

# Northwood Residents' Association



Newsletter 148

October 2010

## Chairman's Report - Tony Ellis



### Introduction

Welcome to this, the 148<sup>th</sup> edition of our newsletter. By now, summer holidays will be a distant memory and many of you will already be making plans for Christmas. Autumn is a busy time and many of us

have full diaries. However, I do hope that you will find time to attend our Open Forum on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November at Oaklands Gate Methodist Church. It is important that we hear your views about life in Northwood and your suggestions as to what improvements can be made. Hopefully our MP, Nick Hurd, will be in attendance as well as our three councillors. Full details are in the enclosed leaflet.

I am very pleased to welcome David Blowers and Freda Kosmin to the Committee. David is our new Treasurer and Freda is a member of the Health sub-committee.

### Planning

In my last report, I criticised the work of **the London Borough of Hillingdon's (LBH) Planning Department**. I'm pleased to say that as a result of our protestations and Cllr Scott Seaman-Digby's help, we now have a better working relationship with most of the officers.

As a result of our efforts, the North Planning Committee turned down the **developer's application to build a hideous block of flats on the site of the old Reindeer pub in Maxwell Road**. This **overturned Planning officers'** recommendation for approval.

Consequently, the developer consulted residents and the NRA about the type of development that would be acceptable to us. Following these consultations, a new building was designed and submitted to us. It was smaller, had a lower roof and was more sympathetic to the surroundings.

After consulting with residents and receiving no adverse comments, we informed the developer that we were happy to accept the new proposal.

Following this success, we will fight every proposed development that residents are unhappy with. Please contact our Planning Officer, Malcolm Ruddock, if you think we should be involved in any such development.

Many of you will know that numbers 34, 36 and 38 Chester Road have been demolished to make way for a residential care home. Both LBH and Northwood residents objected to this development but the developer won his case at appeal. Now he has plans to demolish numbers 30 and 32 to build a 24-bedroom home. Again LBH and residents objected and the development was rejected by the North Planning Committee. No doubt this will again go to appeal but we believe we have a more winnable case to fight this time.

### Members and the Committee

Now I need to clear the air on the role of the Committee.

Some weeks ago, an NRA member was extremely abusive to two members of the Committee because he had disagreed with the decisions taken by them.

I would like to remind members that the Committee is made up of elected NRA members who are unpaid volunteers giving much of their time freely to make Northwood a better place in which to live. We have no official/legal standing so results are produced by our ability to lobby, cajole and persuade. Sometimes we will be unsuccessful and at other times, not all members will agree with the course of action we take. Members who disagree **with the Committee's actions/decisions** naturally have the right to complain. What **they don't have is the right to be abusive**.

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## Chairman's Report ctd

### Parking

We are unhappy with the high parking charges for non –Hillingdon residents. Such high charges dissuade people from using Northwood shops and, as Rickmansworth gives free parking for 2 hours, Eastbury and Moor Park residents have taken their custom elsewhere.

The introduction of such high parking charges was a thoughtless move by LBH, having no regard for the adverse effect it would have on Northwood traders. Many are complaining of reduced business which is unlikely to be caused by the recession.

Cllr Scott Seaman-Digby has undertaken to have a **complete review carried out of Northwood's parking** and the effect of the charges in October.

### Finally

The high-level hanging baskets in Green Lane and Maxwell Road were very attractive again this year and thanks are due to LBH for providing them. We are talking to our councillors to see if money can be found for improving the look of the shopping parade in Northwood High Street as it is desperately in need of a facelift. Please support these local businesses as well as the ones in Green Lane and Maxwell Road as they are important to our community.

*Tony Ellis*

chairman@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Tel: 01923 821237

## Traffic and Highways

### 20 mph Speed Limits

20 mph urban speed limits are controversial, as some people like them and others hate them.

In Northwood a 20 mph limit was introduced in the town centre earlier this year, and a second in Kewferry Road at around the same time.



