

# Northwood Residents' Association



Newsletter 160

October 2014

## Chairman's Report - Tony Ellis



### INTRODUCTION

When you receive this edition, the clocks will be about to go back and the long, dark evenings will be with us again. By English standards we have had an excellent summer, so we should all be in fairly good shape to

face the rigours of the winter months.

As usual, I would ask you to make sure that your elderly neighbours are being looked after and are able to get their shopping and visit the doctor and/or chemist if required. Remember also that some of them live alone and probably do not speak to anyone in person for days at a time so a friendly chat does not come amiss.

### TRANSPORT FOR LONDON (TfL) AND Save OUR NORTHWOOD

At a public meeting on 2nd July, TfL spelt out their plans for the consultation for their future use of the Station Approach site. Their appointed contractor, *make:good*, moved into the old bridal shop opposite Waitrose and started the consultation in earnest on 16<sup>th</sup> July. I am happy to report that the consultation is being conducted in a fair and transparent manner and that the final report should be a true representation of Northwood's opinions.

The SON committee has taken a back seat during the consultation period but will be meeting before the next public meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November to ensure that the conclusions reached by TfL are truly representative.

I have been keeping in touch with TfL and *make:good* on a regular basis and I will be attending the various workshops. See Page 8 for more. Please do contact me if you have any concerns about the process.

If you haven't yet completed a survey, please make every effort to do so by the end of this

month. All of your opinions are needed to ensure that the conclusions are representative.

### POLICING

Elsewhere Philip Green (Page 13) refers to our new Inspector, Rob Bryan. Philip and I met him in September and he turned up at my house on a bike. He is a copper who understands the basics of community policing and he has got off to a very impressive start. We know that local police resources are stretched but I am certain that Inspector Bryan's experience and approach will ensure that they are used more efficiently than has been the case in the past.

### SAD NEWS

It is with great sadness that I have to report the deaths of Colin Harris and Trevor Paes.

Colin was my predecessor as Chairman from 2006 to 2009. He was a retired dentist – whether that was the reason for his dry sense of humour I'll never know.

Trevor, who joined the committee in 2013, was a general and vascular surgeon who also had a very droll sense of humour.

Both chaps made a tremendous contribution to the NRA and they are sorely missed. Their obituaries appear on Page 11.

### COMMITTEE

I continue to be indebted to the hard working and talented members of my committee who cover an amazing array of subjects and queries ranging from planning to potholes. They willingly give up many hours of their spare time to protect your interests and make Northwood a better place to live. We are always looking for new members so please do contact me if you are interested.

We are also lucky to have a very efficient secretary in Ros Plume. She keeps us in order, is a mine of information and is also the editor of this newsletter.

### CONCLUSION

My thanks are again due to our three ward councillors and MP Nick Hurd for their

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### Chairman's Report continued.

continued support. It is hoped that Nick is successful in finding a local community use for the Northwood and Pinner hospital (see Page 5).

Don't forget I am always happy to receive your emails and telephone calls to discuss any matters and please do stop me for a chat if you see me in Northwood.

Be safe, warm and healthy this winter!

Tony Ellis  
Chairman

chairman@northwoodresidents.co.uk  
Tel: 01923 821237

## Environment

### RECYCLING IS BOOMING

Hillingdon people are recycling more than ever. Since the council introduced the weekly garden waste, textile and food recycling collections, there has been an overall increase in recycling across the borough.

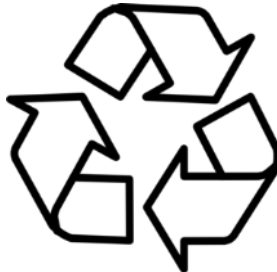
The introduction of weekly garden waste collections in July 2013, textiles in August 2013 and food recycling in October 2013 has seen an overall increase in the borough of more than 5%.

For the first quarter of this financial year overall recycling rates are at 50.7%, up from 45.5% for the same time last year. The government has set a target for local authorities to be recycling 45% of their waste by 2015.

All recycling bags can be obtained by calling the council on 01895 556000, via [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/recycling) or by going to your local library with your Hillingdon First card.

### RECYCLE FALLEN LEAVES

Please remember that leaves should be collected and put out for collection or composted, not swept or blown away from your property or burnt on a bonfire – there is no need to pollute the environment with the noise of leaf-blowers or with smoke when our council provides such an excellent collection service.



### GOOD NEWS ON THE TREE FRONT

Maxwell Road has had its trees pruned after a resident complained to the Association that she could not walk on the pavements. The council worked throughout a Saturday and Sunday until every tree had been cut back. If you have a tree issue, or the pavements have become impassable due to overgrown vegetation, report it to the council. Tel: 01895 556000 or email [contact@hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:contact@hillingdon.gov.uk)

The fight against superfluous **ESTATE AGENT BOARDS** continues. Once reported they are usually removed within two weeks. Local estate agents have reported that they give guidelines to the board companies but in some cases it gets lost in translation. If there are boards on council land or attached to council property, please report it on 01895 250230.

A few incidents of **FLY TIPPING** have been dealt with swiftly by the council; if you see any rubbish strewn around or dumped, call 01895 556000.

The council's out of hours **NOISE NUISANCE** line, 01895 250111, is available until 2am on Thursday, 3am Friday and Saturday and 1am on Sunday. In cases of persistent noise nuisance, recording devices will be employed.

Fiona Blackwell  
[environment@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:environment@northwoodresidents.co.uk)

## Communicating with our Members

Northwood Residents' Association (NRA) is run entirely by volunteers, for the benefit of the residents, and focuses on keeping us aware of matters of current local interest, monitoring how Northwood is changing, and in association with the Save our Northwood campaign, helping influence inevitable future evolution in a positive way.

Increasingly our population is using internet access capability, and visiting the NRA website, which is great. We are often asked why we have a printed newsletter at all, why don't we just publish on our website?

For those members who have and use internet access, we are actively planning to go to a system of controlled "push-emails" where critical items of local news, such as alerts from the police or impending local traffic issues will be sent to the email address of those members who choose to opt-in.

I stress these will be strictly controlled, with the opportunity to opt-out if the service is found not to be useful, so **PLEASE LET US HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS**, directly to me or via your Road Steward.

But, the fact remains there is still a substantial percentage of our membership who, for whatever reason, have not yet taken the plunge into the land of computers, tablets or smartphones, and still welcome receiving printed copies of our newsletter – nearly 3,000 are distributed by our company of Road Stewards three times a year.

With such a sizeable army of Stewards, it is inevitable that we will get a number of retirements and resignations each year. New volunteers are always required – if you can help, please contact me. Do so soon, and secure an immediate invitation to our Road Stewards' reception evening in April with food and beverages provided in a social atmosphere by the NRA!

