

# Northwood Residents' Association

Newsletter 155



February 2013

## President's Comment - Alan Prue

I am extremely concerned that the NRA Executive is failing to attract members to give of their time to run the organisation. There are a number of posts which we urgently require to be filled and unless we can quickly achieve this then we will be left with no other option than to either, at best, severely curtail our operations or, at worst, to disband the organisation. This latter possibility is a very real one which will leave residents with only the local Councillors to look to for assistance with their problems. We also bring about many improvements to Northwood. This service will be lost.

The list of Executive Committee vacancies appears below.

Currently we have an extremely active Chairman who works tirelessly on behalf of the organisation, supported ably by our Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Chief Road Steward and Membership Secretary. Two committee briefs (Planning and Traffic & Highways) are currently held by me, the others are vacant. However, according to our constitution, I should not be a voting member of the Executive Committee and am doing so at present only because I have been temporarily co-opted to fill the casual vacancies. All of the vacancies must be filled at the AGM.

The existence of an active Residents' Association is vital to the well-being of Northwood's residents, young and old alike. I urge you to consider sparing a few hours a month and to take an active part in the community life of Northwood by standing as an Executive Committee Member. Please contact our Chairman or me to learn more.

Alan Prue, NRA President

Tel: 019213 821541

### Vacancies

**Traffic and Highways** - Answering members' questions and dealing with the Council and Councillors re traffic management, state of roads, speeding, road safety, etc.

**Environment** - Answering members' questions about refuse collections, state of environment, street lighting etc.

**Planning** - Examining local planning applications and objecting to the Council where necessary, giving general advice to members, helping with petitions, liaising with Councillors. This is a technical subject and any necessary help and training will be given.

**Police** - Liaising with local police and reporting to members.



**Get involved in your community today!**

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## Traffic and Highways

**Northgate revisited.** Complaints by Northgate residents concerning illegal turns into the road by traffic from Ducks Hill Road have been passed to Councillor Scott Seaman-Digby who will hopefully now determine together with Council Officers how this situation will be resolved. It would now appear that the Council and not the Police have responsibility for control of the situation but not the facilities to take enforcement action!

**Pot Holes.** We have received complaints about the road surface in Nicholas Way which in one part of the road is indeed in a parlous state. This situation has also been made known to our local Councillors in the hope that they can mobilise our Council Officers into some action.

**Dangerous U-turns.** No response has been received from either our local Councillors or Council Officers with reference to our request to look at what could be done to stop drivers exiting left from The Avenue onto the Rickmansworth Road and then making a U-turn around the traffic island to head towards Northwood Hills. I have personally witnessed this occur on at least two occasions with in one instance the vehicle mounting the pavement.

**And more dangerous turning.** The NRA is now holding a watching brief over the Council's dealing with a petition by Woodridge Way residents concerned about their difficulty in exiting their road due to an inability to see traffic approaching from the right. The Council has taken well in excess of a year to consider the petition but has now promised to come up with a proposal shortly. We await action!



**Another Northgate?** A road sign has appeared in Frithwood Avenue requiring vehicles wishing to access Watford Road to turn only right between the hours of 7.00am and 9.00am. This would appear to be a somewhat peculiar request requiring crossing the traffic travelling up the Watford Road. We have asked Councillor Seaman-Digby to investigate why this is necessary. Are we creating another Northgate situation?

Alan Prue

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

## From the Treasurer

**Global Economy.** 2012 was an interesting year with a Royal Jubilee and the Olympics, starting with a drought but finishing in the record books for being the wettest year in parts. 2013 may not have such large events to provide distractions but there is the small issue of a World Cup to qualify for and the economy is still not showing the growth hoped for. The indecision in the Euro zone is no doubt playing a part and the skewed expenditure patterns of the last decade will take time to filter through. Spending on borrowed money basically is spending tomorrow's income today; some rebalancing is required.

**NRA Economy.** The NRA income and expenditure in 2012 was fairly neutral so we still have healthy reserves. The organisation does need some reserves so we can fight for Northwood when necessary. However, should you have an idea for a project for which some capital spend would benefit Northwood, please let us know what you have in mind for consideration.

**LBH Economy.** The Council spends money in sometimes mysterious ways. The No Left Turn from Frithwood Avenue into Watford Road between 07:00 and 09:00, Mon to Fri baffles me no end. I can see no benefit from this restriction but a lot of quite dangerous drawbacks. E.g. if traffic cannot turn left, it will either turn right or be forced to complete a U turn. Turning right is much more difficult and dangerous than simply turning left to join the traffic. Having done so, a left turn into Elgood

is one possible option, followed by a U turn and another right turn into Watford Road so the desired direction is obtained.

Or carry on and get to the mini-roundabout with the High St, join Green Lane and then turn into Watford road at the next mini-roundabout. Or having turned right, some traffic may continue to Green Lane and turn around at the mini-roundabout, which is also not desirable, or possible for some vehicles. For traffic that completed a U turn, it will mean a diversion back to Eastbury Road and a trip down Carew Rd to make a left into Watford Rd, or along Eastbury Avenue, where a left turn into Watford Rd is more difficult since it is on a bend and the speed limit is 40mph at that junction.