Many residents in Kewferry Road are unhappy about the speed tables, as they feel that they are not achieving their

purpose and have had a detrimental effect on their quality of life. Many drivers are not slowing down or, if they do, they race off at speed only to brake at the last moment for the next hump. This creates far more traffic noise, particularly for those residents unfortunate enough to live adjacent to one of the humps. One of the aims of the scheme was also to **stop "rat runs" by heavy goods vehicles using Kewferry Road**, but this has apparently not happened.

LBH officers say that they will be undertaking further surveys of speeds and traffic volumes and will be establishing if there is a case for a width restriction to restrict larger vehicles (budgets permitting).

**Now, in response to residents' concerns about it being used as a rat run**, a new 20 mph limit has been proposed for The Avenue at a cost of some £80,000.

NRA is of the opinion that 30 mph limits should be enforced before resorting to 20 mph schemes. We **have been told that "the police are reluctant to enforce speed limits and they request self-enforcing engineering measures instead" which we feel is both incredible and unacceptable.**

The scheme for The Avenue already allows for widening the island at the Rickmansworth Road end to reduce speed on entry, which has been one of the problems.

If the proliferation of 20 mph limits continues, most or all side roads in Northwood could have 20 mph limits.

**We would be very glad to have residents' views**, whether for or against such schemes. Please email [traffichighways@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:traffichighways@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

### Green Lane/Eastbury Road/Station Approach Traffic Lights

The lights are still causing much frustration, to motorists and residents alike, even though the new computer chip has changed the order of the phases to a more logical one. People on foot, tired of waiting for the pedestrian phase, are continuing to take risks and step out, sometimes causing motorists to stop for them even when their own light is green, thereby getting stranded in the junction.

The proximity of the mini-roundabout continues to cause major problems, as the junction fails to clear in time, resulting in hold-ups at the roundabout.

Another problem is that motorists exiting Eastbury Road to turn right are often held up by slow-moving buses exiting Station Approach. This causes queues to build up, especially at peak times, again causing frustration and jumping of the lights.

NRA is pressing for a proper review of the lights now that the computer chip has been place long enough for everyone to get used to it.

Again, we would love to hear your opinions on the lights: email [traffichighways@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:traffichighways@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

*Lisa Maclay*

## Environment

Much of the work of the NRA Committee is in response to requests from residents who have a problem. The following examples are typical of those concerning our environment.

Mr A sent an email describing problems he had encountered for years outside Farmhouse Pizza – youths throwing away pizza boxes, beer bottles, cigarette debris etc. on the bridge and the approaches to it, and also defacing the area with graffiti. Needless to say, his attempts to reason with them met with a rude reply. His information was passed to the LBH street team, the Northwood Safer Neighbourhood Team, and TFL (London Underground), who are the landlords of the Farmhouse Pizza premises. All replied constructively, and their comments have been passed on to Mr A.

Mr B contacted NRA about a sudden increase in noise pollution from the premises of LA Fitness in Chestnut Avenue, due to changes in the air conditioning equipment. The problem was reported to LBH and Councillor Scott Seaman-Digby, who was instrumental in getting things moving. An Environmental Health Officer from LBH visited Mr B and made an inspection at LA Fitness. He has made a number of recommendations to improve matters.



If you have seen or experienced an environmental problem in Northwood and would like us to help sort it out, please send the details to [environment@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:environment@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

*Anna Davis*

## Metropolitan Line

**New S Stock Trains:** There is currently one new train in use on a small section of the Met Line. By mid-December there should be 6 in service, throughout all parts of the line. As mentioned previously, seating capacity on the new trains is greatly reduced. They should eventually be able to run faster than the current stock, but only when the signalling has been replaced (see below). They have air-conditioning, and one has to hope that this will not fail, since there are no opening windows!

**New Signalling:** The contract still has to be awarded (expected February 2011 as long as funding is not cut before then) and it will be many years before this is completed, maybe not until 2018.

**Signal Failures:** Meanwhile we have to put up with the old signals, which are obsolete and for which it is almost impossible to find replacement parts. Failures occur with alarming frequency and wet weather affects the signals badly because of poor drainage; in fact any change in the weather can affect them.

