



Northwood Residents' Association

www.northwoodresidents.co.uk

Newsletter 189, Spring 2025



Graffiti Damage: our community deserves better!

This graffiti appeared over a weekend in February, see the NRA chairman's comments on Page 3.



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Business News



We ran another **"Promotional Event"** for our NRA members during January.

I am grateful to **Estamira Jewellers, Express Mobile, Fauna Veterinary, Forum Insurance, John Ashmele, Lamertons, and Laughing Monk Tai Chi**, for participating and hope when we run the next promotion more Business Members will come forward to showcase their business with a tempting promotion.

Some residential members informed me verbally that they never received our promotional email and on further investigation it transpired we did not have their email address!! If you are reading this and are aware that you are not receiving the NRA's emails, it means we don't have your email address so please do supply it.

We are delighted to welcome **The Doctor's Lounge** as a new Business Member. Many of you may know of this group of private doctors who consult from rooms at Sharmans our local chemist. Their website has full information and as they say **"The Doctor's Lounge brings a personal & tailored Private GP Service to the heart of the community"**.

I should like to congratulate all our local shops, restaurants, estate agents, dental practices, health & beauty establishments, pharmacists (apologises if any category has been omitted) for the wonderful window displays we had during the festive season. Along with the street lighting, Christmas tree and Chanukia, Northwood really looked wonderful. Next year we, the NRA, are thinking of awarding prizes (in different categories) for the best dressed window or building.

On a more **distressing** note, we discovered that over the weekend of 21-23 February quite a few of our business shop fronts were vandalised with graffiti, (which you can see from cover photos). We naturally reported this to Hillingdon Council who informed us there was nothing they could do and it would be for the businesses affected to paint over the offending material. They also mentioned that even if we informed the police (which we did) there would be nothing they could do as the perpetrators would probably be wearing hoods and not show their faces. So any CCTV footage would not be of use.

As I write this column, **Dental Design Studio** have already re-painted their very large wall. And on a happier note I, along with all the NRA committee members, want to congratulate them on reaching their **20th ANNIVERSARY** practising in Northwood. They hope to introduce some **celebratory offers** and we shall of course keep you informed by email.

Finally as winter turns to spring I hope, with the help of you, our local residents, local businesses continue to thrive and as always if you have any constructive ideas, or suggestions how the NRA can assist our members, do let me know at my email below.

Brian Geminder
business@northwoodresidents.co.uk

From the Treasurer

My thanks to our members and particularly the **Road Stewards** for all their time and effort in supporting the **NRA**. We rely on your efforts to deliver Newsletters which is greatly appreciated.

My special thanks this month go to **Paul Barker**, our Chief Road Steward, who has recently emailed many residents and to the hundreds who have responded by paying their subscriptions by BACS.

If you wish to pay by **cheque or cash** you can still leave subscriptions at **Sharman's** and envelopes will be delivered with this newsletter to those who we believe have not paid this year so far.

If you haven't heard from Paul it may be that your email address is not on file. Please get in touch with **John King**, our membership secretary, who will update the database.

Any resident can pay directly into the bank and the **minimum subscription is £3** from January 2025 onwards but many households pay more.

If you are a **business** then please supply the name of the business on the bank transfer and the annual fee is £10.

If you are a resident your name will generally appear on the first line of a BACS payment so please put an abbreviation of your address on the second and/or your Postcode (e.g. Flat 4 Kingsbr Hse/ HA62UY).

Bank details for any member who wishes to pay from their own bank account.

**NRA Bank Account Details:
Northwood Residents Association
HSBC Bank plc
Sort Code: 40-35-08
Account Number: 30614971**

We have funds available to spend on **local projects**. If any member has a suggestion that would benefit the whole community, please contact me and we will discuss at the next committee meeting.

Jan Harding
treasurer@northwoodresidents.co.uk
Tel: 0785 0019001

From the Chairman

INTRODUCTION

In my first newsletter dated **June 2009** I wrote the following:

"This is my first report as your Chairman and I feel very privileged to have the opportunity of leading the Association. The NRA is a well-respected and influential organisation and it is my intention to ensure that we continue to make our mark with all official bodies to ensure that decisions they take affecting Northwood are for the benefit of residents."

I hope that, **16 years later**, I have upheld these aims and will continue to do so if you re-elect me at the **April AGM**.

SPRING

As I write this, the sun is shining brightly, and the air is quite warm. In my garden there are lots of **crocuses**, **snowdrops** and **daffodils** flowering, the willow tree is green and many of the trees and bushes are coming out of hibernation. These are welcome signs of the end of winter and we can look forward to more daylight and the opportunity to enjoy getting out and about again without having to wear heavy winter clothes.

On page 10, Miles Gillman writes about guided walks in Ruislip Woods. If you are able, do take advantage of the opportunity to get a spring in your step.

THE BAD

It was a great shock to all of us to see the extensive **graffiti** plastered all over Northwood after the weekend of **21st- 23rd February**. We are not used to being subjected to such loutish behaviour and we hope never to see it again. Local PCSO, **John Usher**, has informed me that the Met has a record of tags (the style of graffiti) and **hopes** to identify the culprit. Fortunately, this type of damage is rare in Northwood.

THE GOOD

It was uplifting to read the following that appeared on the **Nextdoor** website recently.

"On Monday evening my husband had a fall in Northwood. I'm grateful for all of the kind people that helped him that evening. Some of you were driving by, or just walking, but it meant a lot that you stopped to check if he was OK. Thank all of you who helped him get up on his feet and called me. It is reassuring to know that we live in a good neighbourhood where there is a sense of community and everyone cares for each other."



The lady has confirmed that her husband has **fully recovered**. The fact that the lady published her thanks and the reactions of passers-by should reassure all of us that **Northwood is a good place** in which to live.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

You will note from the item on **page 22** that our next **AGM** is to be held on **Thursday, 24th April** at the Oaklands Gate Methodist Church. Please do come to hear about our achievements and to ask awkward questions of our panel – **David Simmonds MP**, **Police Sergeant Gareth Blackburn** and **Councillors Henry Higgins** and **Richard Lewis** and the **NRA Committee**. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

NEW LIBRARY

At long last, our temporary library opened at the **Kate Fassnidge Community Hall** in the High Street. Parking is very difficult but bus stops are near by serving the 282 and H11 routes. I have been informed that an announcement about our permanent, replacement library should be made before the Council elections in April 2026. Apparently, members of the Council Cabinet can't agree on the location.

Plans have been passed to demolish the **Northwood Hills library** and build a block of flats and a replacement on the site. Timing hasn't been agreed. Northwood Hills residents will use our library when this happens.

CONCLUSION

As ever, thanks are due to the **Committee Members** and **Road Stewards** who work tirelessly to make sure that the NRA keeps members happy.

Councillors Henry Higgins and Richard Lewis and MP David Simmonds answer many of our questions and make representations on our behalf. Thank you, gentlemen. Thanks also to the **SNT** for their diligence.

If you have questions about our activities or suggestions as to how we can improve **Northwood**, please don't hesitate to **contact me or a member** of the committee. Contact details are on the back page of this newsletter.

Finally, I am always happy to talk to you.

Tony Ellis

chairman@northwoodresidents.co.uk
Tel: 01923 821237

Planning Matters

There have been **53 planning applications** since the last Newsletter and, out of those, I submitted **objections or comments on 18** of them on **planning grounds** directed at the adverse impact on the neighbours, or others affected. The majority of applications continue to be for **extensions to existing properties**, but also a small number for the **demolition of the whole building** and erection of a new build house or flats.