Paul I.F. Barker, Chief Road Steward  
[chiefroadsteward@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:chiefroadsteward@northwoodresidents.co.uk)  
Mobile: 07946 385474

## How to Get the Best Out of Your Councillors

Between the three local councillors (Scott Seaman-Digby, Richard Lewis and Carol Melvin) we have a lot of experience both of Northwood and of the local authority (Scott since 1998, Richard since 2002 and Carol since 2008) 34 years in total, and whilst we really do rely on our residents as eyes and ears on every street we can often help cut through red tape and find a way of helping with issues that people face. Getting the best out of us as councillors is about involving us and keeping us abreast of issues and the responses you have had (mainly from the council). We can't wave magic wands, it would be wrong if we could, but we will know who to ask, how to frame a question and how to try and wade through the bureaucracy that still exists and to a degree is necessary in an authority that provides over 500 services to over 250,000 people.

Some examples of things we have helped with recently might give you an idea of how you might engage with us:

**a.** A resident was refused permission to remove a protected tree which impeded on his garden. It now damaged other plants and offered no amenity. We helped the resident and neighbours shape an argument and organised a site visit to demonstrate how replacing with a better specimen tree would both maintain the tree numbers and address the issue at hand, putting people first. Permission was given on a new application.

**b.** A family was housed in unsuitable accommodation that did not reflect their needs. We worked with officers to accelerate the search for a suitable alternative and this saw the family re-homed in a unit that helped with their dependency needs and kept the children in local schools.

**c.** Planning issues form a large part of the work we do for residents. We can help get an application heard by councillors, not just officers and, if available, we can speak on residents' behalf.

There is a range of ways in which to contact us, email or phone, or you can even write a letter and get it delivered free of charge via Oaklands Gate library (just address it to us at the Civic Centre):

01895 250316 - Civic Centre office (9am - 5pm weekdays)

01923 822876 - Northwood Office

07810 543808 - Cllr Scott Seaman-Digby's mobile

Email: [councillors@northwoodconservatives.org](mailto:councillors@northwoodconservatives.org)

Please feel free to copy us on emails to officers so we know early on about issues. If you need advice on how or what to ask when facing a local problem, drop us a line or call us. We've dealt with hundreds of enquiries over the years and usually we will be able to help and advise you quickly.

## The Northwood Outdoor Carol Evening

Capitalising on last year's successful night, this year's event will take place on Thursday December 11<sup>th</sup> from 6.30pm.

We are combining the evening with the Oaklands Gate Methodist Church Christmas Tree festival. This is where schools, businesses and organisations design and decorate their own trees, all displayed and illuminated in the church. The night will be opened by our MP, Nick Hurd.

There will be several local school choirs performing on a stage just outside the church to the audience gathered in Oaklands Gate, where they will be flanked by a variety of local charity stalls. In conjunction, Northwood Library will be staying open and putting on Christmas activities. As last year, we hope many of the local shops will stay open for festive shopping and some will be serving mulled wine and mince pies.

This is a free festive event for all of Northwood so do come along and enjoy the evening.

*Miles Gillman*



*December 2013*

## Metropolitan Line

Time to introduce myself as the new NRA representative on FOMLUC, the Federation of Metropolitan Line User Committees. Lisa Maclay has left the area and we thank her for her diligent work in representing us for the last six years, particularly during the dark days of the regular Met line troubles. Workwise I have been based in Moorgate for the last 18 months and prior to that Kings Cross for seven years so I am well used to the Met line 'service'. In theory (we live in hope!) we should be moving into better times with our shiny new trains and, presumably, years of weekend shutdowns finally coming to fruition. However, do let me know of any issues and I will strive to find answers.

It was interesting to read that the tube will finally catch up with the modern world and start running for 24 hours a day at weekends in 2015. Nevertheless, it appears that we out in suburbia don't quite fit into that plan. Indeed it would seem getting to Stanmore is about the closest we can get to home. Perhaps we can get discounts on our travelcards for this omission? Alas, I cannot yet perform miracles but I can certainly raise the question as to why we are considered in a London zone thus paying London fares but not getting the full offering? I hope to update you with an answer next time.

*Gerry Pimm*

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

## Planning Update

### The New Local Plan

On 22nd September the London Borough of Hillingdon issued for public consultation the second and final part of its new Local Plan.

The Local Plan is an important document. Every council has to have one and keep it up-to-date at regular intervals. It is a borough-wide document although particular policies can be directed at specific areas. All planning applications made to the council have to be dealt with in accordance with the Local Plan, so the Plan's content will, over its expected 15 year life, directly shape the environment within which we live and work.

**Part 1 of the Local Plan** was adopted by the council in November 2012; that is more of a strategic document, setting out the council's broad strategy for the borough from 2011 to 2026. The proposed Part 2 will have more specific policies and some specific site allocations.

**The proposed Part 2 policies** will replace the council's existing policies all of which will fall away. The policies which will probably concern Northwood most are those relating to town centres, transport, new homes and the "built environment". In terms of strategic land use, few changes are proposed for Northwood. Some extensions are suggested to the Nature Conservation Sites at Northwood and Haste Hill golf courses and at Mount Vernon. No changes are proposed to the extent of the Conservation Areas at The Glen, Northwood Town Centre and Frithwood or to the extent of the Areas of

Special Local Character at Copsewood Estate, Dene Road, Gatehill Farm Estate and Old Northwood.

**The consultation period will end on 4th November 2014** and all comments and suggestions **must**

be made by that date. Northwood Residents' Association will certainly be making its views on the proposed policies known to the council but it will obviously be beneficial to the process and its outcome if as many residents and businesses as possible make their own comments. The Local Plan will form the planning framework for the whole of the borough for the next 15 years so it is important that we all have our say in its content.

After the end of the consultation period, the draft Plan and the comments received will be submitted by the council to Central Government and a public examination will be held before the Plan can be finally adopted.

The draft proposals can be accessed through the council's website – [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/localplan). The website contains details of how comments should be made. The drafts can also be inspected free of charge at any of the council's public libraries.

We are here to help, so if you have any queries please contact us.

*Jeffrey Bailey and David Goodman, NRA Planning Advisers*  
[planning@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:planning@northwoodresidents.co.uk)



## Open House @ St John's

On Saturday 6th September, St John's United Reform Church in Hallowell Road was a hive of activity as the church opened its doors to the community for what it called 'Open House @ St John's'. The aim of the day was not only to showcase the recently completed rebuild of the entrance area to the church, but also allow the various groups and organisations, who use the building on a daily basis, a chance to let Northwood residents know what goes on in the church.

People coming into the church were welcomed with a delicious tea prepared and served by members of St John's Guild. If they managed to make it past the lovely food that was on offer, they could wander around one of the halls where the various groups had stalls to promote their activities. Young children were entertained with some cup-cake decorating organised by Chickywicks Nursery, the older children were kept busy with activities organised by the local Brownie pack as well as being fascinated by hunting down clues in a treasure hunt that took them to all parts of the church buildings. For the older folk a concert was held in the main body of the church and this proved exceptionally popular with extra chairs being needed and some people even having to stand.

There were talks on what some of the groups do and later in the afternoon a tea dance for the young at heart to show off their moves. In the garden a BBQ was set up for those who still had a little space left after the tea. Local art work and crafts were on display throughout the buildings as well as the exhibition about the church being used as a VAD hospital in World War I.

