

Northwood Residents' Association



June 2010

Newsletter 147

Chairman's Report - Tony Ellis



Introduction

It was good to see so many of you at the AGM in March. The lively debate that ensued encourages me that the work the NRA does on your behalf is well worthwhile. Do

continue to discuss with us your concerns and suggestions for improvement. I look forward to seeing you at the Forum in the Autumn. If you have topics that you wish to discuss, please do contact me.

Planning

We constantly review the work of the London Borough of Hillingdon Planning Department when examining plans that are submitted for approval. The results of these reviews give us cause for concern and we will be asking the newly elected Leader of the Council to carry out a complete review of the operation of the Department.

Many of the Department's decisions are taken in absolute secrecy. For example, an appeal by a resident about unauthorised development by a neighbour was held behind closed doors, the resident having had no right to see the documents prepared by the Department.

Errors have been found in Department decisions and it is very difficult to contest these. A recent example of this is in the case of 7 Highfield Crescent, which LBH has seemed to handle very badly and somewhat heavy-handedly. Far too many cases are resolved through what are called "delegated powers" which is when the Department makes its own decisions in secret.

The Department has made a mess of the planning application for the development on the site of the old Reindeer pub. First it forgot that the site is in a Conservation Area and had to pull the application from

the North Planning Committee agenda. It resubmitted a revised application three weeks later but forgot to give residents sufficient notice and again had to postpone the hearing. This alone shows that the Department is at best, inefficient, and at worst, arrogant.

Car parking

Ray Puddifoot, Leader of the Council before the recent elections, stated that he puts Hillingdon residents first. However, in Northwood, he does not include traders.

A year ago, when the Hillingdon First Card was introduced, parking fees for non-residents increased by 100%. In April this year, they were increased again so that charges have increased by 150% in the space of 12 months. You will remember that the NRA protested about these charges, as they were unfair to our neighbours in Eastbury, which is also part of Northwood. That protest fell on deaf ears. It now costs Eastbury and Pinner residents £1.50 to park in Northwood for 2 hours and this increase will cause them to shop elsewhere. In Three Rivers (Rickmansworth), parking is FREE for the first 2 hours.

Cllr Scott Seaman-Digby has stated that he is very sympathetic to a solution being found for Eastbury residents and has undertaken to carry out a comprehensive review and look for innovative solutions that, as well as satisfying non-residents, will be congestion- and pollution-reducing.

Election

Congratulations to Councillors Carol Melvin, Richard Lewis and Scott Seaman-Digby who were re-elected to represent Northwood ward. We have an excellent working relationship with them and look forward to its continuing.

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Chairman's Report ctd

Website

We have now redesigned our website (www.northwoodresidents.co.uk). The content is easier to navigate, the appearance is brighter and the modern technology is more flexible and will enable us to update the site with news and events with much less effort. Thanks are due to our webmaster Cathy Kim and to Stephen Plume who provided the technical wizardry.

If you have any suggestions about how to improve the website or have news or comment you think we should include, please send an email to webmaster@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Conclusion

We have recently welcomed Miriam Morgan to the committee as Membership Secretary and lost David Wilson our Treasurer. Thus we have a vacancy for a Treasurer. The NRA is always in need of members who are willing to spare a few hours doing committee work or as road stewards. I can honestly say that the work is enjoyable as well as being essential to the smooth running of the NRA, and I do hope that some of you are willing to join us. Please contact me and I will be delighted to explain what is involved.

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

Traffic and Highways

Green Lane Traffic Lights

Time has not softened the opinions of the majority of residents, and we are still receiving many emails of complaint, which we will be passing on to LBH.

The problems caused by the lights are too numerous to mention, but the overwhelming view is that there has been no improvement to safety; on the contrary, pedestrians are taking more risks and driver behaviour has deteriorated due to impatience. There seem to be endless periods when nothing is happening, which is frustrating for everyone.

We have been waiting for a new computer chip to be installed which will alter the order in which the different phases of the lights come in. Unfortunately, the chip did not fully pass the tests it has to be put through and the manufacturer will have to make another, which will considerably delay installation.

Can we remind drivers about the “advanced stop lines” (the green patches with a cycle emblem)? They are placed there to allow cyclists to wait ahead of other traffic, so all motorists must stay behind the first line reached and not encroach on the green area while waiting.

Thank you to all residents who have sent in their comments. Please continue to do so by emailing traffichighways@northwoodresidents.co.uk



20 mph Speed Limits

The new 20 mph limit is in place in the Green Lane shopping area. Please stick to it – **it's not optional!**

Kewferry Road and Moor Park Road are the first purely residential roads subject to a 20 mph limit and we will be watching the results with interest.