Dealing with planning applications that affect you is something that is a *one-off* for most, and I'm happy to help guide through the process **neighbours or others affected** who are concerned about a planning application close by.

It remains the case that, once approved, **only the applicant** can appeal against the decision except on a point of process, which is very limited indeed. Therefore, all applications that might affect you should be studied and dealt with, preferably within the timescale referred to on the **LBH planning portal**.

It is easy to search for a planning application on the LBH portal using the following link to access the plans and other papers submitted by the applicant:

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

Just enter the first part of the address in the **'Location,'** box, and then **'View,'** the documents.

Where you are adversely affected you can submit an objection directly onto the LBH Planning portal. This is easy to do after viewing the documents, by going back to the first page and entering the objection by pressing the **'Enter Comment'** box.

If you have any difficulty **submitting** your objection, then I will be pleased to help you.

If you want to present your case personally to the Planning Committee, then you can do so by producing a petition with a **minimum** of 20 signatures of any residents living within the LB Hillingdon. That will entitle you to speak at the Planning Committee meeting for up to 5 minutes, and it's shown live on **YouTube**. I can help draft the petition and work with you on the proposed presentation to the Planning Committee.

Trevor Sherling
planning@northwoodresidents.co.uk

NRA Membership

5 years ago, some **660 NRA members** had fully "entered the digital age" by providing us with their emails addresses to receive serious or significant **Alerts** for Northwood happenings.

That number now exceeds **1,400** BUT as we have some **2,400** registered members, a large number of you are still missing out.

To those addresses I author **email Alerts only** (such as impending road closures / diversions etc) for serious info you should have, by providing a link to an item, article or location where the information itself can be found.

So if you are **not currently receiving Alerts**, do email me if you wish to receive them (*mentioning your name and postal address*). And of course, don't forget to let us know to update the database if you change your email address, and do empty your inbox if full!

- you **WON'T** be bombarded with unwanted information by email from the NRA and can always opt-out if you so desire.

Paul I. F. Barker

Chief Road Steward and Data Protection Officer
chiefroadsteward@northwoodresidents.co.uk or
pifbarker@me.com

Finally, the request for replacement Road Stewards to help by distributing Newsletters 3 times a year is ongoing.

You wouldn't have to handle subs, as we encourage payment preferably by **BACS**, or via NRA-addressed envelope deposited at **Sharmans** or **Carter Chemist**. A perk for becoming an RS is an invitation (with partner or friend) to the annual drinks and supper RS Reception, due next to be held 29th May.

Many sections of **Ducks Hill Road** and its tributaries currently have no RS, nor does **Gateway Close**.

There are also many roads where we have no members, where we would like to deliver leaflets to explain to residents the benefits of **joining the NRA** - examples are:-

Cervantes Court (off Green Lane), Glenshee Close, Harrison Close, High Elms Close, Mezen Close, Morgan Close, Rickmansworth Rd (Woodchester Court) & The Grange, Trinity Close, Vantage Close and several others

- *you don't have to live in any of these roads to volunteer to help!*

Don't miss out on the latest news - register your email address with us!

From Cinema to Library via Dining Centre and Community Hall

The history of 76 High Street, Northwood

Situated between the **Pat-a-Cake** shop and **Northwood Fish & Chips** in the **old High Street** is a site that has seen a number of different uses over the years.

In **1913**, it saw the opening of the **425-seat Northwood Picture House**, soon to be renamed the **Ritz Cinema**, then **Northwood Cinema**, then in **May 1921** the **Playhouse**. In **July 1934**, it was re-named **Tatler Cinema**.

The first manager was called **Bert Pope**; his wife was the usherette; his sister accompanied the silent films on piano while his brother-in-law provided sound effects with a bass drum and coconut shells. Bert enlisted to serve in **WWI** in 1915, but his wife continued to run the cinema.

In **1942**, the building became a **British Restaurant**, a wartime Government initiative to combat the severity of rationing. These restaurants were essentially canteens serving basic nutritional meals at reasonable prices - **and were off-ration**.

In **1954** it was purchased by Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council to augment their overcrowded offices in Oaklands Gate. After the **Borough of Hillingdon** was formed in 1965, the building became a local housing office, but in 1975 the council granted a 21-year lease to Ruislip and Northwood Old Folks Association who ran a dining club there. The **Ruislip Northwood Old Folks Association** had been set up in 1949 to benefit the elderly residents of Ruislip and Northwood.

As the dining club lease was nearing its end, the council sold the site to the **Kate Fassnidge Memorial Trust** for a token amount, rather than spending a huge sum on essential repairs. Kate Fassnidge was a wealthy landowner in Uxbridge, who, with her husband, bequeathed Fassnidge Memorial Park and certain properties in the High Street in Uxbridge to the Council.



Northwood Cinema in 1913



Dining Club Demolition, August 2011

The building stood derelict for many years during which time various schemes for its use were put forward, then rejected. Finally, plans were agreed, the old building demolished and a new **Community Hall** rose from the rubble. The Kate Fassnidge Community Hall was officially opened on **Friday 14th September 2012** by **Nick Hurd MP**.

Since then, a management committee has run the hall as a community space available for hire. There are eight one-bedroom flats above.



Community Hall Opening, September 2012

On **1st March 2025** the hall opened as a **temporary library** whilst Hillingdon Council seeks to find a suitable site for a new, permanent Northwood library. It is still owned by the Fassnidge Trust.

See **Cllr Higgins'** article on Page 9 for more on the future of Northwood's libraries.



Pop-up Library open for business, 1st March 2025

Thanks to:

Simon Morgan, RNELHS, NRA Newsletter No. 154

Ken Roe, cinematreasures.org

Eileen Bowlt, Northwood Through Time

Tanya Britton, Ruislip, Eastcote & Northwood during WW1

Ros Plume

secretary@northwoodresidents.co.uk

First the good news! **Northwood** is and remains a relatively low crime ward within Hillingdon. The downside is that the nature of crimes has evolved towards **online** and **telephone scamming, retail and vehicle thefts, burglary** and **anti-social criminal behaviour**.

Ward Panels were set up roughly a decade ago by the Mayor of London and the Met Police. **Northwood Ward Panel** has been active since then.

Your Northwood Panel is a group of community members and partners that meet your **local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)** every quarter to set Northwood resident priorities and hold the SNT to account for issues affecting our community.

Hoda Lacey
Chairman of Northwood Police
Ward Panel, NRA Police Liaison
Police@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Between us, we identify particular areas of concern and ask this to be a police priority to be reported on the following quarter. We have, recently, discussed the alarming rate of retail theft, vehicle theft, drugs and anti-social behaviour. But without the input from you, **our Northwood residents**, we may be missing vital information.

Our **Northwood Business Watch** was set up 3 years ago, led by **Jennifer O'Dwyer**, licensee of the Three Wishes, in order to identify offenders and report them to the police.

Our **Neighbourhood Watch Northwood** representatives play a vital role in monitoring and following up on criminal behaviour. We need all residents to join the Watch to help us in our fight. There is also a **CCTV watch** and if you sign up to that, you will be doing even more for our Northwood community.

Our Northwood panel is always **looking for extra volunteers** to help us achieve our objectives. Help us keep Northwood a safe and pleasant place to live. Please email us at police@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch Northwood area update



In the last issue we highlighted the fact that residents who used to be on the outgoing **"OWL"** system now need to sign up on the new **Neighbourhood Watch Network (NWN)** "Alerts" system to continue receiving messages.