The day ended with Harry Sneddon, a member of St John's and a storyteller par excellence, reminiscing about the church and past members, much to the delight of those who had the stamina still to be going by that time.

Overall, the day was a huge success with all those who attended enjoying themselves. Numerous people commented not only on the sense of community, but also about the diversity of activities on offer. St John's hopes that this will be the first of many such events.

*John Samson*



*Tony Ellis and Jeff Bailey represent NRA at Open House*

## A Message from Nick Hurd MP



*Memorial beam inside the Northwood & Pinner Cottage Hospital*

As many of you will be aware we are facing redevelopment at the site of the old Northwood and Pinner Cottage Hospital. Many residents will know the proud story of this First World War memorial site, which was developed as a hospital by the community and effectively given to the NHS. It has been derelict for some years now while the NHS worked out what to do with it. Promises were made that it would be kept as a community health facility. Those promises are about to be broken. The Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group has declared it surplus to requirement while they make vague plans to develop a new "hub" of services at Mount Vernon.

My concern for some time is that if we do nothing it will end up as another block of flats with no financial or health benefit to the community. So I am working with community representatives, including the chairmen of both Northwood and Northwood Hills Residents' associations, to encourage an alternative development that delivers more community value. I believe there is an opportunity to blend accommodation with medical care and help meet some of the needs of an ageing, local population. In the process we also hope to upgrade the

large Northwood Health Centre at the back which serves thousands of local patients in facilities that could and should be much better. This would be another milestone in improving the facilities in Northwood and Northwood Hills, which I hope will have the support of residents.



I serve notice that we may have to mobilise the community to put pressure on the NHS to favour a solution that benefits the community over one that generates more cash for the coffers of NHS Central. After all, if it was not for the Northwood community, the NHS would not have this asset to sell. That should be respected. I would be very interested to hear any observations from residents, please do contact me.

### To contact Northwood MP, Nick Hurd:

Email: [nick.hurd.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:nick.hurd.mp@parliament.uk)

Post: Nick Hurd MP, House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA.

## New Police Inspector for Hillingdon North Cluster

Inspector Rob Bryan has recently taken up the post of the new cluster inspector for the north of the borough.

Rob has 25 years police service and has been a resident of Hillingdon for the last 22 years. He has previous experience of Safer Neighbourhoods Policing in both Hounslow and Southall and in 2007 he won the Community Police Officer of the Year Award.

Rob says "I have worked in local policing before in the good old days of 1 Sergeant-2 PCs-3 PCSOs on each ward. Times have definitely changed and I know I will have my hands full trying to squeeze every last piece of visibility from the resources I do have. I will not be making bold and unachievable promises. What I will promise you is that I will do my very best to put officers back on the beat, targeting crime and antisocial behaviour.

"As a Hillingdon resident, and a previous victim of burglary and motor vehicle crime myself, I really do understand your concerns. They are my concerns too! And as a police officer I also appreciate why abstractions occur, and the compromises we make to balance competing demands. I believe that makes me well qualified to take up this post."

Rob's first job will be to speak to Ward Panel chairmen across the cluster, and where no panel exists, ensure one is set up. He will be speaking with his local police teams to ensure they are holding regular and meaningful public meetings so that you can access your officers easily. He is keen to introduce himself in person at residents' association and Neighbourhood Watch meetings. If you would like him to attend your next meeting, please e-mail him with the date and time.

Rob says "Contact me if you want to discuss any issue. I will get back to you as soon as I can."

Inspector Rob Bryan can be contacted on 07500 097182 or you can e-mail him at [rob.bryan@met.pnn.police.uk](mailto:rob.bryan@met.pnn.police.uk).



## From the Treasurer

### WHAT, NO NUMBERS?

One of our residents asked why my newsletter reports don't have any numbers in them. After all I am the treasurer so shouldn't the article be full of statistics, financial analysis, extracted pivot tables, and other insightful information facilitating rigorous debate around the financial standing and opportunities for the NRA? Explanations that such an approach would lead to an article similar to a company's financial report - and they rarely make it to doctors' waiting rooms - cut no ice.

The financial accounts are provided at the Annual General Meeting and are independently audited and approved by the AGM. My fellow resident then recollected a friend of his in days past who used to audit a butcher's. "He used to get really involved; the receipts still had blood on them". An interesting anecdote I thought and, since some Road Stewards have said collecting subs is sometimes like getting blood out of a stone, could explain why some of the receipts I receive are similarly tainted. (Thanks for the joke, Michael.)

### SO, WHICH AVERAGE WOULD YOU LIKE?

He then asked how about stating the average subs paid or number of households who paid £50. I replied, "Would that be the arithmetic mean? The median? The mode? You have to be careful with averages, our average height is a height that neither of us actually are". A national newspaper once headlined that 50% of the people are below average in whatever. Obviously! That is the nature of averages; the other 50% were *above* average. The average sub in 2013 was £3.79. I know nobody actually paid £3.79, but that is the arithmetic mean. The Median may be better, the middle number. That is between £2 and £5 in most years. The mode, the most common, is £2. None of these averages help a great deal. Perhaps stating that, in 2013, around a third of members paid £5 and about a half paid £2 helps. Two members did indeed pay £50, another nine paid over £10 and eighty eight paid £10 exactly.

The annual subs are usually around £6000. We are very grateful to all members who pay more than the minimum

subscription since if they did not the NRA would not be able to cover the annual costs and the minimum subscription would have to be raised. The more members we have the greater the mandate and representation so the very low minimum should not deter membership but does allow for the much higher payments paid by around half of the members. So thanks to all of our members for their continued support.

Our largest expenditure is in the production of the three newsletters per year. Each costs around £750 for printing. Our editor is a volunteer and does a great job every time and the distribution is completed by the road stewards, again at no cost and in their own time. Which is why I often ask that you please make the subs collection for them as easy as possible to make their tasks as quick and simple as possible.

### HOW CAN WE IMPROVE NORTHWOOD?

Last year we donated £2,000 to two local schools for musical instruments and paid over £1,000 for the bench around the tree in Green Lane. If you have any suggestions on some spending that would improve Northwood please do let us know, via your road steward or to the NRA via the details on the back page of this newsletter. We would not spend the money on items the council should be providing so please do not suggest pavement repairs or potholes etc.

Our financial year end is the calendar year end, so please do pay the subs for 2014 during 2014. Please have the subs ready, cash or a cheque payable to Northwood Residents' Association, so it is as easy as possible for the road steward, or return the subs envelope to the road steward promptly. Another statistic is that we collect around half of the annual subs in the last three months of a year; well the last three months of a year and some weeks of the following year. I hope that pattern is repeated, or bettered this year so our income will remain close to expenditure.

David Blowers

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



## NRA Business Members

### BUSINESS MEMBERS NEWS

Retail centres across the country faced by the recession are finding many of their shops closing down and sadly Northwood wasn't immune to this trend. But as you go up and down the High Street and the Green Lane shopping area it is possible to see the first shoots of a revival with premises being refurbished and opening dates being announced.

