

# *Ruislip* Residents' Association **TOWN CRIER**

March 2018

[www.ruislipresidents.org.uk](http://www.ruislipresidents.org.uk)



## **Introducing Ruislip's Flood Action Groups**

Working to stop this happening again...

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Founded 1919

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# Editorial

## *It's almost time for our telegram from HM The Queen!*

Believe it or not, next year Ruislip Residents' Association will mark its centenary. We were founded in 1919 as Ruislip Ratepayers' Association and have been working for the community of Ruislip ever since. That makes us one of the oldest residents' associations in the country. We've been trying to think of an appropriate way of marking this momentous anniversary, but so far we've not come up with any great ideas. So what do you think we should do? Suggestions gratefully received!

In this edition of the *Town Crier* we have an article introducing the local Flood Action Groups (FLAGS), made up of volunteers who are working to prevent or reduce future flooding incidents, working with the council and other agencies. If you live in the affected areas you could consider joining them.

And no editorial would be complete without a plea for more volunteers! Look at the vacancies on the right for ideas.

*Graham Bartram*

Graham Bartram, Editor Pro Tem

*Please note that the views expressed in articles in the Town Crier are those of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Ruislip Residents' Association.*

### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Vacant

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Brian Gunn

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### MEMBERSHIP

Vacant

### TRAFFIC & PARKING

Vacant

### SECRETARY

Patricia Wardle

### WEBSITE & IT

John Swindells

### PLANNING

Mike Hodge

### WOODLANDS

Graeme Shaw



### **FRIENDS OF EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDEN**

[www.eastcotehousegardens.weebly.com](http://www.eastcotehousegardens.weebly.com)

Eastcote House Volunteer Gardeners meet on the 1st Friday, 2nd Friday and 3rd Thursday of every month, at 9.30am.

Everyone welcome - tools and refreshments provided - no experience necessary.

Meet in the car park at Eastcote House Gardens.

Gardening dates: April 6th, 13th, 19th; May 4th, 11th, 17th; June 1st, 8th, 21st; July 6th, 13th, 19th; August 3rd, 10th, 16th.

Conservation dates: April 26th; May 24th; June 28th; July 26th; August 23rd.

The Gardens Café is now open daily from 8.30am (10am on Sunday) until 2.00pm.

### **THE ARTS SOCIETY, HILLINGDON**

Lecture Programme April-August 2018

Wednesdays at 2.00pm, Winston Churchill Hall - admission £7 to non-members

9 May	Two Great Female Artists: Gentileschi & Kaufmann	Pamela Halford
13 June	English Caricature: Hogarth to Punch	Andrew Davies
11 July	Frick Collection, NYC, and the Wallace & Knole Connection	Hilary Williams
8 August	Freemasonry and Women, Art and Beauty	Yasha Beresiner

### **RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD & EASTCOTE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Lecture Programme April-November 2018

Meetings held in St Martin's Church Hall, 8.15pm. Visitors welcome.

16 April	Architecture of the London Underground	Oliver Green Transport Author & Lecturer
17 September	The Story of Thames Watermen	Pat Hilbert
15 October	AGM & Old Houses of Uxbridge	Tony Mitchell
19 November	From Blackwall to Bishop Rock - Britain's historic lighthouses	Tom Nancollas

# Chairman's Message

RRA



Well better late than never, as the saying goes! It has taken a lot longer than we had hoped to sort out and update all our membership infor-

mation, but at last our new website is online and you can see it at:

<http://www.ruislipresidents.org.uk>

An important part of the new website is the ability to pay your membership subscription online, using a debit or credit card. Pages 22 and 23 go through the process step-by-step. It looks complicated, but it really isn't. We rely on your subscriptions to pay for the running of the association, including printing the *Town Crier*, so please take a few moments to try out the new system and pay this year's subscription - it's only £2.50!

As you may have seen in the local media it's been all change in the Metropolitan Police. The public counter at Uxbridge Police Station has closed, and instead we are meant to use the less accessible Hayes End Police Station. When a public consultation was held on this, the feeling of the meeting was overwhelmingly against the change, but the Mayor of London's MOPAC office ignored local

opinion. The main reason appears to have been that Uxbridge Police Station will sell for more than Hayes End Police Station. Ruislip Police Station was also due to close, but has been reprieved for now, thanks to our position in the north of the borough, and the volunteers who staff it.

In addition, from June this year there will no longer be a Hillingdon division of the Metropolitan Police - instead we are being merged with Ealing and Hounslow to form a new super division, with Chief Superintendant Paul Martin in charge. We have been assured that there will be no reduction in our local neighbourhood policing. Read Brian Gunn's report on page 17 for more about the changes.

