



Northwood

Residents' Association

www.northwoodresidents.co.uk

Newsletter 180, Spring 2022

We congratulate HM The Queen
on 70 glorious years of service.
Thank you Ma'am!



Queen Elizabeth II has visited Northwood on two occasions. Can you guess where and in what year? Perhaps you were there and would like to share your memories with us?

For the stories behind the photographs, please turn to Page 9



NRA AGM
9th June
See page 5

Planning Report
Page 8

Mount Vernon
Cancer Centre
Review
Page 12

Topper Trail
Page 19

Business News

The Government allocated funding that it received from an EU programme to

Hillingdon Council. Its purpose was to create 'Welcome Back' events to town centres after the Covid-19 pandemic. Northwood had two events. One took place in Green Lane in mid-December with a Christmas retail theme that attracted mainly families.



Christmas Fun Day, December 2021

Hillingdon statistics showed 200 children completed the trail, 350 children completed at least one art activity and it is estimated that an additional 450 people were in the Green Lane shopping area that day with 20 businesses participating in the retail trail. The second event, a food trail, is taking place

while this newsletter is being printed so more on that in the next issue.

THE MISTY MOON has undergone some refurbishment and is now called "The Three Wishes". It is still under the stewardship of Jennifer, and we wish her, the staff and the business continued success.

NORTHWOOD AUTO SERVICES off Hallowell Road has now closed for good. The main partners have retired; they served the local community for many years and will be a loss to many. We wish them a well-deserved retirement.

As the Covid restrictions recede we hope you will continue to patronise our local shops and trades people. It is hoped that more new businesses will be opening in 2022.

A list of those Businesses who are members of the NRA can be found on our website: www.northwoodresidents.co.uk under the Business Members tab. Each is listed and the majority have one click links directly to their websites. It is a valuable tool to see what they offer and access their contact details.

business@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Philip Green



NRA Membership

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2022. We hope to be back to our usual schedule of three editions this year. Remember that the annual subscription is due at the start of the calendar year – Road Stewards please collect subs or deliver envelopes as early in the year as is practicable.

Whilst on this subject, when using subscription envelopes please remember it creates much more work for your Road Steward (RS), for me or our treasurer if small denomination coins are used, as banks will accept coin deposits only when aggregated by like denomination to fixed totals in each bag.



Recently, one £2 sub used 7 coins



While this £5 sub used 16 coins!



One £5 sub used 11 coins

To avoid unnecessary work in collecting the relatively small amounts involved written receipts will no longer be issued unless specifically requested. I trust you will understand this decision as sensible.

Further, in response to many requests we are developing our membership database to facilitate non-cash payments by

online transfer, by card, and by smart phone as an alternative to coin or cheque. Full details of various methods will be advised later in the year once rigorous testing has been completed.

Bayhurst Drive, Carew Road, Green Lane, Copsewood Way (part), Frithwood Avenue, Kings Close, Maycock Grove, Nicholas Way, The Covert, Watford Road

Do you live in one of these roads? If so, please consider volunteering to be a Road Steward. If new RSs are not recruited, this may be your last newsletter ...

As ever we have Road Stewards retiring or moving out of the area and I urge anyone who is able to help by distributing newsletters in those roads to contact me asap, even if you don't live there.

One immediate reward would be an invitation for you and a guest to come to our annual RS reception to be held in St Matthews Church Hall on Thursday 28th April at 8pm. Enjoy cold and hot canapés, plus wine and other libations while meeting other RSs and your committee members.

HELP US TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOU. Finally, as always – to all members, do supply me your current email addresses (and updates if changed) to receive urgent updates on matters of local interest.

chiefroadsteward@northwoodresidents.co.uk
or pifbarker@me.com

Tel: 01923 821036

Paul I. F. Barker
Chief Road Steward and Data Protection Officer

From the Chairman

INTRODUCTION

Spring is in the air- daffodils, snowdrops, crocus and camellias in flower – and the end of most Covid restrictions. One hopes that this is the end of two abysmal years, and we can look forward to some semblance of normality. Whatever happens, it is hoped that the spirit of togetherness that Covid engendered will continue and flourish.

We look forward to celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June and the NRA, together with Northwood Hills RA, will be holding a Music & Picnic event on 2nd June – see page 9.

You will note that we have expanded the newsletter to 24 pages and used a lighter paper. Ros Plume, our editor, received so much copy that we felt obliged to increase the number of pages. I hope you will enjoy them.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH MEMBERS

Recently, Iron Aid submitted their plans for the conversion of the old Police Station into a community centre and place of worship. This event sparked off many communications from members saying that they were unaware of this development. The NRA has sent emails to members, posted the details on our website and even published an article by Iron Aid in the autumn 2021 newsletter. In every newsletter, we remind members to ensure that we have an up-to-date email address so that we can send you news updates. It is rather disappointing that so many of you still do not take advantage of this facility.

Last year you paid for us to update our website. Please do make use of it. It's full of news and useful information – www.northwoodresidents.co.uk

HONORARY LEGAL ADVISER REQUIRED

Chris Duffy has done an invaluable job in providing the NRA with legal advice for the last 14 years. He has recently retired from practice and has been obliged, reluctantly, to hang up his gown. Thanks are due to Chris for his wise counsel.

We are, therefore, looking for a practising solicitor to replace Chris. The work is not very time consuming but is a necessary part of our organisation. Please contact me if you are interested.

NORTHWOOD AND PINNER COTTAGE HOSPITAL

Plans have been approved by the council for the redevelopment of the old hospital into a medical centre and the construction of two new blocks of flats on the site of the hospital and the current health centre. Little and very late consultation was carried out with local residents. Northwood Hills RA and the NRA support the development of the site but are unhappy with the planned overdevelopment. The council ignored our complaints at the Planning meeting. This was an example of NHS bureaucracy at its worst.

FAREWELL

As mentioned in the Autumn newsletter, Councillors Carol Melvin and Scott Seaman-Digby leave us at the May council elections. Carol was elected in 2008 and Scott in 1998, and they have both worked diligently serving Northwood residents.

Carol was Mayor of Hillingdon in 2017/18 and raised over £90,000 for local charities. She and her husband are enjoying a well-earned retirement on the coast.

Scott was a cabinet member for many years and we shared a good working relationship. Nothing was too much trouble for him (apart from yours truly!), and he put much time and effort into resolving problems for us. He recently moved to Kent where he has become a local parish councillor and very involved in his local community.

Farewell good friends and thank you for all you have done for Northwood.

NEW BLOOD

I have now been your chairman for 13 years and am about to celebrate my 80th birthday. As you will see from the article on page 5 some committee members have served for many years, probably too many, and we really do need some new blood. Being a committee member is a good way of meeting and serving the Northwood community and we do have some fun on the way. If you feel you would like more information, please do contact me. It would be great to elect some new committee members at our next AGM on the 9th June (see notice on page 5).

THE HILLINGDON HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST AND MOUNT VERNON CANCER CENTRE

As you will read on page 8, work is continuing on the plans for the new hospital at Hillingdon. To facilitate the construction, some services have been moved to the Mount Vernon site and the car parks extended. However, most clinical departments will continue to operate at Hillingdon during the works which aren't expected to be completed until 2025/26.

The future of the Cancer Centre is described on page 12. Services on the present site will have to continue for about five years, so funds have been obtained to upgrade the old buildings.

CONCLUSION

As ever, a big thank you to our road stewards – you are the main arteries of the NRA. Thanks to committee members for giving up so much time. And we mustn't forget the invaluable service given by our MP, councillors and the local police.



Tony Ellis
chairman@northwoodresidents.co.uk
Tel: 01923 821237

Calling all tech-savvy members! Would you like to join the NRA executive committee as our IT Specialist? Unfortunately, our current IT member has resigned due to personal commitments, so we are looking for someone to take over. The role entails overseeing our IT needs and developments for the future.

Please get in touch with Tony Ellis if you are interested, contact details above.

NORTHWOOD TRAFFIC STUDY

It is now about three and a half years ago since the report on this study was issued in September 2018 for the London Borough of Hillingdon, at the request of the Northwood Residents' Association. The major roads included were the A404 Rickmansworth Road, the B469 Green Lane between Rickmansworth Road and Maxwell Road and Maxwell Road itself.

So far little positive has come out of this project, with presumably the report gathering dust on a shelf at the Civic Centre. It is disappointing that the Council does not seem to have the necessary resources at present to progress this project, but I am hopeful that things may move forward soon as I understand that the work is now scheduled for year 2022/2023, which commences in April. Details will be available when a schedule of work has been agreed.