**Weekend Closures:** These continue unabated, and there is no immediate end in sight, as there is still ongoing track installation which will affect the weekends for the foreseeable future. Of course the Jubilee Line has to be ready by 2012 in time for the Olympics, and Jubilee upgrades between Wembley and Finchley Road cause additional Met Line closures.

**December 2010 Timetable:** There will be a slight change in the late evening service to Watford, in that the 6 trains an hour will be reduced to 4, as 2 trains will be going to Chesham instead. However, these will be stopping additionally at all stations between Harrow and Moor Park, so Northwood passengers should not see any real difference.

**Ticket Office Closures:** There are proposals severely to reduce ticket office opening hours at most stations. However, by July 2011 it should apparently be possible to buy Oyster cards as well as tickets from machines, and stations will still have staff who will be able to help travellers buy tickets.

Please email any comments or complaints to [met@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:met@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

*Lisa Maclay*



## Northwood Live At Home Scheme

**Volunteer Training** NLAH puts the donations from the NRA to good use, most recently providing a course for our volunteers on Dementia. The tutor, from the Templeton Centre, showed the class how to recognise early stages of dementia and how to provide sensitive and helpful support when assisting people who need a little extra help at that stage. This was supplemented by one of our Committee members relating his experiences and recommendations.

The Scheme is flourishing, with over 120 members, and as always we would like more volunteers so we can provide more services. Volunteers say they themselves benefit from helping the elderly in our community: a lot of fun as well as the satisfaction of knowing what they do is so much appreciated.

See our entry on the NRA website for more details and contact us at the office on 01923 842494.

*Sue Mansfield, NLAH Chairman*



## Health Matters

Amalgamation. **Hillingdon's 32** Community Health services will amalgamate with Central & North West London NHS Foundation Trust.

We are assured that the amalgamation will not impact adversely on the quality of services offered. The move is in line with Government requirements.

Wireless endoscopic capsules. In June, Professor Paul Swain of London University gave an interesting talk to Community Voice. He explained the uses of wireless endoscopic capsules. These are used to investigate, among other conditions, the source of bleeding in the small intestine. The capsules are easily swallowed and in many ways are more effective than the normal endoscopic tube. The disadvantage is that, unlike traditional endoscopy, they cannot be used for taking biopsies or for cauterisation.

The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust continues to over-perform. Year-on-year inpatient activity rose by 13% and out-patient activity by 28%, yet NHS clinical income rose by only 3.6% due to caps on charging. Whilst over-performance is paid for in full by the Primary Care Trust, NHS London gets 70% and the hospital Trust receives only 30%. The PCT and the Hospital Trust are now working together to reduce over-performance.

GP Out-of hours service: Patients telephoning their GP out of hours will be put through automatically to a service provided by NHS Hillingdon in partnership **with Harmoni, or will be given the service's phone number: 0300 130 3018.** Alternatively, the NHS Direct telephone number is 0845 4647.

Non-sterile instruments. The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust hit the national headlines recently when it was found that operating instruments which had supposedly been sterilised by a private firm in Ruislip in fact had the remains of human tissue on them. All operations, other than three which were clinically necessary, were immediately cancelled. **David McVittie, the Trust's Chief Executive, appeared on TV**

and stated that all instruments used after this discovery were guaranteed sterile. The sterilising firm has apologised for the error, due to faulty equipment.

The mobile breast-screening unit, familiar to many women in the borough, is soon to be replaced by a permanent service located at the Uxbridge Health Centre in George Street, Uxbridge. This is near The Chimes Shopping Centre, the underground station and the bus station. Whilst this is probably not as convenient for women living in the north of the borough, the facility will offer wheelchair access and a more pleasant environment. The analogue equipment of the mobile van will be replaced by a more modern digital system. We hope that staffing will be adequate to enable evening and weekend screening in addition to full weekday screening, as foreseen by Yi Mien Koh, Chief Executive of NHS Hillingdon. Attendance will be by automatic recall, the upper age-limit being extended from 70 to 73, GP referral or self referral.

The NHS White Paper, 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' sets out the Government's long-term vision for the future of the NHS. Four core areas of the Paper are:

- 1) Putting patients and public first
- 2) Improving healthcare outcomes
- 3) Autonomy, accountability & democratic legitimacy
- 4) Cutting bureaucracy and improving efficiency.