HS2 have released some design proposals for the Colne Valley Viaduct, which will carry the railway across the River Colne, the Grand Union Canal and several lakes. You can download the document as a PDF from <http://hs2inhilligdon.commonplace.is>, (I don't know why it's an Icelandic website!) where you can find other news from HS2 Ltd.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our meeting in April (see the back page), but in the meantime if you see me on the High Street feel free to stop me for a chat! ♦

Graham Bartram, Chairman, ☎ 01895 673310

# Education News

*Susan Midgley*

## **PUPILS FROM SACRED HEART RC PRIMARY SCHOOL ENTERTAIN LOCAL CITIZENS**

Although Christmas seems a very long time ago, I thought readers would like to know about the good things local children have done recently to brighten the lives of others. Pupils from Sacred Heart were involved in two events in the period leading up to Christmas 2017.

Hillingdon branch of the Stroke Association held their first Christmas lunch for stroke survivors and carers at Ruislip Rugby Club on Tuesday, December 12th. The club generously provided a room free of charge for the event. The branch provides a support service for stroke survivors and carers in the borough by offering various social activities and home visits.

As Sacred Heart is within walking distance of the club, Miss T McManus, the Headteacher, was approached by the branch and asked whether pupils could sing for the visitors after lunch. She readily agreed and Mrs L Gee brought with her the school's keyboard so she could accompany and lead the singers.

First to perform were Year 6 pupils who were followed by children from Years 2 and 5. The children sang many of the well-known Christmas songs and carols, much to the delight of the audience, some of whom joined in.

This was an enjoyable experience both for the pupils and their audience. The pupils should have felt satisfied with the way they brightened up the afternoon for the local stroke survivors and carers.

The second event in which the pupils were involved was the annual Christmas Party for local senior citizens. The event is advertised on the school website and via emails to local parish offices.

On December 18th, Year 6 pupils hosted the event which took place in the school hall. Ms McManus was in reception to greet the guests and Year 6 pupils were stationed at the entrance to the hall to welcome their guests and show them to a table. The pupils were very attentive hosts who served everyone with tea, coffee and cakes provided by the Parents' Association. Some of the pupils said that it made

them happy to see their guests having a good time and it also gave them a sense of responsibility.

The entertainment was provided by pupils from Reception to Year 6 whose singing was delightful. Also Mrs Gee and two pupils played *We Wish You A Merry Christmas* on their flutes.

The senior citizens thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and it was heart-warming to see children happily giving something back to their community.

### **UXBRIDGE COLLEGE A LEVEL BEST "VALUE ADDED" IN LONDON**

Uxbridge College is the best college in London for *Value Added* at A level as well as being one of the best colleges in the UK, according to Government figures.

*Value Added* is a measure of how much improvement students make compared to their peers nationally. Sometimes described as "distance travelled", *Value Added* reflects how much "value" a school or college adds to its students by comparing students' achievement levels before they begin their A levels to their performance when they finish. The Department for Education (DfE) figures show that 16-18 year olds taking A levels are making better progress at Uxbridge College than any other Sixth Form College or Further Education College in Hillingdon, or the capital as a



**Sacred Heart pupils singing for Stroke Survivors at Ruislip Rugby Club**



**Mrs Gee and pupils playing their flutes at Sacred Heart RC Primary School**



**Ashuit Khanna and Vlad Bunys celebrate their A level results**



whole. The figures for 2017 measure student improvement which produces what are known as *Value Added* scores. The statistics rank the progress of students at all A level providers including colleges, school sixth forms and independent schools.

Amanda Washbrook, Head of Uxbridge College Sixth Form Centre said: "It's really important to us that we help every student achieve the very best they can while they are here with us, whether they achieved Cs or A\*s at GCSE. Increasingly, measures of progress such as the A level *Value Added* score are viewed as the best indicator of how well a school or college is doing for its students. It is good to see that the DfE data that has just been published reflects the hard work of all my staff and the excellent progress our A level students are making."

Congratulations to all the College's staff and students.

### **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A SCHOOL GOVERNOR?**

Governors for Schools are currently undertaking a recruitment drive to be governors in Hillingdon to address a current need for new governors in the local area. They provide a free outstanding recruitment and placement service for skilled and committed people to be governors and trustees of schools and academies. They work on a skills-based matching

service where they find candidates with the right skills and experience to meet the needs of the schools in order to best equip them make decisions that are right for them and best for their pupils/students. This ensures that the skills members of the community bring to the role have maximum impact for the schools where they are appointed as governors.

School governors have three core roles:

- i Setting the vision and strategic direction for the school.
- ii Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school.
- iii Ensuring financial probity and that the school is making the best use of its money.

This is an exciting opportunity to improve the quality of education for local children. Members of the community will make a valuable contribution to the educational outcomes of local schools, while at the same time learning new skills.