Rickmansworth Road

Drivers have now had plenty of time to get used to the new 30 mph limit (down from 40 mph). It appears that there is reasonable compliance, but there is room for improvement, especially as there is now a zebra crossing outside Holy Trinity School. We are hoping that the Metropolitan Police will be carrying out speed checks using mobile units.

Potholes

Many Northwood roads are in an atrocious state following the severe winter. We are pressing LBH to patch them up. We have been informed that several roads are in line for partial or full resurfacing; these include Linksway, Copsewood Way, Carew Road, Dene Road, Grove Road and Moor Park Road. Meanwhile, it would be very helpful if residents would report individual potholes. Email the contact centre at contactcentre1@hillingdon.gov.uk or complete an online form via the LBH website: www.hillingdon.gov.uk

Lisa Maclay

Environment

High Level Graffiti

There is some good news to report – the high level graffiti which has been above the shops in Green Lane since New Year has been painted over. Hopefully steps have now been taken to prevent vandals from gaining access to this area in the future.

New Paving in Moor Park Road and Northwood Way

Two large areas of new paving have been laid outside **St Martin's School in Moor Park Road, a location** which NRA has been complaining about for some **time. Unfortunately, this is not the 'good news item'** which I expected it to be, as both new areas were badly damaged within a few days of being laid. (see photos) A reliable witness has described the paving as intact when he passed in one direction, and broken when he returned an hour later. The most likely culprit therefore seems to be a heavy delivery lorry mounting the footpath.

On the bright side, an area of new paving outside Hillside School in Northwood Way has survived more or less intact so far. I would appeal to anyone who witnesses a heavy vehicle driving onto the footpath to please take a photograph if possible, note the time, location and vehicle registration number, and report it to LBH. Alternatively, send the information to NRA and we will report it for you.



Broken pavement in Moor Park Rd

Anna Davis
environment@northwoodresidents.co.uk

NRA Membership

The NRA held its annual reception for Road Stewards on April 27th at Northwood Cricket Club. The reception is the Association's way of saying "thank you" to the Road Stewards who collect subscriptions and deliver newsletters during the year, and without whom the Association could not exist. In contrast to the atrocious weather which we endured at last year's reception, this year we were blessed with a fine Spring evening.

It was a good opportunity for Road Stewards and their guests to chat and discuss any ideas and problems with Committee members (once the persistently ringing fire alarm had been disconnected!). Also present were Northwood's three PCSOs, who introduced themselves and described their individual "patches".

Supplies of subscription envelopes and receipt books were available on the night. Any Road Steward who would like either of these but who could not attend the reception should contact their Area Road Steward.



NRA Committee members chat with road stewards

URGENT!

Your Association needs a Treasurer

- Can you use a computer spreadsheet?
- Are you an organised person?
- Do you have any experience of simple book-keeping?
- Can you attend monthly committee meetings?
- Would you enjoy communicating with our road stewards?

If you can answer 'Yes' to most of the above, please consider applying.

Contact: Tony Ellis:

chairman@northwoodresidents.co.uk

We always have vacancies for Road Stewards, so if

you think you could help, please get in touch with us. We would also like to hear from anyone who lives in an apartment block with a view to enrolling their residents en bloc. Some blocks already use this system, which makes collecting subscriptions and delivering newsletters much more time-efficient.

The small glossy brochure outlining both the NRA's aims and objectives and how one can join the NRA has been updated. A copy can be obtained from any Road Steward, or from myself.

We are always delighted to hear from people, whether local or otherwise, **but please note that the overall "patch" of the NRA is the London Borough of Hillingdon part of Northwood and, primarily on logistical grounds, it is only to this area that we can deliver newsletters.**

Adrian Paterson
Chief Road Steward
membership@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Health Matters



Mount Vernon Cancer Centre opened its new Chemosuite and Clinical Trials Unit to patients on 1 February 2010. Funded by charity to the tune of £1.43 million, it offers 19 treatment chairs and 2 beds, 3 clinics or assessment rooms, a counselling room, preparations rooms and a 19-bed ward.

The next project at the Cancer Centre is to replace the wards and increase outpatient facilities. We shall probably see more joint work being undertaken with the Mount Vernon Treatment Centre.

Cyberknife. Charitable monies amounting to £4 million have paid for a Cyberknife at the Cancer Centre – the first in the UK in the NHS. This new equipment enables the delivery of a radiotherapy treatment dose to a cancer with pin-point accuracy. It is due to start treating patients in the Autumn of 2010.