RICKMANSWORTH ROAD/GREEN LANE

As reported in the last issue of this Newsletter, the Council has agreed that a survey will be carried out at this road junction during term time and at 'rush hour' to reflect the true usage of the crossing by the local community. This has

been delayed owing to the Covid restrictions, but with schools having returned and traffic building to pre-Covid levels, it should now go ahead, before the time of reduced traffic which happens in the summer months. It would be good if any recommendations from the survey could be considered with the above Northwood Traffic Study. An update from the Council is eagerly awaited.

FURTHER AFIELD – HS2

HS2 action is now in full swing. Many thousands of parts for the tunnel boring machines (TBMs) have been delivered to the West Ruislip site for assembly. Several of the HGV loads have come through Northwood. Preliminary work is being carried out around the twin tunnel portals before the TBMs can start work. Boring is scheduled to commence in the spring and then the machines will be in action non-stop 24/7 for a few years.

It is almost certain that there will be more travel restrictions imposed on Breakspear Road South from time to time, over the next few years.

traffichighways@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Peter Lansdown



PAUL
STRICKLAND
SCANNER
CENTRE

Paul Strickland Scanner Centre, an independent medical charity is based at Mount Vernon Hospital. We provide comprehensive services to the NHS and private health sectors for the diagnosis, treatment monitoring and research of cancer and other serious diseases, using leading edge PET-CT, MRI and CT scanners.

Legacies and donations help fund new scanners which have to be replaced every few years.

Thank you to anyone who has supported us buying Christmas Cards, entering our Festive Fun Raffle or joining one of our Quiz nights or other events.

We would love you to continue to support us, we will be holding two of our popular events over the coming months. Please help us raise much needed funds to keep providing the best care for our patients at Mount Vernon Hospital with cancer and other serious illnesses.

STEPPING UP FOR CANCER throughout the month of May

Take a walk any time in May and help us to improve the outcomes for our patients with cancer. For £15pp we provide a T-shirt and route instructions to our 10k route through the Chess Valley, or you can complete any walk of any distance that you would prefer to do.

Take on a challenge of a lifetime for Paul Strickland Scanner Centre
Trek, Walk, Hike, Run, Cycle....

We can help you find the one for you!
Get in touch to find out more.

If you are interested in taking part. Contact appeals on 01923 886315
appeals@stricklandscanner.org.uk

GOLF DAY AT DENHAM GOLF CLUB, Tuesday 7th June

Take part in our fabulous Golf Day on Tuesday 7th June or support us by sponsoring a hole. Start with coffee and breakfast rolls, 18 holes on the amazing course and then a delicious meal for only £110pp.

You can also take part in our **SCANALOT LOTTERY**, for just £20 entry for the year. Draws take place quarterly with cash prizes. Or get in contact about taking part in any **challenge or activity**, we would love to hear from you.

For more information of details of how to book or get involved please contact the fundraising team.
Website: www.stricklandscanner.org.uk
Telephone: 01923 886315
Email: appeals@stricklandscanner.org.uk
Follow us:

@ScannerCentre @ScannerCentre on LinkedIn



NRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

Thursday 9th June
7.30pm for 8pm start

Northwood Methodist Church, Oaklands Gate

- ◆ Our guest speaker will be Councillor Ian Edwards, currently Leader of Hillingdon Council.
- ◆ The agenda will be published nearer the time on our noticeboards, on our website and by email to those members who have registered their email addresses with us.

Communicating with the NRA

Do you have a question for the committee?

How do you get in touch? There are a number of ways:

- ⇒ Email: info@northwoodresidents.co.uk
- ⇒ Email a specific committee member using their @northwoodresidents.co.uk address as quoted in their newsletter reports.
- ⇒ Log on to our website and click the 'Contact Us' tab and follow the links.
- ⇒ Telephone one of the members who publish their number on the back cover of the newsletter. If appropriate, they will take your number and ask another member to call you back.

Come and Join Us!

The NRA executive committee is made up of a maximum of 14 volunteers who work on your behalf, liaising with the local authority and other organisations. We each have a portfolio: environment, membership, police, businesses etc and report back to the committee at our monthly meetings.

A number of the current members should be given long-service awards, they just don't seem to want to leave! Notably we have:

Valerie Mellor	37 years	President since 2019
Ros Plume	24 years	Treasurer then Sec & editor
Miles Gillman	23 years	Vice chairman since 2000, Woods
Tony Ellis	14 years	Chairman since 2009
Frances Meyer	11 years	Membership secretary
Paul Barker	10 years	Chief Road Steward
Philip Green	9 years	Police until 2021, Businesses
Peter Lansdown	8 years	Traffic & Highways

And the others aren't far behind!

As Tony says on Page 3, we would welcome some new blood on the committee - it could be you! Please consider joining us, we are all quite approachable and ready to chat about our different roles. Just get in touch.

From the Treasurer

It seems to me that time is fleeting faster and faster each year. Our 2021 financial year has only just ended and 2022 is already three months old.

Once again, a very big thank you to all the Road Stewards and to Paul Barker for their sterling and dedicated work throughout 2021 collecting the subscriptions and delivering our newsletter.

The Financial Accounts for 2021 have not yet been examined. I shall be in a position to provide more detailed information about our revenues and expenses in the next newsletter.

Our main income is from Residential subscriptions, and we collected and banked a higher amount in 2021 than in 2020. Our bank reserves are also higher at £34,029 compared with £32,102 in 2021.

Residential subscriptions have been fairly consistent over the past five years as detailed below.

<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
£7,693	£7,021	£7,092	£7,261	£8,271

The minimum household subscription is still £2, our income in real terms has reduced with inflation. However, many residents are kindly paying £5. In several cases we have received subscriptions in excess of £25 from individual residents. Thank you.

HOW SHOULD WE USE OUR RESERVES? We are in excellent financial health with a substantial amount in the bank deposit account. I am once again requesting that members please forward suggestions to any member of the committee for using some of our reserves for projects benefiting Northwood residents.

PAYING AND COLLECTING SUBSCRIPTIONS

The method of payment and collection of subscriptions has been talked about for the past couple of years. Our magnificent Road Stewards provide us with an excellent method of collecting. But in today's digital age, we will have to consider other methods such as Portable Card readers that work on a mobile network and on-line payments direct into our bank account.

I would like to take this opportunity of requesting our Area Road Stewards discuss this point with Paul and me as you are working at the sharp end. Your suggestions and comments would be most appreciated as we are in the process of developing a new database.

Please do renew your membership promptly when requested by your Road Steward.

Rashmi Chauhan
treasurer@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Remembrance Sunday After the 2020 Remembrance Parade had fallen victim to the Covid restrictions it was very gratifying to have a large attendance at the event which was held on 14th November 2021 and most appropriate that this corresponded to the 100th Anniversary of the erection of the War Memorial at the junction of Green Lane and Maxwell Road.

NEW ORGANISERS. For several years, Chris Boultee has been the volunteer who organised the event on behalf of the Royal British Legion, and, whilst continuing his sterling work as the poppy and wreath distributor for Northwood, stood down from the Parade organiser role. This was taken on by us.

This was also the first year that the Parade had taken place in front of the NRA-sponsored clock and that facilitated our observance of the two minute silence at precisely 11.00am.



A HUGE TEAM EFFORT! Making the Parade proceed like clockwork involves a number of experienced and dedicated volunteers and we would like to express our thanks to Carl Landsbert for supplying and operating the sound system, to Leo Mindel for supplying and operating the streaming cameras and links, to Scout Leader Julian Greer for supplying the gazebos and crowd control tape and organising the large contingent of scouts and guides in attendance, to Rev Tim Meathrel for organising all the clergy and the programme printing, to Marcus Doona, Station Warrant Officer, Northwood HQ for organising the military contribution to the Parade, to Sgt Simon Nicholls, Bandmaster Northwood HQ for organising the music, PCSO John Usher for organising the police attendance, and to Eva Stanczyk of Costa Coffee for the provision of complementary refreshments.

The streaming of the event has proved a great success and whilst born out of necessity due to the pandemic, we hope to have it as a permanent feature.

This event takes place only with the permission and assistance from the London Borough of Hillingdon who have stringent terms and conditions with which we have to comply. One of these conditions is that Green Lane traffic has to remain free flowing throughout and the only road closure is the top of Maxwell Road. A number of residents have expressed their disquiet about this to the NRA and also on social media generally. Concerned residents should address this issue to their local councillors who are in a position to influence the council officials in this matter.

Thank you, Philip and Adam for taking on this important role!

Philip Austin and Adam Stapley
Joint Organisers
on behalf of Ruislip Royal British Legion Club Ltd

What a Load of Rubbish!

RUBBISH DUMPERS are at large in Northwood. Litter louts appear to go around unchallenged. It would seem that some residents, flat dwellers and businesses are intent on spoiling this town and its surroundings by chucking out their unwanted goods and rubbish almost anywhere but in a bin. Some landlords may be too mean to provide sufficient bins for legitimate use by their tenants, whilst other, exemplary landlords, provide sufficient bins for normal use.

