

Northwood Residents' Association

Newsletter 151



October 2011

Chairman's Report - Tony Ellis



Introduction

As I write this piece, the wind is howling and the rain lashing down. What summer we had is already a distant memory and autumn events are in

full swing. One highlight of summer was the colourful flower planters arranged around the lampposts. Thanks are due to Hillingdon Council for providing and maintaining these splendid displays. With the advent of autumn, and eventually winter, I would like to repeat my comments made in the February newsletter. Please look out for your elderly neighbours as they become more isolated because of inclement weather, and see if they need a bit of shopping done or a cup of tea and a chat. Remember, old age comes to us all eventually.

Committee

I am pleased to report that we had quite a good response to my recent plea for new members. Welcome to Marietta Richardson, our new Chief Road Steward and to Jo Hunter who is training to take over from Alan Prue as Planning Officer. We have also been successful in recruiting several new Area Road Stewards and Road Stewards. Thank you all for stepping up to the plate.

Freda Kosmin has resigned as our representative on Health matters and we now have another vacancy. Thank you for your contribution Freda.

Resignations from the committee are a fact of life and it would be a welcome change for us to have a member waiting in the wings, ready to take over a vacated post. Therefore we still need members to join the committee. Please contact me if you are interested. Committee meetings are held at 8pm at the Holy Trinity Church

Parish Rooms on the second Tuesday of every month and prospective committee members are always welcome to attend a meeting to observe how we operate.

Forum and EGM

We are holding our annual forum at Oaklands Gate Methodist Church on Tuesday 1st November – see attached details. Our speaker is James Rodger, Head of Planning at the London Borough of Hillingdon. I know that planning matters are of great concern to many of our members so do please come along and take the opportunity to ask your questions of, and make comments to, the Planning boss. During the second half of the meeting, our councillors, Carol Melvin, Scott Seaman-Digby and Richard Lewis, will be holding a Councillors' Forum. This is your opportunity to ask difficult questions. Before the Forum starts, there will be a short Extraordinary General Meeting to discuss and vote on the proposed amendments to the constitution. (See below).

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebration

In partnership with Northwood Hills Residents' Association we are planning to hold a celebration event at Chestnut Avenue recreation ground on Saturday 2nd June 2012, so please make a note in your diaries to keep the day free. We have a lot of work to do to organise the day but we will have entertainment, exhibits, food stalls, demonstrations, etc. for all ages. We hope to involve all local organisations such as Scouts, churches, Lions Club, Rotary. The event is likely to start around lunchtime and hopefully finish with a firework display. More details will be available nearer the date. If you would like to be involved with the organisation and have relevant skills, please do contact me.

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Chairman's Report ctd.

The NRA Constitution

Under the rules of the current constitution, members co-opted to the executive committee between AGMs are not allowed to vote at committee meetings until they are formally elected by the membership at an AGM. As I have stated above, committee membership is not static and therefore this restriction does not allow the committee to operate efficiently. We are proposing that the constitution be changed to give new committee members voting rights on appointment.

The constitution also rules that all committee members must live in a Defined Area which consists of Northwood ward plus Gatehill and Hilliard Road. As it is not always possible to find committee members who have the necessary expertise who live in the Defined Area, we are proposing to amend the constitution to include members who have the required expertise who live in neighbouring areas.

These changes will be put to the membership for approval at an Extraordinary General Meeting (see below).

Conclusion

I am now two and a half years into my Chairmanship and still enjoying the experience. My wife hasn't even noticed any new grey hairs. The position enables me to meet and talk to many residents and hopefully I am able to answer your varied questions or put you in touch with someone who can. Please do feel free to contact me at any reasonable hour, but if possible, not on Sundays as that is the one day I try to keep free. As ever, thanks to our councillors, committee members, Area Road Stewards and Road Stewards for your valuable contributions towards making Northwood a better place in which to live.

Tony Ellis

chairman@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Tel: 01923 821237



The Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust

a) As reported in our June Newsletter, the paediatric cardiac-surgery services at the Royal Brompton were

not included as an option in the public consultation on the future of this form of surgery and, as such, are now under threat of closure. If this happens, services at Harefield Hospital would be affected.

There is to be a judicial review commencing 26th September, on the basis that the options offered in the consultation were flawed as they ignored the undoubted expertise which exists at the Royal Brompton. The judicial review will assess the process, not the outcome, of the review.

- b) Pioneering research to help people living with complex heart and lung conditions has been recognised with a grant of nearly £20 million from the Government's National Institute for Health Research. Two Biomedical Research Units - Respiratory and Cardiovascular - run by the Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust and Imperial College London, will receive the funding as a five-year grant. This award is of huge importance to the two Research Units and will enable world-class research work to continue.

Community Voice

This is our local voluntary group of nearly 50 organisations and many individual members, which monitors NHS services. If you are at all interested in the continuation of good NHS services in the area, do encourage any group to which you belong to join, or come along yourself as an individual member.

Health Matters

Obtain further information from

www.communityvoicehealth.org.uk or from the chairman, Mrs Joan Davis, on 01895 636095.

Hillingdon Hospital & Mount Vernon Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Foundation Trust status was granted in April 2011.

One of the advantages of such status is that any monies not spent in one financial year can be carried over to the following year, which will enable larger NHS projects to be carried out.

Mount Vernon Hospital – Cancer Centre

Volunteers are needed in several areas. Can you help?