Northwood had **840** members on OWL, of which **291** had registered on the new system on the day of shutdown, **31st October 2024**. Since then, 36 additional residents have joined, bringing the current total at the end of February to **327**. This represents around **6.3% of Northwood residents**.

Experience has shown that when membership on a Ward reaches around **20%**, the chances of obtaining relevant information in response to a crime appeal increases dramatically. It means that for every appeal sent out, one in **5** households will receive the information directly, of which some will have relevant information for the police.

The 20% challenge for Northwood residents is therefore yours for the taking! So if you are reading this and you are not already a member of Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch, then simply sign up for **FREE** on the NWN system using the link below:

<https://members.ourwatchmember.org.uk/join>

If you are already a member, all we ask is that you encourage your immediate neighbours to consider joining the next time that you speak to them. We also ask that if you are on a **WhatsApp** or **Facebook** group for your road then please consider circulating the signup link above, there is also a **QR code** if people find that easier.

When you sign up you will receive a **6-digit signup code** by email to enter; after which select your exact address from the dropdown, tick the **THREE** information sources in red as a minimum, and create a password.

Alternatively visit www.hillingdonnhw.co.uk and follow the link and instructions.

Your support to both us and to the police is extremely valuable, and above all increasing membership numbers in **YOUR** area will help to make **Northwood** a safer place to live.

If you need to contact the team you can email us at hillingdonnhw@gmail.com



Dave Ludlow
Chairman,
Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch

Recently our **Northwood Centre** was invaded by one or more loathsome criminals who ran riot with a **paint gun** and sprayed **graffiti tags** over the retail frontages of our hard-working business owners.



No report from the SNT this time, but here are their contact details. Don't forget to check the NRA notice boards and website and online platforms such as Nextdoor, for the SNT's planned community engagements.

The Team members are:

Sgt Gareth Blackburn, PC Maninder Sohal
PC Mike Fowler and PCSO John Usher.
The Neighbourhoods Inspector is Insp Sarah Fox

Northwood Ward Team can be contacted on
Telephone: 020 8721 2545
Email: SNTWA-Northwood@met.police.uk
X: [@MPSNorthwood](https://twitter.com/MPSNorthwood)
Website: www.met.police.uk/your-area/
Address: Ruislip Police Station, The Oaks, HA4 7LE

Although some may think of graffiti as **Banksy** works of art, Graffiti is **illegal** and considered **criminal damage**.

Our Police are under-staffed and under resourced and can well do without this sort of added workload.

Due to budget restrictions, **our council** is unable to help with removal of such graffiti. This means that the financial burden falls on the shoulders of our **retail owners**.

A study was written in **1982** by two renowned criminologists called the **"Broken Window"** theory. It suggests that signs of disorder and misbehaviour in an environment encourages further disorder and misbehaviour, leading to more serious crimes.

Someone, somewhere knows who did this. And our **Safer Neighbourhood Team** is onto them. And the culprits will be **tracked down** and **dealt with**.

If you would like to help keep Northwood safe, please come and join our **Northwood Ward Panel**.

Email me at the address below for further details.

Hoda Lacey

Police@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Traffic and Highways

Northwood Traffic Study

In 2017, I wrote - "As a result of pressure from the NRA, the Council Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation and Recycling has given his approval for officers to proceed with a transport study for the following roads:

- A404 Rickmansworth Road between Maxwell Road and A4180 Duck's Hill Road,
- Maxwell Road and
- B409 Green Lane

In early 2019 a draft report was submitted to the Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation and Recycling, for review.

In 2021, I wrote - "So far little positive has come out of this project - virtually dormant."

Now, after no further action, we have been advised to raise a petition. This has been done. It reads as follows:-
Topic - **Rickmansworth Road** from Mount Vernon Hospital to the **High Street, Northwood**, needs improvements to reduce speeding, congestion and accidents.

Desired Outcome - We the undersigned request that Hillingdon Council carry out a comprehensive review of this length of Rickmansworth Road, in conjunction with the Northwood Resident's Association, to identify what improvements can be made to make the road safer.

HS2

For those of you who use **Breakspear Road South**, it may be helpful to know that a three week closure is planned for 5th to 27th April 2025, but the date will probably be changed nearer the time.



Peter Lansdown

traffichighways@northwoodresidents.co.uk

A Message From Our MP, David Simmonds

I begin by wishing residents a **belated happy new year**. I hope **2025** has started positively.

The election of the new **Government** raised concerns about the future of local healthcare projects. While pre-construction work had started at the **Northwood** and **Pinner Cottage Hospital** site, it seemingly came to a halt following the election in **July**. In response to my letter, the **Department of Health and Social Care** provided welcome reassurance that work would resume in the **autumn**. I received an update at the start of the year confirming that **demolition work** was due to run between January and mid-April. At the time of writing, my office is in the process of arranging a **site visit** to see the progress of the project and ensure that it continues.

Similarly, the **Hillingdon Hospital** rebuild faced an unnecessary delay owing to the Government's, frankly needless, internal review into the **New Hospital Programme**. The **Health Secretary** has since confirmed that the new Hillingdon Hospital will be included in **wave 1**. While I am disappointed by the delay, I welcome that construction work is due to be fully underway in **2027-28**. This is a long-awaited project, vital to the delivery of healthcare for residents, and I will continue to make representations to ensure it is delivered in the time promised.

Turning to other local matters, residents have registered their concerns both with my office and local councillors about the **graffiti** they are seeing in and around **Northwood**. This act of vandalism is not only illegal, but it also creates an environment where residents feel unsafe in their community. This extends to the **high street**, with businesses also at risk of being negatively impacted by the damage. I am aware that this has been escalated within the council, and I welcome that they have responded quickly and will continue to monitor this situation very closely.

In **Westminster**, I have been working with **shadow local government colleagues** to hold the Government to account on issues affecting residents and our local area. In addition to placing greater financial burdens on local authorities – and in turn **council taxpayers** – I am concerned about the impact of the Government's **housing targets** on **Northwood** and the wider constituency. While I support the building of new homes and broadening opportunity for more people to get on the housing ladder, this should not be achieved at the expense of **greenbelt protections**. Weakening these, rather than building the homes that already have planning consent, makes little sense.

The debate around this has served to highlight the importance of our **local parks** and **greenspaces**, the value they add to residents' lives and how they enrich the local area. A prime example of this is **Northwood Recreation Ground**. Thanks to the work of a team of dedicated volunteers, this is a fantastic place for residents to enjoy all year round.

Finally, my **surgeries** continue across the different high streets within **Ruislip, Northwood** and **Pinner**. These are held regularly, including in Cofix and Marjan's in Northwood. If you would like to get in touch with my office, or follow updates from my office, please use contact details below:

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



BLOCK MEMBERS

Are you a member where your subscription fee is paid by your Block Manager?

As you are reading this then you are receiving our Newsletter, which we issue three times a year. But are you receiving our email '**Alerts**' which we issue regularly to all members for whom we have an email address and who have not **unsubscribed** from them.

If you wish to receive these 'Alerts' which inform members of **events** or **issues** affecting Northwood, then we need your details to include in our database. Please send your name and address and email to the **Membership Secretary John King**. membership@northwoodresidents.co.uk who will update the database.

From Councillor Henry Higgins

Cllr Lewis and I had the pleasure of being at the opening of the new **pop-up library** in the **Kate Fassnidge Community Hall** in **High Street Northwood** on Saturday morning, **1st March**.