If you think you have relevant skills, would like more information or to volunteer, visit: <http://www.becomeagovernor.com>

### **DR LEWIS OWENS RUNS 100 MILES TO RAISE MONEY FOR CHARITY**

By the time this article is published Dr Lewis Owens, a Ruislip resident, will have completed his run from Ruislip to Can-



terbury to raise money for the **Prisoners' Education Trust (PET)**. This charity which was founded in 1989 has been providing access to broader learning opportunities for some of the poorest and under-privileged prisoners to enhance their chances of building a better life after their release.



**Dr Lewis Owens**

Dr Owens is the founder and managing director of Edmission UK, a London-based consultancy advising students and families globally on UK Higher Education, Music and The Arts. He is also a respected playwright and is currently writing his first novel *The Pentonville Experiment* which is set in Ruislip in 1842/3 and based on historical research. Lewis is also a trustee of the Autism Research Trust at Cambridge University and author of the *Archie's Way* children's e-books, all proceeds of which go to autism charities. He also volunteers at Pentonville Prison and Feltham Young Offenders Institute.

Dr Owens' motivation for his challenge stemmed from his interest in the history of his local church, St Martin's, Ruislip which is dedicated to St Martin of Tours who cared deeply for the plight of the poor and vulnerable. Easter seemed an appropriate time to undertake his 100 mile run which began on Friday, March 23rd from St Martin's, Ruislip and ended on Easter Sunday, April 1st at St Martin's Church, Canterbury.

Lewis' aim was to raise £10,000. At the time of writing (March 3rd) the total raised was just under £8,000 of which £6,125 had been donated to the Myosotis Trust, a charity founded by a lady from Ruislip, Carol Daniel, to improve the physical, spiritual and mental health of the poor, the sick and orphaned in Barlad, Eastern Romania. The remainder of the total raised will go to the Prisoners' Education Trust.

Readers who would like more information about Lewis' challenge should visit:

<http://www.stmartins-challenge.co.uk>

For anyone who would like to make a donation the page will be open for two weeks after the event.

Residents will be able to discover the final amount raised by visiting the Ruislip Residents' Association website and going to the Education page.

✉ [education@ruislipresidents.org.uk](mailto:education@ruislipresidents.org.uk) ♦

# Flood Action Groups

Residents of Ruislip have suffered from flooding over many years, most recently in June 2016 when a number of areas were badly affected. Many householders felt there was little help received at the time or subsequently from a number of agencies. Consequently, they decided to take some action themselves and three Flood Action Groups (FLAGS) were formed last year in order to have more communication and consultation with Hillingdon Council, Environment Agency, Thames Water and Affinity.

The three FLAGS are: North Ruislip FLAG (NRFLAG), covering residents of Broadwood and Park Avenue, and neighbouring streets; Cannon Brook FLAG (CBFLAG), covering residents along the Cannon Brook; and Brook Drive & Evelyn Avenue FLAG (BDEAFLAG), covering the two named roads. Their email addresses are given below each item:

## North Ruislip FLAG (NRFLAG)

The main flood risk for this group is from Park Wood, caused mainly by heavy summer deluges, or prolonged winter rain and melting snow.

After an initial setup period, they and the Council are making progress and, fol-

lowing a Natural Flood Management (NFM) funding grant from the Environment Agency, work is planned to start in Park Wood later this year. As Park Wood is an SSSI and NNR, any work has to be approved by Natural England.

The FLAG have conducted several walks in Park Wood with various agencies to show them the current situation. Work is under way to investigate the Park Wood network of drainage channels, which direct surface water towards the River Pinn. If anyone knows Park Wood well and would like to contribute their knowledge, the FLAG would be pleased to hear from them.

✉ [NRFLAG@ruislipresidents.org.uk](mailto:NRFLAG@ruislipresidents.org.uk)

## Cannon Brook FLAG (CBFLAG)

Four houses along Wallington Close flooded on the 23rd June 2016; some residents were out of their homes for over three months and it took almost a year to fully settle insurance claims and get houses back to a livable state.

The FLAG are working to secure funding and improvement works along the Cannon Brook, with assistance from various agencies. As it stands Cannon Brook is not in a position to cope with large down-

pours. Some residents have the added complication of being 'Riparian Owners' of Cannon Brook. The FLAG are seeking clarification of this issue and its repercussions, so residents have a better understanding.