- The Michael Sobell Charity shop in Northwood.
- Reception work in the Cancer Centre.
- Help with the Aviary.
- For a trained Counsellor – work for 4 hours per week.

The Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre, Mount Vernon Hospital

This Centre has been awarded certification by the Information Standard, supported by the Department of Health. The award acknowledges the excellent information service offered by the Centre on all aspects of cancer.

A RAFT of Ideas.

On our doorstep, on the Mount Vernon site, is RAFT – the Restoration of Appearance and Function Trust, a registered charity 'working to heal patients through scientific discovery' and focusing on skin. Receiving no funding from the NHS or Government, RAFT relies on public donations and fund-raising events.

The benefits of RAFT have been felt world-wide: a multi-chamber air bed to prevent pressure sores, improved treatments for Facial Palsy & Dupuytren's Contracture, a laser hair removal system for use when skin is

grafted from one part of a body to another and research on malignant melanoma which has contributed to EU and USA sunscreen legislation. RAFT's work has also contributed to the ban on under-18s using commercial sunbeds.

RAFT has three current core projects:

1. Smart Matrix, a wound-healing project
2. Skin cancer research on the harmful effect of UVA rays
3. A Bionic Limb project to improve artificial limbs.

Northwood & Pinner Community Hospital

Still no decision about the future of this building! However, we are assured that it is not on any list of buildings for sale although any idea of refurbishing it and redeveloping the neighbouring health centre could produce a funding gap of about £12m – NHS money which is not available at present.

West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust, which includes Watford Hospital

- a) CHKS National Awards Ceremony. The Trust has been named as one of the UK's Top 40 Hospitals for 2011 (yes, that is correct – the title refers to 'Hospitals' whilst the Award was to the Trust!), achieving excellence in patient safety, quality of care and data quality. The Trust was also shortlisted for the Quality of Care Award.
- b) Healthcare People Management Association Awards 2011. The Trust won an award for Excellence in Human Resource Management, another for Developing Outpatient Services and was also chosen from the eleven category winners as overall award winner for 2011.
- c) Based on the Olympic logo, the Trust has been running a 'Going for Gold' campaign, with five gold standards of care and in June this was judged by the East of England Strategic Health Authority to be the Best Regional Campaign in 2011. Even more impressive was

the fact that the campaign secured for the Trust the Global Business Excellence Award for its 'Outstanding Public Relations Campaign'.

d) The Alexandra Birthing Centre at Watford Hospital has recently celebrated its tenth anniversary. Since the centre was opened 11,000 babies have been born at Watford. The event raised nearly £2,000.

e) The Trust has been given a Level 2 rating by the NHS Litigation Authority, establishing the Trust as 'robust'. The Rating will reduce the insurance bill for the Trust and will assure patients that the Trust takes safety processes and patient experience very seriously.

f) An Apprentice Scheme has been launched by the Estates Team at the West Hertfordshire NHS Hospitals Trust, taking students from West Hertfordshire College. The Scheme aims to 'develop active working skills whilst still in education'.

London Stroke Services

The reconfiguration of London's stroke services, based on dedicated hyper-acute stroke units, won the Clinical Service Redesign Award for 2010 offered by the Health Service Journal. The scheme has saved an estimated 500 lives.

Skin Cancer Care

The 21 July 2011 edition of the Health Service Journal reported that the West London Cancer Network, having investigated the performance of NHS Hillingdon, had found that its poor commissioning and monitoring combined with administrative and clinical underperformance by some providers had resulted in concern for the care of some skin cancer patients in Hillingdon. 'We have learnt a number of important lessons', said Dr E Friedman, chairman of the investigation team and director of public health at NHS Hillingdon/Hillingdon Council.

Valerie Mellor
health@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Environment

Hazardous Fruit!

This year there has been a very heavy crop on many of our fruit trees. Unfortunately this has also led to more fruit than usual splattered on the pavements. If your tree drops fruit onto the pavement, please go out with your broom occasionally and clear it away before anyone slips and falls.

Autumn Leaves

Whatever you think about the constant noise of leaf blowers in the autumn, they seem to be here to stay. If you employ a gardener who uses one, please ask them not to clear leaves from your garden onto the footpath or road.



Overhanging Branches

Another plea to owners of trees and shrubs which overhang the pavement - please consider pedestrians. Hedges should be cut back to your property line and overhanging branches cut back to give at least seven feet of head clearance.

Hanging Baskets

Every time I drive through Harefield in the summer, I am struck by how attractive the hanging baskets are. Then I come back to Northwood and find that our hanging baskets are equally attractive but would be even better if they were placed lower. We think that LBH should place them lower next year if at all possible. We are following this up with our local councillors.

Anna Davis
environment@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Metropolitan Line

Sadly, as anticipated, the improvement in the service during the spring turned out to be no more than a temporary departure from the norm.

Since that time, it has been business as usual, with the familiar track, signal and rolling stock failures and service imbalances (it is often possible to see **five** non-Watford trains depart from Baker Street in succession during the evening peak).

There is a particular problem with flooding around the Finchley Road area, so that the service is often disrupted when it rains. Met Line management and LUL are aware that this problem needs to be permanently fixed but, with money being tight, and the fact that it is such a huge task to put it right – a full track and drainage replacement is necessary- this won't happen anytime soon.