The road sign cost money to produce and erect, and will cost in terms of wasted fuel and pollution. It is likely to cause accidents with more right turns and more traffic along roads busy with school children at that time. I urge everyone affected to contact the council to suggest the removal of these restrictions.

**NRA funds can benefit all.** So sensible ideas that would benefit Northwood, please; the NRA does not wish to create anything that does not enhance the area for the benefit of all.



David Blowers

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

## Chairman's Report - Tony Ellis



### Introduction

The Editor has given the lead article to the President's Comment which I totally endorse. The Executive Committee and I work very hard on your behalf. The number of questions answered, and the number of subjects dealt with has increased considerably in the last year and we have had to

deal with these with dwindling resources. Members always seem grateful for this work and yet very few seem to want to give anything in return.

Unfortunately lack of volunteers isn't specific to Northwood. Many residents' associations throughout the country are suffering in a similar manner. Whatever happened to the "Olympic Effect"?

We are going to discuss the future of the NRA at the AGM in March (see page 11). Please come and have your say.

### Station Approach

Last year it was revealed that Transport for London was considering developing their property in Northwood. Tentative plans have been drawn up to demolish the whole block from the frontage with Green Lane (from Coral Bookmakers to the alley next to Lee Garden, Chinese Takeaway) down to the car park replacing it with housing, a supermarket (possibly Sainsbury's), a multi-storey car park and a bus station. No provision has been made for re-siting the existing shops, businesses and the car body repair shop. It is also likely that Waitrose would close if a new supermarket opened.

These thriving businesses are an integral part of Northwood and bring people into the town. Their loss, and the opening of a supermarket, would deal a fatal blow to Northwood and cause the closure of many of the remaining businesses. Those of you who were living here when Waitrose opened in 1987 will remember that many shops subsequently closed as they couldn't compete.

On 17<sup>th</sup> January, with the help of Farah Condor of Senses, I convened a meeting with Dr Onkar Sahota, GLA member for Hillingdon and Ealing, and the affected businesses. Ten business owners turned up. Dr Sahota undertook to raise a question with the Mayor at the next Council meeting and to help us fight TfL's plans. I have also sought help from Nick Hurd MP and our local councillors.

It is inevitable that TfL will wish to realise full value from the site. However, any development must exclude a supermarket and provide alternative premises for the current tenants. In fact, I believe that a suitable development could enhance Northwood and every effort will be made to ensure that residents are fully consulted.

### Police

In January the Mayor of London announced a draft policing model for the Metropolitan Police which will concentrate spending on putting more officers on the beat, cutting back on senior and back-room staff and selling surplus premises. Consultation is taking place in February and closes on 6<sup>th</sup> March. In Hillingdon, the proposals include a doubling in size of the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams and an increase in other officers from 480 to 525. The closure and sale of Northwood Police Station is also proposed. As the Murray Road building is Grade 2 listed and in a conservation area, any redevelopment will be severely restricted.

When your Committee has the full facts, we will publish the details of how Northwood is affected on the NRA website and then consult with members as to the best way forward. A Police Inspector will explain the reorganisation at the AGM. In the meantime, please take the trouble to read the consultation document to be found at <http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/policing-and-crime/community-engagement>

### Christmas

We have been approached by several traders to consider organising a formal event to switch on the Christmas lights in 2013. Naturally we are delighted that traders are getting more involved in community life in Northwood. More news in the next newsletter.

### Change

2013 is going to be a year of change. In addition to the changes above, there are radical changes being made to the way the NHS operates (see Health on page 6). The Committee and I promise to do our best to ensure that the interests of Northwood residents are fully represented.

### Conclusion

I am grateful to the members of the committee and our secretary for the work that they do and the support they give me. In particular thanks to Alan Prue (President) and Valerie Mellor (Vice President) for fulfilling vital roles during the time of our need. Welcome back to Jo Hunter who stood down for family reasons in 2011 and has returned to take on the Health role. Thanks also to Anna Davis who has been responsible for Environment for the last 3½ years. As usual, a big thank you to our Area Road Stewards and Road Stewards for their valuable contributions. Finally I would also thank Tina Williams for tending our flowerbeds at the Station. They provide a touch of colour all year round.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Annual General Meeting.

Tony Ellis  
[chairman@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:chairman@northwoodresidents.co.uk)  
Tel: 01923 821237

## Environment

As this will be my last newsletter article, I thought I would give a brief overview of the environmental issues the NRA has tried to deal with.

The quality of the environment has an important impact on the vitality of our town centre. Residents are attracted to Green Lane and the High Street to shop, eat out, use services such as the Post Office, dentist or doctor. The biggest improvement I have seen to the environment of Northwood during the last few years has been the refurbishment of Green Lane, which was done to a high standard. More recently, the removal of the illuminated telephone kiosk outside Barnardo's, which many residents found inappropriate, was the result of an accident – unfortunate for the driver but with a silver lining for the environment of the town centre.