✉ [CBFLAG@ruislipresidents.org.uk](mailto:CBFLAG@ruislipresidents.org.uk)

### Brook Drive & Evelyn Avenue FLAG (BDEAFLAG)

This FLAG has worked with Thames Water to start sorting out the local drainage - sewer pipes in Evelyn Avenue (which were previously unknown to Thames Water) have now been placed on their sewer mapping (and will therefore be maintained). Sewer pipes have been sur-

veyed and blockages cleared (including a considerable blockage in Evelyn Avenue which would have no doubt exacerbated the surface water flooding in June 2016). The local sewers have now been placed on an annual cleaning programme.

The FLAG has met with representatives of the Environment Agency and remains optimistic that plans for flood alleviation work which are due to be shared later in March will have the appropriate impact to stop flooding in the area.

✉ [BDEAFLAG@ruislipresidents.org.uk](mailto:BDEAFLAG@ruislipresidents.org.uk) ♦

## RUISLIP WOODS TRUST

### *Upcoming Spring events*

The Ruislip Woods Festival takes place on Sunday 13th May between Noon and 4.30pm at Bayhurst Wood, beside Breakspear Road North. Entry is free, as is car parking. See the poster for more details.

On Saturdays 12th and 19th May there will be Guided Bat Walks at 8.30pm (meet from 7.30pm), starting from the Woodland Centre, Ruislip Lido. There is a charge of £2 per adult (£1 per child). Numbers are limited to 50. If it has rained in the two hours before the walk the bats will not come out and the walk will be cancelled.

<http://www.ruislipwoodstrust.org.uk> ♦

**RUISLIP WOODS FESTIVAL**  
Sunday 13th May 12noon - 4.30pm

Find us NEAR  
**BAYHURST WOOD**  
Breakspear Road North UB96LZ

HILLINGDON  
RUISLIP WOODS TRUST

- Birds of Prey
- Quack Pack
- Woodland Crafts
- Ferret Racing
- Face Painting
- Chainsaw Carving
- Donkey Rides
- Children's Crafts

**FREE ENTRY  
AND CAR PARK**

# Conservation Concerns

*Paul Mitchell*

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS IN RUISLIP CONSERVATION AREAS AND AREAS OF SPECIAL LOCAL CHARACTER RECEIVED DURING THE SECOND HALF OF 2017**

I thought it would be of interest to give a summary of the planning applications received during the second half of last year – to help residents understand the scale and nature of the activity and the reasons that some applications have been refused by the Council.

In total, within the Ruislip Conservation Areas and Areas of Special Local Character, 44 planning applications were received during the period July to December 2017 (some of which were multiple related ones at the same site).

Of those 44 applications, 25 were approved, seven refused, one was withdrawn and the remaining 11 remained undecided as at end January 2018. Of the seven refused applications, two had gone to appeal as at end January 2018.

The locations of the applications were largely focused in and around the north-

ern end of the High Street, with 13 of them in the High Street, six in Bury Street, six in Ickenham Road and four in Sharps Lane.

The most common type of application was for an extension – with half of the 44 being of this type. Most of these were rear extensions – which tend to be less contentious. The second most common type of application was for loft or garage conversions, followed by “change of use” and signage.

The seven refused applications were of various types (ie. loft conversions, extensions, signage and other), but the common core reason for refusal was the impact on the character of the area. This was evident in the reasons for refusal quoted – whether it was due to the size and design of the extension or loft conversion or the visual intrusiveness of the proposed new signs. The refused applications are listed on the following two pages:



Address	Application	Reason for Refusal
<b>26A Ickenham Road</b>	<i>Householder Planning Consent application for first floor side extension to form a master bedroom</i>	The proposed first floor side extension, by reason of its siting in this open prominent position, size, scale, bulk and design would fail to appear as a subordinate addition and would thus fail to harmonise with the architectural composition of the original dwelling, would be detrimental to the character, appearance and visual amenities of the street scene and would fail to either preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the surrounding Ruislip Village Conservation Area.
<b>3-5 High Street (Zaza)</b>	<i>Advertisement Consent application for the implementation of one illuminated sign (incl Listed Building Consent)</i>	The proposed externally illuminated aluminium panel sign by reason of its position on the building, size, and overall appearance would appear visually intrusive and an incongruous addition to a simple elevation. The signs would therefore fail to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Ruislip Village Conservation Area and would be detrimental to the character and appearance of the existing and adjoining properties and the visual amenity of the street scene.
<b>3 King Edwards Road</b>	<i>Conversion of the loft space to habitable use to include two rear/side dormers</i>	The roof alteration/extensions, by reason of the size, scale, bulk, and design of the rear dormer would fail to harmonise with the architectural composition of the original detached dwelling-house, would be detrimental to the character of the Conservation Area and to the visual amenities of the locality.
<b>2 Sharps Lane</b>	<i>Variation of condition No.10 (Approved Plans) of Secretary of State's Appeal Decision ref: APP/R5510/D/17/3172956 dated 25/07/2017 (LBH ref: 12519/APP/2016/3412 dated 13/09/2016); Two storey side/rear extension and single storey side/rear extension</i>	The proposed two storey side/rear extension, by reason of its roof design would fail to harmonise with the architectural composition of the original dwelling, would be detrimental to the character, appearance and visual amenities of the street scene and would fail to either preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the surrounding Ruislip Village Conservation Area.