Those of you unfortunate enough to have been travelling home on Tuesday, 6th September will have experienced this at first hand, when a large part of the line was suspended for many hours due to a signal failure at Finchley Road. Not only did it rain very hard, but there were other service problems and there was a big football match at Wembley. There are reports of people taking 2½ hours and more to get home as huge numbers of people tried to squeeze on to trains on other lines.

Indeed, one resident reports the telephone conversation he heard of a fellow passenger: it

transpired that the man and his colleague had both left the office at exactly the same time, one going to St Pancras for the Eurostar and the other to Liverpool Street to get the Met. The colleague had got to Lille, while the other hadn't even got to Harrow-on-the-Hill! Even Met management acknowledges that it was a dreadful day. Unfortunately no amount of apologising is going to improve the service.

More of the new S stock trains are gradually being introduced, and we believe the entire old stock will be replaced by the end of 2012. There have been complaints about the height of the high-level handrails for standing passengers (of which there will of course be many more because of the quite drastically reduced seating capacity) resulting in aching arms for those of less than average height.

From December 2011 there will be a new off-peak service pattern.

Passengers from Amersham and Chesham will lose their fast trains to and from London, as they will be stopping at all stations, so Northwood passengers will have 8 trains per hour rather than the current 6. There have been understandable protests from Amersham/Chesham customers, whose journeys to and from London will become considerably longer.

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

*Lisa Maclay
Federation of Metropolitan Line Users' Committees*

Mount Vernon Hospital Comforts Fund

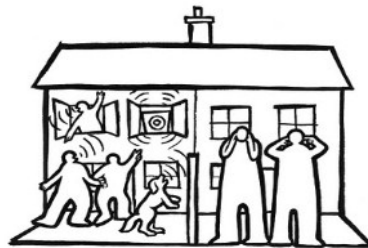
After 75 years of successful fund raising through retail activity we are looking for new volunteers to help manage our services for the future.

If you have

- an interest in people
- the skills to manage a small book shop, or our sweet shop / newsagent shop
- flexible time to volunteer OR a business background with time to spare

then please leave your details ASAP on 01923 844629. We will return your call and arrange to supply further information. All training will be given but a commitment to raising money to help support the care given to patients at our local hospital is essential.

*Jan Sutton
Chairman*



Noisy neighbours? Call the Hillingdon Noise Team

Night-time service:

Thursdays 8pm to 2am

Fridays & Saturdays 9pm to 3am

Sundays 7pm to 1am

Bothered by noise during these hours? Please call 01895 250111 and an officer will call you back once you have left your name, address and phone number with the operator.

A visit will be arranged to assess the noise, subject to demand on the service at the time.

Daytime service:

Please call 0800 6940240 to speak with an officer about a domestic noise problem during normal office hours.

For **commercial noise** problems, please contact the Environmental Protection Unit which investigates noise from domestic and commercial premises as well as dust, smoke, odour and light pollution complaints from commercial/industrial operations.

Tel: 01895 250155, Monday-Friday 0900-1700.

Traffic and Highways

Town Centre Traffic Lights

The independent review has begun, and we were able to meet the consultants at the end of July and point out the day-to-day problems. There are further studies to be done now that the schools are back, as of course things are quite different during term time and during peak hours.

Do Inconsiderate Drivers Obstruct Your Driveway?

It can be very frustrating if you are prevented from getting access into or out of your drive because someone has parked across it.

LBH provides a service for residents and businesses that find their dropped kerb blocked in such a manner.

Besides blocking entry and access, such inconsiderate parking can prevent people with disabilities and those with pushchairs from crossing the public highway in a safe manner.

The following link shows you what you can do and how to register your property so that a Civil Enforcement Officer can issue the appropriate parking ticket.

<http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=7310>

Alternatively, please phone LBH on 01895 556408 to register.

Lisa Maclay

traffichighways@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Station Flower Beds

We hope that those of you who use Northwood underground station enjoy seeing the way in which the flower beds on the platforms are flourishing and becoming well established. This display is thanks to the hard work put in by NRA member, Tina Williams. Back in October 2008, we appealed for a volunteer to take on the task of transforming the uncared-for beds into things of beauty. Tina volunteered and the results speak for themselves!



The project is funded by the NRA with help from our local councillors, so it's "thank you" to them and a specially large "thank you" to Tina.

Annual Poppy Appeal

Owing to retirement, The Royal British Legion requires two volunteers to co-ordinate Poppy-selling in Northwood. One position is for a person to manage Poppy-selling at Waitrose and the other is to deal with local shops and households who sell Poppies and distribute wreaths as necessary.

If anyone is willing to take on either of these annual functions, would they please contact Tony Eastman (tel. 827530) or David Benatar (tel. 824032).

Unfortunately, if volunteers are not found, the local appeal, which raises an average of £10,000 each year, will not be able to continue. Please volunteer so that Northwood can continue this vital act of giving.

Don't forget this year's Remembrance Sunday service: **13th November, 10.45am** at the War Memorial in Green Lane



Northwood and District U3A – University of the Third Age



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Nearly 300 enthusiastic Third Agers attended our inaugural meeting on July 6th and there are now well over 300 members. Over 200 attended the meeting in August when former mayor, Shirley Harper-O'Neill attended as well as our first speaker, Barbara Lewis, Vice Chairman of the National Third Age Trust.

The membership fee has been set at £30 for the year up until the end of June 2012.

As well as a monthly meeting with a speaker and refreshments the fee includes a quarterly newsletter and the opportunity to join one or more of the 30 interest groups.