Polysystem for Northwood. NHS Hillingdon is planning to introduce three Polysystems in the borough. These are clinics offering diagnostic/outpatient services, management of long-term conditions, co-located with primary mental health services, some secondary health services and social

care. The first, due to open in 2011 at the Hesa Centre in Hayes, will be followed by another in the grounds of the Hillingdon Hospital in 2012 and the third at Mount Vernon Hospital in 2013. There will be public consultations.

Join Community Voice. If you find these Health reports of interest, have you considered joining Community Voice as an Individual Member or as a Group/Society? Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month (other than January) in the Post-Graduate Centre at Mount Vernon Hospital, starting at 7.45pm. Recent speakers have included Dr Peter Ostler, Director of the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre, Mr Jan Filowchowski, the Chief Executive of the West Herts Hospitals NHS Trust (which includes Watford Hospital) and Mr Nick Lee, Consultant Ophthalmologist at the Hillingdon Hospital. The cost to join is £7 as a single member or £10.50 for two people in one household, with one monthly mailing. A Group or Society sending a delegate pays £18. You will receive a warm welcome and will learn a lot about local NHS services.

Valerie Mellor

Hillingdon Carers

Do you look after someone with an illness or disability? It might be your husband, wife, partner, friend, neighbour or member of your family. Hillingdon Carers offers help, advice and support to unpaid carers. We can assist you to make claims for benefits and provide information and support on all issues related to caring. If you need a break we can assist you to find something that suits you. We also offer a confidential counselling service.

Call us at Hillingdon Carers on 01895 811206. Or email: www.hillingdoncarers.org.uk

Charity Celebrates 25 Life-Saving Years

Paul Strickland Scanner Centre, a registered charity at Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, receives no government funding, yet has the most comprehensive cancer scanning facilities on one site in the UK. The Centre opened in 1985.

When scanners were first available, Dr Paul Strickland, a senior oncologist at Mount Vernon, was convinced these could save lives because the earlier a patient is diagnosed, the better the chance of recovery. He raised the money for a CT and MRI scanner and the building to house them. Since then, the Centre has installed the latest available scanners, each costing upwards of £1 million and funded by donations.

The Duchess of York opened the Centre and is its Royal Patron. Wing Commander Edna Partridge, Representative Deputy Lieutenant of the London Borough of Hillingdon, became its Local Patron.

Dr Strickland says, "Over the past 25 years we have remained true to our original intention of being at the forefront of scanning technology, providing patients with the best chance of life. I cannot but be very proud of that."



*Mike Geddes
PSSC Appeals Team*

Northwood Safer Neighbourhoods Team

Police Community Support Officers

What can a PCSO do? I regularly get asked this question and there is clearly some misunderstanding as to what is the role and power of a PCSO.

PCSOs provide an enhanced uniformed presence across London, dedicated to public reassurance. They are key to the delivery of Safer Neighbourhoods in the way they provide visible, accessible and familiar community engagement, yet also support front line policing in non-confrontational roles.

PCSOs develop vital links between the local police and local communities, building trust and gathering community and criminal intelligence. Their role also includes maintaining order in public places, addressing low-level anti-social behaviour and tackling youth disorder.

Their main role is to be the eyes and ears of the police.

PCSOs engage; police officers enforce.

A PCSO has power to: -

- 1 remove abandoned vehicles
- 2 issue Fixed Penalty Notices for cycling on the footpath
- 3 confiscate alcohol in designated places from persons under 18 and confiscate tobacco from persons under 16
- 4 require name and address for anti-social behaviour
- 5 issue Penalty Notice Disorder for causing harassment, alarm or distress. Also, for throwing fireworks
- 6 detain and use reasonable force to prevent a detained person making off
- 7 enter premises to save life/limb
- 8 issue Fixed Penalty Notices for dog fouling and littering
- 9 stop a pedal cycle
- 10 seize vehicles used to cause alarm

What they CANNOT do is stop motor vehicles, issue tickets for speeding, issue tickets for using a mobile



PCSOs Jack Williams, Steve Ward and John Usher

phone whilst driving or issue parking tickets. In the past two months, Northwood SNT has welcomed three new PCSOs. Jack Williams, John Usher and Steve Ward are all keen and ready to serve our local community. You should see them out and about; please speak to them about any concerns you have - or even just have a chat.

Sergeant Ian Stacey.

Telephone: 0208 721 2545

Email: northwood.snt@met.police.uk

Northwood Police Station front counter is open to the public
11 am to 1 pm, Monday to Wednesday

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

If you have been thinking of volunteering, then now is the time to act! Please contact Karen Jackson or Sue Crockford at Ruislip Police Station on 020 8246 1848.