The **mayor of Hillingdon Cllr Colleen Sullivan** made a wonderful speech and officially opening the new pop-up library. The **cabinet member Eddie Lavery** said, *"it's great to be here this morning at the opening of the pop-up library for Northwood replacing the library that we had to close for structural reasons and it's great to see it all opened"*.

The Council has rented the space until a **New Library** can be built in Northwood.

The **Fassnidge Trust chairman Adam Bennett** who unfortunately could not attend sent a message.

"I am delighted that the Kate Fassnidge Community Hall in Northwood is once again serving the needs of the local residence, this time as a popup Library"

The **New manager Richard** is looking forward to welcoming the local residents of Northwood with **Story Time** for the youngsters and a program for the elderly.

It was amazing to see many residents of all ages at the opening as well as members of the **NRA, Library Staff**, area Manager **Samantha, Darren**, Head of the Library service and **the vice chair of Kate Fassnidge Trust, Reeta Chamdal**.

The **opening hours** are as follows

Mon: Closed

Tues-Fri: 10-1 and 2-5

Sat: 10-1 and 2-4

The Library service has lots to offer from **reading materials, Digital libraries, Lego Club, Teen totes** and please check out **Borrow Box**.

We will also be holding our **surgeries** here **4th Saturday of every month 10.30 to 11.30** except August and December.



Northwood councillors hold regular surgeries on the fourth Saturday of every month (except December) at **Northwood Pop-Up Library** from 10.30am to 11.30am until further notice.

Elected councillors for Northwood ward are:

Richard Lewis and Henry Higgins.

rlewis@hillington.gov.uk | hhiggins@hillington.gov.uk

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

KEEP DRAIN COVERS UNBLOCKED

KEEP HEDGES TRIMMED and

LET THERE BE LIGHT

It is that time of year when there is still plenty of **rainfall** due and the **growing season** is re-starting.

Clearing the slats of a **drain cover** outside your apartment, flat or house makes good sense, shows you care for the environment and it often takes around **60 seconds** to use a piece of wood about the size of an old style ruler to poke through a light covering of say **moss** or **leaves**. **Water** that drains way as it should do can mean someone else's property may avoid being flooded.

Your **hedge**, your **bush** or your **trees** that grow beyond your property boundary can be a nightmare for pedestrians, particularly the **partially sighted** and for those pushing **baby strollers** or **pushchairs**. Please keep your hedges cut-back and low branches that overhang pavements cut-back so there is at least approximately **6ft 6inches** or **2 meters** height clearance.

Please look upwards - if you see a street light that is largely obscured by tree foliage can you place a message on the **report-it section** of the Hillingdon Council website, and ask the Council to cut back that tree.

environment@northwoodresidents.co.uk
Andrew Egan

Where are all the butterflies?

Following the results of the Big Butterfly Count 2024, Butterfly Conservation have declared a butterfly emergency. By taking part in the Big Butterfly Count - you can help assess the health of our environment simply by counting butterflies



Join on for 15 minutes

Between 18 July & 10 August

<https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>

Getting to know our woods

There is a clue in the name **Northwood** that we are surrounded by **woods**. However many of our residents have never dared venture into them or are new to the town.

As a **committee member** and also on the board of **Ruislip Woods Trust** I would like to encourage **Northwood residents** to have a **guided walk**, to introduce them to the wonderful nature we have around us. It will last for about **an hour**.

I will post details on our **website** or the **Northwood Facebook page**. Alternatively you can email me at woods@northwoodresidents.co.uk and we can work out some dates.

The meeting point would be at the end or **Links Way**. I already give regular **history walks** round the **Ruislip Lido**.



woods@northwoodresidents.co.uk
Miles Gillman

Mount Vernon Cancer Centre update

Confirmation that the **new Hillingdon Hospital** will be one of the next new hospitals to be built, has been received well by the patients and staff who are developing proposals to relocate the **Mount Vernon Cancer Centre to Watford**. Patient and public involvement in developing these proposals led to plans for a new chemotherapy unit for Hillingdon Hospital which have been incorporated into the new hospital design.

This would mean that most **Hillingdon patients** who would receive chemotherapy at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre would not have travel to the proposed new cancer centre in Watford. The **Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Wes Streeting**, announced that **The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust** will be in **wave 1** of the scheme, with construction of the new hospital expected between **2025 and 2030**.

Watford General Hospital was also confirmed as remaining in the **New Hospitals Programme**, with a slightly longer timetable for construction. This certainty means public consultation can begin this year on proposals to relocate Mount Vernon Cancer Centre onto the Watford General Hospital site in the future. The funding for the proposed move was never part of the New Hospitals Programme and was not expected to be included in this review. **NHS England** is continuing to explore viable funding options for the redevelopment and undertaking a public consultation.

The services need to move because modern **cancer care** needs access to facilities like **critical care** and **A&E** which are not available on the Mount Vernon site. A new hospital at Watford will mean that not only would a relocated cancer centre have access to all the medical services it needs, but that those services would be provided in modern, **state of the art facilities**.

The team is also working in a number of areas to improve services in the meantime. The first of these improvements is an **integrated acute oncology service at Watford**, providing rapid care for patients with acute cancer related problems or treatment related emergencies, which will be operational this year. Currently patients who cannot be admitted to Mount Vernon Cancer Centre or need to be transferred to an acute hospital due to the lack of acute services on the current site, are usually treated at Watford General Hospital as the nearest acute hospital. The integrated acute oncology service will work with patients experiencing acute cancer related problems or treatment related emergencies whether they are newly diagnosed, have a known cancer diagnosis or are already receiving treatment.

The **building improvement programme** at the cancer centre is also progressing well with the extensive refurbishment work on the **cancer treatment suite, outpatients department, main cancer centre building and nuclear medicine department** all now complete. Work now starts on the **inpatient wards** (wards 10 and 11) followed by the **radiotherapy wing**. As this work continues patients may find that appointments are not held where expected and there is increased noise and disruption on site while contractors continue with the work. The Trust apologise for any inconvenience caused. More information about the building programme is published on the [East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust website](https://www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk/hospitals/mount-vernion/building-works/).

More information about the improvement works is available on our website.

Please go to: www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk/hospitals/mount-vernion/building-works/

National discussions are continuing around funding for the relocation of the cancer centre following the review of its long term sustainability, and the local community, patients and staff will be updated once a solution is identified. For more information on the MVCC review and future plans, visit www.mvccreview.nhs.uk



Jessamy Kinghorn
Head of Partnerships & Engagement
NHS England – East of England



MVCC Charity raises funds to support patients receiving treatment at our local cancer centre. You can help by taking part in one of the their events. Or choose your own event!

For more visit: www.enhhcharity.org.uk



Fire Walk for Mount Vernon Cancer Centre

Test your bravery by walking across burning hot coals to raise funds for Mount Vernon Cancer Centre!

📅 21st March, 2025

📍 Michael Sobel, Mount Vernon Cancer Centre



Inflatable 5k

Get ready to bounce your way through The World's BIGGEST and most EPIC Inflatable 5K Obstacle Course for your local hospitals!

📅 26th April, 2025

📍 Hertfordshire County Showground, Dunstable Road, Redbourn, AL3 7PT



Moor Park 10k & Fun Runs 2024

Moor Park is back bigger and better than ever!

📅 28th September, 2025

📍 Merchant Taylors Prep School, Sandy Lodge Lane, Moor Park, Northwood, HA6 2HT



What's on NORTHWOOD

Want to know what's on in Northwood?