The monthly meetings at Fairfield Church, Windsor Close, Northwood Hills are held on the first

Wednesday morning of the month. Future speakers are:

Nov 2nd Colin Oakes, "10 Years in the Grotto" (as a Santa).

Dec 7th Mel Rees, writer and humourist, "My Family and Other Setbacks".

In 2012 topics will include: "Blessed are the Cheesemakers", "Prisons", "Bethnal Green" and "History of Embroidery".

For more membership information see our website at **u3asites.org.uk/northwood** or send a large sae to: Membership Secretary, 45 Ivy House Road, Ickenham, UB10 8NG or you are welcome to come to one monthly meeting as a visitor.

Jill Besant, Chairman

Planning

We have had a lady come forward who will hopefully soon take over as Planning Advisor to the NRA. She will be working in tandem with me over the next few months whilst she learns the ropes. Welcome Jo!

Currently we have some problems with developments in Hallowell Road where ridiculous overdevelopment of two houses is causing upset to neighbours. Despite recognition by council officers of unauthorised development they failed to issue Temporary Stop Notices! The developers have submitted retrospective planning applications and two petitions are being raised against these applications with a considerable number of signatures from local residents. These petitions will be passed to the Planning North committee for consideration. The NRA is confident that the applications will be rejected. Local Councillor Scott Seaman-Digby and MP Nick Hurd are supporting the association's and residents' objections.

The NRA is concerned that an application has been lodged for permanent use of land off Jackets Lane as a travellers' caravan site. This problem first arose some years back when a number of families settled, without

planning permission, on Green Belt land they had purchased from a local farmer.

Hillingdon council's Unitary Development Plan (UDP) highlights its intention to keep Green Belt land free from such development. The NRA has objected to this new application. Previously when this occurred and after a planning appeal, one individual, who claimed to be disabled, was allowed to remain and raise horses. With this new application the NRA is urging the council to stand by its declared UDP policies.

We are becoming concerned that the Planning department is beginning to fail in a number of areas e.g. Planning Notices failing to be delivered to neighbouring properties, emails from the NRA failing to be answered within the council's self-imposed time-frames and the Planning Applications website malfunctioning and failing to display applications. We will be monitoring the department's performance over the next few months.



Alan Prue
planning@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Fireworks Law

Nationally, fireworks are allowed only from 7am to 11pm all year round, (in line with the Noise Act) with 1am extensions given to New Year's Eve, the Hindu Festival of Diwali and the Chinese New Year's Eve with a midnight curfew on the 5th November.



Residents face a fine of up to £5,000 or six months jail term if they break the fireworks curfew. Under-18s are not allowed to possess fireworks at any time.

Cats and dogs should be kept indoors with the curtains closed to block out noise making it less stressful and frightening for the animals.

If you want to report fireworks misuse call the police or Hillingdon Council's anti-social behaviour team on 01895 250111.

Local Weather Online

Peter Lewin, a long term resident of Moor Park, has set up a wireless weather station, the first such station in the Moor Park and Northwood area. In operation since March 2011, the fully automated wireless equipment records and processes real time weather data, uploading to the internet every 15 seconds. Residents now have weather information available, sourced directly in Moor Park.

The site is full of statistics including record highs and lows by day, month, and year. As we go to press, the highest temperature recorded for this year is 89.5°F on 27th June and the wettest month was August with 5.39" rain.

Peter welcomes comments and any questions about the site and its data, email: peter@peterlewin.com

<http://www.moorparkweather.net/>

Northwood Live At Home Scheme

Volunteer to Help our Older People!

Have you a few free hours a week that you would like spend helping our community? Northwood Live At Home Scheme is looking for volunteers to visit our members in their own homes and to drive them to and from events. The scheme offers support to enable older people to live more rewarding lives. The scheme provides a weekly lunch club, fortnightly Tea and Chat, coffee mornings and outings to garden centres and places of interest. We also provide an information service relevant to the older person. Regular contacts help members avoid depression and related problems and give volunteers pleasant social meetings. For more information ring the scheme office on 01923 842494 or see our entry on the NRA website.

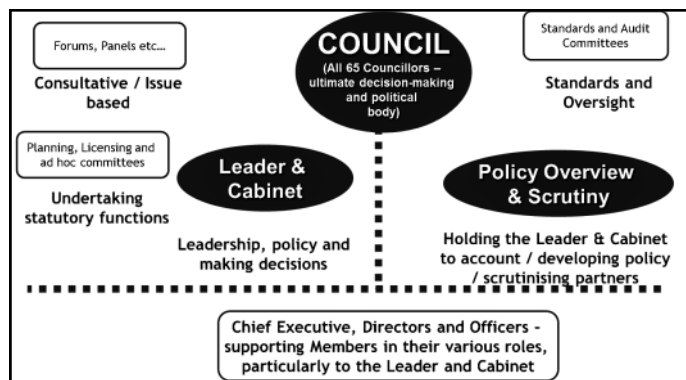
Sue Mansfield, NLAH Chairman

Councillors' Corner

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

Q. How does the Cabinet system of local government work and what are the perceived advantages?

A.



This diagram shows an overview of LBH Council's political structure. The general structure is common amongst most councils but the powers and authority given to the various components will be different.

The LBH council decided in 2002 that the Leader and a group of councillors, 'Cabinet Members', would carry out its executive functions and lead the overall direction of the council. These councillors make the important day-to-day decisions either individually or collectively as a Cabinet.