NADFAS Guided Tours of Moor Park Mansion

National Association of Decorative and Fine Art Society guides from local societies will be conducting tours around this early 18th Century Grade 1 Listed building owned by Moor Park Golf Club. It is Palladian in style, designed by Sir James Thornhill, in a beautiful setting and with its original baroque interior.

Tours start at 10.00 am, with the last tour departing at 11.00 am

Tour dates for this year are:

17 June, 22 July, 5 August, 19 August, 16 September and 14 October

Although no charge is made for these tours, donations to the *Moor Park Heritage Foundation* in support of preserving the mansion are most welcome.

Please note that the Club dress code does not permit jeans or trainers.

Enquiries: Moor Park Golf Club: 01923 773146.

A New Look For The NRA Website

The last day of April 2010 saw the launch of the third incarnation of the NRA website, the result of many months of discussion and planning. First launched in 2002, the site was updated in 2007 with a new colour scheme and more pages. At that time we were delighted when the site received nearly 700 visits a month, this has since doubled to over 1400 a month, a clear indication that many of you find the website useful.

With such a high level of interest the NRA Committee wanted to make sure the site was kept up to date with all the latest news, so a Communications role was created within the organisation. This proved to be effective and generated a lot more articles for the website. Unfortunately the old layout was no longer suited to this increased volume and variety of information, and the task of keeping the site updated became somewhat arduous. So it was back to the drawing board for a rethink.

We now have a new layout with more emphasis on



local news and events and a better structure for adding items of interest. The site has also been transferred to new software which makes keeping it updated a breeze, and also allows us to have more than one person responsible for this task.

As more people turn to the internet for information in this digital age we are conscious of the increased expectations of our members. Any

website is a work in progress and has to keep evolving; to this end we already have ideas for improving the site. Meanwhile we trust that within our limited budget we are continuing to provide a user-friendly facility with plenty of local information.

The website can be found at

www.northwoodresidents.co.uk

If you would like to make any comments about the new site please send them to me at

webmaster@northwoodresidents.co.uk

*Cathy Kim
Webmaster*

The Lido Birthday Improvements

To celebrate Ruislip Lido's 200 year anniversary in 2011, Hillingdon Council wishes to spend £1m on improvements. Many rumours have appeared in the press, but the only definite plans to have been approved so far are for a new vandal-proof lavatory block, and a totally new building for male and female changing rooms.

These are to be situated on the beach side near the new children's water play feature. It is hoped that they will be completed by the summer.

Other plans yet to be approved include an extra 200 space car park within the Lido boundary and a new Nature Centre building, both to be sited near the Waters Edge Mini Railway Station. The Council is also looking for a company to run a possible new restaurant on the beach side. If you know of a suitable candidate, please contact Lyn Summers at the Council. Tel: 01895 556640 or email ruisliplidoenquiries@hillingdon.gov.uk

None of these will go ahead until full public consultations have taken place. The NRA will be kept informed as the situation develops.

Miles Gillman

Planning

The steady increase in planning applications may indicate an improvement in our economy. Details about the higher profile cases, namely the Reindeer site and 7, Highfield Crescent, are included in the **Chairman's Report. Our main concern is to ensure that developers' intentions to maximise every square metre of land are tempered by maintaining the aesthetic qualities of our environment.**

These concerns have been eased by the designation of the Green Lane Conservation Area and the extension of the Frithwood CA. Whilst the same guidelines (in our case the Hillingdon UDP) apply all to areas, the London Borough of Hillingdon Conservation & Urban Design Team should review plans within the Conservation Areas. The implications are that the **environment's qualities can be preserved.**

Planning controls are an important component but planning is a complex subject needing, for instance, architectural, surveying, engineering and building knowledge. As a former police officer I have the ability to investigate and pursue leads but know little about the areas of expertise mentioned above. Most planning applications are simple enough but occasionally I need specialist guidance. If you have any specialist knowledge or skills and are prepared to offer advice and guidance when called upon, please contact me.



Malcolm Ruddock

planning@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Tel: 01923 836440.

Councillors' Corner

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

Q. How do councillors propose to defend our residents against inappropriate development?

A. Councillors are a conduit for residents to be used to help fight for and against development in Northwood. We do this in line with the Local Development Framework and planning regulations. We are also permitted to 'call in' applications, that is to have them heard at a committee rather than decided under delegated powers.