The reality is that a few people can mess up parts of our town and spoil for the 'many' that dispose of unwanted goods and rubbish correctly and reasonably.

A place like Northwood being a dumpers' paradise? Surely that cannot be true! Take a look at these photos - they are taken in our town. It is fair to comment that where one item is dumped, other items often follow quite swiftly, rubbish breeds rubbish.



Just dropping a cigarette end, discarding a food container after use, throwing a sweet wrapper out of a car or van window rather than into a bin is bad behaviour, bad for our town, a bad example to youngsters, and clearing up that litter costs the taxpayer money in street cleaning and dumped goods removal.

THERE ARE SOLUTIONS: fine the litter bugs and rubbish dumpers, take pictures of those who are in the act of dumping rubbish and send to the council so the task of locating those involved can be undertaken.

WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE? If you have exceptional rubbish items ready for collection, contact the council and ask for a Special Collection – so easy to do by phone, by email or via the council website. If you are not entitled to collection services from the council, act responsibly and call in a clearance contractor and pay for the job to be done.

For London Borough of Hillingdon see www.hillingdon.gov.uk/bulkywaste or call the Contact Centre on **01895 556000**.

environment@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Andrew Egan

A Message From Our MP, David Simmonds



END OF LEGAL COVID RESTRICTIONS. Following the February Recess, the Government has outlined its strategy for 'living with Covid'. By the time residents read this article, domestic measures will have lifted, and the move from legal restrictions to personal responsibility will have been made. This is a major step in our recovery, which has been made possible by the success of our vaccine programme and the sacrifices made by residents over the past two years.

PLANS FOR THE OLD POLICE STATION. Moving on from Covid, I have been continuing to monitor local issues that I know are important to residents, one of these being the future of the former Northwood Police Station site. After visiting the site with the new owners and their planning consultants, I was able to share the feedback of residents who had been in touch. The owner, Iron Aid Foundation, who had previously used St Johns Church Hall in central Northwood, have brought forward a planning application and I encourage everyone to have their say about the proposed future use of the building.

Concerning **NORTHWOOD AND PINNER COTTAGE HOSPITAL**, it has now been granted planning consent by Hillingdon Council for a much-needed new surgery and range of NHS community health services. Residents have expressed concerns about the proposed development of flats to fund the development, and these were set out very well by the Residents' Association representatives during the planning process. It is welcome that the long-awaited new facility can now get underway, and I will keep a close eye on how the residential element develops.

ACCESS TO GPs SET TO IMPROVE? On the issue of health services, I know residents have concerns about access to GPs and with booking appointments. The Government is committed to implementing big change in this area and last year published 'our plan for improving access to general practice'. This included £250 million investment through a Winter Access Fund to improve the ability of GP practices and increase the number of face-to-face appointments that can be delivered. I hope we will start to see the benefits of this locally over the coming months and particularly as we come out the other side of the pandemic.

MEET YOUR MP. Lastly, I am continuing to hold surgeries in venues across the constituency, including recently at Caffè Casa Mia on Green Lane. Any residents wishing to meet with me can contact the office who will be able to arrange this for the next available appointment. I look forward to meeting with many more of you as we look ahead to a much more normal spring and summer.

To contact Northwood MP, David Simmonds CBE:

Email: david.simmonds.mp@parliament.uk

Post: House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA

Constituency: 10 Village Way, Pinner, HA5 5AF

Tel: 0203 545 2462

You can follow his work on the website:

www.davidsimmonds.org.uk

and on Twitter: @DSimmonds_RNP

or Facebook: DavidSimmondsMP



Join the 'Friends' and get more out of our woods

Northwood is right on the edge of the Ruislip Woods which were designated a National Nature Reserve in 1997 and are visited by over 200,000 people each year. In 2006 it was awarded Green Flag and Green Heritage status.

The Friends are run by Ruislip Woods Trust, a charity set up to develop the educational and monitoring aspects of the Woods – all designed to ensure that our members understand what changes are occurring (both natural and man-made) and provide accurate information and news via our newsletter published three times per year.

We have developed descriptive, coloured waymarked trails covering all the woods and we organise guided walks including Bat Walks each year.

Our website at www.ruislipwoodstrust.org.uk is being redesigned at the moment but you can email: secretary@ruislipwoodstrust.org.uk to enquire about joining the Friends which costs £8 per year, or pick up a leaflet from the library.



woods@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Miles Gillman

All views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors.

Plans to redevelop Hillingdon Hospital

The team behind Hillingdon's new state-of-the-art hospital is nearly ready to submit a planning application in April.

Latest artist impressions of the hospital designs (see opposite) and updated frequently asked questions are now available on the trust website <https://thh.nhs.uk/redevelopment/>.

In January and February, the trust held a series of online events for people to get a sense of the plans and get the views of local people. All these events are available to view again online: bit.ly/THH-watch-again - along with short clips of some of the Q&A sessions.

The team is really excited about the plans and wants to hear from as many people as possible so, if you missed the events, you can still get involved by filling in a survey: bit.ly/THH-survey.

With Covid restrictions now lifted, the trust will also be holding events in person and you can get the details by signing up to the New Hillingdon Hospital newsletter: <https://thh.nhs.uk/redevelopment/get-involved-and-have-your-say/>

If you have been to the hospital recently, you will have seen that work is already underway to get ready for the new hospital. For example, work to upgrade the sewage system at Hillingdon started on Monday 31st January.

The project requires the closure of the main entrance to vehicles for four months. Work is expected to be completed in May 2022. Patients and those visitors allowed under the



The Hillingdon Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

current restrictions, who arrive by car, will be directed by signs to the staff car park entrance in Royal Lane, then onward to the public parking area, which will be separated by temporary fencing.

The HATS patient transport ambulance service will be able to collect and drop off patients as close to the main door as possible, next to the main entrance ramp.



Artist's impression. Central Park looking towards the entrance

Niall Smith
Communications & Engagement Manager
The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Planning Matters

Planning applications have dropped slightly since the last Newsletter to an average of about 30 per month with applications for works to trees covered by Tree Preservation Orders also dropping but remaining at about a quarter of the total.

EXTENSIONS AND TREES DOMINATE. Out of the 141 applications submitted, objections or comments were made on 48 of them including 22 relating to works to trees. The majority of proposed building works continue to relate to extensions, and the objections focus on the impact on neighbours and where the proposals do not keep to the planning guidelines in the Local Plan.

For those potentially affected by a planning application, it remains the case that once an application is approved you cannot get that decision over-turned except on a technicality, and so you should study any applications made by neighbours to see whether they comply with the planning rules. If you see reasons to object on planning grounds, then they can be submitted on the LB Hillingdon portal.

Whilst LBH does notify those neighbours potentially affected by planning applications, you can also search on the portal using this link:

<http://planning.hillingdon.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningSearch>

Just enter the first part of the address in the 'Location' box. After viewing the documents press 'Enter Comment.'

CONSIDER A PETITION. If you want to present your case personally to the Planning Committee then you will need to produce a petition with a minimum of 20 signatures of any residents living within the LB Hillingdon who are 18 or over. That will entitle you to speak at the Committee meeting for up to 5 minutes, and it's live on YouTube.

STATION DEVELOPMENT. TFL has now confirmed to David Simmonds MP they are granting leases to tenants within Station Approach and Green Lane previously included in their development proposals for a minimum period of 5 years, which now suggests their scheme is on hold.

PLANS FOR THE FORMER POLICE STATION. Two planning applications have been submitted for the former police station for a change of use to a mixed use as a Place of Worship and as a Community Centre, with a second application for internal alterations. Comments were submitted relating to potential parking issues and noise. The building is Grade 2 Listed by English Heritage, and the application did not include any alterations to the exterior of the building. Our submission can be found on the NRA website.

planning@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Trevor Sherling

Northwood & Northwood Hills Residents' Associations present

Jubilee in the Park

Celebrating HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Thursday 2nd June, 2 to 6pm

Northwood Recreation Ground, Chestnut Avenue, HA6 1HR



Once again, the NRA and NHRA are joining forces to bring you a community afternoon of entertainment - remember *Music & Picnic in the Park* in 2016? This time we are planning a similar relaxed event with musical performances on two stages and a children's entertainer in a marquee in a separate area. We hope that you will come along for the afternoon, enjoy the music and offerings from the food stalls, either sitting on the grass or you are welcome to bring your own chairs. FREE admission. FREE off-road parking.

The musical programme will have something for everyone, including classic swing, retro vocal harmonies with the Polka Dots and well known hits from the CJ Edwards Band. For up-to-date news keep checking our website and follow us on Face Book: www.facebook.com/NorthwoodPlatinumJubileeEvent



The Polka Dots - back by popular demand!