A new business that has enrolled as a member is Kajals Couture at 47 Green Lane and details of this and other members can be found on the NRA website at [www.northwoodresidents.co.uk](http://www.northwoodresidents.co.uk)

The NRA endeavours to support all businesses in the Northwood area. As more of them open their doors to our residents we look forward to their joining as Business Members and participating in the work we do.

### VACANCY

The position of Business Representative will become vacant at the next AGM and the NRA is actively seeking one or two residents to take over this role. It provides a very effective way for a newcomer to Northwood to become acquainted with the area and all that it provides while a long-standing resident would find it a useful way to contribute to the welfare of our community. No experience is required – only a commitment to spend a few hours a month supporting the work of the NRA. If you would like to know more, please get in touch with me or the NRA chairman, Tony Ellis, at [chairman@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:chairman@northwoodresidents.co.uk)  
Go on – take the plunge.

Mithu Chellaram

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

## Traffic and Highways

### PARKING

The awaited report on the High Street and surrounding area has been received. The LBH Cabinet member has decided “that the council takes no further action to implement an extension to the Northwood Parking Management Scheme or the ‘Stop and Shop’ parking scheme at this time due to the apparent lack of support for parking restrictions in the area consulted.”

Just along Rickmansworth Road, all-day and casual parking is causing width restrictions in the area of Northwood Golf Club. The council has met with the golf club management and some minor modifications to the double yellow lines adjacent to the car park exit have been proposed. I understand that there will be further consultation on these proposals.

A review of parking in Maxwell Road and the surrounding area is on-going, with some local consultation. The council’s report is awaited with interest. There is a proposal that some Northwood College pupils should be “dropped off” in the car park in Green Lane and then walk to school along a path from the south-west corner of the car park, thus relieving traffic congestion in Maxwell Road. No details are yet available.

### TRAFFIC LIGHTS, junction Rickmansworth Road/ Ducks Hill Road

When travelling north-west approaching the junction, there is now a clear sign indicating that the left lane is a left turning lane only, with plenty of warning. This should help to reduce the number of vehicles going straight ahead from this lane. Unfortunately, accidents continue to happen at this junction.

To report anything to LBH Highways Dept.  
email [contactcentre1@hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:contactcentre1@hillingdon.gov.uk) Tel: 01895 556000

### TRAFFIC LIGHTS, junction Rickmansworth Road/ Green Lane

Council officers meet regularly with Transport for London, who are responsible for the operation of the lights. They will discuss the matter of drivers jumping red lights, causing problems for those turning right into Green Lane. The phasing of the lights will also be on the agenda.

### HIGHFIELD ROAD RAILWAY BRIDGE

The road has been closed to traffic and pedestrians since mid-August and work is continuing on a major refurbishment of the bridge. The project is scheduled to run for eight weeks, so should finish around mid-October.



*Highfield Road Bridge on 29th September 2014*

### JOEL STREET

The work at the north end has been mostly completed. Although the general appearance has been improved, there is still a concern over traffic congestion. Tree planting will take place over the next few months.

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

## Permitted Development Rights and House Extensions

**AN IMPORTANT CHANGE.** From 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013 the Government relaxed the rules relating to the building of single-storey rear extensions to houses. The new rules applied to certain extensions built after that date and before 30<sup>th</sup> May 2016 to permit (with restrictions) extensions twice as deep as before – up to 8 metres deep in the case of detached houses and up to 6 metres deep in the case of other houses.

A feature of the new rules is that unless an adjoining neighbour objects to the proposal within a fixed 21 day objection period, planning permission is deemed to be given to the extension and the council has no rights to intervene.

In order to limit the effect of the new rules the council proposed to Central Government (in what is called an “Article 4 Direction”) that the new rules should only apply to extensions no bigger than 4 metres deep, measured from the rear wall of the existing dwelling. Anything bigger than that would require a normal planning application to be made.

The Government has approved the Article 4 Direction which took effect from 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2014. Going forward, therefore, the maximum 4 metre rule will apply.

Any extension already built under the pre-Article 4 rules is unaffected by the new change. Any un-built extension already approved under the pre-Article 4 rules can still be built as long as the council’s two planning committees agree.

The NRA understands that Hillingdon is the only council to date to limit the application of the new rules in the above way; it remains to be seen whether others follow suit.

This summary is intended as a helpful guide. It is no substitute for taking independent professional advice in particular circumstances.

*Jeffrey Bailey, NRA Planning Adviser*



## Northwood Futures

Northwood Residents' Association has kindly offered me the opportunity to share a little of the work my colleague Francesca and I have been doing on Transport for London's Northwood Futures project. For those of you who are not familiar with our work, Northwood Futures is a project commissioned by TfL which aims to engage with as many people who live, work and pass through Northwood as possible, to understand what opportunities there may be for the future of TfL's sites and what the local hopes and concerns around change are.

It has been a great pleasure to spend time in Northwood regularly over the last three months, meeting local residents, business owners and people who run local facilities and services. People have made us feel welcome and taken the time to share their ideas with us; I have spoken to many of you personally and had lots of great conversations exploring the complexity of issues that would influence any potential change on TfL's sites.



*Local residents share their views on Northwood with Catherine Greig*

Throughout this process we have been open to people suggesting that they wanted no change and we have continued to record this feedback; while there are people who want to see no change they have, in fact, been a minority. There seems to be a view that if nothing were to happen after this process it would be a missed opportunity, yet there are concerns around change and people want to retain the important aspects of Northwood's character.

Every fortnight we have been sharing summaries of the views we have gathered and offering people the opportunity to comment on whether our summaries reflect feelings in Northwood accurately. You can read more detailed summaries on our project website [www.northwoodfutures.com](http://www.northwoodfutures.com) but the following are the main themes we have uncovered.

### CHARACTER:

We have been asking people to think about what makes Northwood's character unique and have begun to build consensus around what this is; people describe Northwood as a friendly place where you know many of the business owners and they know you. It is easy to walk around and the residential streets are leafy and green. Connected to this, people have talked about a sense of Northwood's scale: buildings are not too high and predominantly built from brick.

### THE FOUR KEY CONCERNS:

- **Traffic** – Green Lane and the junction at Station Approach / Eastbury Road is very congested, particularly at peak times.
- **Supermarket** – TfL has heard the local objections to this and is clear that any future proposals will not include a large supermarket space.
- **Existing businesses** – offering these businesses the opportunity for continuous trade during and post any construction has been identified as important.
- **Surrounding Properties** – people whose homes neighbour the site have some specific concerns that we have recorded about direct impact.

### THE FOUR KEY OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Bringing people in** – people talking about supporting Northwood to thrive by providing services that local people can use and enjoy.
- **Improve look & feel of Station Approach** – it is perceived as being scruffy and run down.
- **A place to gather** – a public square surrounded by an active ground floor use that can be part of a vibrant heart for Northwood.
- **Housing** – this is seen as an opportunity to provide an economically viable component for any possible (re) development.