There have been a number of problems which come up regularly, such as the untidy proliferation of estate agents' boards outside properties which have long been sold or

let, the 'fly-posting' of unauthorised banners on street railings, the poor state of some pavements in residential roads, and the constant nuisance of overhanging branches from private gardens and street trees alike. Leaves provoke a love/hate reaction in many people – love them when attached to the trees, hate them when they hit the ground!

One serious blight on the environment of Northwood is the continuing saga of the Reindeer site. Although planning permission has been granted for a development, the project has stalled. We are left with an ugly gap in the streetscape and a problem area in front of the site which attracts rubbish. If there is one problem I would like to see resolved, it is this one.

The NRA will continue to monitor the state of Northwood's environment and take steps to improve matters where possible.

*Anna Davis*

***environment@northwoodresidents.co.uk***

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## Road Stewards

Northwood Residents' Association is totally run by volunteers, with the aim of informing and assisting local residents to ensure Northwood continues to be a pleasant and congenial place to live. Your committee takes up all sorts of issues of concern with various departments in Hillingdon Council, and our local MP on your behalf, as well as inviting all members to the AGM to hear more of your views face-to-face. It also co-ordinates local amenities, such as the Christmas lights, the station platform flowerbeds and this last year the hugely successful Jubilee Celebration.

Our main means of communicating with you are our regularly updated website (**[www.northwoodresidents.co.uk](http://www.northwoodresidents.co.uk)**) and of course this newsletter, which is published three times a year – usually in February, June and October.

Distribution of the Newsletter is down to me as Chief Road Steward – though with about 6,000 residences in our area, I don't do it all myself! I am assisted by 13 Area Road Stewards, who are in turn helped by, presently, around 90 Road Stewards. Each Road Steward is responsible for delivering Newsletters to members in from three to ten or more roads or blocks of flats around where they live, and once a year collecting the members' subscriptions. The Road Stewards are the point of personal contact between members and the NRA committee, and hence are vital.

Of course Area and Road Stewards move out of the area from time to time, and we all grow older and feel the need to retire eventually, so a steady stream of replacements is vital. We urgently need more volunteers to be Road Stewards. Could you spare just a little of your time to help us? You will be well supported by your Area Road Stewards, and we have regular get-togethers to exchange views and receive up-date training in record-keeping and member-recruitment. A map showing areas where Road Stewards are needed will be displayed at the AGM.

Our next get-together will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, which would be a great time to meet all the other Road Stewards if you join us, so please contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Paul Barker, Chief Road Steward.*

*Tel: 01923 821036*

***chiefroadsteward@northwoodresidents.co.uk***

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## Awards and Activities in the Woods

Poor's Field, the area of Ruislip Common between the Lido and Northwood Golf course with access by the end of Links Way and Hills Lane, has been awarded the Britain in Bloom gold award. The management of the Common has also resulted in the award of 'London Common of the year' - and it's right on our doorstep!

Everyday work continues in the woods; the paths are in a terrible state following the wettest year on record. The Rangers are hoping to extend the boardwalks in many of the worst areas to help make them passable. Recycled plastic

boards, indistinguishable from the wooden ones, are being considered. They also last five times as long.

140 disease-resistant elm trees have been planted across the borough as part of a National scheme.

We hope to organise guided walks in the woods in the summer - details in the next newsletter.

Finally a date for your diaries: May 12<sup>th</sup> will be the day of the annual Woods Festival at the Lido, featuring Shire Horses, Falconry, Ferret-racing and many more woodland activities and crafts.

*Miles Gillman*

## Planning

From the beginning of November 2012 to January 2013, the NRA has reviewed 17 new Planning Applications with only three of these necessitating our raising objections with the Council. These applications are shown below together with the reasons the NRA felt objections were necessary.

Also noted are the results of appeals made by applicants to the Appeals Inspectorate, applications currently under appeal, planning applications rejected by the Council's Planning Committee and applications not the subject of NRA objection.

### Appeal decisions

- 1) 62 Stanley Road - Allowed
- 2) 4 Reginald Road - Dismissed
- 3) Vacant Land fronting Northgate - Allowed

### LBH Approval of Application objected to by NRA

- 1) 2 Hurst Place

### Application Gone to Appeal

- 1) 64-66 Hallowell Road

### Planning Refusal

- 1) Junction of Kewferry Road and Drive

### Planning Objections Raised by NRA

- 1) Land at the rear of 115-117 Hallowell Road  
Two storey building with 2 by 1 bed flats and 2 by 2 bed flats.  
Objection based on failure to comply with the Council's Unitary Development Plan under sections BE5,6,13,15,19 and H7(iii).
- 2) 39 Copse Wood Way  
Part two storey, 5 bed detached dwelling with habitable roof space.  
Objection based on failure to comply with the Council's Unitary Development Plan under sections BE5,6,13,15,20,22 and 24.