The Policy Overview and Scrutiny function comprises backbench councillors not in the Cabinet. Its primary role is to hold the Cabinet to account and develop or review policy.

Hillingdon's Cabinet

The Cabinet is Hillingdon Council's Leadership Team, working closely with Officers, to provide services and put residents first. Chaired by the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet comprises seven other councillors (known as Cabinet Members) who are responsible and publicly accountable for a range of Council services or a 'portfolio', e.g. education. Cabinet is responsible for the Council's policies and partnership working within the community. Northwood councillor, Scott Seaman-Digby is Cabinet Member for Co-ordination & Central Services.

Cabinet Members make daily decisions to improve the quality of life for residents, take a lead on issues, support local campaigns and hold regular petition hearings listening directly to residents. They also travel around the borough meeting residents through a series of 'Question Time' events.

Attending a Cabinet meeting

Cabinet meets monthly in public to take the key decisions affecting the borough. It normally meets on a Thursday each month at 7pm in Committee Room 6 at the Civic Centre. Members of the public are more than welcome to attend a meeting of the Cabinet. The agenda for the meeting and the reports under consideration by the Cabinet are published about a week before the meeting and available for viewing on the LBH website.

The following dates are currently scheduled:

- 27th October 2011
- 24th November 2011
- 15th December 2011

The benefits of Cabinet style local government

Cabinet style local government is designed to deliver greater efficiency, transparency and accountability to Hillingdon council's decision-making process.

Efficiency

More business is transacted in a shorter time-span, and with better quality control, enabling the council to be more responsive to the needs of the local community.

Openness

Cabinet meetings take place in public and every decision the Cabinet or a Cabinet Member makes are made public. Residents have the right to petition Cabinet Members and present their views to them before decisions are made.

The Forward Plan, published monthly on the LBH website, contains all the issues that Cabinet or Cabinet Members are due to consider in the next four months and is a good way of finding out what issues are coming up and organising representations before a decision is taken.

Accountability

Cabinet Members are directly responsible for a particular council service as well as the public advocate of the council for them. They are accountable for their actions publicly.

Leadership

Unlike the old committee system, the Cabinet provides clear leadership for the council and residents.

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 all at: northwoodward@hillingdon.gov.uk

From the Treasurer



The NRA finances remain stable and subs have been arriving throughout the year. The bulk tends to arrive in the latter stages of the year. Thank you to all members who have already paid and for those about to please make it as easy as possible for the road steward. The higher the membership we maintain, the greater our mandate and influence when the NRA defends Northwood's interests. Should you have any suggestions on items that the NRA could support, please let your road steward know, or contact the NRA via the contacts on the website or in this newsletter.

The current economic turmoil continues and even Governments cannot agree on the correct approach. The USA is keen to boost the economy by printing yet more money and borrowing to avoid cuts or tax rises, whilst Europe is seeking austerity. Of course if spending falters demand decreases and companies are likely to reduce staff numbers accordingly which then further reduces demand. If spending can be maintained such downward pressure can be avoided and the spiral downwards can be halted.

In our local community the shops and restaurants can survive only if they are used. I was tempted to say 'visited', but footfall in itself does not pay the bills. So please support our local shops, many of whom are business members of the NRA.

From a national perspective, the same applies there, please do seek out UK goods and services to support our remaining UK-based firms. The recent riots suggest there is an issue with unemployment and particularly youth unemployment. Higher employment levels carry a whole raft of benefits to society as a whole as well as to the individuals who gain employment and the additional wealth and status that goes with it. Unemployment can only be addressed by jobs being created. Such jobs must be in areas that create wealth, ideally for manufacturing goods or services which are exported. Creation of jobs funded by taxpayers is not a solution and the UK is now paying the price of such largesse over the last decade.

So please do support local industries - it will benefit Northwood and the country as a whole.

David Blowers

treasurer@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Have you spotted any of these stickers?

Business members of the NRA will soon be displaying stickers in their windows.



On Being a Road Steward



When I was asked by David Benatar to be a Road Steward I was happy to volunteer as it provided me with the opportunity to interact with my neighbours when I deliver the newsletter three times a year, and collect their annual subscription. But being a Road Steward also

provides my neighbours with a first point of contact with the NRA. Some of my neighbours may be unsure where to get information from, or with whom to raise a concern about local issues. Some of these issues, which could include planning, transport, policing, health, business or parks and woodland, are issues that affect some, if not all, of the residents of Northwood.

The collective voice of the NRA, combined with the knowledge and experience of who to contact, what to say and how to say it, means that someone in authority has to listen, take notice and do something about the

problem. Being local it means that neighbours can talk to me and voice their concerns at any time, not just when I collect their subscriptions.

In turn, I am supported not only by the Chief Road Steward and the network of other volunteer Road Stewards, but I also have the opportunity to interact directly with the committee members responsible for the specific subject areas. This enables me either to provide advice on who to contact, or indeed, to raise the concern on the behalf of a resident with the relevant NRA committee member.

To ensure that Northwood residents have a voice in the future of Northwood, I believe it is essential to support the work of the Northwood Residents' Association; my way is by volunteering to be a Road Steward – why don't you volunteer too?

Keith Weston

Road Steward for Northbrook Drive

Northwood Library Update

It has been a busy summer in Northwood Library, with an on-going appeal on behalf of the Royal British Legion's 90th Anniversary and related events at Northwood and across the borough.