Continued on next page...

Address	Application	Reason for Refusal
<b>19 Sharps Lane</b>	<i>Application for a non-material amendment to planning permission Ref: 30003/APP/2015/2138 dated 18/02/2016 to allow for amendments to fenestration on elevations (Two-storey rear extension, conversion of roof space to habitable use to include a rear dormer with roof light and one side roof light involving part demolition of existing first floor side element with alterations to front and side elevations and new timber gate to front)</i>	The proposed plans indicate amendments which would result in a change in the design and appearance of the building and an increased size of the building in relation to the roof and cannot be considered as non-material as they represent a form of development beyond the scope of the planning approval. The proposed amendments would affect the character and appearance of the proposed building and the street scene and potentially impact on the amenity of the neighbouring properties. The potential impacts therefore need to be considered as part of a full planning application.
<b>34 Kingsend</b>	<i>Installation of internally illuminated fascia sign and replacement of drive hoarding and installation of 1 additional hoarding</i>	The proposed illuminated fascia and the two free standing signs by reason of their siting, overall size and means of illumination, would appear visually intrusive and out of keeping with the existing building and surrounding residential locality. The signs would therefore fail to ensure that the character and appearance of the Ruislip Village Conservation Area is preserved or enhanced and would be detrimental to the character and appearance of the existing and adjoining properties and the visual amenity of the street scene.
<b>34 Sharps Lane</b>	<i>First floor rear extension and installation of pitched roof to existing side extension</i>	The proposed rear extension, by reason of its size, scale, bulk, width and design, would fail to appear as a subordinate addition and would thus fail to harmonise with the architectural composition of the original dwelling and would fail to either preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the surrounding Ruislip Village Conservation Area.

More information is available via the RRA website under "Conservation". ♦

# Health Matters

*Joan Davis*

## REGIONAL ISSUES

**Shaping a Healthier Future:** Funding for this bold programme, initiated by NHS NW London, is still not agreed.



**Collaborative working across the eight NW London Clinical Commissioning Groups:** Each CCG remains legally responsible for its own health services but they are collaborating to provide similar services and they have appointed a shared Accountable Officer and a shared Chief Financial Officer. They are setting up a Joint Committee to meet in public ten times per year to agree NHS services in NW London.

**Royal Brompton threat:** NHS England's threat to end Royal Brompton's congenital heart services has been overcome by the Trust forming a partnership with Kings College Partners including Guy's and St Thomas' NHS FT, and South London and Maudsley NHS FT.

**Mount Vernon Cancer Centre threat:** NHS England's refusal to pay for MVCC's use of cyberknife for brain secondary cancers has been overcome by MVCC linking with University College London NHS FT so that it can work under that trust's mandate.

## HILLINGDON CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP (CCG)

**Community Dermatology Contract Extension:** The Concordia Health Limited contract has been extended for six months with the intention of a further extension from April 2018, hopefully at a reduced cost. However, referrals for suspected cancer continue to be directed straight to the Hillingdon Hospital service and will not be triaged by the community service.

**Finance:** Overall at end of November the CCG was on target to achieve its year to date surplus of £0.3m and forecasting achievement of its planned in-year surplus of £0.5m, but it needed to achieve 45% of its planned savings in the last four months of the financial year.

**Hillingdon's Better Care Fund:** The first performance report on delivery of the 2017/19 plans and the management of the pooled budget by Hillingdon Council showed that non-elective admissions to hospital of patients over 65 years had soared, and there was an increase in falls requiring hospital beds, but admissions from care homes was on track.

### **HILLINGDON HOSPITAL NHS FT**

#### **Visit of Secretary of State for Health:**

Jeremy Hunt and Boris Johnson (MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip) visited Hillingdon Hospital on 4th January. It was agreed that Hillingdon Hospital is amongst the top five hospitals nationally requiring redevelopment - the Trust's estate backlog is currently £230m.



**Jeremy Hunt, Boris Johnson, Richard Sumray and Shane de Garis**

**Car Parking:** There is no change in the tariffs at Hillingdon and Mount Vernon hospitals this year. The Trust's charges are actually lower than some other local NHS Trusts and are in the lower band nationally.

**Funding:** NHS Improvement has agreed a two year programme costing £8.14m, and £1.5m has been awarded for A&E expansion, making the funding for the year £9.64m, but demand for capital expenditure exceeds the allocation in every category.