- 3) Pharmacy at the Northwood Health Centre.

Objection based on the belief that sufficient pharmacies exist within the local area to meet the needs of the local community. The PCT needs assessment supports this view. If allowed there is the possibility that the existence of this pharmacy could cause a loss of pharmacies based in central Northwood with commensurate job losses.



### Applications with no Objection raised by NRA

- 1) 201 Pinner Road  
Variation of office opening hours
- 2) 48 Gatehill Road  
Part two storey, part single storey rear extension and alterations to front and side elevation
- 3) 21 Rofant Road  
Part two storey, part single storey front/side extension
- 4) 54 Gatehill Road  
Single storey front/side/rear extension
- 5) Vine Cottage, Hills Lane  
Two storey side extension
- 6) Lloyds TSB 5 Rowland Place  
Installation of internally illuminated marketing sign and ATM sign
- 7) 17-19 Maxwell Road  
Installation of an internally illuminated fascia sign and internally illuminated hanging sign
- 8) Land to Rear of St Mathews Church, Forge Lane  
Two storey building to create 4 by 1 bed flats
- 9) 132 Hallowell Road  
Installation of vehicular cross over and parking space
- 10) 141 Ducks Hill Road  
Conversion of attached garage to habitable use

If any NRA member should wish to discuss any aspect of a proposed planning application in advance of its submission to the Council the NRA would be pleased to offer advice.

Alan Prue

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



MIDSUMMER GARDENS  
Sponsored by Gables Cottage and Ducks Hill Garden Centre at Ruislip  
Local gardens open for charity  
[www.midsummergardens.com](http://www.midsummergardens.com)  
[midsummergardens@btinternet.com](mailto:midsummergardens@btinternet.com)

## A PEEP OVER THE GARDEN FENCE WITH MIDSUMMER GARDENS

Over the weekend of Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th June, the public will have the opportunity to see what is normally private when 20 local gardens kindly open their gates for charity.

**Midsummer Gardens** stretches from Hatch End, Pinner, Northwood, Moor Park, Ruislip, Eastcote across to Denham.

"Six are brand new to the event and one belongs to a Chelsea Gold Medal winner. There will be plant sales, traditional English afternoon teas, art and many more reasons to join us." commented Warren Reeves, one of the event organisers.

Proceeds from ticket sales will be split between five local charities. Individual gardens will be raising further funds for charities or organisations of their choice. Tickets for the whole weekend are priced at £10.00 which includes entry into a prize draw. They will be on sale from Easter weekend from Ducks Hill Garden Centre or by telephone to 01923 829977, 01923 451616 or 01895 677925.

For further information and pictures of the gardens visit; [www.midsummergardens.com](http://www.midsummergardens.com)



## Health Matters

As mentioned in the Autumn newsletter, the Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group, run by local GPs, takes over responsibility for commissioning our health services on 1st April. It is still not known whether it will inherit £15million of the £21.2million debt incurred by Hillingdon PCT.

Hillingdon Healthwatch takes over from LiNk on 1<sup>st</sup> April. It is currently recruiting board members from the local community and will be, de facto, the new champion for health and social care in Hillingdon. We will post more details on the NRA website and on the Waitrose noticeboard as they become available.

The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (THH) is still seeking to widen its membership. Members are able to take part in meetings that help to formulate policy at the hospitals and receive regular newsletters from the Trust. If you are interested in making a contribution to your hospital, contact the Foundation Trust office on 0800876 6953 email: [foundation@thh@nhs.uk](mailto:foundation@thh@nhs.uk)

As many patients are unhappy with parking arrangements at both Mount Vernon and Hillingdon hospitals, THH is to carry out a thorough review in 2013 with a view to producing a better and fairer system. We will keep you informed.

Tony Ellis  
[health@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:health@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

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## Mount Vernon Hospital Comforts Fund needs YOU!

We are a charity, established for over 75 years, providing voluntary services to the hospital in the form of a general store, book shop, ward trolley, charity shop and radiotherapy tea bar. Well over £75,000 is raised annually and it all gets ploughed back into the hospital in the form of medical equipment. Examples of recent items purchased include 14 electric beds, patient vital signs monitors, wheelchairs, physiotherapy equipment and many, many other items.

Could you give up just a few hours, once a week, or even once a fortnight, to help us continue providing these services? We have the following vacancies:

**Look-in Charity Shop:** 11.00-3.00pm (or 11-1 or 1-3)

**General Store:** 9.30-1.00pm or 1.00-3.30pm

**Radiotherapy Tea Bar:** 9.30-12.00noon or 12.00-2.00pm or 2.00-4.15pm

Duties are not arduous and full training will be given.

For further information please contact the Comforts Fund Office on 01923 844629. Leave your details and we will return your call.

Please help us to continue these vital services for patients and visitors, at the same time raising money for the hospital.

