks "Monday's recycling collections will commence on Tuesday" Many residents put their rubbish and recycling out on 3rd January, when there was no collection. After a few days of high winds and fox activity, Northwood was looking like a shanty town. Of

course, we did finally have a collection on 9th January, but by that time quite a lot of rubbish was a long way from home.

We have received a positive response to our comments from Nigel Dicker, Deputy Director, Public Safety & Environment at LBH and trust that things will improve in future.

There is obviously fault on both sides - residents could make more effort to check for collection days, and LBH could make the information clearer and more readily available. NRA will continue to liaise with LBH over this issue.



Is this all a storm in a dustbin, or a serious problem? Feedback, please!

Anna Davis

environment@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Northwood Safer Neighbourhoods Team

Car crime is by far the most common crime in Northwood. Most criminals who break into cars are opportunists and will break into homes to steal car keys. By following some very simple advice you can reduce the risk of your car being broken into – just locking a car helps.

Advice from the SNT.

Always shut the doors, windows and any sunroof. Always make sure the car is secure – even if you are just leaving it for seconds.

Never leave the car engine running. Leaving the car open and with the engine running even for a few seconds gives the opportunist thief the chance to drive off in your pride and joy.

It is also a good idea to make sure your keys are not on display – for example through a car or house window. Do not hide a spare set of keys anywhere on or near the car itself – criminals may either see you hiding the key or look in the common locations people use.

It only takes seconds for a thief to get inside your car.

Do not leave anything on display. Bags, phones and laptops are all popular targets for thieves so remove any trace of them including hiding chargers and wiping the windscreen to remove any sign of equipment such as a Sat Nav. Criminals may even break in for items such as coats, gloves or small change.



And just by adding a few seconds to their journey, garage owners can further increase the safety of their vehicle:

If you have a garage, use it. A car in a garage is doubly secure and unnoticed. If your car is parked on a driveway, then close and lock your gates.

If you have a narrow driveway, park one car behind the other with the more valuable car shielded by the more secure car but make sure both are secure.

You can also mark the car with security details – for example etching the window with the car's VIN (Vehicle Identification Number). Fitting dusk to dawn light sensors on your property also helps.

In short, the more added levels of protection you can add, the less appealing your car will be to criminals.

Do report anything suspicious to police immediately by dialling 101 or in an emergency 999.

Police Sergeant Ian Stacey

Tel: 020 8721 2545 or 07909 872377

northwood.snt@met.police.uk

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

Councillors' Corner

At the NRA Forum in November, our Councillors promised feedback on various questions posed by members. Here are responses received from the relevant council officers on some of the topics raised.

Q1. High Elms Close. The road is not finished and two years on the street is in darkness in the evenings. This is unacceptable to residents.

A. The Council's conduct of this enforcement case has been examined by the Local Government Ombudsman and his investigation has now been discontinued. The Ombudsman found that "much" correspondence "has related to matters where it does not appear to me that there has been substantive fault by the Council, but rather which involve disagreement with the merits of decisions taken by the Council". However, fault was found in the time taken to restore the street lighting and the delay in taking enforcement action to complete the shared surface. Street signage/name plates have now been installed by the developer and the Council is currently pursuing further legal action against Hodson in respect of street lighting and road surfacing. Cllr Seaman-Digby has worked closely with the Legal Department to ensure that the 'fullest extent of the Council's powers are used to deliver a result for the residents who have been so mistreated'

Q2. Travellers' Encampment off Jackets Lane. What is the current situation with this illegal encampment?

A. The site known as Field 3116 at Jackets Lane was granted temporary planning approval on appeal for residence, for a period of four years, from the date of the Planning Inspector's decision, which was on 20th June 2007. An enforcement investigation undertaken in 2009 revealed the site was being used in accordance with the Planning Inspector's decision and no breach of planning control was revealed. It can be seen that the temporary permission has now expired, but a planning application for the permanent use of the land as a gypsy and travellers' caravan site was submitted on 14th June 2011. This application has yet to be determined and therefore any formal enforcement action at this time is not considered appropriate. The matter is being monitored by our Councillors to ensure it does not go off the radar.