**Finance:** At end of December the Trust's underlying deficit for the year was £16m - £18m, £1.3m behind plan.

### **CENTRAL & NORTH WEST LONDON NHS FT**

**Hillingdon mental health funding:** Although still low, Hillingdon's funding has improved and no longer causes its former concern.

#### **London adolescents who need mental health beds:**

There are currently no adolescent mental health beds in London so youngsters requiring such admittance are always placed either in private beds locally or in out of area NHS beds. The trust is trying to address this issue.

#### **The Community Voice "Hard of Hearing Campaign":**

RRA is a member of The Community Voice, which asks all local people to participate in its campaign to improve hearing facilities in surgeries, shops, restaurants and meeting rooms. Details from Joan Davis on ☎ 01895 636095. ♦





# Police Points

*Brian Gunn*

## POLICE ORGANISATION SHAKE-UP

I start off this edition's report on policing matters with a topic that has been, and still is, causing concern for our local residents – the thorny matter of the changes being brought about in the policing of our Area. Many of you will have heard of the changes which are due to be implemented over the next few months with a “go live” date of June 2018. Hopefully the information set out below will explain the changes and allay (at least some of) the fears regarding these changes. As you may know there have been some changes made already, with Uxbridge Police Station being closed as a public counter service operating station and that facility now being operated from Hayes. Nevertheless, the Police are keen to stress that they are committed to providing a proper service level delivery at local level. The changes have been brought about due to the financial constraints being placed on policing through the previous 32 Borough Command Units across London – all with differing size units, resources and issues. Some stations have closed down and will undoubtedly be sold off as the Met have to save some £325 million by 2021/2 and police officer lev-

els expected to fall even further. The aim of the reorganisation is to allow flexibility and better deliver the same core functions such as Neighbourhood policing, Emergency responses, CID, and safeguarding issues.

So – what are the changes and how will they impact on Ruislip residents?

First, the existing structure will change and be replaced by a tri-Borough system with Hillingdon merging with Ealing and Hounslow becoming our West Area Basic Command Unit. This is being led by Chief Superintendent Paul Martin, who will have taken up his new role by mid-March, and is assisted at HQ level by Superintendent Colin Wingrove. The Police have stated that increasing community confidence is a priority for them and they look to build on the success of the local Neighbourhood Boards and Panels. They will maintain the support at Ward level of having two dedicated Ward Officers and one PCSO in each Ward under the supervision of a Police Sergeant. These officers will work on local priorities which are generally set (and reviewed) at the Safer Neighbourhood Panel meetings which I

attend on behalf of the Association in the West Ruislip and Eastcote & East Ruislip Wards. Anti-social behaviour and licensing issues are to be addressed by management within a single team. It is also claimed that with an increase in calls to 999 or 101 systems more officers will be available for responding to these calls across Borough boundaries and response officers will be trained to investigate some of these reported crimes rather than handing them over to other officers – providing a better service to victims and witnesses. Additionally the Police will continue to deal with a greater proportion of crime online or by telephone giving residents choices as to how they contact them and thereby reducing demand on response officers.

As far as Ruislip Police Station is concerned – there were concerns as to whether it would remain open as an operational Station for reporting crime or for contacting the Police. Our concerns had been made known to senior Police Officers and there has been public consultation over local policing issues in the context of these proposals. Happily I can report that Ruislip Police Station will remain open for contact by the public. The front counter will be manned by volunteer staff between Mondays and Fridays 10am to 5pm and it is also anticipated that volunteer staff will also provide coverage on Saturdays between 10am to 1pm (dependent upon their personal availability), additionally there will be Police

Officer counter coverage on Wednesdays between 5-6pm and also on Saturdays between 2-3pm.

No doubt there will be wrinkles along the way to full implementation but you can rest assured that I and colleagues on the Safer Neighbourhood Boards and Panels will be keeping a close eye on how these plans work out in practice.

### **OTHER MATTERS**

There are a few other items that I want to report on. In my last report I mentioned anti social behaviour on the High Street in Ruislip. I met with a number of local residents who expressed concerns regarding alleged incidents of robberies committed against local young people by other, older youngsters. Following liaison with the Safer Neighbourhood team, then led by Sgt Peaks, a lot of investigative work followed and further meetings were held, also with the help and assistance of Cllr Philip Corthorne. Although there were genuine incidents reported, following investigation from our meetings, a number turned out to have occurred outside our Area. Some were unsupported by evidence ( mainly as the victims and parents were naturally fearful that there may be reprisals where the alleged offender was known to them) and some had simply not happened as alleged. We were assured that the police will provide any necessary support for victims and witnesses and will advise on the

measures that can be taken to address such fears, protect victims /witnesses and enable formal action to be taken against offenders. So a plea – do report such matters and not (as has happened in some cases) just post them on Facebook or Twitter. When such incidents occur they are regarded as particularly serious by the police and offenders should not be able to “get away with it” because of fear of reprisals – indeed any such conduct, even if only threatened, is a serious offence in itself.