Each ward Councillor is also able to speak for five minutes at an application heard by committee. Monitoring and responding to applications is done by Councillors (except Cllr Melvin who, as a member of the planning committee, is not able to become involved in opposing or supporting applications). But it is residents who assist us by feeding in their concerns and comments on applications.

This should be done via email to: scott@northwoodconservatives.org or by letter to Scott at the Civic Centre (if you drop a letter in at the library it is delivered to the Civic Centre free of charge). You can also write directly to the Chairman of North Planning to complain about an application; please also cc Scott on any letters.

Inappropriate development will always be fought robustly and using our experience of the planning process (Scott was Chairman of North Planning for a number of years). The planning committee is the sovereign body deciding applications and is not whipped or controlled by the political process.

Q. How will they make sure that the development of the old Reindeer site blends with the Conservation Area of Maxwell Road?

A. The rules around Conservation Areas and the manner in which developments blend with the existing street scenes are clearly laid out by the Council. We will use these rules to ensure that any application meets the requirements of the legislation and is as sympathetic as possible to the area.

Councillors are working on this case to ensure that they are able to stand up to the challenges it presents at committee, either by speaking on the night or by making our concerns clear to the committee in writing.

To contact your councillors:
Tel: 01895 250316 (Civic Centre Office) or
01923 822876 (Northwood Ward Office)
Email us all at:
Northwoodward@hillington.gov.uk



Northwood Lions Club

Have you heard about the Message in a Bottle Scheme? This simple, Lions-sponsored idea, supported countrywide by all the emergency services, enables vulnerable people to store their medication details plus other information (e.g. next of kin, pets) in a small plastic bottle in their fridge. A sticker placed by the front door and on the front of the fridge alerts the emergency services, should they be needed, to its existence. If you already take part in this scheme, please check that your details are up-to-date. If you would like more information about the

scheme please contact us.

Details about the Lions are available at the Lions Den, our Saturday morning market on Pinner Road which is open each week between 9.45 am and 11.45 am. This continues to thrive and raises funds, which are dispersed to good causes in the local community. We are extremely grateful to the volunteers there who give their time to make it all happen.

Northwood Lions Club is currently meeting on the 1st and 3rd **Wednesdays of each month at St John's Court, Murray Road at 8 pm.** You can contact us on 0845 833 7853.

Gyl Webb

N A D C A N E E D S Y O U

At Northwood & District Community Association we always need new members in our 15 different sections:

Keep Fit, Badminton, Whist, Scrabble, Bridge, Tennis, Short Mat Bowls, German/Anglo group, Table Tennis, Rambling, Walking for Pleasure, Sunday Singles, Line Dancing, and our new section, Yoga.

Just phone me to find out more – but be careful; one lady phoned and left a message, but sadly gave my telephone number and not her own. If that was you, please call again so that I can give more information about this local and friendly association. I look forward to hearing from you.

Pat Dunhill, secretary
01923 836346

Northwood, 1539 to the present

Concluding the series of information gleaned from a survey included with a planning application.. Much of this was originally published by Eileen Bowlt in her book, The Goodliest Place in Middlesex, and by Simon Morgan in the Ruislip Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society journal. Simon has assisted in checking and adding further material to this final part.

Early Northwood Houses. A landholding called *North House* with two cottages and 108½ acres, presumably *The Grange* and its lands, was leased to Roger Arnolde in 1539 and 1541. He was probably still there at the time of a manorial survey in 1565, when there were a few other houses in Northwood with five tenants listed.

Another 16th-century house survives 300m north-east of the Grange at Green Hills Farm. It is now Green End in Dene Road, but the line of its original access track from Green Lane is now Vantage Mews. By the 17th and 18th centuries some more buildings were being erected, including barns, inns and cottages, focused around *The Grange*. But Northwood remained a small agricultural community, and even as recently as 1841 there were only 41 occupied houses.

One of the farms was on the north side of Green Lane opposite where *The Glen* is now. In 1804, Edward Hilliard senior held this farm and the fields comprising the eastern arm of the site, together with land on the south side of Green Lane. It had been demolished by 1914.

Local Occupations. Unlike the rest of the Parish of Ruislip, Northwood was affected very little by the statutory Enclosure of the open fields and commons between 1804 and 1814 and the allotment of them to individual farmers. Northwood was already largely **“old enclosure”, having probably been divided into** small fields since the medieval period. After enclosure a prominent use of the land was for growing hay for the London market.

Rickmansworth Road became a turnpike road in 1809, and remained so until 1868. *The Gate Pub* (a beer house since 1838) gets its name from the toll-gate that stood there, and two milestones from this period can still be seen.