Q3. Reindeer Pub Site. When was this last patrolled and how often is it patrolled to check for fly-tipping?

A. Our Councillors confirmed that an officer last visited the site at the beginning of September and it was free from rubbish and litter. Officers in the vicinity on other duties regularly monitor all areas of Green Lane and roads nearby and have reported issues when they have been picked up, including litter at this site. The area is not patrolled on a regular basis as the Council's role is primarily to respond to direct reports raised via a service request and not via frequent patrols. It has been noted that the last service request was raised and resolved in April 2011 and there have been no further complaints since then. Ad hoc issues have been raised by Councillors and have been acted upon. After the November member's enquiry, the Council has requested that this area be paid special attention over the coming weeks and any refuse or fly tipping is dealt with immediately.

Q4. Railway Bridge in Highfield Road. There are serious cracks in this bridge - it is ours to repair? Can this be officially reported to TfL please?

A. This bridge is owned by London Underground who are aware of the problem and have identified some strengthening works to the approach structures. The works are programmed to take place in the next financial year. They will be meeting with the relevant Council officers to progress the scheme. In the meantime, an inspection of the surfacing is to be undertaken by the Council highways team.

Q5. Hallowell Road. 40' lorries using this as a cut through. Can we have the signage checked as this is a narrow road - what about width restrictions as this can be a rat run?

A. Officers who look after the Council's traffic signs have been asked to check the existing signs for adequacy. Width restrictions can be considered in some cases, but we need to bear in mind such matters as fire brigade and refuse vehicle access needs, and above all the view of the residents who are most directly affected. It is common practice for residents in such cases to submit a petition which ensures at the very least that there is some consensus within the community that the measures being asked for are what the majority want.

Q6. Estate Agents' signs proliferating on sites not adjacent to the actual for sale site.

A. Residents should report these to the Council if they are placed on street furniture or the public highway. The Highways Team will remove them and service requests should be made to the Contact Centre on 01895 556000.

These are just a selection of the enquiries and questions raised by Councillors on behalf of residents throughout the year. In 2011, hundreds of enquiries have been lodged by Northwood Councillors on matters raised directly by residents and from the 1-2-1 meetings that Councillor Seaman-Digby has with the NRA every 3-4 months. If you wish to make contact on any matter please email Scott on scott@northwoodconservatives.org or call his mobile on 07810 543808.

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@hillingdon.gov.uk

Planning

New NRA Planning Officer. We reported previously that we had secured the services of a lady to take over responsibility for reviewing planning issues, however due to unforeseen circumstances she has found it necessary to withdraw. We have high hopes that she may be able to re-join the executive committee at some time in the future. Fortunately, Mr Charles Ellis volunteered to help and he will soon be taking over the planning remit. Charles' background in surveying makes him eminently suited to this task and he will be taking over just as soon as he has familiarised himself with the planning process.

NRA can advise. We have had some concerns recently with development proposals in Hallowell Road. These difficulties may have been averted had the householders discussed their proposals with their neighbours or the NRA before proceeding. Some problems in the road still exist and the Association is maintaining a watching brief.

Basements. We are concerned at the increase in the number of applications which incorporate below ground level basement rooms fearing the effect this may have on adjacent properties.

Since October 2011 we have not had cause to object to too many applications and hopefully this means that developers are paying greater attention to what is and is not legally permissible.

Sex Entertainment Licences. Some members have expressed concerns about the application by local public houses applying for exotic and pole dancing licences. The current view of the Association is that since these activities have been in operation for some years without causing problems locally we are not disposed to object. Individuals are never-the-less free to object to the Borough Licensing Committee should they so wish.