You can do your bit to help! This is a community event master-minded by a committee of seven residents, the same ones who put on the Diamond Jubilee event in 2012 and the Queen's 90th Birthday event in 2016, and we are not quite as agile as we were back then. So, what we need is plenty of willing volunteers to help with the physical tasks of setting up the stages, hanging bunting, erecting gazebos, marking out the carpark etc. and then to take it all down again at the end of the day. If you have practical skills and could help, please contact me.

Ros Plume

secretary@northwoodresidents.co.uk

When HM The Queen Visited Northwood, answering the questions on the front cover.

On 25th June 1982, Queen Elizabeth II visited HMS Warrior, shortly after the end of The Falklands conflict. At that time, HMS Warrior was Joint Naval Headquarters, the nerve centre from where the Falklands Campaign was directed.

The black and white photos show HM The Queen smiling despite the rain as she went walkabout.

Queen Elizabeth II officially opened the Princess Christian Unit at Mount Vernon Hospital on 8th February 1994.

She was supporting her arm in a sling because she had fractured her wrist in a riding accident.

Were you there on either of these occasions? Do send us your memories, we'd like to include them in the July newsletter.

Friends of Northwood Recreation Ground - Update

A year on from its formation, the Friends of Northwood Recreation Ground group is seeking new volunteers to help improve our vital green space.

Over the last few months, constant waterlogged conditions have caused Northwood Football Club's junior section to relocate their 30 teams to another site for matches. Numerous residents have reported slipping and falling due to the swampy conditions. Many simply avoid the area now, even for dog walking. The park's ancient drainage system is failing, and it's not been a particularly wet winter.

Hillingdon Council frequently tells residents how good their financial management is. Well, it's time to invoke those three important words - show don't tell. Our recreation ground is so vital for the mental and physical wellbeing of our community and is in dire need of investment to make it safe and usable all year round.



Definitely in need of investment

Can anyone help? Yes, you can! However, while we hope for positive action there are some things within our control. Over the last year, our group has banded together every few weeks for tasks like litter picking, bramble cutting and restoring overgrown walkways - and thanks to the kind efforts of a Hillingdon Conservation Officer we have a new pond to look after! But there's so much more we can do - and we urge Northwood residents and councillors to please take an active interest in the project. It's a great way to bring Northwood together, meet other locals and take pride in our area.

If you want to become involved, please join the Friends Of Northwood Recreation Ground Facebook group or Email: northwoodrecfriends@gmail.com
Tel: 07977 938 249

Ben Rawson-Jones

I took over as the acting Sergeant for Northwood Safer Neighbourhoods Team in November 2021.



METROPOLITAN
POLICE

From PC Mahipalsinh Solanki

Since then, I have introduced new community engagements such as street briefings and community weapons sweeps. I increased other community engagements such as crime prevention stalls and drop-in surgeries. The team has seen an increase in intelligence, and police visibility on the ward has been further improved. Northwood SNT has continued to maintain its focus on the current ward priorities: Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour, Motor Vehicle crime and Speeding. The team has organised some speed operations to tackle traffic offences. The team has had a good rate of drug detection and they are doing their best to raise awareness in relation to motor vehicle crime through community engagements and OWL.

If you are not already registered to OWL, please consider doing so as this will allow you to be updated by the team on a regular basis.

PC Max Christmas is now back on the ward to assist PCSO John Usher. Going forward, Sergeant Alfie (Althea) Thomas is now the Sergeant for Northwood as my posting was temporary and I wish her the best in her new role. I would also like to give special thanks to PCSO John Usher and PC Lewis Staines who have been very pro-active dealing with issues, maintaining a strong police presence and being active in community engagements. Thank you.

Kind Regards,
PC Mahipalsinh Solanki



Northwood's finest man the Crime Prevention Stall

The Team members are:

Sgt Alfie Thomas

PC Max Christmas, PC Lewis Staines and PCSO John Usher.

The Neighbourhoods Inspector is Insp Dan Lipinski

Northwood Ward Team can be contacted on

Telephone: 020 8721 2545 or 020 8246 1823

Email: Northwood.snt@met.police.uk

Twitter: @MPSNorthwood

Website: www.met.police.uk/your-area/

Address: Ruislip Police Station, The Oaks, HA4 7LF

Local Policing from the NRA Police Liaison Officer

NEW POLICE TEAM

We welcome Althea (Alfie) Thomas as Northwood Sergeant. PC Max Christmas and PCSO John Usher, plus Inspector Daniel Lipinski, complete the team. We thank Sgt Maz Solanki and PC Lewis Staines as they move onto pastures new.

POLICE ACTIVITY

For all information on Northwood police activities, please visit the Met Police website on www.met.police.uk and search for Northwood. This will give you the dates of police crime prevention stalls and "Coffee with a Copper" usually held at Costa Coffee on Green Lane. These can also be found on our own website: www.northwoodresidents.co.uk.

During this quarter the police have dealt with many varied callouts including speeding vehicles, theft, anti-social behaviour and drug dealing. All matters raised with the police are dealt with promptly and the relevant residents are kept informed. The police team continues to conduct weapons sweeps on a regular basis.

WARD POLICE PANEL

Our panel continues to meet on a regular basis. We were sad to lose Roy Oldfield, a ward panel member for some years, who died unexpectedly on Christmas Eve.

We are always looking for residents to join the panel. Even if you are unable to do so, you can air your concerns to the police team or to me as Chairman of the Northwood Ward Police Panel. All concerns are dealt with confidentially and speedily.

OUR SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM PRIORITIES

Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) are now obliged to set three ward promises that address local community issues for which police are capable of providing a response without the need for long-term activity or requiring little, if any, partnership working.

The current three **neighbourhood promises** are:

1. High visibility day and evening patrols
2. Speeding operations
3. Intelligence led patrols (burglary, drugs)

A survey is sent to all Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and the information they send is used to establish the priorities.

The current three **neighbourhood priorities** are:

1. Residential Burglary
2. Speeding
3. Drug misuse/dealing

OWL

New residents continue to sign on to OWL and to download the app for smart phones. You can sign up at www.owl.co.uk. The app can send you notifications and alerts directly to your smart phone. OWL has been designed to help residents keep abreast of security issues, so do please make good use of it.



The app can send you notifications and alerts directly to your smart phone. OWL has been

police@northwoodresidents.co.uk
Tel: 01923 828085

Hoda Lacey

Using WhatsApp Against Crime

Do you and your neighbours belong to a WhatsApp group? If not, you might consider creating a group in your street or neighbourhood.



WhatsApp is a messaging app that uses your smart phone's internet connection to send messages. With group chats, you can share messages, photos, and videos with up to 256 people at once.

WhatsApp is great for combatting crime as it can be used to inform your neighbours immediately of suspicious activity. You can also send messages about burglar alarms going off, local power cuts and to ask for help. In my road its use has resulted in several criminals being arrested. Details of how to set up a group are here:

<https://faq.whatsapp.com/web/chats/how-to-create-and-invite-into-a-group/?lang=en>

Alternative apps exist, for example Signal.

chairman@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Tony Ellis



Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch: * BUSINESS WATCH *

Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch (HNW), in partnership with the Metropolitan Police on Hillingdon Borough, is pleased to announce the launch of a new business-related initiative called **BUSINESS WATCH**.

Business Watch will be managed using OWL (Online Watch Link), the joint communications system already used by NHW and the Police for over three years to deliver direct messaging to members.

By registering as a member of Business Watch on OWL you can receive up to date information from the Police and HNW on incidents and scams affecting local businesses.

CCTV WATCH is an optional scheme that we also encourage you to join when you sign up. If you have CCTV or a video doorbell at your premises, CCTV Watch helps the Police to identify sources of CCTV evidence close to the scene of any crime quickly. The location of your cameras will be securely logged on OWL.

As an individual or local business joining this scheme you can help the police to help you - promptly raising awareness of any concerns, sharing of pertinent crime prevention material, and assisting in identifying and bringing offenders to justice.

Why not join today - it's completely FREE - by visiting www.owl.co.uk and selecting Business Watch from the dropdown as shown below, and using your business postcode:

Web: www.hillingdonnhw.co.uk
Email: all@hillingdonnhw.co.uk

Dave Ludlow
OWL Community Coordinator
Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch



Exploring the NRA Website

Have you discovered the Local Groups tab?

This drop-down menu reveals six categories of local groups, clicking on a category takes you to an accordion-style list a entries. Many of the groups who advertise in this newsletter have entries in the lists, so if you want to find out more about, say Northwood Bowling Club or the Friends of Northwood Recreation Ground, try visiting the NRA website.

www.northwoodresidents.co.uk



Plans for the future of the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre continue to develop following a bid for funding to the Department of Health.