The White Paper can be found at [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)

Revolutionary pacemaker at Watford. Watford General Hospital cardiologists have recently implanted a revolutionary heart pacemaker, the only one that is compatible with MRI scanners, allowing the patient to have an MRI scan without damage to the normal pacemaker's metal coil. Apart from clinical trials, this was only the third time the device has been used anywhere in the world. It is an important development - of the almost 400 pacemakers that the Trust implants annually, it is likely that half of the patients will need an MRI scan at some future time.

*Valerie Mellor*

## NRA Business Members

During October the NRA is carrying out a survey of Northwood businesses in order to understand their problems, see what improvements they would appreciate being made to Northwood and, hopefully, increase their profitability. We also hope to recruit more business members to the NRA through this initiative.

## Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to Northwood resident, Richard Plume, who won this **year's Hillingdon Volunteer of the Year Award.** He was nominated for the award by the Northwood Live At Home Scheme in recognition of the time he gives to this and other voluntary groups including NRA. He won the Positive Community category, going forward to compete with four other category winners in the final round. The winner was decided by an online vote.

At an entertaining presentation evening, volunteers from across the borough were recognised for the tremendous amount of time and effort they give to a wide range of organisations. The climax of the evening was when Seja Majeed (winner of National Youth Volunteer) opened the large, shiny envelope and announced, "The winner of the Volunteer of the Year Award is .... Richard Plume".

## Northwood Safer Neighbourhoods Team

Your opinion is valued. Would you like to help decide the policing priorities for Northwood? Do you have an opinion on what your police should be doing for you? Then rather than keep quiet, why not come along to our next ward panel meeting?



Ward Panel. One of the ways in which your local Safer Neighbourhoods Team engages with the local community is via the quarterly ward panel meeting. This meeting allows members of the community to tell us what they consider our local priorities, to hear what we have been doing in relation to these priorities and to decide on our future priorities.

The next ward panel meeting is to be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 6-30pm to 8pm at Northwood Police Station. I would welcome new members, especially people from the business community in Northwood and younger people. The only commitment is a meeting every three months, for about one hour. If you are interested, please contact me by phone or email.

Front counter manned by volunteers  
Northwood Police Station is currently open Monday to Wednesday 11am to 1pm. The police station relies entirely

on volunteers to cover the front counter and they offer the following services:

1. Document production
2. Lost & found property
3. Crime recording of minor crimes (via pro-forma to Telephone Investigation Bureau)
4. Reports of suspicious activity
5. Reports of bad driving

They can also offer advice:-

1. Whether or not a traffic collision is reportable (they cannot take traffic collision reports)
2. Crime prevention and reduction advice
3. Neighbourhood Policing
4. Making a complaint

*Police Sergeant Ian Stacey*

Tel: 020 8721 2545 or 07909 872377  
northwood.snt@met.police.uk

## Please can you spare some time?

Each year, the Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre (LJMC) at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre has the opportunity to raise several thousand pounds by selling its range of specially chosen Christmas cards.



100% of the proceeds from the sale of our cards goes directly towards the provision of **the LJMC's services of support and information for people affected by cancer. Our services include a drop-in** centre and telephone helpline, counselling, complementary therapies and benefits advice. We respond to more than 15,000 requests for help each year and make no charge for these services.

Please can you help us? For example, we run a stall selling cards in the reception area of the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre. We have a number of volunteers who spare a couple of hours each week to run this service and welcome more help. No special skills needed!

**Perhaps you'd like to hold a coffee morning or take the cards to your place of work? We can let you have packs of cards on a 'sale or return' basis or provide samples for you to take orders which we will despatch.**

For information on all aspects of our fundraising, please contact our Community Fundraiser, Sue Hordyj on 01923 844589 or [sue.hordyj@nhs.net](mailto:sue.hordyj@nhs.net) and see the full card range at [www.ljmc.org](http://www.ljmc.org)



## Northwood Lions Club

**Thanks to the amazing volunteers at The Den (The Lions' Saturday market on Pinner Road), and to those of you who make donations there, we have now been able to donate our third tranche of money to various charities. This time the cheques have been presented to CMSS, Northwood Live at Home Scheme, DASH and React.**

We continue to fundraise to support our other activities, most recently with a stall at the Roxeth Show and a tin-shake at Tesco at Pinner Green. To all who donated at these events many thanks. We are currently planning to hold a party for some of the local older residents and also hope to arrange a day out for some Northwood-based young carers.