Alan Prue

planning@northwoodresidents.co.uk

The Northwood Gravel Pits

The council has secured funds to carry out some improvements to and maintenance of the Northwood Gravel Pits. This small natural area of woodland starts in Rickmansworth Road opposite the end of Green Lane and runs along the side of Copse Wood Way stretching right across to Ducks Hill Road. After consultation with 'The Friends of the Gravel Pits' the council intends to open up the entrance area in Rickmansworth Road by clearing the scrub and brambles near the horse trough. This will provide views through the trees to the grassy area and picnic tables, encouraging those who don't know the area to venture further onto the pathways and the wild nature trail. New benches, signage, and nature trail maintenance are also planned. An inspection of trees adjacent to roads will take place, to ensure any dangerous whole trees or branches are removed.

If you would like to become a Friend of the Gravel Pits, and help with some voluntary work in keeping paths clear etc, please contact Richard Plume on 01923 827409.

Miles Gillman

From the Treasurer

World Turmoil. The new year will be well under way when this newsletter is delivered, but a belated happy new year to everyone. Last year was filled with so many natural disasters and political unrest we can only hope for better this year. The turmoil did hit the world economy significantly. As Japan repatriated money to rebuild after their tsunami, the price of Yen rose which was the exact opposite of what they would have liked. The loss of components or finished products created shortages around the world. The floods in Thailand exacerbated the issues. Oil prices fluctuated as supplies were 'at risk' thus raising them, or decreased due to the world recession reducing demand. The reality is probably speculators earning their excessive commissions. The banks like to think they can now behave 'as normal', unfortunately, that is hardly the case and governments are now at risk having bailed out the banks and so find themselves plunged into massive debt. What have the bankers done to fill in the obvious skills gaps from just a few years ago?

NRA subscriptions down. The recession may have been the cause for our association's reduced income last year. Receipts were a little lower than in the previous year. If any road stewards have yet to forward any subs for 2011 please do so promptly so they can be included in the final accounts. To all paid-up members, thank you for your continued support.

Optimism for 2012. Let's hope 2012 will be a year to remember for positive reasons. The Diamond Jubilee will provide positive, 'feel good' benefits; especially because of the long weekend. Euro 2012 will keep football on the screens into June, and then we have the Olympics which are proving to be extremely popular.

On a local front, let's all keep supporting our local businesses and promoting the NRA to ensure our membership numbers remain high and our mandate as strong as possible.



David Blowers

treasurer@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Northwood Library Update

The Reminiscence Afternoon in October proved very popular and we are grateful to the Residents' Association and the Local History Society for the loan of photos, maps and information. We still have copies of the History Trail available free of charge if you wish to discover historical Northwood.

In December, Holy Trinity School choir sang Christmas carols in the library. The children sang beautifully and it made a special start to the Christmas season. We hope to repeat this next Christmas.

Bizzy Bees storytime for pre-school children and carers takes place every Wednesday during term time at 10am, with stories, singing and craft. There will be an activity for children during half-term week in February, so contact the library for details nearer the time or go to our library website, www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries

E-mail services. Readers can be advised by e-mail when reservations arrive or a notice can be sent to inform you that your books are due for return or renewal. If you wish to take advantage of this service, let library staff know your email address. Renewing on-line has now been made even easier, just go direct to www.hillingdon.gov.uk/renew

Online taster sessions. During the week 12th – 18th May, the library will be holding a coffee morning as part of Adult Learners' Week, showing how the library taster sessions can open up the online world to even the most nervous beginner and what the internet has to offer to people of all ages and abilities.

In June, Northwood and Northwood Hills Libraries will have a stall at the Northwood Diamond Jubilee celebrations, showcasing what our libraries have to offer the community, with fun activities for children.

It is free to join the library. If you are not already a member, just bring proof of identity, giving your name and address, and you can join immediately. Do visit us and see what we have to offer.

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



Girlguiding UK
girls in the lead

All Rainbows, Brownies and Guides in Northwood District have had a very active year, undertaking many and varied activities including cookery, craft, sailing, badgework, fundraising and ice skating. Camps, Pack Holidays and Sleepovers have been highlights for the girls allowing them to develop a wealth of new skills.

Many of our units have joined in large scale events organised by both Northwood District and Ruislip-Northwood Division where they have the opportunity to mix with girls from other units and sections. It is always lovely to see the youngest girls in Rainbows joining in with the older girls in Brownies and Guides.