Just head to the NRA website: www.northwoodresidents.co.uk

Did you know that we have a virtual noticeboard on our website where we post news of forthcoming events?

If your organisation has a local event that you would like us to publicise, just send the details by email to: secretary@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Welcome

Many of us enjoy living and working in Northwood, Middlesex, a thriving community with a strong local identity and situated close to both countryside and city. The purpose of the Northwood Residents' Association, established in 1966, is to maintain and develop a high standard of amenities and community spirit.

Noticeboard

HCS Concert

Saturday 6th July, 5.30pm, St Alban's Church North Harrow HA2 7PF; Harrow Choral Society, Harrow Choral Society will perform Brahms'...

Bereavement Support in Northwood: Drop-in Café

Tuesdays, 10am to 12 noon, Holy Trinity Church Hall, Gateway Close HA6 2RP

Latest news

Volunteers needed!

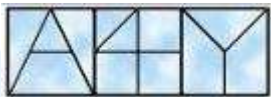
Posted on 1 July 2024
Help to remove Himalayan Balsam in Ruslip Woods. Working party Sat 13th July at 10am. Click title line for more...

Northwood Police Ward Survey

Posted on 7 June 2024
Have your say as to what issues our local Safer Neighbourhood Team focuses on. Please take the time to complete...

NRA Activities

- Business Members
- Communications
- Environment
- Health
- Membership
- Planning
- Police
- Traffic & Highways
- Woodland



St John's Church Hallowell Road, Northwood, HA6 1DN

ACTIVITIES 4 YOU

Squares R Us

Tuesdays, 1.30pm - 3.30pm. Free

Since 2018 'Squares R Us' has been bringing local people together to knit squares to make blankets for Hospices, Cancer Centres and Safe Houses.

The project was the idea of Northwood resident, **Dyana Nathan**. Those who receive the blankets not only enjoy the colours and warmth but also the knowledge that each square is knitted with love and kindness.

No wonder they have been described as 'a hug in every square'!

Thanks to **Reagle Homecare** in Northwood the group has received an amazing donation of wool in a spectacular array of colours which is keeping them busy, knitting with purpose; turning the wool into 'happy squares' and then 'happy blankets'

Reagle Homecare also supported the **Cancer Research shop** in Northwood by purchasing all the wool through them so this really is a good news community story in every way.



GAMES AFTERNOONS

Time: 2.15pm to 4.15pm

Cost: £2 including refreshments

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

CREATIVE WRITING GROUP ON ZOOM

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

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.

For further information please contact the Church Office Telephone: **01923 829166** Email: stjohnsnorthwood@btconnect.com

Our Hospice team always go the extra mile – and for one patient the extra 5,000 miles.

Did you know that in **2024** your local hospice's beds cared for **303** people. Our nurses in 'Hospice@Home' attended to **202** people and our care team provided **27,466 hours** of care. On top of this our **bereavement team** supported **326** people. And much more.... Many people would love to return to their home country when time is short.

Shirley was just **36**, tragically dying of cancer and dearly wanted to return to her family in **Goa**. An enormous collaborative effort led by **Michael Sobell House**, with a **Go-Fund-Me page**, liaison with Air India and an amazing hospice in Goa, supported **Shirley** to get back to the country she loved on **Boxing Day**.

Her husband and children followed her back and were at **Shirley's bedside** for the next **3 weeks** until her peaceful death, in the country she loved.

We are proud of our brilliant team and want to thank them for all they do.



Please support the hospice;

Volunteer –via volunteer@harlingtonhospice.org or 020 8106 9207

Visit our shops

Buy a lottery ticket www.hospicelottery.org

Find out about events on social media

@Harlhospice / @michaelsobellhouse.

Your local Hospice is here to help:

Harlington Hospice has developed a fantastic resource to help answer questions anyone may have about death, dying and the services that are available.

This digital hub is called HPAL: www.hpal.medindex.co.uk. All content is developed and reviewed by our senior doctors so you know you can trust what you read.

Northwood & District Community Association (NADCA)

This friendly local Association runs a number of activities in Northwood, mainly held in local Church Halls. Activities include Fit after fifty and yoga ((with qualified instructors), table tennis, short mat bowls, badminton, rambling, walking for pleasure, and the ever popular card and board games sessions. Classes are mostly held weekly.

All are welcome, classes are reasonably priced, come for a free first session to try out an activity.

New members are always made welcome.

If you would like further information, contact me on 07748 066 622

Patti Dib



THE ARTS SOCIETY MOOR PARK
Afternoon Lecture with optional Afternoon Tea
Mayfield Village Hall, Heron Place, Colnebrook Drive Watford WD18 0LQ

Thursday 8th May Speaker: Pepe Martinez
Lecture starts 2.30pm
Afternoon Tea 3.45pm

Non-members welcome

Banky!
Fraud or Genius?

Lecture only: £12
Lecture + Afternoon Tea: £25

Book online: moorparkdfas.com/special-events

1st Northwood Scout Group
IT'S THE BIG ONE!

Grand Jumble Sale

Sat 31st May, 2pm

If you would like to be involved with collecting, sorting or selling, please contact Roxana by email: roxana.peters@virginmedia.com or call 07732 011 925

The Scouting Centre
87 Northwood Way HA6 1RT

Third Age - The Time of Your Life ?

So, what is the "Third Age" ?

Modern convention defines four ages of people -

1st age - from Birth through Education

2nd age - Working and Raising a Family

3rd age - **No Longer Working, Fairly fit and Independent**

4th age - No Longer Working but Unwell and Dependent

u3a is for people of the 3rd age to meet others with similar interests and to stay active and involved.


Northwood and District u3a currently has over 700 local members, with some 70 different Groups ranging from Walking and Badminton to Knitting, Discussions and Chess so there is probably something to suit you.

Many of our Groups meet in Fairfield Church in Northwood Hills, and some smaller Groups meet in Members' homes.

Full details are on our website northwood.u3asite.uk and we hope you are interested in joining us.

Northwood & District **u3a**

Alan Lester
Vice Chairman
Northwood & District u3a



Conductor: Michael Cayton
presents



BEETHOVEN!

Mass in C & Choral Fantasia

Saturday, April 5, 19:30
Amersham Free Church (Woodside Rd, HP6 6AJ)
Tickets £18 on-line (£20 on the door), under-18s free
Details and Tickets: chilternchoir.org.uk

Northwood Classical Music Group

"I had no idea Holst had written other music just like that in the outer reaches of the Planets".

A thought generated during a recent presentation by our leader Alan Mills to the members of the NCMG. Alan was illustrating the similarities (and differences) in the musical styles of Holst and Vaughan Williams, two modern composers who were not just contemporaries but very good friends and walking companions who shared also an interest in traditional English folk tunes.

Even though, apparently, they each sought the other's views on their current work, the end results though equally memorable were mostly totally different. These two are the first subjects discussed under this term's theme, "Musical Pairings and Couplings". Later composers for comparison will range from Bach and Handel, through Chopin and Schumann, Verdi and Puccini, to Britten and Tippett, for example, discussing and listening to both their familiar and their lesser-known compositions.

Meetings take place at Northwood Methodist Church at 11.00 am on Tuesdays.
If you enjoy having the boundaries of your musical knowledge stretched, please contact Mike Paddy on 07568495584 for more information.



Northwood Craft Market

Free Admission

There is always a variety of beautiful crafts available at the **Craft Market**, all handmade by the stallholders. Crafts range from **fabric bags, art work, jewellery and soft toys**, to **greetings cards, candles & wax melts, knitting, home accessories**, and much more.