Lastly, don't forget to visit all the facilities if you are visiting the Mount Vernon site. Our general store sells newspapers, magazines, sweets and snacks, cold drinks, toiletries and stationery. Our second-hand book shop has a huge selection of fiction and non-fiction and the charity shop sells everything from second-hand clothes to small pieces of furniture. You will find us in the "village" area adjacent to the minor injuries clinic.

The trolley visits the wards every morning with a selection of items from the shop, and the tea bar is situated in the radiotherapy area to provide sustenance for those waiting for treatment.

Lisa Maclay

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## Northwood & District Community Association

Another year and the usual New Year resolutions to be made and hopefully actioned!

As December is so busy for most people, our rambling and walking for pleasure sections hold their Christmas meals in January. The Walking for Pleasure group started the morning with a walk on January 16<sup>th</sup> and then progressed to the Uxbridge Golf Club for a luncheon. The Rambling section held theirs on January 24<sup>th</sup> at Daisies in the Dark in Pinner.

Sadly we must bid farewell to our Keep Fit teacher, Chris Burt, who is putting her batons, scarves and hoops away and retiring to the country. Chris has taught our three keep fit classes for 15 years and she will be sorely missed. We wish her well in her new venture. Happily we have found a replacement teacher, Jayne Turnley, a young mother from Bushey and she will take over the classes from late February this year. Welcome Jayne, I know your ladies are looking forward to meeting you.

Happy New Year to everyone, and I hope I might hear from you if you would like to join this local association which has much to offer.

Pat Dunhill, Secretary  
01923 836346

## Northwood Golf Club

### Melanie's In The Chair

In a break with more than a century of tradition, a lady member has been appointed as Chairman of Northwood Golf Club. Melanie Roberts, a 16-handicap golfer, will lead the management team following her unanimous election by fellow Directors at the club that was founded on Rickmansworth Road in 1891.

Club Captain, Peter Freund said, "In this day and age, it shouldn't be remarkable that a lady member takes over the helm of a prominent local sports club. But golf is steeped in tradition and I'm fairly sure Northwood is the first local golf club to have cracked this glass ceiling!

"The directors have an important strategic role to play. Melanie has the business skills to take on this key role and a great track record at the club, where she is the current ladies club champion."

First elected to the Board a year ago, Melanie acknowledges that she takes up her new role when the economic climate is challenging. She said: "The club's members have asked management to focus on delivering a first-class golfing experience. Membership numbers are healthy and my priority is to ensure the club continues to invest in the course and facilities."

Stephen Proudfoot,  
General Manager, 01923 821384



Melanie Roberts (right) receiving the Ladies Club Champion Trophy from Elaine Goulding, 2011-12 Lady Captain

**Editor's comment:** You may well remember the controversial fly-on-the-wall documentary which was broadcast in 1994 in which it was revealed that the NGC was still elitist. Women were admitted in the 1930s, but women still didn't have equal status - on Saturday and Sunday mornings, the course was men-only and at the AGM women were not allowed to vote or speak. Good to see that things have moved on! By the way, the film is still available to view online at [www.channel4.com](http://www.channel4.com) - as entertaining as anything on YouTube.

## Northwood Tennis Club



Members enjoying refreshments after tennis

Although this is a quieter time of year than the summer there are veterans' floodlit and tournament matches for those wanting some competitive tennis.

The summer season starts again at the beginning of April and a new committee and team captains will have been elected at the AGM to be held in March.

We continue to run social events approximately monthly in our friendly bar.

Our new coach Simon is running various coaching initiatives and you can find details of these on his website at [www.sgtennis.co.uk](http://www.sgtennis.co.uk)

The club website is being revamped at present so if you wish to contact the club please either get in touch with Simon or our chairman David Cameron at [david-cameron5@sky.com](mailto:david-cameron5@sky.com)

## Northwood Lions Club

Our Christmas project this year was to provide hampers for young carers and their families. Altogether ten boxes were filled with a variety of goodies and sent off to Hillingdon Carers for distribution.

By the time you read this we will have donated another £10,000 to local charities from the proceeds of the Den at 195 Pinner Road. The hardworking volunteers there, many of whom have been involved for many years, are an amazing group of people who good-humouredly battle against the mountainous piles of donations which are received each week. Considering that the Den is open only between 9.45am and 11.45 am each Saturday the amount of money which is raised there is incredible.

This time the money will be going to CMSS< Kids Can, the Paul Strickland Scanner Centre, Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre, Watford New Hope Trust and the Northwood Young People's Centre in Hallowell Road.

For further information about Northwood Lions Club please contact Robert on 07860 324395.



Gyl Webb

## Community Voice

### Do you look to the NHS for health care?

If you use the NHS, you want the best treatment, fast, from experienced staff. We want that too. We monitor local NHS services, top to bottom, protest if necessary, and campaign when we must.

### Have you ever been to a Community Voice meeting?

We get top-notch speakers – hospital Chief Executives, consultant clinicians, first class researchers. Members have a unique forum to debate NHS issues and to confront powerful NHS people.