An independent review of the specialist cancer services in 2019 concluded that the services could not remain on the site in the long-term due to the state of the buildings and lack of clinical support on the site, including access to critical care. Since then, over 100 online engagement events and discussions have been conducted with patients, families, support groups and Mount Vernon Cancer Centre staff. Feedback from these sessions has led to development of the preferred proposal of relocating Mount Vernon Cancer Centre's services to a purpose-built site next to Watford General Hospital, with University College London Hospital taking over management of the service. A dedicated chemotherapy unit would also be built at Hillingdon Hospital.

In addition to providing access to urgent care facilities, moving to Watford will allow for a wider range of modern cancer treatment to be offered in one place. This will keep the staff together while meeting the increasing demand for, and advances in, cancer treatment. Staff are supportive of the proposed changes and excited about the opportunity to provide the newest treatment and research trial options, which isn't possible at the current site.

While the Review seeks a long-term solution, investment continues to be made at the current site, including the addition of a new linear accelerator and refurbishments to the chemotherapy ward. £7.5 million funding has just been agreed to ensure the building is maintained and can provide the best possible care over the next few years whilst the long-term plans are developed.

Once funding for the new cancer centre is agreed, we expect to consult with the population in North West London, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and surrounding areas before finalising the plans. In the meantime, we invite you to find out more at www.mvccreview.nhs.uk where you can find out about engagement events, and leave comments, questions, and stories, or you can contact us at engagement.east@nhs.net

Health Matters

A NEW BREAST IMAGING UNIT OPENS AT MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL.



Women requiring breast imaging will be welcomed to a new unit at Mount Vernon Hospital. The suite, which represents an investment of £800,000, 25% coming in equipment purchased by the NHS centrally, is home to a 3D Hologic mammography system, which is designed to provide higher quality 2D and 3D

images for radiologists, a more comfortable mammography experience for patients and an enhanced workflow for mammographers. There is also a Hologic Brevera breast biopsy machine delivering imaging and verification at the time of biopsy with a wealth of information at the point of care. Not only is this a better patient experience, it also saves a lot of time.

CANCELLING YOUR APPOINTMENT. A plea to patients from Hillingdon Hospital. If you find that you cannot attend an appointment, for whatever reason, please be sure to let the hospital know. As well as having a significant cost implication, no-shows also have an enormous impact on staff time-management and waiting times. If you can't keep your appointment, contact the hospital as soon as possible - they will give your appointment to another patient.

health@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Dr Amir Lakha

Michael Sobell Hospice, 1977 – 2022, Celebrating 45 years of Hospice Care



On February 14th, Valentine's Day, 2022, Michael Sobell Hospice celebrated its 45th anniversary year.

It was truly wonderful to celebrate this special year with staff, trustees, volunteers, and friends of the Hospice, including Dr Elaine Laycock. HRH Princess Katherine of Serbia also took the time to send a lovely letter in recognition of this poignant milestone.

Thank you to each and every one of our supporters for continuing to help ensure we are able to commit to funding over £1.8 million towards palliative care services, for patients and their families in our local area, now and in the future.



Hospice Matron Carol Weston with Dr Elaine Laycock cutting the cake

Councillors' Column

As you will have read in Tony Ellis's report, two of our Northwood ward councillors will be stepping down at the local council elections in May, in fact they have both moved to Kent. I asked Scott and Carol to write a final message to their residents, describing highlights from their terms of office and what they will miss about Northwood.

Here's Cllr Carol Melvin's response:

As I come to the end of my 4th term as a Hillingdon Councillor, I look back over the last 14 years with a feeling that I have done my best for our residents, particularly those who have needed my help in difficult situations. It has been a very interesting and sometimes challenging job, but I have really enjoyed serving such a lovely community.

I will say, though, that the highlight was being elected as the Mayor of Hillingdon in 2017, that really was the most amazing year; we attended 550 events meeting some lovely people doing amazing things. I was also delighted to raise £90,000 for my charities.

When I retired from full time employment, I never imagined what the following years would hold for me, it has been great, so don't let anyone tell you there's no life after retirement.

We have now moved to Whitstable in Kent, very close to the sea, and are looking forward to spending time just chilling.

Of course, we will miss Northwood, after all we were there for 26 years, and we made many friends, and I would like to thank everyone for all the support they have given me in the work I have done. It is always sad to say goodbye, but at least we have emails and telephones to keep in touch.

I wish you all the very best in the future, God Bless, Carol

And from Cllr Scott Seaman-Digby:

After 24 years it's going to be very strange no longer representing Northwood and I'm grateful for the friendships I've made and the support I've been given. I've learnt an awful lot from my time working for the people of Northwood and, I hope, left things better than I found them and secured some good and positive outcomes for those I represented.

Elected councillors for Northwood ward are currently:

Richard Lewis, Carol Melvin and Scott Seaman-Digby.

Tel: 01895 250316 - Civic Centre office (9am - 5.30pm weekdays)

Email: rlewis@hillingdon.gov.uk
cmelvin@hillingdon.gov.uk
sseaman-digby@hillingdon.gov.uk



Carol, Scott and Richard on 2018 Election Night

Highlights from my time in Northwood would have to include the walk I had through the woods when I first got elected, seeing the green heart of Northwood and Ruislip with an expert in local history. Gaining the investment for the Green Lane refurbishment was also a great outcome of which I'm proud, an idea that came from a local resident and that we then took through to fruition. The upgrade and reopening of Crowe's Nest on the Hawes and Bennett Close estate - a small park that had been closed down for years - is also something which springs to mind. Moreso the relationships and friendships I have made over more than two decades and that gave me the ability to be a port of call for those who so needed my support.

It's the people I will miss most and the buzz around the ward when I'm shopping, socialising or campaigning - people always stop to say hello and it's a great way to get the pulse of things.

Scott

Cllr Richard Lewis still lives in Northwood and will be standing in the May election. I asked him how Hillingdon Council is supporting celebrations for HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. He said:

The council has established a fund to underwrite ward events across Hillingdon to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We will be providing funding for street parties and the costs to arrange road closures, as well as organising insurance cover for these events.

Hillingdon Council is delighted to be funding some larger events as well, such as the one being jointly organised by the Northwood Residents' Association and the Northwood Hills Residents' Association at Northwood Recreation Ground in Chestnut Avenue.

I think we are all really looking forward to having some fun at last and what better way to do this than by marking this remarkable milestone in the reign of our amazing Queen?

editor@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Ros Plume



Let's Have a Street Party! Sunday 5th June 2022

To help celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, residents wishing to mark the occasion by holding an individual street party on Sunday 5th June 2022 can apply to the council for free public liability insurance and road closures.

You can apply to hold a street party by visiting the LBH website: www.hillingdon.gov.uk/platinum-jubilee

We hope that many of our members will get together to take up this generous offer from the council, do please remember to take lots of photographs at your party and send them to the NRA newsletter editor for a bumper Summer newsletter.



We need your unwanted books!

If you have shelves filled with books and are keen to send them off to a good home, please get in touch with **Kamal at Michael Sobell Hospice** who is collecting all styles and genres of books for the charity's weekly book stall which raises vital funds for Michael Sobell Hospice.



Tel: 07935 362154
or email:
kamalsood1942@gmail.com

Members, this is your newsletter!

I am always eager to receive comments, articles and suggestions for topics that you would like us to cover. You will notice that this issue is 24 pages long instead of the usual 20 pages. To keep the weight of the printed copy down, we have used slightly thinner paper. Does this meet with your approval? Please let me know.

The next issue will be published in July with copy deadline mid June.

Do get in touch.

editor@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Ros Plume

News from St John's URC, Hallowell Road

Since 2019 **Activities 4 You**, our community engagement initiative, has been keeping people connected in the enjoyment of shared interests. Delivering activities via Zoom during Covid restrictions enabled us to reach out to new people and as people have explored new ways to keep themselves occupied our groups have grown.

We are delighted to have our beautiful building filled with music, creativity and friendly chatter once again although some activities have been so successful on-line that we are continuing to offer them on Zoom.

Music

Every 3rd Tuesday of the month. Tea and coffee at 10.30am followed by a **free** half hour concert at 11.30am.

19th April: 'The Two Richards' **Jazz Ensemble**
17 May: Inga Liukaityte **Piano**
21 June: Michael Cayton **Piano**
19 July: David Banbury **Bass**
Geoffrey Whitworth **Piano**

Squares R Us

Tuesday afternoons, 2.00pm - 4.00pm. This friendly group knit squares to make 'happy blankets' for those they are supporting.

Art 4 Fun

First and third Wednesday of the month, 10.30am-12.30pm, **£5**

Explore different Artist's styles and techniques. Led by local artist, Lucy Lardner, all abilities welcome.