The Summer Reading Challenge

has been very successful. This year's theme is 'Circus Stars' and children have been busy reading lots of books and collecting gifts. Those who completed all six stages collected a certificate and a gold medal! We held a clown mask-making morning, which produced lots of super clowns, and have had a Big Top which we have asked children to fill with circus figures which they coloured in.



Our new story time for under-5s, **Bizzy Bees**, will be taking place every Wednesday morning during term time, starting on 14th September, from 10am, with stories, singing and craft.

October is Hillingdon History Month; we shall be having a Northwood history trail available throughout the whole of October which will be in the form of a walk around Northwood giving some interesting historical facts and asking the walker to solve clues at various sites of interest. Ideal for a family half-term activity. There will be displays of Northwood nostalgia plus a reminiscence afternoon on Wednesday 12th October from 2pm to 4pm.

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

Council of Christians and Jews

The AGM of Hillingdon CCJ took place in July and in her report Judith Kramer, the branch chairman, overviewed the many varied and interesting activities which had been organised during the year.

The programme for the rest of this year is as follows and everyone is very welcome:

Wednesday 26 October. **ZOROASTRIANISM "the mother of all religions"** will be defined and explained by Jehangir Sarosh. 8.00pm at St. Martin's church hall, Ruislip. HA4 8DG.

Tuesday 22 November. **The work of Multi-Faith Volunteers who help those in need** will be discussed by Sandra Harris of the League of Jewish Women and Dorothy Thornhill, the elected Mayor of Watford. 8.00pm at Northwood United Synagogue, 21-23 Murray Road, Northwood.

Tuesday 13th December. **The Annual Chanukah & Christmas Social** with food, wine and entertainment provided by the Sine Nomine Singers and the Synagogue Choir. 8.00pm at Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue, Oaklands Gate, Northwood. Entry £4 (CCJ members £3).

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

NORTHWOOD TENNIS CLUB

Our summer tournament finals took place recently. In the singles Duncan Chorley withstood the power tennis of John Ghosh and took advantage of his lack of mobility to win 9-7 6-1.

The ladies singles was won by former champion Derval Russell 6-3 6-2 whose accuracy forced her opponent Ivana Brumovska into errors.

Duncan partnered Mark England in the men's doubles against John and Jerry Sobik. After a nervous start Duncan and Mark fought back to win the set in a tie-break by 7-3. In the second set Duncan and Mark took control winning 6-2.

In the ladies doubles the experience of Derval and Sue Jones told as they beat the giant killing duo of Carole Phillips and Norma Leggett by 6-1 6-2.

Derval and John teamed up in the mixed doubles against Vim Ferrand and Fergal Davern. In a close contest accurate serving by Fergal allowed him and Vim to win by 6-3 6-4.

The veterans mixed doubles saw two former winners of this

title Paul Arpino and Monika Laudenska-Sobik in opposition with their respective partners Vim and Andy Smith. Vim and Paul proved to be steadier particularly in the second set providing Paul with his second triumph by 6-4 6-1.

For information about the club please contact the chairman David Cameron at david-cameron5@sky.com or for junior tennis Liz Chorley at lizchorley@hotmail.com

Pictured are Duncan Chorley (winner men's singles and doubles) and Derval Russell (winner ladies singles and doubles).



Northwood Police Station Centenary

On June 18th 2011, residents were able to tour Northwood Police Station as part of its 100th birthday celebrations. Lots of visitors enjoyed a nostalgic exhibition of police memorabilia including cars from the 1950s, 60s and 70s. It was good to see several former Northwood police officers there as well as two mounted police from Hammersmith and a dog-handling team.



Police horses enjoy a snack.



'Victorian' Pc admires a 1968 S-Type Jaguar which was formerly Metropolitan Police Area Traffic car Charlie One of West End Central.

Sorry, no report from the Northwood Safer Neighbourhoods Team this time. You can contact them on Tel: 020 8721 2545 or 07909 872377
email: northwood.snt@met.police.uk

You will find more Open Day photos on the NRA website

LJMC news



Christmas Cards
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.

LJMC's services. 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 20,000 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? Do you belong to a local group or club? 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 and see the full card range at www.ljmc.org

Northwood Lions Club

By the time you read this we will have held another presentation evening at which £11,000 of the money raised at the Den will have been donated to various local charities. This time the money is going towards a new minibus for the 6th Northwood Scouts, equipment for the Templeton Centre, summer holiday activities for children at Grangewood School, the Northwood Live at Home Scheme and the Hillingdon Talking Newspaper.

As a small club we would be unable to make these donations without the efforts of the amazing volunteers at the Den who work so hard and give up so much of their time to make it all happen.

Our second-hand bookstall at the United Reformed Church in Joel Street has got off to a promising start. Do come along for a browse on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month between 1.30pm and 4pm. Our books are of good quality and extremely reasonably priced.

For further information about Northwood Lions Club please contact Robert on 07860 324395 or pop into the Den at 195 Pinner Road on a Saturday morning between 9.45 and 11.45.



Northwood & District Community Association

Shop early for Christmas.

Our Anglo-German group is holding a mini German Christmas Market on Tuesday 15th November in the Oasis Lounge at Oaklands Gate Methodist Church, 2.45pm to 4.15pm. So if you want to come along and buy some early Christmas presents, decorations, cards etc and chat over tea and cake, make a note of the date in your diary now.