If you have not had the chance to meet Francesca or myself or contribute your thoughts you can continue to share your initial ideas and views until the end of October 2014 by submitting your feedback online at <http://northwoodfutures.com/tell-us-what-you-think/>

Alongside our work collecting opportunities and concerns for Northwood we have held a set of workshops at St John's URC, Hallowell Road in October to bring TfL's consultant team together with local residents and business owners to explore the local ideas in greater depth.

### DIARY DATE

At the Public Meeting on 4th November in Emmanuel Church, I will be sharing a summary of the overall project so far and we will be joined by TfL to set out what the next steps will be.

**Catherine Greig,**

make:good – an independent company delivering Northwood Futures for TfL



## The Latest from Transport for London

TfL has been very pleased to see the progress of the Northwood Engagement process (Northwood Futures), along with an exemplary level and high numbers of response. In order to progress these discussions, as suggested by a number of engagement comments and discussed with the Northwood Residents' Association, TfL has begun the procurement of a consultant team to gather fundamental surveys, and information governing the site. It is expected that these consultants will be contracted shortly. This work will enhance and guide conversations with the community going forward, including, for example, the gathering of traffic surveys, making sure any counts fully represent all times of the day / week; structural considerations of the station and bridge, so as to better inform discussions as to step-free-access etc; and a review of planning policy, including the emerging policy plans.



Aerial view showing TfL land holding on either side of Green Lane

This information will aid detailed discussions with, and suggestions from the community, but would also provide support for the evaluation of any possible (re) development options should the engagement process uphold this future potential.

**Peter Elliott** MRICS RIBA,  
Senior Property Development Manager for TfL



Did you see the amazing poppy field in Chestnut Avenue Recreation Ground? More photos on the NRA website.

## Remembrance Day 2014

### THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION RUISLIP AND NORTHWOOD BRANCH

Remembrance Day and the Two Minute Silence have been observed since the end of the First World War, but their relevance remains undiminished, particularly in this year, the centenary of WWI and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. When we bow our heads in reflection, we remember those who fought for our freedom during the two World Wars. But we also mourn and honour those who have lost their lives in more recent conflicts. Today, with troops on duty in trouble spots around the world, remembrance, and this two minute tribute, are as important as ever.

The Royal British Legion is the UK's leading Service charity. The Legion provides practical care, advice and support to

serving members of the Armed Forces, veterans of all ages and their families.

Each year the nation expresses its unequivocal support for The Royal British Legion's work through the Poppy Appeal which is the Legion's major fundraising campaign.



### POPPY APPEAL IN NORTHWOOD

The Northwood Remembrance Day Parade will take place on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November from 10.30am** at the War Memorial in the centre of Northwood.

Northwood has supported the Royal British Legion for many years by distributing poppies, wreaths and other remembrance products to our community and collecting donations on their behalf. We distribute throughout Northwood, Eastbury and Northwood Hills and will again have products for which we collect donations in Waitrose, Northwood. Last year donations of over £18,000 were collected in our community. This year's Poppy Appeal campaign will start in Northwood on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

If you have not previously participated in the Northwood Poppy Appeal and would like to assist this year, please advise the Northwood coordinators as follows:

- volunteer collectors at Waitrose: contact Lorraine Morgan on 01923 829911.
- organisations, businesses or house-to-house collection volunteers in your neighbourhood: contact Chris Boulton on 01923 825564.



## Health Matters

### The Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG):

At a recent open meeting the Group presented nine priorities for 2015/16:

- Encourage patients to manage their own conditions and develop their own health plans.
- Patients with Long Term conditions, especially Cardiology, Respiratory, Diabetes and Stroke, need care plans.
- Mental Health support needs to be more effective in supporting patients and carers to reduce the number of emergency attendances.
- Help GPs and Community Providers to manage more patients in primary care reducing the need for referral to Outpatients.
- Review Out of Hours services.
- Increase provision of Urgent Care services to reduce admissions and establish a 24/7 point of access for professionals.
- Develop a consultant-led Care of the Elderly service.
- Enhance integration of Social Care.
- Achieve 2015/16 Quality Innovation Productivity Project Efficiency targets.

### The Hillingdon Hospitals Foundation Trust:

The future development of the Mount Vernon site was discussed at a recent joint meeting with the East and North Herts (E&NH) NHS Trust. The cancer services on the site are the responsibility of the E&NH NHS Trust while the whole site is owned by the Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The Cancer Centre provides some of the most advanced and outstanding services in the country, but the cancer wards are poor. A business case needs to be written to redevelop these wards. However the E&NH Trust will need to have title to the land for the redevelopment. The Hillingdon Trust is committed to the Mount Vernon site where several new facilities have recently been opened. The future plans for the site must suit both Trusts. The two Chief Executives meet regularly to try and make progress.

### Northwood and Pinner Community Hospital site:

Following Hillingdon CCG's decision not to use the site for NHS purposes, Nick Hurd MP is investigating possible uses for the site. A credible campaign to save this war memorial site for the use of local people must identify both a current local need and indicate how the long-term financial costs could be met.

Richard Field

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

## Friends of Michael Sobell Hospice

We are delighted to announce that the new Mayor of Hillingdon, Councillor Catherine Dann, has chosen Michael Sobell Hospice to benefit from her 2014/15 Charity Appeal. Every year the Mayor chooses a charity from within the community to benefit from fundraising through their year of office. The Mayor officially launched her Charity Appeal at a reception in the Civic Centre on Wednesday 6th August and asked community groups, local businesses and educational partners to help raise funds for the Appeal throughout the year. The Mayor also encouraged local schools to get involved to support her Charity Appeal.



Melanie Burfitt, Director of Income Generation (MSH),  
Mayor of Hillingdon, Councillor Catherine Dann  
and Rod Lacey, Trustee (MSH) at the Mayor's Charity Launch

### \* Festive Coffee Morning

**Saturday 8th November 11am - 2pm**

Michael Sobell Hospice Lecture Hall, Gate 3, Mount Vernon

Pick up some reasonably priced festive gifts at our Festive Coffee Morning. There will be lots of interesting stalls and tea, coffee and refreshments will be served. Free entry and parking.

### \* Light up a Life

**Sunday 14th December**

Michael Sobell Hospice Lecture Hall, Gate 3, Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, HA6 2RN

A special event when people come together to celebrate, reflect and remember loved ones who are no longer with us – whether they received hospice care or not. There will be two ceremonies this year at 3.30pm and 5.30pm with performances from the Lemon Tuesday choir. Refreshments will be served. Free Parking. Pre-booking is essential.

### \* Cards

You can support the hospice by purchasing our festive charity cards. They are now available in our retail shops or in the Fundraising Office, details are on the Michael Sobell Hospice website. There is a range of contemporary and traditional cards available.

For more details on Michael Sobell Hospice and any of our fundraising events visit

[www.michaelsobellhospice.co.uk](http://www.michaelsobellhospice.co.uk) or call the Fundraising Office on **01923 844730**.