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

## Planning

Our Chairman has summed up the most relevant planning issues in his report so I will dedicate mine to petitions in respect of planning objections.

Why Petitions are necessary.

Most planning applications are decided under delegated powers. This means they are approved by the Planning Department without being examined by the Planning Committee of councillors. Whilst this **saves time and council tax payers' money some plans** are approved even when residents have objected. Sometimes the planning officer is unfamiliar with the location and insensitive to local issues. Therefore it is important that any plans to which residents object are examined and decided by our elected councillors on the Planning Committee.

There are two ways to ensure a plan is examined and decided by the Planning Committee. One is to ask a ward councillor to call in the papers and the other is to raise a petition.

The value of a petition is that the petitioners can nominate someone to present their objections to the Planning Committee. The speaker is allowed five minutes to present the case.

How to raise and lodge a petition.

When you become aware of a plan that you object to, consult your neighbours and gauge opinion. You will need a minimum of twenty signatures and the petition must be sent to the Planning Department; hand delivery will ensure its safe arrival. A petition form can be downloaded from the council website. When raising a petition keep a separate list of your **petitioners' phone numbers or e-mail addresses** so you can easily notify them of the progress. It is worth raising several petitions if there are enough supporters.

Making your objections.

The Planning Department and councillors are bound by the guidelines in the Hillingdon Unitary Development Plan (UDP). The UDP is a guide to planning which includes valid reasons for a development to be refused. When making your objections ensure they are relevant to the UDP, which is available on the London Borough of Hillingdon website.

The petitioners will be notified of the date when the Planning Committee will meet and asked to nominate a speaker. Each petition can nominate a speaker who is allowed five minutes to present the objections. The ward councillor can also speak for five minutes on the **petitioners' behalf. The value of several petitions is a** larger number of objections can be presented. For example, the former Reindeer site was complex and needed at least fifteen minutes to deliver all the objections.

In summary; petitions must have at least twenty signatures and several petitions can be raised from as many residents who wish to object to any plan. Ideally the objections are shared amongst the speakers and concisely delivered.

If you have any questions or need support please contact me. I have a paper copy of the UDP and am familiar with most of the relevant aspects.

Appeals

The developer can appeal to the Secretary of State **against the council's decision. Petitioners will be** notified of any appeal and can attend the hearing. Speakers are not restricted to five minutes and the adjudicator will be influenced by a good turnout by residents.

*Malcolm Ruddock*

planning@northwoodresidents.co.uk  
Tel: 01923 836440



## Can you identify 'Founding Fathers' of Northwood Bowling Club?

Northwood Bowling Club has this year been celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Based in Chestnut Avenue the Club has been holding a number of special events and matches to mark its diamond jubilee.

It is also keen to complete some of the pieces of information in **their archive. Tony Smith, Club Secretary, says, "In this undated** photograph, taken about 1935-6, we are sure that Harry Brookman (fourth from left) and James Page (fourth from right) were Captain and President respectively. The six other people in the photograph **were undoubtedly among the 'Founding fathers' of the Club, and we** would welcome any help to link faces to names.

**"There are nine other names listed in the inaugural meeting minute book. They are: Messrs Bennett, Ward, Nichols, Atkins Senior and Junior, Potter, Croft, Lewin and Chamberlain. In those early days the Club was called 'Chestnuts' and we would welcome any information the Northwood readership might have about identities and residences."**

Tony Smith can be contacted at any time on 01923 822025 or 07714 053 507.