**Have we had triumphs?** Change always has many strings, but we are proud that remnants of plastic surgery still exist in Mount Vernon – thanks to our hard fought battle years ago. We are proud that our Cancer Centre still exists – what a fight we had to stop it moving to Hatfield! We are proud that NHS Boards now hold meetings in public – our campaign was long and hard.

**When do we meet?** First Thursday every month except August, at 7.45pm, in the Post Graduate Centre, Mount Vernon Hospital.

**Who are our members?** Residents' Associations, community groups – churches, sports clubs, branches of political parties, patient groups – plus individual members.

**What else do members get?** Ten monthly mailings, with minutes, agendas and news-sheets covering NHS national, regional and local news, particularly in Harrow, Hillingdon, and South West Herts.

**What does it cost?** Current subscriptions are £21 for an organisation (for two delegates), £9 for individual members, £13 for two from one household.

### What are the current issues?

Locally: furore over the proposal to site a pharmacy in Northwood Health Centre.

At hospital level: what will happen to the last patients in Mount Vernon's Daniel Ward? When will our Cancer Centre get replacement wards? When will Hillingdon's car parking be resolved? Will Northwick Park merge with Ealing? Will Ealing's A&E be closed? Will Watford General be rebuilt? Will Royal Brompton save its children's heart surgery – would Harefield survive if it lost?

At regional level: who will take a strategic view of London's health services when NHS London disappears next April?

Locally, the most pressing problem is Hillingdon Primary Care Trust's 2012-13 deficit. When the new Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group takes over in April will it inherit more than £15 million debt?

There is so much to do! We welcome visitors, hope they share our aims and will eventually want to join us. If you want to come along, 'phone 01895 636095, for details of our next meeting. We shall be pleased to see you.

*Joan Davis*  
Chairman of Community Voice

[www.communityvoicehealth.org.uk](http://www.communityvoicehealth.org.uk)

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

We are now in our 2nd Year and I feel that we have reason to be very satisfied with our progress so far and optimistic for our continuing success. Our membership was, at the last count, 499 and we continue to attract visitors who are interested in joining to our Monthly Meetings.

In November Dr Colin Bowlt gave us a talk on Ruislip Woods which was fascinating. Even for those of us who have lived in this area for many years it was full of so much information that was totally new to us. Who knew that, in fact, what we know as Ruislip Woods is made up of four separate woodlands and can be dated back to the Bronze Age?

Also in November we held a very successful Quiz Night with a fish supper at Fairfield Hall. At the end of the evening £100 was donated to Children in Need and other winners donated amounts to Water Aid and St Luke's Hospice. Have fun AND raise money for a good cause. I call that a Double Whammy!!

If there is a musical production on in London not seen by our U3A, it is not worth seeing. Organised impeccably by June Murray, there have been many outings to the West End over the last year including the very highly acclaimed



Book of Mormon and Top Hat. There are also many day trips being organised for the coming year to include Hidcote, Waddesdon Manor and in August, A Day at the Seaside - Brighton.

Let's hope that the rain has stopped by then.

We are having problems finding a venue for a Basic Computer Group. If anybody has any suggestions Ann Smith, who is our Group Coordinator would love to hear from you. Her email is [annbrian@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annbrian@hotmail.co.uk) At our December meeting we enjoyed entertainment from Linda Silk. She told stories and sang songs, many of them seasonal which she kindly allowed us to join in. We had started the meeting with a rendition of Que Sera Sera by our singing group. How lovely it was for us to have a captive audience who applauded even if only out of kindness for our efforts. Fairfield Hall this year, next year Albert??

I have only mentioned a few of our groups and activities so please, come along on a first Wednesday of the month, 10.30am at the Fairfield Church Hall, Windsor Close, Northwood Hills and find out more.

Wishing you all a Very Happy New Year.

*Maureen Crimmins, Vice Chairman*

## Councillors' Corner

The follow-up article on the plans for High Street improvements has been postponed until the next newsletter.

### 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](mailto:northwoodward@hillingdon.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)

## The Brown Badge Parking Scheme

Anyone who lives in the borough and is aged 65 or over is eligible to apply for a Brown Badge.

The brown badge gives motorists the use of dedicated parking spaces in council owned car parks and in some privately operated car parks in Hillingdon including Breakspear Crematorium and Ruislip Lido.

Designated spaces are marked close to exit points and where possible, nearest to the pay and display machines. You must display a Brown Badge and pay at the meter as normal. Badges must be displayed where it is clearly visible in the windscreen when parking in designated spaces.

### How do I apply for a Brown Badge?

To apply by post, please send your name, address and phone number (optional) to: Brown Badge, London Borough of Hillingdon, Parking Services, 2N/01 Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 1UW.

To apply by email, send your name, address and phone number (optional) to:

[parkingenforcement@hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:parkingenforcement@hillingdon.gov.uk).