## Mr Trevor Paes (1953 – 2014)



Trevor was born in Dar es Salaam where his father was the personal physician to Julius Nyerere and his mother was Minister of Education.

A very bright and able student, Trevor gained a 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours degree in Chemistry at Imperial College,

London. In 1973 he began his medical studies at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School. He was very keen to emulate his father's surgical skills, and following house jobs at Barts he took his FRCS, and later MS with Professor Kakkar at Kings College Hospital.

Trevor worked as a general and vascular surgeon at Hillingdon, Mount Vernon, Bishops Wood, Clementine Churchill and Harefield Hospitals. He also built up a private practice, becoming a foremost expert in the surgical treatments of excessive sweating and blushing. He was working up to the day he was taken ill with a ruptured aortic valve.

Trevor was a larger than life figure, who had an easy style of relating. He was generous, warm hearted and kind, and a true friend to many. Interested in local matters, Trevor became an active member of the Northwood Residents' Association, joining the committee in 2013.

Trevor managed a very busy professional life, but he also enjoyed an active interest in chess, looking after his dog Shadow, and gardening. Above all, however, Trevor was a family man. He is survived by his two children, Sebastian and Olivia, to whom he was dedicated.

## Colin Harris (1938 - 2014)



Colin Harris died on July 28<sup>th</sup>. His funeral was held on August 6<sup>th</sup> with strong attendance from his many friends both local and from the Northwood Residents' Association and Rotary International.

Colin was a Dental surgeon by profession having graduated from the Newcastle-Upon-Tyne Dental College, then part of Durham University, in the early 1960s.

He lived most of his adult life in Northwood, where together with his wife Yvonne he raised his children.

In 2006 he took on the chairmanship of the Northwood Residents' Association until 2009 and was instrumental in obtaining Grade II listed building status for the Northwood Police Station thus ensuring its future.

Colin was a passionate Rotarian and member of the Ruislip-Northwood Club, holding the position of President on several occasions. He was also a past District Governor of Rotary District 1090 and as such responsible for leading some sixty clubs in the area.

In his later years Colin's health had begun to deteriorate but he never complained and maintained a heavy workload always finding time to assist or advise others.

He was a true gentleman and he will be sadly missed by all who knew and respected him.

*Alan Prue, NRA President*

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

What a lot has happened in the last three years since that inaugural meeting at Fairfield Hall.



Marks who does an absolutely splendid job. Nothing is left to chance. Thank you, Jean.

We now number 645 members and at our monthly meeting in September we had 244 attendees as well as 12 visitors. Fred Butterworth completed his first year as Chairman and has continued to be a very able and affable "controller". In the last year we have co-opted two new committee members. Wendy Wyatt is now in charge of Welfare and Volunteers and Rob Thomasson is taking on the role of Assistant Treasurer. Both are very welcome additions.

Outings to Portsmouth and Sissinghurst have been exceptionally well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. Sissinghurst, however, was a "little" chilly. How lovely was the warm coach on the way home!

This year's holiday was to Somerset and all those who attended loved it. All came back happy but exhausted. So much to do, so little time. Next year, 2015, the holiday will be in Yorkshire. These holidays are arranged by Jean

Our Speakers have, as usual, been very varied. From "Northolt Airport" to "The History of Pinewood Studios". This latter one by Mike Payne was amazing and if he comes back again is a speaker not to be missed. On November 5th, Zena Skinner will come and talk to us on "From Wrens to Retirement". Well worth keeping that date free.

New groups over the last three months have been, Ukulele, Boules and a new Basic Computer Group. We are hoping to start an Audio Reading Group and a Sunday Lunch Group.

Do come along on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month to Fairfield Hall, Northwood Hills. You never know, you may meet old friends with whom you have lost touch (lots have) or meet some new ones.

*Maureen Crimmins*

## Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre

*supporting people affected by cancer*

### CHRISTMAS CARDS NOW ON SALE

After enjoying record sales of cards last year, the LJMC fundraising team has had a lot of fun choosing a whole new range of Christmas cards for 2014.

These can be viewed at [www.ljmc.org](http://www.ljmc.org) and all proceeds go directly to the LJMC to help support people affected by cancer at Mount Vernon Hospital.

We welcome help with finding new outlets to sell the cards. If you are holding an event or can sell cards at your place of work, please give Fiona Hussey a call on 01923 844589 or send an email to [fiona.hussey@nhs.net](mailto:fiona.hussey@nhs.net). We can let you have a selection of cards on approval.

### DO YOU LIKE WRAPPING PRESENTS?

If you enjoy encapsulating the essence of Christmas in paper and ribbon, would you like to help us with our gift wrapping service at intu Uxbridge and intu Watford?

These are always fun and festive days and important events in our fundraising calendar.

The actual dates will be confirmed shortly but please call Fiona Hussey on 01923 844589 if you would be interested in finding out more.

## Remember, remember .....



The law says you must not set off or throw fireworks (including sparklers) in the street or other public places.

You must not set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am. The exceptions are:

- \* Bonfire Night, when the cut off is midnight
- \* New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year, when the cut off is 1am

## What's On at Northwood Library?



*Summer holiday activities at the library*

Northwood Library is pleased to announce that reading books is as popular as ever with the younger generation! Our Summer Reading Challenge exceeded all expectations with more children than ever visiting the library to take part. This year's theme was Mythical Maze and the library ran lots of fun events over the holidays including a Dragon Hunt, Face Painting, Mask-making, Story-telling and creative writing workshops, all of which were very popular. Thousands of books were borrowed, leaving some of our shelves quite bare in the children's section!

In July the library hosted a fascinating exhibition showcasing stories from the WWI VAD Hospital in St John's Church. Volunteers from Northwood Community Arts have spent the past year rummaging through the archives, piecing together the wonderful story of how the people of Northwood came together 100 years ago to set up a hospital to nurse sick and wounded soldiers. If you missed the exhibition, copies of the book are still available to purchase.

Looking forward to the autumn, our popular Bizzy Bees story and Rhyme Time sessions for 0-5 year olds continue

every Wednesday at 10am (term-time only). Spanish Conversation continues each Friday at 1.30pm (suitable for all levels). If you would like to find out about these or other events and activities please contact the library.

### VOLUNTEERING AT THE LIBRARY

Could you spare 1-2 hours per week? Do you have an interest or skill that you would like to share with members of the local community? Northwood Library is currently looking to recruit volunteers to help us enhance our offering to local people.

Examples include:

**Children's activities** - to assist with under-5s' regular story time or older children's activities during the school holidays.

**ICT** - assist with regular sessions supporting older people to use computers and access the internet.

**Activities** - setting up and running special interest groups eg Reading group, Creative Writing, Craft, Chess.

The above list is by no means exhaustive, we would be pleased to discuss any ideas you may have that are compatible with the Library service.

Applicants must be over 18. For more information on how to apply please visit

<http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraryvolunteers> or speak to a member of staff at the library.