Creative Writing Group on Zoom

First and third Tuesday of the month, 2.00pm – 4.00pm, **free**
These sessions encourage and develop the enjoyment of writing providing support and incentive even if you are new to writing.

Laughter Yoga and Relaxation on Zoom, **free**

9.30am Wednesdays. Beginning with breathwork and stretches participants are guided to reclaim and activate their own laughter followed by relaxation.

For further information please contact the church office:

Telephone: 01923 829166
email: stjohnsnorthwood@btconnect.com



FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING

Exploring Scripture, worship and Christian living.

This is the third in our Faith Seeking Understanding series of training days, called '**Exploring Christian Living**' and runs from 10.00-15.30. We will have a mixture of sessions taught by our specialist faculty and workshops to help us put into practice what we are learning, in both our lives and our churches.

The cost is a very reasonable £10 (£8 if you join us online) – tea and coffee will be served and some rather delicious cake.

For further details please contact Emily Smuts: emily.smuts@lst.ac.uk
or to register: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/faith-seeking-understanding-tickets-184854273107

Have you ever stepped into another person's shoes and thought about something from their perspective?

We at **London School of Theology** would love to invite you to join us on our Green Lane campus on **Saturday 7th May 2022** to think about where you are in relation to yourself, to others and to God.

London School of Theology
Green Lane, Northwood HA6 2UW

Tel: **01923 456000**
Email: enquiries@lst.ac.uk

Northwood Methodist Church



We are an "outward looking, warm hearted, Jesus centred" church situated at the end of Oaklands Gate. We are open for worship every Sunday morning at 10.30am with occasional less formal "café worship" services. Once a month at 9.15am we have "Breakfast Praise", a chance to sing a variety of Christian songs followed by a light breakfast.

On **Saturday March 26th** we will be showing a free film

suitable for the whole family from the young to the not so young and all ages in between! Doors open at 2.30pm.

Our next "**Messy Church**" is on Saturday April 23rd, a free event suitable for children aged 2 - 11yrs, accompanied by an adult. It includes a craft session, a short act of worship followed by a meal. Please check our website for start time.

Little Acorns toddler group meets from 9.30 to 11.30am every Monday during term time.

EASTER AT NMC. On Good Friday, April 15th, at 11.30am will be a time of prayer followed by refreshments and at 12noon the live streaming of the Passion play from Trafalgar Square. Feel free to bring lunch, tea and coffee will be provided.

At 9am on Easter Day, we will have Breakfast Praise followed by Easter Breakfast. Our 10.30am service will include Easter communion.

ALL are welcome to any of these events and services.

If you would like to know more about us, please contact our minister, Rev. Andrew Pottage.

For hiring rooms, please contact our church office.

Oaklands Gate, Northwood HA6 3AA
Tel: 01923 840633
Email: nmc@totalise.co.uk
www.northwoodmethodistchurch.org
Minister: Rev. Andrew Pottage
Tel: 01923 821034
andrew.pottage@methodist.org.uk



TODDLER GROUP

We are delighted that our toddler group is up and running again! The group meets on Thursday mornings during term time, 9.30-11.00am in our church hall for fun, crafts and singing! £1.50 donation per family, tea/coffee, juice, and fruit provided.



PALM SUNDAY, 10 APRIL, 10AM. Procession from Northwood War Memorial, to join the communion service in Holy Trinity Church.

WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL. Messy Easter, 2pm - For children and their grown-ups. A chance to explore the Easter story through arts and crafts.

HOLY SATURDAY 16 APRIL. Easter Vigil gathering outside around the fire from 7.30pm for an 8pm start. Finishing with marshmallows!

EASTER SUNDAY 17 APRIL, 8AM. Traditional Communion service. **All Age Parish Communion at 10am**

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES 2022

Join us at any of our services as we journey through Holy Week to Easter Sunday.

For more information visit www.htnorthwood.co.uk
Holy Trinity Church, Gateway Close, Northwood HA6 2RP
Tel: 01923 822990



COMMUNICATIONS CAFÉ

Over 400,000 people in the UK live with communication challenges, ranging from those with a learning disability, physical disabilities such as a stroke, and those learning to live with Alzheimer and Dementia. All have one thing in common, communication, where just feeling understood can be a real daily challenge.

At Emmanuel Church we understand and are working with Connecting Communities to help. Communication Café meets on the 4th Friday of every month and provides a place for people with communication difficulties or memory loss, their carers, partners, and family members, to drop in and enjoy a free cup of tea, cake, and conversation in a friendly and fun environment. Come along and join us!

EASTER MESSY CHURCH

On Friday April 15th families are invited to join us for Messy Church at Emmanuel Church at 10am-11:30am. We will journey through the Easter story and explore what it means for us. If you have never been to church, this is a great opportunity to try it, as we gather for a fun morning filled with crafts, drama, messy activities, and more. Have a look at our website for more details.

**Emmanuel Church, High Street,
Northwood HA6 1AS**

Web: www.ecn.org.uk

Tele: 01923 845200

email: ecnooffice@ecn.org.uk

Radio Mount Vernon

For just over 50 years, we have been broadcasting to the patients at the hospital, using very local technology. In recent years we've upgraded to using a computer programme to broadcast whenever live programmes could not be presented. Currently we have nine live programmes each week, with lots of music, quiz time, Sky News on the hour, and most importantly, requests from patients.

Find out more about what we do and how YOU could be involved by visiting our website www.radiomountvernon.org.uk

Contact pr@radiomountvernon.co.uk if you would like to find out about how your business might benefit from sponsoring us.

The pandemic stopped us visiting wards to collect requests, and fewer live shows were possible, but we have now moved forward with some very good news...

In the past, radio reception has been very poor in some areas of the hospital. However, we have installed a new aerial on the hospital site, so that the whole area of the hospital can tune in to us on 95.1 FM. Our thanks are due to the Hospital Comforts Fund and Watford Council, who have made all this possible.



Mount Vernon Comforts Fund

As we recover from lockdown, I am pleased to say that three of our five outlets are fully up and running again five days a week. Our general shop has a good selection of confectionery, gifts and newspapers. The 'Look In' shop has an amazing range of pre-loved clothes and bric-à-brac, and the bookshop has a wide selection of second-hand books, starting from £1 each. Please make a point of visiting our outlets when you are on site. They provide the income for our charity which continues to fund vital equipment and facilities for the Mount Vernon site for which all too often the NHS has no money.

The minor injuries unit, which was a major source of footfall on the Mount Vernon site, closed at the beginning of the original lockdown. We are very pleased that it has re-opened in the form of an 'Urgent Care Nurse Practitioner Service'. We were delighted to be able to contribute a substantial sum of money to help with the ongoing refurbishment of this unit which will be of great benefit to the community.

Want to get involved?
Please leave your details on 01923 844629 or
email: lesley.almond1@nhs.net

As ever, we are very grateful to our volunteers whose hard work and dedication are undiminished.



Robert Elkeles
Chairman Mount Vernon Comforts Fund



Northwood Area Women's Club

WE ARE NORTHWOOD AREA WOMEN'S CLUB, a social club that brings women together. We are a local non-profit organisation that welcomes women of all ages and nationalities.

We are back to holding our monthly General Meetings at St John's URC, Hallowell Road on Thursday mornings.

Our current activities are also back to meeting face-to-face and include Guided Walks & Tours, MahJong, Walking Groups, Book clubs, Knitting & Stitching, Fitsteps, Italian Conversation. Depending on the interests of current members these activities may change.

Each year our members select a local charity and raise funds to assist their work. Our charity for 2021/22 is **Mission Employable**.

Join us today! The annual subscription for 2021/22 is £35 and the half-yearly fee from January 2022 onwards is £20. You are welcome to attend your first meeting as our guest.



Members Out & About with guide, Gavin

For more about NAWC visit:
www.northwoodareawomensclub.co.uk
Email: info@northwoodareawomensclub.co.uk

Teresa Dinsey
Vice President



News From Eastbury Horticultural Society

Our final evening event this season is on Monday 25th April when we will be holding our **Annual General Meeting** with the added attraction of free cheese and wine! We meet at Eastbury Farm School at 8pm.

Our **Spring Plant Sale** is on Saturday 21st May at 10.00am at 66 Eastbury Road, HA6 3AR.

Once again we are planning an **annual holiday**. It is from 13-16th June, travelling by coach to a number of gardens in the North West, including the new RHS Bridgewater Garden near Manchester.

If this is of interest to you and would like further details, please contact our secretary,

Paul Akers, on 01923 821115 or email: paul1945ginkgo@aol.co.uk

We have organised **three excellent days out** for gardeners this summer. On June 8th we go to the well-known National Trust Nymans Gardens, followed by the recently created Sussex Prairie Gardens. On July 13th we visit Great Dixter and Pashley Manor. Our final visit is on Saturday 10th September to the Oxford Botanic and Waterperry Gardens.