For general information about the scheme, please phone 01895 250926.



## ArtReach Introducing Northwood Community Arts

We are a vibrant community group based in the heart of Northwood at St Johns Church, Hallowell Road. People passing by may have noticed the brightly coloured Community Canvas which was created by over 60 community members in 2011 and which marks our presence as a creative hub between the busy Station Approach, Green Lane and Hallowell Road triangle.

Northwood Community Arts (NCA) started life in 2005 supported and driven by creative arts agency ArtReach. A small group of like-minded, enthusiastic residents realised that not enough high quality, innovative and creative participatory activities were available for the people of Northwood or indeed in this part of Hillingdon and that they could perhaps address that situation; they set up a formal group and started to get the show on the road with a few taster activities to test the water such as circus skills, textiles workshops, family theatre, dance and Samba workshops. Support for these creative programmes increased over the years as people became acquainted with NCA and we became a charity last year.

Now we're looking ahead to 2013 with much to offer including - Vintage@Northwood dance workshops (vibrant and healthy dance sessions for anyone who is 50 plus), creative workshops and drawing events, Louis Pearl the Amazing Bubble Man on 12th and 13th April and our 8<sup>th</sup> Summer Circus Skills week.

If you would like more information about our programme, costs of workshops, booking information etc. please contact me at [northwoodarts@artreach.biz](mailto:northwoodarts@artreach.biz) or Tel: 01628 675800, Freephone: 08435 079473 and visit our website [www.northwoodcommunityarts.co.uk](http://www.northwoodcommunityarts.co.uk). We hope to see you soon!

Joy Tracy

## Northwood Library Update

@ Hillingdon Libraries



Events taking place in the library over the past few months have included a Hillingdon History afternoon, with an extremely interesting and entertaining talk by a local history enthusiast on the history of the Metropolitan Railway and how its coming affected Northwood and its development. Photographs and newspaper cuttings were displayed and refreshments were served. A Family Learning event during the October half term for children and their parents included a short talk about World War II, a mini History Trail around Northwood and making a gas mask.

Did you know that all Hillingdon library members who are interested in the past or in tracing their family tree can use the Ancestry or Find My Past websites in any Hillingdon library free of charge, where Census records, birth certificates, etc. can be accessed. These sites are part of our free On-Line library of useful reference books, most of which can also be accessed from home. Encyclopaedia Britannia is available at three levels, an excellent homework and study resource, and Theory Test Pro, a free on-line driving licence theory test. These are just two examples, check out the On-Line Library at our website, [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries), you may be surprised at what it has to offer.

Regular events include Storytime which takes place at 10am on Wednesdays during term time and our Saturday Chess Club started again on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2.30-3.30pm.

The Library has a very attractive chess set available behind the counter and also has a range of traditional board games for children. Our recent Games Afternoon proved very successful; please ask a member of staff if you and your children would like to play at any time.

As from 26th January, there will be advice from the National Careers Service one Saturday morning a month. It will be necessary to make a booking so if you are interested, please look out for the posters and ask a member of staff to arrange an appointment for you. This is a new venture and will assist anyone seeking work or looking for a new job or a change of direction.

Future events include National Heart Month in February, City Read London in April, based on Sebastian Faulks' "A Week In December", when the Library will host a talk relating to the book and its subject matter, with refreshments, and World Book Night on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Further information will be available nearer these dates.

### 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

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## Northwood Live at Home Scheme

### Wish You Were a Games Maker?

Whether you were or weren't, if you would like to continue the spirit of Games Making and have a few hours a week to spare, how about volunteering for the Northwood Live At Home Scheme? We support about 120 older people in Northwood and Northwood Hills to continue living in their own homes with social support. So we need drivers, befrienders and people to help run our weekly Lunch Club and Friendship Group, Tea and Chat Sessions and shopping trips.

We operate professionally under Methodist Homes for the Aged, but are a non-denominational local charitable organization. Please contact our Manager, Linda, on 01923 842494 if you are interested in helping, or if you know anyone who would benefit from getting our support.

Sue Mansfield, Chairman

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## Northwood Craft Market

Last year the market celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We were delighted to welcome the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Hillingdon to two of our markets and we also had a successful Christmas Market in December, with Santa in attendance.

This year our markets are on the **first Saturday of each month**, 10am-3pm at the Methodist Church Hall, Oaklands Gate, Northwood. Everything at the market is handcrafted by local craftspeople and it is always interesting to see what original ideas our crafters have come up with and the skills they demonstrate. At the market we will be continuing to have hands-on craft sessions for children, which have proved very popular.

We are looking for volunteers to help with various aspects of the market, for example distribution of publicity, setting up and packing away tables before and after the market. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in getting involved with the market in any way, do get in touch, either by phone to Susan on 07780 601842, or by e-mail to [northwoodcraftmarket@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:northwoodcraftmarket@hotmail.co.uk)

You can find further information about the market on our website [www.northwoodcraftmarket.co.uk](http://www.northwoodcraftmarket.co.uk), on our Facebook page, or follow us on Twitter @CraftNorthwood.