Issues to be aware of – first there has been a lot of publicity about moped/scooter enabled crime in the London Area and there is a reported increase in moped/scooter theft – the police advise owners need to be particularly vigilant in safeguarding their vehicles to prevent such crimes. Second, the “broken wing mirror” scam is evident in our locality – where a motorist claims that you have damaged/broken his already broken wing mirror and demands cash for it to be repaired. It is a fraud – don’t fall for it - call the police to report it.

Lastly – as we have gone to print the Spring and Summer months will be upon us (thankfully!) - but I issue my yearly reminder – please be vigilant about not leaving windows/doors open or vehicles unlocked – “lock it or lose it” is the watchword - help keep Billy Burglar away!

If you would like to follow the Police SNT for your area and find out more of what is happening you can do this via their live website: <https://met.police.uk/your-area/hillingdon> followed by your area, ie. /[eastcote-and-east-ruislip](#), /[manor](#) or /[west-ruislip](#).

 [police@ruislipresidents.org.uk](mailto:police@ruislipresidents.org.uk)

## **SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS AND CONTACTS**

### **West Ruislip**

Sgt Samantha Quinn

PC Aran Johnstone

PC Darren Roe

PCSO Paul Brighton

 [westruislip.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:westruislip.snt@met.police.uk)

 020 8721 2547

### **Eastcote & East Ruislip**

Sgt David Peaks

PC Andrew Murphy

PC Satnam Kang

PCSO Gemma Robinson

 [eastcote.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:eastcote.snt@met.police.uk)

 020 8721 2548

### **Manor**

Sgt Alicia Botha

PC Ajay Shah

PC Andrew Phillips

PCSO Gurbinder Sandhu

 [manorward.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:manorward.snt@met.police.uk)

 020 8721 2549 ♦

# Planning Update

*Mike Hodge & John Williams*

## LAND FORMING PART OF 2 ARLINGTON DRIVE:

On adjoining land to that which features a listed building, proposals to construct two new detached two storey houses having been refused by local planners went to appeal on 23rd February. The appeal is likely to be decided by an exchange of written representations. Whilst it is difficult to predict the outcome, we are, as an Association, in favour of a dismissal of the appeal.



© Google StreetView

2 Arlington Drive

## LAND TO REAR OF 51-53 PEMBROKE ROAD:

An application to permit the construction of two 3-bed detached bungalows as a 'back garden' development having been refused by local planners has gone to appeal and will be decided on the basis of an exchange of written representations. We feel that a presumption against 'back garden' development should continue to be supported and await the outcome of the appeal with some interest.

## TELECOMS MAST, KING'S COLLEGE ROAD:

Controversially, this mast was erected after initially being refused by local planners. It is not clear whether any appeal was made or was successful and it is important that all decisions made are seen to be transparent.

## RUISLIP HIGH SCHOOL SIDMOUTH DRIVE:

A new three-storey linked building is proposed as the school has to allow for expansion and growth. The local authority are currently looking for another site in the Ruislip area for a new school to meet the increasing demand.

## COMMENTS ON THE NEW DRAFT LONDON PLAN

The London Plan is an important document, produced by the GLA, that influences all planning and infrastructure decisions in Greater London. RRA will be submitting the following comments on the draft plan, which can be found at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/new-london-plan>

Whilst recognising the challenges facing London over the next few years we gener-



ally support the submission already made by Hillingdon Council on the Draft Plan. In addition we wish to express our particular concerns about the detrimental effect the current proposals would have on our town in the following areas:

#### Chapter 4 - Housing

The threefold increase in the annual number of new homes proposed for the Borough and the increase in demand this would result in on transport, health, education services etc.

#### Chapter 7 - Heritage & Culture

Proposals to develop in these areas should respect the current planning requirements, eg. Conservation, Area of Special Local Character, etc., to ensure the local character is maintained.

#### Chapter 8 - Green Infrastructure and Natural Environment

The probable loss of Open Space to ensure an adequate supply of land for the new schools, health centres, etc. that would be required, should the increase in the number of new homes be adopted.

The removal of the presumption against back garden development. The current policy enhances the local environment and also provides a refuge for wildlife.

#### Chapter 10 - Transport

The proposed decrease in parking standards. Many residents of the outer Boroughs work in areas not easily accessed by public transport and the use of a car is essential to maintain their employment potential. ♦

# Houses of Parliament Visit

## *Vivien Alcorn*

I am pleased to announce another opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament, thanks to a Special Permit sent from the office of Nick Hurd MP.