At Christmas our units entertained the residents of homes for the elderly and at sheltered housing such as St. John's Court, Erskine House and Denville Hall singing a selection of Christmas carols and Guiding songs and, of course, presented them with their handmade Christmas gifts!

Girlguiding is a fantastic organisation run by enthusiastic volunteers on a weekly basis during term time and, speaking personally, it is very rewarding. We are always looking for new helpers so if you feel you have the time to spare and would consider giving up a couple of hours a week, please contact Jane at janeanderson66@btinternet.com

Northwood District Guides

Northwood and District U3A – University of the Third Age

Northwood and District U3A has continued to grow and now has around 400 members. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at Fairfield Church in Northwood Hills. Meetings begin at 10.30am and details of each month's meeting will be displayed in all local libraries and on our website: u3asites.org.uk/northwood

We now have around 30 interest groups. A small selection includes: Opera Appreciation, Play Reading, History, Family History, Outings and Gardening. New members are always welcome.



We have also booked a stand at the Jubilee Celebration to be held in the Chestnut Avenue Recreation Ground on June 2nd 2012. See you there!

In April 2012 our speaker for the month will be Nick Hurd MP and we have a change of venue. This meeting will be held at the Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue in Oaklands Gate, Northwood.

Maureen Crimmins
Vice Chairman

Northwood Craft Market

Northwood Craft Market had a very successful Christmas Market at the beginning of December and we are very grateful to volunteers from the Northwood Live at Home Scheme and also the Explorer Scouts who helped publicise the market, giving out leaflets to shoppers during the morning.

Our next markets are on 25th February, 24th March and 21st April, at Northwood Methodist Church Hall, Oaklands Gate, from 10am to 3pm. There is always a variety of beautiful handmade gifts and crafts available at the market, ranging from knitted, sewn and embroidered items, to jewellery, decoupage, photography and more.

We are in need of volunteers to help distribute posters and handbills for example to local shops. If you can help in any way, or wish to find out more about the market, e-mail us on northwoodcraftmarket@hotmail.co.uk or phone Susan on 07780 601842. Future market dates and other information are on our website www.northwoodcraftmarket.co.uk and you can find us on Facebook.



Cross-stitch coasters for sale



RAFT (Registered Charity No. 299811) - the Restoration of Appearance and Function Trust - is a 23 year old medical research charity based on the Mount Vernon Hospital campus in Northwood.

RAFT is dedicated to improving the treatment and quality of life for those affected by major skin traumas such as burns, wounds, limb amputations and skin cancer.

We focus on getting our research from the scientist's lab to the patient's bedside in the quickest time possible to make the greatest impact on the quality of their lives. In addition,

we work in collaboration with other groups and train future scientists and medical professionals.

RAFT is unique in that we fundraise for and conduct our own research. We are neither Government nor NHS funded, and so rely on the kindness and support from the public in order for our vital research to continue.

Further information can be found about RAFT by visiting www.raft.ac.uk or by contacting Leonor Stjepic, Chief Executive on 07814 706144.

Council of Christians and Jews

Hillingdon CCJ has continued to organise well-attended monthly meetings covering a wide range of speakers and subjects, with two events in January to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. Forthcoming meetings:

Wednesday 21st March

A talk entitled "The Opportunities and Pitfalls of Jewish/Christian Dialogue" will be given by Rabbi Danny Rich JP BA (Hons) at 8.00pm at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Northwood, HA6 2RP. Entrance is via Gateway Close.

Wednesday 18 April

Fiyaz Mughal OBE FCMI, Director of "Faith Matters" will discuss "Is thinking for ourselves dangerous?" at 8.00pm at Ruislip United Synagogue, 9-17 Shenley Avenue, Ruislip Manor, HA4 6BP.

Each meeting is followed by socialising and light refreshments and EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

For further information about CCJ, please email: hon.secretary@ccj-hillingdon.org.uk or call 07836 676792.