# Northwood Residents' Association 47th Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 19th March 2013

at Methodist Church, Oaklands Gate, Northwood

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

## AGENDA

- 1) Welcome and introduction from Tony Ellis, Chairman.
- 2) **First Guest speaker.** Roger Shipton, the Lead Public Governor of The Hillingdon Hospitals Foundation Trust will speak about the role of Governors.
- 3) To receive the Chairman's Report for 2012
- 4) To receive the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2012
- 5) To set the rate of subscription for the year 2013 (currently set at a minimum of £2 per household)
- 6) To elect the Officers, currently:

Chairman	Mr Tony ELLIS
Vice-Chairman	Mr Miles GILLMAN
Treasurer	Mr David BLOWERS
Hon Auditor	Mr Chris ROGERS FCA
- 7) To elect an Executive Committee:  
**Members standing for re-election:** Mr Paul Barker, Mrs Marie-Françoise Meyer  
**Co-opted member standing for election:** Jo Hunter
- 8) To elect the President, currently Mr Alan Prue  
and Vice Presidents, currently Mrs Valerie Mellor, Mrs Lisa Maclay.
- 9) **Second Guest speaker.** A Police Inspector from Hillingdon Division will talk about the changes that are being made to local policing.
- 10) Any Other Business.
  - The future of Northwood Residents' Association
- 11) 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.

## Explorer Scouts

### Christmas Post 2012 – our biggest ever!

Thank you very much to everyone who used our Christmas Post service in December 2012. We delivered over 1300 cards, more than double the number for the previous year. Explorers from all four units in the Ruislip Eastcote Northwood District took part in deliveries during the week or so before Christmas. The money raised will be put towards activities for the Explorer Scouts during the District Expedition to Kandersteg in 2014. We're looking forward to delivering even more cards in 2013!

See <http://www.renscouts.org.uk/> to learn more about Scouting in our District.

*Stephen Plume, District Explorer Scout Administrator*

### Kate Fassnidge Community Hall

The hall in the High Street is now open for hire by local residents and organisations. Enquiries should be addressed to Andrew Retter:

**[aretter@hilligdon.gov.uk](mailto:aretter@hilligdon.gov.uk)**

Tel: 020 8426 1806 or 07956 129046

Andrew will be pleased to show the facilities to any prospective hirer.

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01923 841222

## Council of Christians & Jews

**Islamic Jesus**  
**Jesus through Muslim eyes**

Explained & discussed by  
Sheik Dr Muhammed Al-Hussaini

Thurs 14th March at 8pm  
Northwood & Pinner Liberal  
Synagogue  
Oaklands Gate, Northwood

Entry £3 ALL ARE WELCOME  
[www.ccj-hillingdon.org.uk](http://www.ccj-hillingdon.org.uk)

## Friends of Michael Sobell House

**Sun 17th Mar: Feel Good Look Good** A day  
of complementary therapies and beauty  
treatments, carried out by fully qualified therapists  
at very competitive rates, all while helping to raise  
money for MSH. As well as a wide range of treatments including  
massage, aromatherapy, reflexology, facials, manicures and  
pedicures, we are hoping to have taster sessions available, giving  
you the chance to experience therapies you might not have tried  
before. If you'd like to treat someone else, you can buy one of our  
Gift Vouchers; they make a perfect present for any occasion! For  
more details contact: Christine Breen on 01923 844778 or by  
email at [cbreen@michaelsobellhospice.co.uk](mailto:cbreen@michaelsobellhospice.co.uk).  
[www.michaelsobellhospice.co.uk](http://www.michaelsobellhospice.co.uk)



## Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society

**18 Mar** Children in the Workhouse,  
**Victoria Preece**, Workhouse researcher  
**15 Apr** History and Functions of the Bank of England,  
**Tim Kidd**, London Blue Badge Guide



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)

To advertise here, please contact the Editor:  
[editor@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:editor@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

## NRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:	Alan Prue	
Vice Presidents	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	821036
Committee Members:	Anna Davis	
	Jo Hunter	
	Frances Meyer	

Website: [webmaster@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@northwoodresidents.co.uk)  
Editor: [editor@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:editor@northwoodresidents.co.uk)  
General: [info@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:info@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

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

## NRA Website and Newsletter

If you have never visited the NRA website, please do take a look. Here you will find all sorts of useful information about local organisations and services and how to contact them plus archived committee minutes and newsletters. We post news of events taking place in Northwood as well as up to the minute news items. We try to keep the site fresh and relevant, but this could be helped enormously by you, the members - do please send us any items that you think might be of interest to others. In particular, more photographs would be very welcome.

The same applies to the newsletter. We have our regular contributors but they sometimes struggle to find new things to say. So do feel free to send any items that are of general interest to Northwood residents.

Next newsletter deadline: **Monday 13th May**

Ros Plume  
Editor