Northwood Library  
Oaklands Gate, Green Lane, Northwood, HA6 3AA  
Tel: 01895 558262  
Email: [northwood-library@hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:northwood-library@hillingdon.gov.uk)

### Opening hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9am-6pm,  
Tuesday 9am-7pm, Saturday 9am-4pm.

*Janet Clements*

### POLICE COMMUNICATION

In our June newsletter I mentioned the promise by the Acting Commander CS Des Rock at our AGM to set up a similar communication scheme to the Hertfordshire OWL (Online Watch Link) system. No progress so far other than to be told there is a lack of resources. With our new Inspector Rob Bryan now in place (see his personal message on Page 5) I hope we can continue to push forward to more open dialogue with the police. I recently met Inspector Bryan and feel he understands community policing and wants to be proactive in his dealings with us.

A police communication system can be very useful as I discovered recently. I had read an OWL message giving me details about some house burglaries in the Eastbury Farm part of Northwood. Whilst working in Northwood I was approached by a young lady who asked if I was the owner of a vehicle that had been parked in her private space for a few days. I went with her to check out the offending vehicle and recognised the number plate and car model from the OWL message. I was able to confirm it was the vehicle in the message and call the police. The lady is pleased she has her parking space restored; the owner no doubt pleased to have their car back and if the police can get some information from the vehicle perhaps the thief can be apprehended. I was pleased to have discovered a stolen car and help at least two people but could not have achieved this without having had the OWL messages.

So why is Hillingdon not pushing forward with the promise to get a similar system up and running? We were promised it would happen so, Inspector Bryan, I pass the challenge to you.

### LOCAL CRIME

Despite being a low crime area we seem to have had an increase in burglaries recently and especially those on business premises. As these are carried out in front of customers it can be very disturbing so I urge all of Northwood businesses to ensure they have strong security.

### LOST PROPERTY

The way the police are dealing with lost property claims has changed. You can still report lost items at Northwood Police Station when it is open and hand in anything you have found. But the police will no longer be responsible for giving you a crime number for lost items for which you want to claim from an insurance company.

### NORTHWOOD WARD POLICE PANEL

The local police ward panel needs volunteers. The panel is the voice of residents, businesses, charities, local organisations and many others in relation to police matters. It meets quarterly and has direct influence over the way we are policed. Please contact me as usual or email [nwdpolicepanel@gmail.com](mailto:nwdpolicepanel@gmail.com) if interested.

**NORTHWOOD POLICE STATION** is manned entirely by volunteers who are desperate for new people to help keep our station open. Again, contact me for information.

### FORTHCOMING SNT EVENTS

The NRA website and notice boards continue to list dates for police surgeries. If however you are concerned about crime in your area the police will make a one-to-one appointment to meet you, just call 101.

#### Crime Prevention Stalls at Waitrose

19<sup>th</sup> October: 15.00-16.00hrs

23<sup>rd</sup> November: 15.00-16.00hrs

20<sup>th</sup> December: 11.00-12.00hrs

#### Indoor One to One Surgeries at Northwood Library

23<sup>rd</sup> October: 12.00-13.00hrs

22<sup>nd</sup> November: 14.00-15.00hrs

20<sup>th</sup> December: 11.00-12.00hrs

Please note that for operational reasons surgeries and crime prevention stalls may be cancelled so please check in advance.

I am continuing to gather email addresses from residents keen to be part of our **NRA POLICE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**. Please just send me your email address to be added to the database. Please note that your details will not be passed to anyone (including the Police) without your permission. To join our growing list or for any other issues please feel free to contact me.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

As many of you get the monthly updates I do not intend to repeat their statistics. But I would urge you all to ensure that you are part of your street's watch. Often residents assume they have a scheme in place in their street only to find they don't. Northwood is well covered but gaps still exist. If you are unsure please feel free to contact Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch at [all@hillingdonnhw.co.uk](mailto:all@hillingdonnhw.co.uk) or visit the website [www.hillingdonnhw.co.uk](http://www.hillingdonnhw.co.uk).

Finally I urge you all to be on the lookout for anything unusual or suspicious. Mobile phones can be used to capture registration numbers of vehicles that look out of place or are being driven erratically.

**Please continue to contact the Northwood Safer Neighbourhoods Team on Tel: 020 8721 2545 or email: [northwood.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:northwood.snt@met.police.uk)**

Web: [met.police.uk/Team/Hillingdon/NorthwoodTeam](http://met.police.uk/Team/Hillingdon/NorthwoodTeam)

If you are interested to see where and what crimes have been committed recently please use the following link [www.police.uk/metropolitan/00ASGT/crime/burglary](http://www.police.uk/metropolitan/00ASGT/crime/burglary)

Philip Green, NRA Police Liaison  
[police@northwoodresidents.co.uk](mailto:police@northwoodresidents.co.uk)  
H: 01923 450497 M: 07831116570

*At the time of writing Northwood Police Station is still open to the public:*

*Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 11.00 to 13.00 when the volunteers will do their best to deal with your issues.*

## Northwood Methodist Church - Christmas Tree Festival

This will be the fourth year of our Christmas Tree Festival at Oaklands Gate Methodist Church. Local schools, businesses and individuals are invited to decorate their tree in any imaginative way they choose. Alongside it they can advertise their organisation. The Grand Opening will be on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm** with our MP, Nick Hurd switching on the lights.

Frithwood School Choir will provide entertainment and there will be refreshments available. Setting up will be during the first week in December. The 11<sup>th</sup> December is also to be Northwood Open Evening with stalls in Oaklands Gate and many of the shops open during the evening.

If you wish to enter a tree contact Shirley Askew 01923 821871, 07817 256624 or email [asq28@icloud.com](mailto:asq28@icloud.com)

Details for visiting will be publicised soon; look out for posters or check the website: [www.northwoodmethodistchurch.org](http://www.northwoodmethodistchurch.org).

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## Northwood Lions Club

Northwood Lions Club is busy promoting the Message in a Wallet scheme, a complementary card to the very successful Message in a Bottle where medical and other relevant details are kept inside a small plastic bottle, usually in the fridge, in case of need by the emergency services.



We have just held another cheque presentation when the recipients were South Oxhey Mind, The Sunshine House, Paul Strickland Scanner Appeal, CMSS, Alzheimer's and Children of Fire, who each received £2,000. These funds are raised by the wonderful volunteers at the Den at 195 Pinner Road which is open every Saturday between 9.45 and 11.45am.

Having had a busy summer with stalls at various local shows we are now looking forward to Christmas when we hope to have a stall at the Northwood Carol Evening in Oaklands Gate. We will also be making up hampers for some of Hillingdon's Young Carers and their families.

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

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## Northwood Live at Home Scheme

### MUSICAL EVENING – ALL WELCOME!

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November we will be holding our annual fundraising musical evening. Following the success of last year's event, we are once again featuring the Stardust Big Band, which will have an even bigger line-up this time. We are also keeping the ticket price at £35 for the sixth year running. This includes a champagne & canapés reception, the musical entertainment and a two-course sit-down meal. There will be the usual raffle and auction and Barclays will be doubling what we make on the latter. The dress code is cocktail/lounge suit.