Crafts vary at each market and there's always something new to see. It's the ideal place to find some original **gift ideas** that you won't see in the shops.

The **Plant Stall** is always very popular with lots of plants at very reasonable prices.

Children can try some hands-on crafts to make something to take home and don't forget to take a break in the **church coffee shop** for tea or coffee and also sample the delicious homemade cakes they have to offer.

Have a look at our **website** and follow our **social media** pages for more information.

For more information, take a look at our website:
www.northwoodcraftmarket.co.uk
Like us on Facebook; Follow us on X @CraftNorthwood
Instagram @northwood_craftmarket
Email: northwoodcraftmarket@hotmail.co.uk



First Saturday of the month
5th April, 3rd May, 7th June, 5th July 2025
10am – 2pm
Methodist Church Hall
Oaklands Gate, Northwood HA6 3AA





The redevelopment of **Hillingdon Hospital** has been approved following a review of the **New Hospitals Programme**.

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Wes Streeting, announced that The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust will be in **wave 1** of the scheme, with construction of the new hospital expected between **2025 and 2030**.

The redevelopment will allow us to create a **state-of-the-art hospital** for the residents of Hillingdon, and beyond, which supports the very best in delivery of healthcare. A new **Hillingdon Hospital** will be a **digitally enhanced building** which is sustainable and fit for the future.

We want to thank our **staff, partners**, and the **local community** for their continued support and patience as we've worked tirelessly to reach this point. Your contributions and dedication have been invaluable. We will work with our partners across the **health and social care system** to improve the integration of care across the borough and beyond. This transformation will provide a better environment for both patients and staff, reducing energy consumption and operational costs.

Hillingdon Hospital will function as usual during the construction of the new hospital.

Lesley Watts, Chief Executive of the Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said:

"This is a significant milestone for our hospital and the community we serve. The redevelopment will allow us to create a modern, state-of-the-art facility designed to meet the needs of our patients, staff, and visitors for generations to come."

I want to thank our staff, partners, and the local community for their continued support and patience as we've worked tirelessly to reach this point. We will now begin the next phase of this journey, focusing on planning and construction and are committed to keeping everyone informed as we progress at every stage. This redevelopment is not just about bricks and mortar; it is about building a brighter future for healthcare in Hillingdon."

We are incredibly grateful to everyone from the Hillingdon community and beyond for your continued support. For more information visit: thh.nhs.uk/redevelopment-of-hillingdon-hospital

Emer Delaney
Director of Communications

★ Join Our Team of Volunteers! ★

We're seeking enthusiastic volunteers for our **Book Shop, Look-In Shop** (selling quality pre-loved clothing and seasonal items), and **Sweet Shop**. These friendly spaces raise vital funds for the **Comforts Fund**, enhancing the lives of patients and staff at **Mount Vernon Hospital**.

SWEET SHOP
COMFORTS FUND
Open Mon- Frid 9.30am – 3pm



For newspapers and magazines, greeting cards, gifts, toiletries, confectionery, crisps, sweets, cold drinks, ice-cream and more!

All proceeds go towards improving the lives of patients and staff here at Mount Vernon Hospital.

LOOK IN SHOP
COMFORTS FUND



Open Mon- Frid 11am – 3pm

A well-stocked shop selling quality preowned clothing, Brac a Brac and seasonal items.

All proceeds go towards improving the lives of patients and staff here at Mount Vernon Hospital.

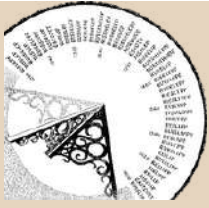
BOOK SHOP
COMFORTS FUND



Open Mon- Frid 11am – 3pm

Huge selection of quality second-hand books. All proceeds go towards improving the lives of patients and staff here at Mount Vernon Hospital.

If you'd like to help and make a real difference, please get in touch: ✉ natasha.thakkar@nhs.net



Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society

The Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society is coming to the end of a successful and well-attended season. At the final meeting on **22 April**, **Eleanor Bloom** will talk on the history of **Newgate Prison** and the **Old Bailey**. The topics have included those of local interest to Ruislip-Northwood, the London area, and to **history and archaeology** generally.

Particularly popular was **Denis Falvey's** talk in January on **Bletchley Park** (and its satellite code-breaking operation at Eastcote), attended by well over **100 people**.

The Society has two active research groups, one looking into **medieval times**, and the other focussing on the **19th** and **20th centuries**. Northwood is a particular topic for the coming year and will be covered in a new publication, in addition to our normal (award winning) annual journal.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

Speaker meetings are held from September to April on the third Tuesday of each month at 8pm at St Martins Church Hall, Ruislip. During the summer, there is a series of outings (see RNELHS.org.uk)

The 2025-26 programme commences on **16 September** with a talk on **London's Waterfront 1666 to 1800**.



Denis Falvey speaking on Bletchley Park at the January 2024 RNELHS meeting

For further information and future outings, please visit www.RNELHS.org.uk

Emmanuel is a fairly large Church of England parish church on the High Street in Northwood. It is attended by all ages and there are a wide range of activities and services.

You are invited to celebrate Easter at Emmanuel

Maundy Thursday Service: 17th April 8pm

Good Friday, 18th April:

- **Messy Good Friday:** 10:00am - 11:30am (Join us for a fun morning as a family to explore the Easter story and the difference it makes!
- **Hours by the Cross:** 1pm - 3pm (Focus on the cross with short reflections, music and times of silence.

Easter Sunday, 20th April:

- **Easter celebrations** - 10 am. All ages invited to celebrate



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

Web: www.ecn.org.uk

Tele: 01923 845200

email: ecnoffice@ecn.org.uk

Members, this is your newsletter!

I'm always eager to receive your **comments, articles**, and **suggestions** for topics you'd like us to cover in future issues. Your **feedback** is vital to ensure the newsletter remains relevant and enjoyable for everyone.

The next issue will be published in **July**, with the copy deadline set for **mid-June**. Please feel free to reach out—your input helps make this newsletter truly reflect our community.

Do get in touch.

editor@northwoodresidents.co.uk
Vik Chudasama

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES 2025

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

Messy Palm Saturday 12 April

10am in HTN Hall with crafts, activities and simple refreshments. Young people please bring your adults.

PALM SUNDAY 13 APRIL

Palm Sunday Procession – 10am from Northwood War Memorial joining the Parish Eucharist in HTN church.

MAUNDY THURSDAY 17 APRIL

Supper and Vigil, Meeting from 6pm for a 6.30pm start in HTN hall, simple supper followed by a solemn Vigil in HTN church,

GOOD FRIDAY 18 APRIL

Good Friday Walk of Witness, 10am from Northwood War Memorial, finishing in HTN Hall for Hot Cross Buns– in partnership with Northwood Methodist Church.

Three Hours, 12noon in HTN church – service of music, reflection and silence, finishing with extended communion just before 3pm.

EASTER SUNDAY 31 MARCH

NEW: Dawn Vigil Service - 5.30am outside in HTN courtyard and then in HTN church, with simple breakfast afterwards (croissants)

Easter Day Celebration Eucharist - 10am HTN church, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt.



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



Holy Trinity Primary School

Book your school tour today!

Call 01923 823529 to book your tour today.



We were delighted to **re-open** our 3 year-old Nursery in January and have now extended our offer to 2 year-olds! We have lots of excited children coming in each day and starting on their journey with us.

Your child will get to know the school; explore the mud kitchen and outdoor play area; get messy in the paint, sand and water trays; and make lots of new friends.