All trips include coach travel, and start at 9am, returning between 6 and 7pm. There are opportunities to eat in cafés and in some cases tea is also provided.

For more detail about these outstanding visits, please contact

Sue Mansfield, on 01923 829939

or email: mansfieldsr@blueyonder.co.uk

We are always keen to receive new members so either come along to our AGM on 25th April where you will be made to feel most welcome or contact our Membership Secretary, Tim Ellison on 01923 822162 or email: ehs.members@gmail.com



Secretary Paul and Chairman Stephen admire the Elæagnus we planted in the grounds of Eastbury Farm School, commemorating 50 years of the EHS

Northwood Craft Market

Saturdays 2nd April, 7th May, 11th June, 9th July 2022

10am – 2pm

Methodist Church Hall

Oaklands Gate, Northwood HA6 3AA

Free Admission

We are delighted to be back with our monthly Craft Markets again. There's always a variety of crafts for sale, all handmade by the stallholders. Some are regulars, but we are also pleased to welcome new crafters. Pat & Lesley will be there with the ever-popular plant stall and there will also be some hands-on crafts for children to make and take home.

Don't forget you can also take a break for tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes in the church coffee shop.

Take a look at our website and social media pages for more information including future dates.



For more information, take a look at our website:

www.northwoodcraftmarket.co.uk

Like us on Facebook; Follow us on Twitter @CraftNorthwood

Email: northwoodcraftmarket@hotmail.co.uk

Telephone Susan on **07780 601842**



Over the past year it has been great to see Girlguiding growing with a Guide unit reopening and a Brownie unit finding a new home. Members from 7th Northwood Brownies have shared their experiences of being a Brownie:

"The Autumn term for Girlguiding is always a busy one, and this year it was especially so as we returned to in-person meetings and took full advantage of being able to see one another face-to-face. We went to see the new Disney movie, Encanto, which was very fun as we got a special Girlguiding screening. Baking is a popular part of our unit, and we baked cake pops which were

delicious! We also had the opportunity to represent our unit at the Remembrance Day parade in November, and we were so proud to hold the flag for our unit. We loved making Pomander Balls for Christmas, where we put cloves in a pattern in oranges, to get our homes smelling like the holiday season! The only thing we have to say to the readers is - Join Brownies!"

If you would like to arrange a trial session for your daughter at one of our units or join us as a volunteer, please contact Jenni at northwooddistrictguides@outlook.com



Join the Adventure – right here in Northwood!

1ST NORTHWOOD SCOUTS is one of the few Groups in the District that held their membership numbers steady through the pandemic, thanks to the wonderful online programme of activities arranged by our Leaders. Since things have opened up in the last six months, membership numbers have increased by a further 20%, with waiting lists for two of the sections, Beavers and Cubs. As a result, we are looking to recruit more Leaders in all our Sections to join our enthusiastic team.

We are the Group based in Northwood Way, opposite Hillside Schools, and we have a fabulous new Scouting Centre there which was officially opened by the Mayor of Hillingdon in September 2019. The facilities and equipment that we have are outstanding; we just need more people to help us exploit them. We draw our members from both Northwood and Northwood Hills. Our Leaders get great personal satisfaction from working with our young people.

If you would like to find out more about what we do and how you could help us to develop the facilities we offer to young people even further, please contact:

Mike Bennett our Group Scout Leader on **01923 835770** and leave a message or email on mike.bennett@renscouts.org.uk. We can arrange for you visit to see how we run our meetings. Please visit our website at www.1stnorthwoodscouts.org.uk

News Update from Northwood Library

Northwood Library is fully open and we are enjoying welcoming our customers back into the branch.



There is a new Hillingdon Libraries App that allows library members to access all Hillingdon Libraries from their phone or tablet. Using the app you can manage your account, search the catalogue, renew, reserve and issue books. Simply download the 'Hillingdon Libraries' app, then login with your library card and PIN number. You can also download books, newspapers and magazines, to read on your device for free, using our online resources BorrowBox and Pressreader.

WE DO MORE THAN LEND BOOKS! The following events for children and adults have resumed and we are hoping to restart our popular Play Reading Group later in the year. Our public PC's, scanning and printing facilities are available, and we are also providing Lateral Flow Tests and recycling bags.

Monday 10.30-11am: Rhymetime with songs and rhymes for babies up to 18months

Wednesday 10.30-11am: Storytime with songs and rhymes for children 18mths- 4yrs

Thursday 10-11am: Young Onset Dementia Group: a relaxed social group for people under 65yrs living with dementia and their partners/carers.

Saturday 11-12: Chess Club for children aged 7+

We look forward to seeing you soon.

The staff at Northwood Library

Northwood Library, Oaklands Gate, Northwood, HA6 3AB

Tel: 01895 558262

Email: northwood-library@hillington.gov.uk

Web: www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries

Twitter: www.twitter.com/Hill_libraries

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HillingdonLibraries

Open: Monday to Friday 09:30am - 1pm and 2 - 5pm

Saturday 09:30-1pm and 2 - 4pm



Are you retired and looking for an active, interesting way to fill your time?

Then perhaps **u3a** is the answer you're looking for.

What is u3a? u3a is an organisation of local people that come together to socialise, make friends and learn for fun. It's all voluntary; a typical u3a has many interest groups covering lots of different subjects so there is something to attract everyone.

Who is u3a for? u3a is open to everyone who's no longer in full-time work.

Where is the nearest u3a? This is Northwood & District u3a, which currently has over 700 members and around 60 interest groups, many of which meet regularly in Fairfield Church Hall, Northwood Hills. Walks, visits to places of interest and sports such as table-tennis and badminton are held elsewhere.

How do I contact u3a? Full details are on our website: u3asites.org.uk/northwood/home or you can come to one of our talks and meetings on the first Wednesday of each month and see for yourself. **10:30 am at Fairfield Church Hall. HA6 1PD**

*Alan Lester
Vice Chairman
Northwood & District u3a*



While the arrival of Omicron has curtailed some of our activities, by the time you read this everything should be up and running again. Northwood Hills Friendship Group and both seated exercise and yoga classes however have continued to meet safely face to face throughout. Our umbrella charity MHA's Digital Communities programme also offers a wide programme online to cater for all interests.



Some of our members enjoying the fortnightly soup, sandwich and samosa lunch

MHA Communities West London (formerly Northwood Live at Home)

We are looking forward to celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a number of events for our members. There will also be an MHA information stall at the NRA Jubilee Celebration at Chestnut Avenue on 2nd June. Do come and see us there.

A CommuniTEAS fund raising drive is planned for April, modelled on the coffee morning events run by charities like Macmillan. Please get in touch if you would like to become involved with this. Our charity's income has been severely affected by Covid.

About 200 older people locally benefit from the support offered by the Scheme.

If you would like to know more about the scheme, as a potential member or volunteer, please contact the office on **01923 842494**

or email WestLondon@mha.org.uk

Web: www.mha.org.uk/communities/near-me/west-london/

Search: MHA Communities West London

Jo Wild, Volunteer

Are you following the Topper Trail? Many people have commented on the postbox toppers that have been appearing around Northwood since late last year, so I asked Karin, the lady who crafts them, "What inspires you to make the toppers?" She replied, "I like making the postbox toppers because it shows people a different type of art. It's like an outdoor gallery. I also have paintings for sale for people who like my toppers."

As we go to press, there are nine altogether, how many have you spotted?



Thanks for bringing a smile to our faces when we needed it most, Karin!

by Ros Plume



Sobell Bridge Club

DAYTIME AND EVENING FACE TO FACE BRIDGE ALIVE AND KICKING.

As with all other UK Bridge Clubs the Sobell was seriously affected from the start of the Covid pandemic. However, we cautiously reopened Face to Face sessions at the Club in September 2021. Sadly, our Chairman, Doug Edmonds, died a few days after we reopened. While we have missed his zest for life and determined attitude, he would be pleased with how the Club has dealt with the ongoing Covid challenge.

We have continued playing Face to Face Bridge on Thursday and Sunday evenings in our large well-ventilated hall. As a number of members had lost confidence in driving at night, we started daytime Face to Face sessions of a Saturday afternoon in February. In addition, we will restart Face to Face Beginners and Improvers courses again this summer.

Since we were founded, we have donated over £880k to the Michael Sobell Hospice and we are confident that we are on the right path to make significant donations to the charity once again. You are welcome to come and play at our club to help us achieve this ambition.

For further details please visit www.sobell-bridge.org.uk or call Peter Cobden on 01923 821490



NORTHWOOD TOWN CRICKET CLUB EST. 1973

As your local Cricket Club based in Northwood Recreation Ground, we are pleased to announce that this year we will be fielding four Saturday senior teams in the Saracens Hertfordshire League commencing in early May, as well as one team on Sundays.