Friends of Michael Sobell House Hospice

The Friends of Michael Sobell Hospice based at the Mount Vernon Hospital in Northwood are looking forward to a great 2012 and have some fantastic fundraising events coming up in the next few months. They include a "Feel Good, Look Good" Pamper Day on March 25th and the annual MSH Plant Sale on 28th April plus the big "Ladies in the Night" sponsored walk on 15th June. So whether you want to treat yourself, treat

your garden or treat your feet, we've got an event for you!

Come along and help raise some much needed funding for this brilliant charity - for more details contact Ophelia on 01923 844829

or go to www.michaelsobellhouse.co.uk



Missing Hillingdon People?

If you have problems with the delivery of Hillingdon People, please call 01895 250828 or follow the links on the LBH website: www.hillingdon.gov.uk

Hillingdon People is issued January, March, May, July, September and November each year.

Northwood Residents' Association 46th Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 20th March 2012
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 2011
- 2) To receive the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2011
- 3) To set the rate of subscription for the year 2012 (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 BLOWERS
Hon Auditor	Mr Chris ROGERS FCA
- 5) To elect an Executive Committee:
Members standing for re-election: Mrs Anna Davis, Mrs Marie-Françoise Meyer, Mrs Rachel Owen, Mr Jayesh Patel and Mrs Marietta Richardson
Co-opted member standing for election: Mr Charles Ellis
- 6) To elect the President, currently Mr Alan Prue and vice-president, currently Mrs Valerie Mellor Mrs Lisa Maclay has been proposed as a second vice-president
- 7) **Guest Speakers:** Stuart Hunt, Head of Hillingdon Green Spaces and Ian Cantley, Chairman of the Ruislip Woods Trust, will give a talk and slide show on the activities in the Northwood and Ruislip woods
- 8) Any Other Business
- 9) Open Forum with our local councillors present

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.

Northwood Lions Club

In December we donated six hampers filled with Christmas goodies to young carers and their families in the Northwood area. Volunteers from the Den supported the club by donating warm bedding and clothing to the winter homeless shelter in Uxbridge.

Our year ended with a social evening which included a light-hearted quiz; all the answers had four letters. Sounds easy, but ...

We have changed the opening times for our bookstall in the Joel Street United Reformed Church. It will now open on the last Tuesday of each month between 9.30am and 12 noon. Do come in and have a browse. Where else could you find good quality second-hand paperbacks for only 40p?

We are always interested in meeting prospective new members. If you would like more information about Northwood Lions Club, please contact Robert on 07860 324395 or visit the Den at 195 Pinner Road on a Saturday morning between 9.45am and 11.45am.



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Northwood Live At Home Scheme

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Featuring local ladies' choir
Sounds Easy

and

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Sat 14th April, 7pm to 11pm at
Holy Trinity Church hall

Tickets £35 Call 01923 827409

NRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:	Alan Prue	
Vice President:	Valerie Mellor	
Chairman:	Tony Ellis	821237
Vice Chairman:	Miles Gillman	825599
Treasurer:	David Blowers	
Secretary:	Ros Plume	827409
Chief Road Steward:	Marietta Richardson	
Committee Members:	Anna Davis	
	Charles Ellis	
	Lisa Maclay	
	Frances Meyer	
	Rachel Owen	
	Jayesh Patel	

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★ Community ★
★ Foundation for ★
★ providing funding for ★
★ the computer and ★
★ software used to create ★
★ this newsletter. ★

Ruislip-Northwood Flower Arrangement Society

Tues 6 Mar Mig Kimpton, "Olympic Collection"

Tues 3 Apr AGM. Talk, no demo

Tues 1 May Andy Lloyd, "The Merry Month of May"

Venue: Northwood College, Maxwell Rd, Northwood

Doors open at 7 pm for 7.30 pm start; Visitors £3

Contact: Jean Joseph on 01923 829621

Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society

20 Feb The History of RAF Northolt, **Mark Bristow**,
RAF Northolt Historian & Archivist

19 Mar The Restoration of Strawberry Hill, **Anna Chalcraft**,
Friends of Strawberry Hill

16 Apr Johannes Gutenberg & the Story of Print, **Peter Balding**,
'Apsley Paper Trail' Heritage

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



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