More spaces are available in the Nursery!

We offer full and half-day sessions and 15/30-hours provision for those who are eligible. If you would like to come and visit and go on a tour with the Head of School, please call 01923 822529 or visit www.holytrinitynorthwood.org

More spaces are available in the Nursery! We offer full and half-day sessions and 30-hours provision for those who are eligible.

If you would like to come and visit and go on a tour with the Head of School, please call **01923 822529** or visit www.holytrinitynorthwood.org



News From Eastbury Horticultural Society

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

Other events, partly in chronological order are:

Our **Spring Plant Sale** is on Saturday **7th June** at 10.00am at **11 Gatehill Road, HA6 3QF.**

We have organised **three** excellent days out for gardeners this summer.

On **14th May** we go to Upton House and Charlecote Park (between Banbury and Warwick; on **11th June** we visit Great Comp and Emmetts (near Sevenoaks). Our final visit is on **10th September** when we go to Packwood House and Baddesley Clinton, near Solihull.

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 visits, please contact **Sue Mansfield**, sueman145@gmail.com or 01923 829939.

Finally, our **Annual Show** will take place on Saturday 12th July at Eastbury Farm School.

Entry to our meetings is free but why not join for a mere **£7 per annum!**



We'll be visiting Great Comp in June

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

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.

Please help us raise much needed funds to make sure patients can benefit from leading edge scanning equipment which furthers medical research into cancer and other conditions.

We have some exciting events and fundraising activities planned for Spring / Summer 2025

• **Stepping Up For Cancer, Bank Holiday Monday 5 May, Chess Valley**

Start at Chenies Manor for a fantastic 10km circular walk through beautiful countryside with 3 shortcut options. Entry fee of £20 includes T-shirt and entry to Chenies Manor Tulip Gardens or £12 without T-shirt.

• **Charity Golf Day, Monday 9 June, Moor Park Golf Club**

A fun packed day on a wonderful golf course with competitions, prizes and auctions. Cost £150pp inc coffee, bacon roll, 18 holes of golf, 3 course meal. You can also sponsor a hole.

• **Quiz Night, Saturday 12th July, Greenfields Primary School Oxhey**

Teams of 6. £18 per person includes supper. Cash bar and raffle.

• **Challenge of a lifetime** You could choose from a trek, 10k run, marathon, cycle ride or even a skydive.

To find out more, get in touch today.

Further information or to book a place please go to our website www.stricklandscanner.org.uk/get-involved or scan QR code.

Website: www.stricklandscanner.org.uk
 Telephone: 01923 866315 Email: appeals@stricklandscanner.org.uk
 Just giving www.justgiving.com/pssc
Social media:
 Facebook, X, Instagram and LinkedIn



The South Oxhey Choir is a non audition community choir who welcome anyone from South Oxhey & Carpenders Park and the surrounding areas to come and join us on Tuesday evenings at Oxhey Wood School between 7pm and 8.30pm (doors open for tea and chat from 6.30pm).

Led by our musical director **Simon Wookey** rehearsals are relaxed and fun and we sing a whole rang of songs from Adele, Oasis and Coldplay to The Beach Boys and The Beatles, a few tunes from Musical Theatre and even a bit of Mozart.

Each year we do at least two local performances and in 2025 we are hoping to collaborate with other choirs and professionals for some one off workshops.

For more information please pop to our website www.southoxheychoir.co.uk or find us on Facebook and Instagram for regular updates. You can also email us on southoxheychoirs@gmail.com

You do not need to audition to be part The South Oxhey Choir and you do not need to be able to read music or have sung in a choir before - all you need is a love of singing!

Hillingdon School of Gymnastics 50th Anniversary Reunion



On **1st February 2025**, Hillingdon School of Gymnastics (HSG) celebrated **50 years** at a reunion held at Northwood Football Club. It was an amazing and memorable event attended by around **200** former gymnasts, coaches, and families from all disciplines, with some traveling from as far as **Dubai, Spain**, and all over **England**, as well as former gymnasts originally from **Zimbabwe** now living in the UK.

The oldest guest was **Norman Hibbert**, aged **92**, who trained at HSG in the 1970s and 80s.

During the evening, a special message was received from **Nadia Comaneci (1976 Olympic Champion)**, famous for scoring the first-ever perfect 10 at the **Olympic Games in Montreal**.

She said: *"I remember when Mike and Alison came to train with us in Romania all those years ago. I would like to congratulate the dedication of all those who have contributed to half a century of success for your club and the sport we all love so much."*



Alison Lockton represented Great Britain at the **1981 World Championships**, months later.

In **1972**, Councillor **John Beasley**, Mayor of Hillingdon, inspired by gymnast **Olga Korbut** at the **Munich Olympics**, embarked on a mission to build sports facilities and bring sporting excellence to **Hillingdon**. In **1974**, at the opening of South Ruislip Leisure Centre (SRLC), he discovered gymnasts coached by **Mike and Tania Swallow** at Hayes Youth Sports Centre.

Impressed, he asked 11-year-old gymnast **Tracey Stevens**, *"Who is your coach?"* She replied, *"Mike Swallow."* Turning immediately to the Director of Parks & Recreation, he declared, *"We need him."* Mike was appointed Borough Gymnastics Coach, and HSG was officially established on **2nd February 1975**. Shortly afterward, Tania became Assistant Borough Coach, and other volunteers soon joined to deliver a comprehensive gymnastics programme for boys and girls—from Pre-school to Recreational and Squad gymnastics.

HSG also welcomed prestigious guests and events, such as hosting the **USSR Display Team** rehearsals ahead of their performances at **Wembley Arena**, providing training space for adagio act **Norman and Sylvia Hibbert**, and coaching actor **Michael Crawford** and others for the musical *Barnum*. The creation of **'Big Top Stunts & Action'** followed, training stunt performers, providing stunt doubles, and supplying gymnastics equipment to the film industry.

After SRLC's closure in 1985, a new venue—famously known as **'The Dome'**—was built at Queensmead playing fields. Operating seven days a week, it became a Centre of Excellence for Women's and Men's Artistic Gymnastics under directors Mike and Tania Swallow, and Rhythmic Gymnastics under Head Coach **Heather Richards**. Nearly **50** international gymnasts and performers trained here. The centre also supported Chinese Martial Arts, headed by **Alasdair Monteith**, whose legacy continues in Sudbury with **Andy Harris** and **Jennifer Maunton-Gardiner**.



Artistic gymnasts traveled extensively across **Europe, Zimbabwe, Canada**, and the **USA**, including **Alaska** and **Hawaii**. In **2008**, The Dome was nominated as a training centre for the **2012 London Olympics**, but it was demolished in **2009** following legal issues.

With no permanent venue, the club became nomadic, renamed as **HSG Swallows**, and continued training at various venues including Botwell Green Leisure Centre and GSK Sports and Social Club (Ealing Sports Village).

Under Head Coach **Villy Antonova**, the Rhythmic Gymnastics team continued achieving national and international successes despite training in a small hall in Perivale, supported by retired gymnast **Rachel Ennis**. Former gymnast **Nicola Owen**, alongside **Tania**, sustained HSG's presence with a dedicated group of gymnasts competing at home and abroad.

Many former gymnasts pursued successful careers in **theatre, TV, film**, and **Bollywood**, as dancers, choreographers, and stunt performers. Despite losing their full-time venue, the remarkable reunion highlighted the stoic spirit and everlasting friendships formed through HSG's extraordinary journey.