Barn Dance v Line Dance. Thank you to Stephanie, a Line Dancing instructor who responded to my query in the last edition as to what has happened to the Barn Dance. Line Dancing is enjoyed by many and perhaps has mainly replaced the Barn Dance; I know that our Line Dancing section is extremely popular. I attended a wedding recently where a group and caller had us all dancing in squares and sets of eight, great fun, so room for both!

All our sections would welcome more members, so do call me on 01923 836346 to find out more.

Pat Dunhill

Northwood Choral Society

Northwood Choral Society's next concert takes place on **Saturday 19th November, 7:30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Rickmansworth Road, Northwood.**

The programme features Liebeslieder Songs by Brahms, Elgar's Banner of St George and Five Mystical Songs by Vaughan Williams. Rehearsals for this concert are held every Sunday evening at 7:15pm in Holy Trinity Church Hall, Gateway Close, off Rickmansworth Road, Northwood. Tickets are available in advance from Sally Rogers sallyrogers01@aol.com or Northwood Bookshop.



Our first concert in 2012 will be held on Saturday 31st March, and will include Philip Ledger's Requiem and Feel the Spirit by John Rutter. Rehearsals for this concert begin on 22nd January, 2012.

We welcome anyone who enjoys singing, even if you haven't sung since your schooldays. So if you are interested, please come along to a rehearsal. There is no audition for new members.

Further information: www.northwoodchoralsociety.org.uk

Ruislip-Northwood Rotary Club

Thank you for your response to our appeal in the February newsletter – 32 sewing machines were donated by NRA members. These were refurbished by Workaid at Chesham before being sent on to East Africa where they are being put to good use.

This is just one of the activities of the Ruislip-Northwood Rotary Club, a club open to both men and women that meets Tuesday lunchtimes 12.45 for 1.00pm at Northwood Golf Club. Other service activities over the past year have been support of Grangewood School for the handicapped; a disco for the adult handicapped at the Wren club; financial support for the Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre and a stroke awareness Saturday at Sharmans chemist.

Or next venture is a CAMRA Beer Festival at Ruislip Rugby club on November 17th-19th. We would welcome new members; please call Paul Hagyard on 01494 674371.

And do visit our website at www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.asp?ClubID=565



Northwood Methodist Church, Oaklands Gate

Our next **children's events** are the **Family Film** afternoon on 29th October (doors open 2.30pm) and the **Messy Church/Family Film/Love2Play Christmas Special** on 3rd December at 5pm.

The annual **Christmas Fayre** will take place on Saturday 12th November from 10am until 1pm. The fayre is famous for the home made cakes and ham and turkey rolls. If you are looking for Christmas gifts you can browse amongst the books, music, jewellery or

toiletries, and if time allows, why not enjoy some refreshments in the Oasis lounge?

There are many more events planned such as the **Christmas Tree Festival** on 16th December at 10am or the **Carol Services** (18th Dec and 24th Dec) and the **Midnight Communion on Christmas Evening**. Email us for a list or for further information on any of the above events at admin@nmc.totalise.co.uk or go to <http://northwoodmethodist.ning.com/>

76 High Street - from cinema to dining club to community hall

Dilapidated though it was at the end, many Northwood residents viewed the old dining club building with affection, some even remember the days when it was a thriving cinema. So it was with mixed feelings that I watched the demolition taking place during August. Over the years the site and building has courted controversy; did the Fassnidge Trust buy the dining centre at a knockdown price in 1997? Would vandalism increase in the High Street if the building was converted to become a drop-in youth centre in 1998? Whatever has happened in the past, let's look forward to seeing a new building rise from the dust and rubble to give Northwood a community centre and eight small apartments.

Ros Plume



Northwood Bowls Club has enjoyed another good season despite the vagaries of the British weather. There has been an excellent mix of friendly 'roll-ups' combined with matches against other clubs. The Ladies celebrated their 50th anniversary in great style and with fantastic catering. The Men presented them with six commemorative cake stands which have been put to good use! Various friendly interclub matches have been played and the green well used. Both the Men and the Ladies have benefitted from new members; some as a result of our Open Days held in May for people to try bowling for the first time, and

some who have joined from other clubs. A major competitive success has been the Men winning the Harrow and District Veterans (over 60s) League in their Division.

The season outdoors ended in September, but many members will play indoors at various clubs from October to April. A very local club is the Northwood and District Community Association which provides sessions of indoor short mat bowling at Emmanuel Church hall. See the NDCA article on Page 11 for contact details.

Tony Smith

Friends of Michael Sobell House Hospice

There's certainly lots going on at MSH:

Wednesday 2nd November: Fun Winter Quiz

Come along to our fantastic quiz, which is going to be so much fun in addition to testing your general knowledge! Start time is 7.30pm at the MSH Lecture Hall, Mount Vernon Hospital, via Gate 3, off White Hill, Northwood. Tickets £15 include a Fish & Chip supper. Cash bar available.

Sunday 27th November: Light up a Life

This ceremony of seasonal music and readings is open to all, irrespective of faith or belief. Join us at 4pm to remember loved ones and absent friends by dedicating a light that will shine on our Light up a Life Tree until 6th January 2012. The event will be held indoors and there will be the opportunity to reflect near the tree, at the end of the ceremony.