Brick-making was a prominent industry and there was small-scale mining at Sandpit Hill on Rickmansworth Road in Northwood in the 19th century for deposits of sharp white sand. Chalk mining probably accounts for the shafts and galleries found about 1 km south-east of the Grange.

In 1887 the Metropolitan Railway arrived, causing a dramatic change to the character and population of Northwood in a very few years.

Suburban development continued in the 20th century. In 1947 the field to the east of *The Grange* was bought for **St John’s Hall Church of England Theological College**, and the adjoining large Edwardian house, **Wetherby**, was acquired for the principal’s residence. The Anglican college moved to Nottingham in 1970 and the whole campus was sold to London Bible College (now the London School of Theology), with **Wetherby** becoming students’ accommodation as **Aldis Hall**.



Aldis Hall in 2002

In the 1970s and 1980s there was much redevelopment and infilling of many of the large gardens left by the late Victorian and Edwardian builders.

The Grange

Immediately before the Enclosure award the Grange was owned and occupied by William Parsons and prior to that by Mrs Liberty. The Grange and another substantial house adjoining it to the west, called *Fells*, were then acquired by John Rowe, Secretary of the New River Company. He planted many species of trees in the grounds and built up a large estate. He lived at *Fells* and rented *The Grange* to Jonathan Grace.

Nathaniel Soames of Stevenage, who was to become a prominent Northwood personality, bought both houses between 1830 and 1832 and added further land, making it the largest estate in Northwood. In 1851 the census return recorded that he lived in one of the two houses (probably *Fells*) with his wife and three servants, a groom, a cook and a housekeeper; he farmed 220 acres with seven farm labourers. In 1839 Soames fitted out one of his buildings (almost certainly the Grange) as a chapel of ease, to save the inhabitants of Northwood the four-mile trip to the parish church at Ruislip. It ceased to be needed in 1854 when the parish of Northwood was formed, with Holy Trinity as its church.

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Northwood, 1539 to the present ctd.

Northwood House. By the 1860s the whole estate was called Northwood House and was sold in 1864 to David Carnegie of Eastbury. In 1889 it was purchased by **Dr Walter Llewellyn Nash, who felled 60 of Rowe's trees.** He was a noted Egyptologist and antiquarian, who imported ecclesiastical woodwork into the house, added a bay window and a library at the west end, and built a flint arch and a niche in the grounds.

Into the 20th Century. Colonel A P Blathwayt and his family were the last residential occupiers of The Grange, living there from 1906 until 1929. The house and its immediate grounds were then bought for development by W A Telling. Telling was adamant that The Grange itself should be preserved and was

relieved to be able to sell most of it to the local philanthropist Mrs H W Garrett (née Rowland Brown, **founder of St Helen's School**). Telling was aghast at the suggestion, apparently from Mrs Garrett, that the kitchen quarters should be demolished. He therefore converted the east end of the property (dating from c1600) into a separate residence, now called Green Close. In Victorian times Fells had been made into two cottages, but was demolished in 1933 along with all the outbuildings to make way for new houses.

In 1947 Mrs Garrett presented The Grange to the Ruislip-Northwood Council as a civic and social centre.

Malcolm Ruddock

Northwood Cricket Club

Northwood Cricket Club, located on the corner of Ducks Hill Road and Rickmansworth Road is currently looking for new Saturday League cricketers for the 2010 season which has just started.

Located in a pretty ground with a newly built pavilion, Northwood CC has 3 XIs that all play in the Hertfordshire League in divisions 2, 5 and 10 respectively as well as a thriving Sunday XI.



The first XI

Although geared around cricket the club has many social activities throughout the year and the well-stocked bar can also be hired for private functions both in and out of the cricket season.

Anyone interested in an exploratory conversation about joining Northwood Cricket Club, either as a playing or as a social member should contact Cricket Chairman, Tom Brockton on 07931177044 or email: tombrockton@cartermurray.com

Northwood Tennis Club

The club was founded in 1901 and has remained on the same site ever since, tucked away in Pines Close off Frithwood Avenue, although originally the entrance was in Carew Road. Initially there were six grass courts and then in 1921 the club purchased the freehold of the land and replaced two courts with a clay surface. This enabled play to continue during the winter months. A third court was altered to clay in 1953.

In the 1960s the club replaced the remaining grass courts with an all-weather surface and around the same time returned to affiliation with Hertfordshire rather than Middlesex easing journey times to away matches.

In 1971 floodlights were introduced enabling play to take place in the evenings. In the early 1980s the courts were in a poor condition and to raise funds two were sold and the remaining courts were changed to a type of Astroturf

surface. These are much kinder on the knees than hard courts.