Mike and Alison Swallow,
Northwood Residents' Association members

In January our charity was delighted to celebrate the **105th** birthday of our oldest member, **Beatrice**, known to us as Beatie.

This very special occasion coincided with the lunch club she regularly attends so her favourite **roast lamb meal** was provided and many members and volunteers came to celebrate with her. As well as her cards, **Beatie** was presented with a variety of small gifts and a huge cake.

After Scheme Manager **Angela Flux** had made a speech highlighting her exceptional character and resilience, Beatie blew out her candles and cut the cake herself. She then stood up and thanked everyone for making her day so special. Beatie has been a member of the charity for eleven years. She attended the **Friendship Group**, was until recently still taking part in seated exercise classes and comes to **Lunch Club** every week. She still lives independently and loves to chat to fellow members.



MHA Communities, which supports older people in the community, offers a wide variety of regular activities to enable older people locally to maintain their physical and mental wellbeing. Beatie can only attend activities because a volunteer brings her every week. We desperately need more volunteer drivers as well as befrienders for those who can't get out easily.

Outings are also a popular part of our programme and members and staff are now looking forward to the annual seaside holiday, which will be in Eastbourne this year. Places are still available; the dates are **14th-18th April**.

For more information please contact the office.

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



0208 909 2899

WWW.FORUMINSURANCE.COM

BUSINESS INSURANCE



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Working from Home
Liabilities & Indemnities



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Take-Aways
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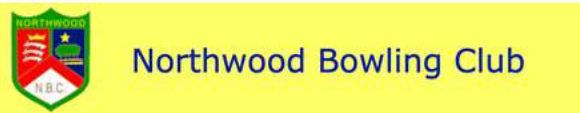
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Northwood Lawn Tennis Club in Pines Close, Northwood is pleased to announce that we have completed the replacement of our **floodlights** to **LED** and with our newly refurbished entrance, changing facilities and bar area we welcome any enquiries from people interested in playing tennis on our **four excellent outdoor courts** in a beautiful setting and a friendly atmosphere.

All ages / abilities welcome .

Please find more information about joining website: www.northwoodtennisclub.co.uk.
20 Pines Close, Northwood, HA6 3SJ



BOWLS BIG WEEKEND on Sunday May 25th.

At the **NORTHWOOD BOWLING CLUB**.
Come along for a **Free Taster Session from 11am thru to 5pm**.

We welcome people of all abilities, those who are new to the sport and those who have played before at other clubs.

We are also running Free Taster Sessions on the Sundays 4th, 11th and 18th of May from 10.30am to 12.30.

Just Come Along and the **Club Coaches** will get you Bowling. All you need are **flat soled shoes**.

Take Advantage of a **Discounted Membership** fee when you join.
Our Bowling Green and Club House is at the Northwood Recreation Ground, Chestnut Ave, HA6 1HR.

We are open **seven days a week**, make new friends and keep fit.



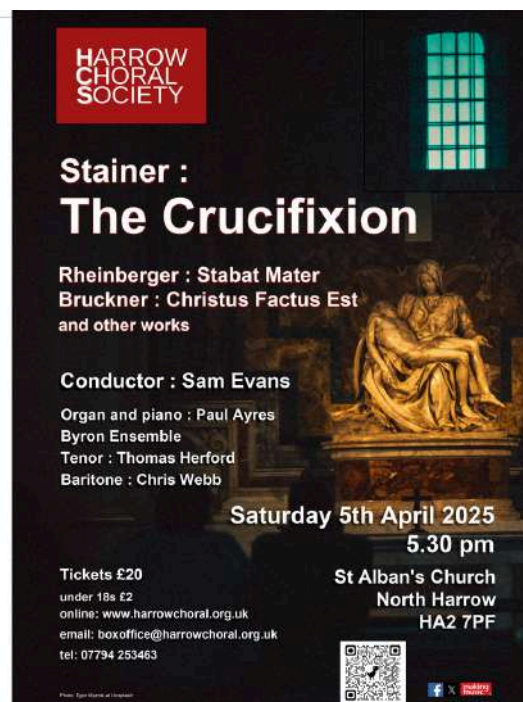
Easter Harmonies for Harrow Choral Society

Harrow Choral Society returns to **St. Albans Church** after its sell-out Christmas Celebration to perform Easter music by Romantic composers of the late nineteenth century on **Saturday 5 April, 2025 at 5:30 pm**.

Stainer's Crucifixion is a musical narration of the Passion of Christ, first performed in **1887** in **St Marylebone Church** in London, whilst **Joseph Rheinberger's Stabat Mater**, written at the same time as The Crucifixion, is another moving interpretation of the Easter story.

The **90 strong choir**, led by Music Director **Sam Evans**, will also perform **Bruckner's Christus Natus Est** and **John Sanders' setting of The Reproaches**, the latter often to be heard at Good Friday church services. They will be accompanied by composer and arranger **Paul Ayres** on piano and organ, and by the **Byron Ensemble**.

Saturday 5 April 2025 - 5:30pm
Tickets: £25, £2 for under 18s **Online: www.harrowchoral.org.uk**
Email: boxoffice@harrowchoral.org.uk Tel: 07794 253463
St. Alban's Church, North Harrow HA2 70G



Next Concert:
Will Todd's Mass in Blue - Saturday 5 July, Merchant Taylors' School, Sandy Lodge Lane, Northwood, HA6 2HT (nearest tube Moor Park).
www.harrowchoral.org.uk

**The Northwood Residents' Association 59th Annual General Meeting
will take place on**

Thursday 24th April 2025

at Northwood Methodist Church, Oaklands Gate, Northwood

at 8.00pm

AGENDA

1. **Welcome** and introduction from Tony Ellis, Chairman.
2. To receive the **Chairman's Report**.
3. **Guest speaker**. Brian Greenan, local toastmaster, will speak on the subject of **"The Founders of Northwood"**.
4. Vote of thanks by **Valerie Mellor**.
5. **To receive the Annual Accounts** for the year ending 31st December 2024.
6. To set the rate of subscription for the year
(Currently set at a minimum of £3 per household and £10 per business).
7. **To elect the Officers:** Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Independent Examiner; currently Tony Ellis, Miles Gillman, Jan Harding and Chris Rogers respectively, all of whom are willing to stand again.
8. **To elect an Executive Committee:** Members standing for re-election: Mr Paul Barker, Mr Andrew Egan, Mr Brian Geminder, Mr John King, Mr Vijay Kotecha, Ms Hoda Lacey, Mr Peter Lansdown, Mrs Sue Mansfield, Mrs Ros Plume, Mr Rajen Shah, Mr Trevor Sherling and Dr Neha Tanna.
Co-opted member standing for election: Vikram Chudasama
9. To appoint the President, **currently Mrs Valerie Mellor**.
10. **To appoint a Vice President**, Mr Chris Duffy is recommended by the retiring executive committee.
11. **David Simmonds CBE MP**
12. **Open Forum** with local councillors, Henry Higgins, Richard Lewis & Sgt Gareth Blackburn

All Northwood residents and businesses are invited to attend.

NOMINATIONS in writing for Officers and Members of the Executive Committee [other than those named in 7) and 8) above], with the written consent of the candidate, must reach the Chairman by 17th April 2025

The minutes of the 2024 AGM can be found on the NRA website: www.northwoodresidents.co.uk – type "AGM 2024" into the search box.

VOTING. Each Personal Member and Business Member has voting rights, however Associate Members i.e. those living in HA6 but not in the borough of Hillingdon, do not.

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The Summer newsletter will be published mid-July with copy deadline in late June.

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