## Councillors' Corner

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

Q. What are Conservation Area Advisory Committees?

Conservation Area Advisory Committees  
Introduction

Conservation Area Advisory Committees or Panels were introduced by Central Government shortly after Conservation Areas were first brought in (Civic Amenities Act 1967). They were to be examples of best practice and their remit was to advise Local Authorities on local issues in relation to development in Conservation Areas. Every Local Authority has these Panels. However, just as Conservation Areas are a local designation, so each Local Authority accords these Panels a slightly different status.

What is the purpose of the Panel?

In LB Hillingdon, the Panels are notified of all planning applications in their area, as statutory consultees, and their comments are included in the planning report. Panels are also informed of Conservation Area Tree Notifications. However, as notifications merely give the Council time to make a TPO, and such Orders have very precise legal definitions and implications, Panels are only consulted on tree works as a courtesy.

Panels are also included in public consultations, for example when a Conservation Area Appraisal or Management Plan is written, or if an environmental improvement is proposed. Their chairmen are eligible to sit on the Conservation Forum and to represent the Panel at Planning Committee.

Who is eligible to be on the Panel?

The Panels must be comprised of residents living within the Conservation Area concerned. They should also include professionals who could contribute in a more informed way than lay people. These professionals could live further afield.

The guidelines suggest:

One Member from every Residents' Association operating in the area

One Member from the Local History Society, (if there is one)

One Member from the Chamber of Commerce (if applicable)

Representative from the Church or other large landowner (if there is one)

An architect

A surveyor

A town planner

Thus potentially, a Conservation Area Panel could have about seven members, but in practice many have only four or five, depending on the size of the Conservation Area and the level of local interest.

How are they managed?

In LB Hillingdon, the Panels are self-managing. Once set up, they elect their own chairman, organise replacement members, arrange their meetings and agree on how they are going to respond. They do need to respond to planning applications within set deadlines to ensure their views are taken into account, and so Panels tend to send their views by e-mail to the planning technical officers. Planning officers do not attend the meetings.

The Conservation Forum takes place about six times a year. North Planning Committee meets three times every two months.

Northwood does not have a Conservation Area Advisory Panel—would you be interested in helping to set one up? If so, please let Malcolm Ruddock know:  
Tel: 01923 836440  
Email: [planning@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:planning@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

The 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 us all at:

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

Diary date. **There will be a Councillors' Forum on Tuesday 23rd November at Northwood Golf Club, 7 - 9pm.** All Northwood residents will be welcome.



## Want to Join a Reading Group?

The Northwood Reading Group meets monthly, in the evening of the first Tuesday, for 1½ hours. We discuss a book chosen by the group; robust discussion is always welcome.

For more information, or to give it a try, contact Karen, between 10.00 and 5.00 on 020 8861 1778, or Sue on 01923 829939.

## Welcome to the New NRA Treasurer

I'd like to introduce myself as the new NRA Treasurer. Having lived in Northwood for many years the opportunity to be more engaged in the activities of the NRA was enticing. I shall strive to carry out the Treasurer's tasks efficiently and effectively.



During my residency in Northwood I have seen many changes, not all were beneficial in my opinion. Change is essential and inevitable to allow Northwood to maintain its status as an excellent place to live. However, change for no positive reason must be questioned. There are many contentious issues and ones that can divide opinion. The aims of the NRA are clearly defined on the website. Representation and consensus is important so that decisions do reflect the desires of Northwood's residents.

Individuals have an NRA representative, their Road Steward, who collects the subscriptions, distributes the newsletters and provides a conduit for information flows. This is the really important work – ensuring the NRA is representative by having high membership levels. The Road Stewards voluntarily complete this valuable work enabling the NRA to speak with a strong voice to ensure the residents' best interests are met.

So let me finish with a "thank you" to residents for continued membership and subscriptions and to the Stewards for collecting them. Please remember 2010 subscriptions are due by mid-December; the rate remains at a minimum of £2 per household but higher donations are most welcome.

David Blowers

treasurer@northwoodresidents.co.uk

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## Council of Christians and Jews

At the Hillingdon CCJ AGM held in July Judith Kramer, branch Chairman, reported on the many and varied activities which had been organised during the year. The branch had welcomed superb speakers including rabbis, priests, ministers and lay people. Monthly meetings had been held in various churches, synagogues and halls throughout the borough.