If you've been before, I do hope you'll want to join us again this year and if you haven't, then do come along. You won't be disappointed – and you'll be helping an excellent local charity. All monies raised contribute to running the Scheme, which supports older people in our community to remain living independently. If you'd like tickets, please phone 01923 827409 or 829939.

**HOW THE SCHEME WORKS.** In case you are unaware of our Scheme, we are open to anyone over the age of sixty still living in their own home, but who is maybe finding it increasingly difficult to get out and about and possibly feels isolated as a result. We have a range of activities, including a weekly lunch club, Friendship Group, fortnightly Soup & Sandwich lunch and Breakfast Club on the first Tuesday of the month. There are two new activities which are proving extremely popular. These are an EXTEND exercise class designed to improve flexibility and mobility in the older person and a seated yoga class. Both are on Thursday mornings and include light refreshments. We also have regular shopping trips and

outings to places of interest and offer befriending to those too frail to leave their homes.

We are always happy to welcome new members and also volunteers, without whom we couldn't run the Scheme. If you are interested in joining us either as a member or volunteer, please contact our office on **01923 842494** to speak to one of our staff. Membership is free, but we do make a small charge for activities to cover some of our costs. All our volunteers are given full training and find what they do extremely rewarding.

To find out more about our whole programme of events, contact the office on **01923 842494** or visit [www.localgiving.com/charity/northwoodliveathome](http://www.localgiving.com/charity/northwoodliveathome)

*Jo Wild, Chairman*



A Summer Outing to Leighton Buzzard Steam Railway



## Explorer Scouts' Postal Service

When we started the Scout Christmas Post five years ago, we read of the fabulous exploits in Cardiff, Derbyshire and elsewhere and thought "how hard can it be" to raise a bit of extra money for the Unit - we have Explorer Scouts who like walking, we know the local area fairly well, and there can't be that many roads, can there?

**THE SERVICE IS GROWING.** Well, having grown from a few handfuls of cards around Northwood to around 1500 cards for Ruislip, Eastcote and Northwood last year, we now know the local area much better, and have the blisters to prove it! We now have our own list of around 700 roads, split into about 50 different rounds. We even did our sorting last year at Mount Pleasant (well, the one in Ruislip, not the one where the Royal Mail sorting office is)!

### **GOOD JOB SCOUTS ARE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING!**

Have you ever noticed some of the different ways developers try to confuse those delivering to houses? There are the obvious simple things like some roads having a number 13 and some not. How many places are there with pairs of semi-detached houses with one in one road and the other in a different road? We found a few. Talking of which there was one that nearly confused us in Eastcote - a regular T-junction with one road meeting another, it just happened that the numbers were very close in the two - so as you walked along the main road, the numbering was 15 one side of the junction and 17 on the other. These were semis and the other halves were in the adjoining road. They just happened to be numbers 16 and 19. So you have 15 and 16

as a pair and 19 and 17 as a pair. But the numbers which appear to be adjacent are in different roads!

Then there is the close in Northwood, with all houses on one side, numbered from the end that joins a bigger road, down to a dead-end: 4, 3, 2, 1, 5, 6, 7, 8. Of course there are roads numbered sequentially down one side and back up the other, as well as the more regular odds/evens. Then there are blocks of flats and maisonettes, I found one numbered 1, 6, 7, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 4 as you walked around the building - I'm sure it made sense to someone! It's also amazing how often the person who has been sent a card lives at the very far end of a close, and how the people who receive the largest cards have the smallest letterboxes!

Thank you very much to everyone who used the service last year and for the over 99.5% of cards which were accurately addressed and didn't need too much research to find the houses! We raised £300 towards our expedition to Kandersteg, Switzerland, this summer.

**CHRISTMAS 2014.** We're looking forward to providing the Christmas Post service to Ruislip, Eastcote and Northwood again this year, so please try to keep your house number logical and visible! Our postboxes will be out in shops and hopefully in the libraries from the start of December. Look out for an update on the NRA website nearer the time.

Stephen Plume  
District Explorer Scout Administrator

*[I think NRA road stewards will empathise with you! - Editor]*

## Northwood Craft Market

**VENUE:** Methodist Church Hall, Oaklands Gate, Northwood HA6 3AA

**FORTHCOMING DATES:** Saturdays 1<sup>st</sup> November, Xmas Market 6<sup>th</sup> December

**TIME:** 10am-3pm FREE ADMISSION

The run up to Christmas is always a busy time at the Craft Market and for our November and December markets we will be extending our opening time to 3pm. The hall will be full of lots of lovely, high-quality crafts, all handmade by local crafters - great gift ideas and beautiful Christmas decorations. Crafts include jewellery, decoupage gifts, soaps, greetings cards, children's party sets, children's clothing, fabric purses and bags of all kinds, knitted and crocheted items, stone effect garden planters, home accessories, original Christmas decorations, and much more. Tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes are available from the church coffee shop during the morning. As always, there will also be hands-on crafts for children to make something to take home.

At our December market, Father Christmas is making time in his busy schedule to be there and the Northwood Live at Home Scheme will also have a stall selling Christmas puddings and other festive fare. Do call in and see us, there's always a warm and friendly welcome.



You can find more information about the market on our website [www.northwoodcraftmarket.co.uk](http://www.northwoodcraftmarket.co.uk) and make any enquiries by e-mail to [northwoodcraftmarket@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:northwoodcraftmarket@hotmail.co.uk) or by phone to Susan on 07780 601842.

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## Ruislip Police Station Festive Fun Day

**Saturday 6th December**  
**10am to 4pm**

**Ruislip Police Station**  
**5 The Oaks, Ruislip HA4 7LF**

Come and see us at our free family fun day.  
Children can visit Santa's grotto for their  
Christmas gift before meeting some of our  
police sniffer dogs.

**Patterns of Love** - a cappella music performance by  
VOICE, a trio of female singers from London  
**Sat 6th December** at St John's Church, Hallowell Road  
**at 7pm**

Plus community vocal workshop at 3pm. For tickets, call 016285 675800  
Full details at **www.northwoodcommunityarts.co.uk**



## Council of Christians and Jews, Hillingdon Branch

**Tuesday 25 November 2014**

"Will Jews, Christians and Muslims ever live in harmony again?"

Presented by **Dr Usama Hasan** Imam & Senior Researcher (Quilliam)

8pm, St Lawrence Church, 2 Bridle Road, Eastcote, Middx HA5 2SJ

For more information contact the secretary on 07836 676792 or email  
**hillingdonccj@me.com** and visit **www.ccj-hillingdon.org.uk**

## Ruislip-Northwood Flower Arrangement Society

**Tues 4 Nov**, Area Demonstrator - Alan Smith,  
Subject - "Christmas Crackers"

**Tues 2 Dec**, National Demonstrator - Anthony Williams  
Subject - "Christmas Lights"

**Venue:** Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue, Oaklands Gate, Northwood

**Time:** Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start **Cost:** Visitors £5 Nov, £6 Dec

**Contact:** Jean Joseph on 01923 829621

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