The trip will take place on Monday, 30th April, travelling by tube, and a guided tour is included. 20 places are available - two per household - and will be reserved on a first come, first served basis. If you would like to be included, please contact me by email at [social@ruislipresidents.org.uk](mailto:social@ruislipresidents.org.uk) -

including a phone number (if possible a mobile one). Please state whether you would like one or two places reserved. Confirmation and further details will be sent once all places are allocated. NB: Please let me know if you unsuccessfully applied for a previous trip. ♦



# 2018 Online Subscriptions

It's taken longer than we had hoped, but at long last the RRA's membership system has been computerised. The delay was mainly due to the massive task of inputting all of last year's subscription forms and receipt book foils, but that has now been accomplished.

Now that we have all the records, we can now offer online subscription payment. This will make life easier, both for our members and our volunteers who have to process the payments and keep the records up-to-date. If you pay online, all that work is done automatically!

To use the new payment system, visit: <http://www.ruislipresidents.org.uk>, and choose 'Online Membership Payment' from the 'About Us' menu. This will take you to the payment system, which is on a secure part of our website (you should see a padlock symbol appear near the page's address or title).

The web page has instructions on it, but we'll take you through the process here:

The first thing to do is enter your email address and postcode. Your email address is needed to send you the payment receipt,

and the postcode is how we locate your home in our list of all the houses in Ruislip.

When you click 'Find My Address' a second line will appear on the form showing a drop-down menu followed by a button saying 'That's My Address'. When you click on the drop-down menu you will see all the homes that share your postcode. Choose your home and then click on the 'That's My Address' button.

The system will then tell you if you have already paid your 2018 subscription and give the option of adding a donation. As we failed to get the system online in time for 2017, it also offers you the option of paying your 2017 subscription, unless you already have. Below this is a grey box for entering your card details. We accept Visa, Mastercard or American Express. It needs your card number, the expiry date and the security code (the three digit code on the back of your card, or if you are using an Amex card the four digit code on the front). When you have entered the details click 'Pay with Card'. Don't worry, we don't

see or store your card details. That is all handled by Stripe.com, our card processor.

3. MEMBERSHIP FEE & OPTIONAL DONATION

Membership payment for 14 Bell View Manor 10 The Oaks is due this year (2018).

Membership Fee £2.50 for 1 year

☒ I wish to pay my 2017 membership (£2.50) as well.

Donation £

Total to pay £5.00

Enter your credit or debit card details: Card Number, Expiry Date, Security Code and Postcode (if requested).

Card number

MM / YY CVC

Pay with Card

If the payment goes through successfully you will then see your name as it appears in our records. If it's wrong then just type the correct name in the boxes and click 'Update My Details'. You may also opt-out of receiving any emails from RRA. We don't often send out emails, but in future the system will hopefully email you once a year to remind you to pay your subscription.

Please detach and return this form:

5. PAYMENT COMPLETED - UPDATE YOUR DETAILS IF NECESSARY

If you would like to update your name or email options you may do so here:

Title(s): Mr

Forenames(s): Graham

Surname(s): Bartram

Email subscriptions for RRA general emails: ☒

Update My Details

That's it - it takes a lot longer to explain it than to actually do it!

If you don't have online access, then you can still pay by filling in the form below and sending cash or cheque to the address on the form, or deliver it by hand. If you don't want to cut-up your *Town Crier* just copy the information onto a piece of paper and include it with your payment. ♦

To: Hon. Treasurer, Ruislip Residents' Association,  
Mail Boxes Etc. Box No. 231, 113 High Street, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 8JN

Please find enclosed £2.50 for the 2018 subscription and a donation of £ ..... giving a total of £ ..... which is paid by cash\*/cheque\* (\* please circle method chosen)

Cheques should be made payable to 'Ruislip Residents' Association'. Please do not send coins by post, and avoid using staples or sellotape. The cashing of your cheque is proof of its receipt.

Name(s): .....

Address: .....

.....

Post Code: .....

We are always looking for volunteers, so please supply your email address if you are interested in helping to deliver the *Town Crier*.

Email address: .....

# RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING



7.45pm, Thursday, 26th April 2018

Winston Churchill Hall

Pinn Way, Ruislip HA4 7QL

Doors open at 7.30pm

The talk will be by A/Superintendent Ricky Kandohla  
on the Metropolitan Police Tri-Borough Reorganisation  
followed by an Open Forum, with questions to a  
panel of RRA representatives. The meeting will end at 10pm

Wine, fruit juices and snacks will be served

Open Forum items to the Secretary by Thursday, 19th April 2018

The next meeting is on the 13th September 2018