Future meetings for 2010 are as follows.

**Wednesday 17th November: 'Dissenters – Faiths against the Tide'.** Rabbi Hillel Athias-Robles and Rev. Reg Craig will address this interesting subject. Methodist Church, Oaklands Gate, Northwood.

Tuesday 8th December: We will again hold our popular Christmas & Chanukah party which has become a December tradition over the years. **Sidney Moss and Phil Male will give an entertaining presentation on the subject of "Humour" (Jewish, Christian and neither).** Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue, Oaklands Gate, Northwood.

The above meetings start at 8.00pm AND EVERYONE IS VERY WELCOME. Entry £1.50 (CCJ Members £1).

Email: [hon.secretary@ccj-hillingdon.org.uk](mailto:hon.secretary@ccj-hillingdon.org.uk)



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## Northwood District Guides Centenary Celebrations

Many of you will be aware that Girlguiding is presently celebrating its centenary. Guiding has been a part of the Northwood community for a significant number of those 100 years. As part of these celebrations, Northwood District Brownies and Guides spent the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May at Holy Trinity Church Hall for a large-scale sleepover.

On Saturday morning nearly 100 very excited Brownies and Guides left their overnight bags in the Hall before setting off on the tube to London – a new venture for many. All units congregated at the London Eye for an 11.30am flight and afterwards went their individual ways. The afternoon was spent at leisure, with various activities including climbing the many steps at The Monument, enjoying a cruise down the Thames, visiting the South Bank, and the Guide Shop at Victoria; and a couple of units cooled off in the Diana Memorial Fountain in Hyde Park before we all

trooped back to the church in Northwood for a tasty barbeque, games and eventually some sleep.

There was no chance of being late for the special Pentecost Service at 10am in Holy Trinity Church as the girls were wide-awake early! The church was packed with Brownies, Guides, their families and the regular congregation. The service was very interactive with the girls singing hymns and 'This little Guiding Light of mine' and they presented a visual '100 years of Guiding around the world'. Some of the girls dressed in UK uniforms ranging from 1910 to the present day as well as international ones with their associated flags on display. All the girls and their Leaders renewed their Promise and there was a ceremonial cutting of a beautiful birthday cake, cut together by the youngest Brownie and oldest Guide. It was a most memorable weekend for all participants.

Want to know more about Guiding in Northwood? Contact Jane Anderson on 0771 171 4322 or email [janeanderson66@btinternet.com](mailto:janeanderson66@btinternet.com)



## Northwood Young People's Centre

On Wednesday, 28th July, the new Youth Centre in Hallowell Road was opened by Cllr David Simmonds, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services. Our MP, Nick Hurd congratulated all those involved in the construction of the centre, adding that "it is a good space and I hope it is fully used". Councillors Carol Melvin, Richard Lewis and Ray Graham, Council officials and representatives of the local police were also in attendance.

The Centre is a redevelopment of the old Boys' Club which was established in 1913 and several of the older guests had connections with the Club dating back to the 1930s. It is well equipped with computers, the latest electronic games, sound equipment, a band practice area, table tennis facilities and a dance studio. There is also a lounge area where youngsters can chat and take refreshments from the kitchen. The facility caters for young people aged from 12 to 25 and separate sessions are held that are appropriate for each age group.

We hope that most of Northwood's young people will use the facilities and make it a resounding success.



### 75 years of fund raising

### for Mount Vernon Comforts Fund

This year we celebrate 75 years of fund raising through retailing at Mount Vernon Hospital. Our original commitment was to raise funds to purchase items to enhance patient comfort and this remains the objective.

As the hospital has developed, many people have found difficulty locating our shops. We are in the **'Village' area opposite the Minor Injuries entrance.** We have three shops:

Book Shop open Monday to Friday 11am – 3pm, selling second hand books. We are always pleased to receive any books in good condition.

News and Sweet Shop open Monday to Friday 10am – 3.30pm. Cards, papers, ice-creams, cold drinks, magazines, toiletries and other items required by patients and visitors.