Saturday 3rd December: Santa Dash

Come and join in our second 'Santa Dash'. You will be given a Santa costume to wear! This fun event will not only bring awareness of the valuable work done by the hospice but also, if each Santa collects sponsorship of £100 or more, a significant amount of money will be raised to help care for our patients. Registration starts at 10.15am at Northwood Methodist Church. [NRA President, Alan Prue took part last year and said it was great fun!]

For more information about these events and to purchase tickets go to www.michaelsobellhouse.co.uk or contact Ophelia Chambers-Henry on 01923 944829 or Trish Mulé on 01923 844726.



The Northwood and Pinner Community Hospital—a potted history

The Northwood and Pinner Memorial Hospital started life as a VAD hospital in the 1914-18 war, occupying temporary premises on the corner of Green Lane and Hallowell Road. In May 1919, the Northwood Memorial Committee decided to take over the premises and establish a cottage hospital which was subsequently opened on 10th March 1920. The original hospital consisted of 12 beds, (male and female wards), operating theatre, massage and electrical treatment room, store room, kitchen, bathrooms and quarters for the nursing staff.

In 1922 the management committee decided to buy a permanent site and the Pinner Road freehold was purchased for £400 the following year. Building work on the new hospital started in 1923 and the opening ceremony was held on 2nd December 1924. Patients were transferred the following week.

In 1925, the residents of Pinner raised £1,500 and joined forces with Northwood. The name was changed to 'The Northwood, Pinner and District Hospital and War Memorial'. By 1927 the hospital was working well beyond its capacity and the management committee decided to raise funds for an extension. Additional land was purchased and construction completed on 23rd June 1930. Additional facilities included another 24 beds, X-Ray, darkroom, anaesthetising and sterilising rooms, waiting and consulting rooms, orthopaedic clinic and additional staff quarters. By 1932, the hospital was working to capacity again.

From 1920 to 1948 the hospital was mostly funded by residents through various fund-raising activities, donations and legacies so it can be said that the hospital truly belongs to the people of Northwood and Pinner.

In 1948, the hospital was transferred to the National Health Service and in 1951 a new physiotherapy building was opened.

In September 1983, the Health Authority decided to make a number of cuts, one of them being the closure of the hospital. On 26th October 1983, the staff held a secret ballot and voted to hold a "work-in". This action was supported by the local MP, residents, trades unions, the Royal College of Nursing, doctors, churches and other local organisations. During the occupation, the hospital continued to treat patients. A Defence Committee was appointed to negotiate with the NHS and pursue legal action against the closure. The Defence Committee and the doctors took High Court action to fight the closure and breach of contract and after five days, Lord Chief Justice Woolf found against Hillingdon Health Authority and ordered that the hospital remain open. The "work-in" had lasted for three months.

The Health Authority decided to carry out much needed repairs and alterations and the hospital was



During the 1983 'work-in'

officially reopened as the 'Northwood and Pinner Cottage Hospital' on 3rd **September 1987**. The hospital continued its "Care for the Elderly" services and was renamed the 'Northwood and Pinner Community Hospital' in 1988.

Since 1988 there have been various schemes proposed to develop the site and keep the hospital open but so far, none has come to fruition. As the years passed, the premises fell into disrepair through lack of funding. In May 2005, patients were transferred to male and female wards at Mount Vernon Hospital, known as the 'Northwood and Pinner Community Unit'. The Physiotherapy Department was moved in December 2006 and the hospital finally closed.

In February 2007, Hillingdon PCT launched a three month consultation on the closure of the hospital. The recommendations produced from this report were:

1. To agree to the permanent closure of the hospital.
2. To confirm the relocation of The Northwood and Pinner Community Unit to the Mount Vernon site.
3. To support the redevelopment of the site to include clinical and related services.

The Future. The redevelopment plan is in its early stages and proposes creating a new integrated health, social care and community facility. It is a mix of relocating existing services, including an Elderly Care Unit, and the development of new services from the public and private sector. It would also retain the War Memorial. Our local MP, Nick Hurd, is adamant that the site should be developed for the benefit of Northwood and Pinner, in particular for the elderly and he is working hard to coordinate the efforts of the organisations concerned. Raising the necessary funds will be the major challenge.

Finally, a history of the hospital would not be complete without mentioning Mike Turner. For many years, as Chairman of the Northwood and Pinner Hospital Development Committee, Mike has led the long campaign to keep the hospital open. The residents of Northwood and Pinner are very grateful for his unstinting efforts.

Tony Ellis

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NRA Open Forum

Tuesday 1st November, 8pm
Oaklands Gate Methodist Church

See you there!

(For details see leaflet accompanying this newsletter)

NRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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



Autumn Bazaar

Saturday 29th October
10.30 am to 12 noon

Church Hall,
Gateway Close

★ Thanks to **Grass Roots**
★ **Grants** and the
★ **NW London Community**
★ **Foundation**
★ for providing
★ funding for the
★ **grassroots grants**



Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society

21 Nov Research on The Playhouses of Shakespearean London

Julian Bowsher, Senior Archaeologist, MoLA

19 Dec Research Presentation, **RNELHS Members**

16 Jan Cowley Through Time, **Ken Pearce**,
Uxbridge Local Historical & Archival Society

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 1 Nov Nick Grounds, "Christmas Carols", Northwood College, Maxwell Rd

Tues 6 Dec Angela Turner, "A Natural Christmas", St John's Church Hall, Hallowell Rd

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

The NRA newsletter is printed by The Print Machine.
All enquiries welcome. Call 01923 220772.