In addition, our thriving Youth section has sessions and games for ages 5+ with children of all abilities welcome, both girls and boys.

Senior cricket:

Krunal Patel (1st XI Captain) (tel 07737 433 413)
krunald_patel@hotmail.com

Junior cricket:

Jack Daly (Junior Manager) (tel (07791 864 319)
jackdaly92@msn.com

In addition, you can gather more information via our website at <https://ntcc.hitscricket.co.uk/>



This year from the 6th May we welcome back our popular AllStars Sessions (ages 5-8) on a Friday evening in the park starting at 5pm and running for 45 minutes. Followed by Dynamos (ages 8-11) from 6 until 7pm. Our older age groups (ages 11+) train on a Tuesday evening from 5pm onwards. We aim to run fun and exciting sessions throughout the summer.

Therefore, if you are interested in joining us, please use the contact details in the box to get in touch or if you prefer pop down to our clubhouse any Saturday once the season has started and come and meet us.



NORTHWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB

The winds of change have been blowing through Northwood Football club in recent months. Having started the 2021/22 season full of optimism with a new manager in place, things didn't go to plan with a poor run of results leading to the departure of Ben Murray in early November. With the new management team of the experienced Steve Ringrose and coach Ben Bukowski building a new playing squad, Woods' season has been transformed with a series of notable wins including those at play-off chasers Chertsey Town and Basingstoke Town and Uxbridge.

Woods continue to climb the Isthmian South Central Division and a visit to the Fenton Civil Engineering Stadium offers great value for money – admission prices £10 for Adults, £5 for Seniors and Concessions with no charge for under-16s. So why not make a trip down Chestnut Avenue as we reach the business end of the season with some exciting games still to come? You can keep up to date with the fixtures and all the news at the club via www.northwoodfc.com or follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.



Off the field, the fully refurbished clubhouse with well appointed bar and function room is once again available to hire – where better to celebrate a birthday or special occasion?

Please contact Ian Barry on 07956 121 300 or email: ibarry@pathfindermtm.com or contact the club via nfc.enquiries@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you soon.
Up the Woods!

Michael Sobell Hospice Charity

ANYONE FOR 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL? Michael Sobell Hospice Charity and Harlington Hospice are excited to be hosting their first ever 5-a-side Football Tournament, taking place on **21st May 2022** at Goals Ruislip.

The charities are encouraging companies and individuals to put together teams and compete to be crowned the first Michael Sobell Hospice 5-a-side Football Champions. Winners will receive a trophy to keep for the year and the top three teams will each receive medals.

Entry is £400 for a team of up to 8 players (players need to be over 16). The entry fee includes a burger from the Burger Bar (chicken, beef, or vegan) and a cash bar will also be available.

All funds raised will help the Hospice to continue providing free expert palliative care and support for local people facing life limiting illnesses. This includes creating a safe place where patients can experience a journey towards the end of their life that is peaceful, comfortable, and free from worry and pain.



SUMMER MEMORY WALK Hold the date of Saturday 30th July in your diary for our inaugural Summer Memory Walk!

For more information about events visit:
www.michaelsobellhospice.org
or call the Fundraising Team on 020 3909 0446

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Northwood & District Community Association

Hopefully the worst is behind us, and people are being braver and getting out and about now. It was great that we were able to hold a quiz at Emmanuel Church last November, where we sat at tables and not glaring at a Zoom screen! However, those quizzes held during the pandemic were a definite lifeline.

The table tennis section has become very popular, we now have two tables and hold weekly sessions. Other sections are beginning to get more people as confidence is increasing about returning to a more normal existence.



We would still welcome new people to all our sections – especially the Bridge/Card/Board Games afternoon held fortnightly, a nice friendly afternoon with tea and cakes in the short interval. At the moment Bridge, Cribbage and Scrabble are played, but Rummikub, Sequence, Backgammon and many other card and board games are available.

Come and give it a go!

Interested?

Contact me on **01923 836346**

Pat Dunhill



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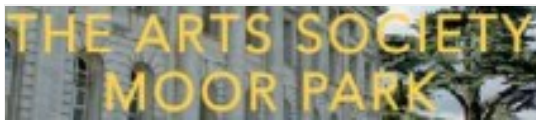
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Our live monthly lectures continue at Pinner Village Hall, with refreshments beforehand. If you prefer not to attend live lectures you can watch and listen from home via Zoom.

Wednesday morning lectures (monthly), 10:50 at Pinner Village Hall, complimentary tea/coffee 10:15. We invite a donation of £10 from visitors and guests.

Wed 20 April Coventry Cathedral: Icon and Inspiration by Alexandra Epps

The extraordinary story of the rebuilding of the Cathedral as a symbol of peace and reconciliation and its inspiring commitment to the modern.

Wed 18 May John Peter Russell: The Lost Impressionist by Lucrezia Walker

John Peter Russell, the lost Impressionist, was a friend of van Gogh, and an artist regarded by Rodin as equal to Monet, Renoir and Matisse.

Wed 15 June The GPO Film Unit: The Birth of the Documentary Film by Howard Smith

The birth of documentary films in the 1930s, through the experimental Soviet era to the 129 films produced by the GPO Film Unit in seven years, including 'Night Mail' with poetry by W H Auden and music by Benjamin Britten.

From 1 March 2022, membership to 31 August 2022 is £25.00, joint membership at same address £47.00, which entitles members to attend the remaining four Morning Lectures during the year. To join email moorparkdfas@gmail.com For full details and for details of Evening Lectures and Days of Special Interest at Moor Park Mansion plus Outside Visits and Five Day Tours go to www.moorparkdfas.com



Northwood Bowling Club

Last year, 2021, the club enjoyed one of its most successful seasons in its 87-year history. Our open day brought in a record number of people who tried out this amazing sport and subsequently went on to join our coaching courses. Several of these new bowlers even played for the club in representative matches against other local teams. This is a game where both men and women play on equal terms.

We run several teams in the Harrow & District leagues and our A team won the League Cup and also the Division 1 title. We have a full bowling and social calendar which runs from Saturday April 23rd until Sunday October 2nd. We are open seven days a week and if you would like to make new friends, get plenty of fresh air and gentle exercise then the Northwood Bowling Club is here for you in Chestnut Avenue.

OUR ANNUAL OPEN DAY IS ON SUNDAY MAY 8TH. This would be an ideal opportunity to try this wonderful game. We provide the bowls; all you need are flat-soled shoes.



Whether you are an absolute beginner or an experienced bowler wishing to change clubs, please contact us via our website:

www.northwoodbowling.co.uk or phone Paul on 01923 835607.

You won't be disappointed.

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Rehearsals have resumed on Tuesdays at Ruislip Methodist Church Hall.

More details are on our website: www.eastcote-ruislip-choral.org

If you like the classical choral repertoire, songs from musicals and lighter works, why not join us?

South Oxhey Choir is pleased to announce that we are back rehearsing on Tuesday evenings, 7pm to 8.30pm with Covid procedures in place, ie wearing a mask when entering the Oxhey Wood School, Oxhey Drive, until you sit down, social distancing of chairs and rows, the chairs have been sanitised too.

In view of the virus situation a number of members are not returning at this time, so, we have spaces available for new members to join us.

Want to know more?

Contact Ann Cox on 020 8428 9460 or mobile, 07852 469 935
email annecox0107@gmail.com.



Eastbury Residents Association (ERA) cordially invites residents to an afternoon of community celebrations, marking the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne, on **Friday June 3, 2022** from **11am-4 pm** at the Eastbury Recreation grounds on Batchworth Lane.

Jubilee@the Rec will feature an array of food trucks, local businesses and charities displaying crafts and trades. There will be games stalls and rides, with a live DJ.

For more information, updates about the fair and queries about participating as a stall holder, log on to eastburyresidents.com



Harrow Choral Society's Messiah

Harrow Choral Society is proud to announce its return to the prestigious Harrow School Speech Room, performing **Handel's Messiah** on **Saturday 2 April, 2022 at 7.30pm**. This emotive, uplifting work connects with the time we have been living through and we are very much looking forward to welcoming back the renowned, period instrument orchestra, Charivari Agréable. All will be conducted as usual by Simon Williams, our Music Director.

Tickets: £18, £3 to under 18s

Web: www.harrowchoral.org.uk

Email: boxoffice@harrowchoral.org.uk

Tel: 07794 253463

Harrow School Speech Room
Harrow-on-the-Hill, HA1 3HP

1st Northwood Scout Group

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Sat 28th May, 2pm

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87 Northwood Way HA6 1RT

To advertise in the NRA newsletter, please contact the advertising manager:

ads@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Want to know what's on in Northwood?
Just head to the NRA website:

www.northwoodresidents.co.uk

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