Look-In Charity Shop open Monday to Friday 11am – 3pm. Selling clothes, bric-a-brac, DVDs etc. If you are downsizing or clearing out, please bring any items we can sell. Unfortunately we do not have room for furniture or electrical items.

Each weekday we take a trolley round the wards, and our refreshment kiosk in Radiotherapy, open 10 am – 4 pm Monday to Friday, is well used.

We need more volunteers to work in our charity shop. If you are interested please leave your details on 01923 826111 Ext. 4629.

Please help us to continue our service to patients by visiting our areas when at the hospital. Your support will help us as we start on our next 75 years.

*Jan Sutton, Chairman*

## Northwood Craft Market

Forthcoming dates for Northwood Craft Market are Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 10am-1pm and the Christmas Market on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December 10am-3pm when there will be 2 halls of crafts. The market is held at the Methodist Church Hall, Oaklands Gate and admission is free. Everything at the market is handmade by local craftspeople and you will be sure to find some interesting and original gifts.

We are looking for help with advertising and also, if there is anyone able to spare some time (about 45 minutes) on a Friday evening, once a month, to help set up, we would love to hear from you.

If you are a crafter and would like to have a stall at the market to sell your handmade items, do get in touch for more details. Why not take a look at our website? [www.northwoodcraftmarket.co.uk](http://www.northwoodcraftmarket.co.uk)

Contact: [northwoodcraftmarket@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:northwoodcraftmarket@hotmail.co.uk)  
or tel: Cheryl on 01923 450928 or Susan on 07780 601842.

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To advertise here, please contact  
the Editor:  
nraeditor@blueyonder.co.uk

**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



**Christmas Post**

The local Explorer Scouts will be  
running a Christmas Post service  
again this year. Cards will be  
delivered to houses in the Northwood and  
Eastcote areas between 13<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>  
December for just 20 pence each. We will  
be arranging collection boxes in the  
Northwood area - keep an eye out for  
them in late November / early  
December. We will publish details of box  
locations on the NRA website.  
If you run a business and would like your  
local cards collected and hand-delivered,  
please contact us - we can also help with  
label printing and putting cards in envelopes  
if required. See our website at  
<http://www.renxfmaspost.org.uk> for  
details of the roads to which we will be  
delivering and for contact details.



**holy trinity northwood**

**Autumn Bazaar**  
Saturday 30th October  
10.30 am to 12 noon

Church Hall,  
Gateway Close


**Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society**

15 Nov **"Good God! Women!"** Suffragettes in a Military Hospital.  
Jennian Geddes, women's history researcher.

20 Dec **Ian Tait's Ruislip in the 1920s**  
Eileen Bowlit, Chairman RNELHS.

17 Jan Hogarth: A Social Commentator.  
Alan Read, NADFAS lecturer

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)



Ruislip-Northwood Flower Arrangement Society

Tues 2 Nov John Chennell, National Demonstrator, **"In Festive Mood"**  
Tues 7 Dec Robin White, National Demonstrator, **"All Wrapped up for Christmas"**  
Venue: 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**

President:	Alan Prue	
Chairman:	Tony Ellis	821237
Vice Chairman:	Miles Gillman	825599
Treasurer:	David Blowers	
Secretary:	Ros Plume	827409
Chief Road Steward:	Adrian Paterson	821417
Committee Members:	Ann Bailey	825364
	Anna Davis	
	Colin Harris	
	Freda Kosmin	
	Lisa Maclay	
	Valerie Mellor	
	Miriam Morgan	
	Rachel Owen	
	Jayesh Patel	


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

**Northwood Choral Society Autumn Concert**  
Sat 13 Nov 7.30pm at Holy Trinity Church

**Handel's Messiah**

Tickets from Northwood Bookshop or  
email: [sallyrogers01@aol.com](mailto:sallyrogers01@aol.com)

New members always welcome, no audition necessary  
Info: [www.northwoodchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.northwoodchoralsociety.org.uk)



**Remembrance Sunday**

14th November  
War Memorial  
Green Lane

10.30am Re-dedication of the War Memorial  
Followed by the Remembrance Day service with  
the 2-minute silence at 11am

All are welcome to attend