The club provides tennis for a wide range of standards with teams in the Hertfordshire County, Watford and District, Greenford and Chorleywood Mid-Week Leagues.

For those wanting social tennis there are club sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, Saturday afternoons and on Sundays. At other times members including juniors can arrange games between themselves. Junior coaching takes place on Saturday mornings.

New members are welcome and should contact the chairman by email: david-cameron5@sky.com



Try The Healthy Option – Join Hillingdon Ramblers

If you were invited on a 9 mile walk in Bayhurst Woods on a cold winter day would you dash for your boots and waterproofs or look longingly at the comfy chair and fireside? If the person asking you then suggested convivial company and a lunch stop, and maybe a sunny afternoon would you be tempted?

Over 40 people were tempted and joined in Hillingdon Ramblers' 40th Anniversary celebration on Sunday 21 February 2010. It was a far cry from their first 6 mile walk in 1970 when they started and finished at Uxbridge Station. The Group was founded on 7 February 1970 at a meeting in the Ruislip Guide Hut, with the aim of promoting recreational walking and the protection of our national footpath system.

At 10.00 am in the heavy rain we set off on a cold, southerly circuit, albeit optimistically and with a certain 'je ne sais quois' (loosely translated as with your hood up and head down) returning at lunch time to the picnic area. A transformation had taken place. Under a green gazebo were trestle tables laden with sandwiches, hot soup and two enormous decorated cakes. Barbara MacDonald and her team, who produced the spread, ran the risk of being mobbed and certainly have a job for life. Thank you from all of us.

It was a day of memories. Bob Baker, leading the morning walk, joined the Group in April 1975 and Eugene Stratton, afternoon leader, has been a member since May 1979. Cutting the cakes needed a steady hand from Ron Dyke, member since March 1980 who has led at least 150 walks. He recalled walks of 20 miles a day from the earlier programmes. Today, however, walks are shorter with a 3-4 mile introductory, 6-7 mile social and 10 to 15 mile all day option available.



Our Group provides a comprehensive service to members: joining instructions for the approximately 200 walks per year are detailed in three programmes issued through the year. The social side of walking is very important. The group holds catered social events, lunch options following walks on a Tuesday or during a longer walk on a Wednesday, weekend and longer walking breaks at home and abroad.

We have an understandably close relationship with Ruislip Woods and offer a number of walks commencing in the Lido car park throughout the year. Further afield we walk in the Chilterns, Surrey Hills, Thames Valley and occasionally Herts and Beds.

The Ramblers' Association is a registered charity deeply involved in the promotion of walking for health, the right to roam and the protection of the footpath system – by litigation if necessary. If you would like to hear more, please see our website at www.hillingdonramblers.org.uk or contact our membership secretary Ronnie Lee on 01895 853 845 or email: ronaldlee999@blueyonder.co.uk

Can we tempt you?

Elise Harvey



MSH Sponsored Walk

This year's Michael Sobell House Sponsored Walk will take place on Sunday 19th

September. As regular participants will know, we have been blessed with fine weather in recent years and we look forward to seeing a really big turnout on the day. One major change this year is the introduction of an entry fee of £10 for adults, and £5 for children under 16. It is vital that we maximise our fundraising in the current economic climate and **we have no option but to bring ourselves into line with Charities' standard practice of** charging an entry fee for participation in events of this nature. We believe the introduction

of the charge will be widely acknowledged as a necessary measure and we are confident that supporters will rise to the occasion, and also raise sponsorship money to help make the MSH Sponsored Walk a most enjoyable and successful fundraising event.

Entry and sponsorship forms will shortly be available to download from our website (click on the Events icon). **Full details of the Walk will be provided in the Autumn issue of "Friends". Alternatively, please contact the Fundraising office on 01923 844829 - speak to Ophelia or Trish.**

Can you beat this record?

Living in today's mobile society, can you imagine living in the same house for over 80 years? Well, long-term NRA member Miss Hilary Carpenter still lives in the Northwood house to which her parents moved when she was just six months old. That was in 1922 and life was rather different then.

Hilary, or 'Jill' as she has almost always been known, remembers attending Mrs Bailey's school at 114 Ducks Hill Road, then a brief spell at Northwood College before going to Watford Grammar School. She used to meet her school friends on Northwood station to take the train to Watford on the Metropolitan Line before riding on the special bus, which took them on to school. However, like many pupils both then and now, she would sometimes walk to school so that she could spend her bus fare on sweets!



Miss Carpenter's house in 1922 ...

Jill's father was very keen on tennis and many tennis parties were held at their house as they had their own courts in the back garden. Another leisure pursuit was skating on the frozen pond in the fields behind the house; that happened in 1930. Provided she had one or two friends with her Jill was allowed to play in the Gravel Pits area – a much wilder place then than it is today.

Jill's training as a nursery nurse was cut short by the outbreak of war in 1939 when she was evacuated to Cambridgeshire with her little



... and in 2010

charges. Then she heard that the WRNS were looking for volunteers and she promptly signed up as a Torpedo Wren. She learned to do electrical repairs and was posted to Londonderry where she worked on depth charges and torpedoes. Even now she always attends the monthly meetings of the local branch of the Association of Wrens.

Talking about the changes she has seen in Northwood, Jill says that she feels the town is "dead" and is saddened to see all the empty shops. She says, "Everyone used to have their favourite shops, the shop-keepers knew your name and they delivered to your home". In particular she remembers having a choice of greengrocers in Green Lane; Wilson's and Bennett's. Those were the days!

So, does Jill Carpenter have the longest residency in Northwood? Perhaps you know someone who has lived in the same house for more than 87 years – if so we'd like to hear about them.

Ros Plume

Northwood Live At Home Scheme

Help the elderly to enjoy life more!

Could you spare a few hours a month for elderly people in Northwood and Northwood Hills?

The Northwood Live at Home Scheme is looking for volunteers to drive people to our activities or to help at them. They include a weekly lunch club, coffee mornings, tea and chat meetings and assisted shopping. Many of our members cannot get out of their homes without the sort of help we provide. We also provide information and advice designed for the elderly in our community. If you could help, please contact our staff on 01923 842494.

No regular commitment is required.

And if you could benefit from these activities, or know of anyone who might do so, do contact us and arrange to come and try them.

Sue Mansfield
NLAH Chairman



Rotary Club of Ruislip-Northwood

The Rotary Club of Ruislip-Northwood meets every Tuesday at Northwood Golf Club in Rickmansworth Road from 12.45 to 2pm.



Rotary is an international organisation, existing to raise money for charity and to serve the local community. There is also an active **social side where you'll quickly make friends.**

We actively support local charities such as Grangewood School and Michael Sobell House Hospice, also international disaster appeals.

The Rotary Club of Ruislip-Northwood is always happy to welcome prospective new members, both male and female. For further information, please call Paul on 01494-674371 or Mike on 01895-633005.

Colin Harris

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Oaklands Pre-School Play Group

The School Room, Methodist Church,
Oaklands Gate, Northwood HA6 3AA Tel: 01923 840633

Oaklands Play Group is a registered non-profitable charitable organisation, regularly inspected by Ofsted.

The Play Group prides itself on being friendly and welcoming where children's needs and enjoyment come first.

Parents are welcome to visit us; please phone between 9.15 am and 12.30 pm for more information. We take children from 2 to 5 years old and open Monday - Friday 9.15 am - 12 noon during term time. Sessions up to £11.50/ morning; government funding available.
www.oaklands-playgroup.co.uk



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Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society

20 Sep Saxon rural settlements in the London region.

Robert Cowie, MoLAS Project Officer.

18 Oct AGM & Vehicle Manufacture in Hillingdon.

Tony Beadle, Soc. Of Auto Historians.

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



Ruislip-Northwood Flower Arrangement Society

Tues 6 July Carol Johnson, Area Demonstrator, "All Together Now"
St John's Church Hall, Hallowell Road, Northwood.

Tues 7 Sep Andy Lloyd, National Demonstrator, "A Floral Jigsaw"
Main Hall, Northwood College, Maxwell Rd, Northwood.

Doors open at 7 pm for 7.30 pm start
Contact Jean Joseph on 01923 829621

NRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Chairman:	Tony Ellis	821237
Vice Chairman:	Miles Gillman	825599
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	Jayesh Patel	
	Malcolm Ruddock	

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

Calling keen gardeners

Many of you will have enjoyed the weekend in June last year when local gardens were open for charity. The next such event will take place in 2011 and the organisers would love to hear from you now if you would like to open your garden to the public to help local charities.

If so, please email:
warren70@googlemail.com

Plant Sale

Sat 10th July, 2pm to 6pm
Sun 11th July, 10am to 4pm

At 45 Hallowell Road,
Northwood

Not just an ordinary plant sale; this is THE plant sale. Thousands of plants to suit all tastes: annuals, perennials, vegetables, possibly even trees!

Raising funds for the Northwood Live at Home Scheme and the Ruislip-Eastcote-Northwood District Explorer Scouts.