



Ruislip Residents' Association

TOWN CRIER

The Voice of Ruislip Residents
May 2010



Recognize this blot on our Ruislip Townscape? P8



I'm a lumberjack and I'm OK...
13th Ruislip Woods Open Day, back cover

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Lewis Hawken

Ruislip Woods Open Day

Ruislip Residents' Association
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & OPEN FORUM
Monday 28th June 2010 at 7:45 pm
WINSTON CHURCHILL HALL
HAVE YOUR SAY ON LOCAL TOPICS

Agenda: Chairman's report
Treasurer's report
Election of officers
Proposed Lido Developments
Open Forum

(NB: the agenda may be subject to change)

This Annual General Meeting will again be largely an Open Forum, giving you the chance to give your views and air your concerns. We hope this will offer our Residents a further convenient opportunity to get involved.

A lively open forum is in prospect.
[Light refreshments will be available]

John Perkins stands down as Treasurer

The Association has been most fortunate to have John's guidance and dedication as Treasurer during the ten years since he retired from his profession as a chartered accountant. He is on the way to recovery from a broken ankle in February which necessitated four weeks in hospital. He intends to continue driving for the Michael Sobell Day Centre and assisting the British Stammering Association. John always looks forward to his overseas and UK holidays but fears that the walking he has enjoyed may now be curtailed.

We are pleased that John Hawley has agreed to take over as our new Treasurer.

Peter Lansdown, Chairman

Chairmanship

As I have recently moved to Northwood, I cannot offer myself for re-election as Chairman of the Association. I have very much enjoyed my two years in the position and have greatly appreciated the support I have had from every member of the committee.

Peter Lansdown

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OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE OF YOUR RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Officers		Committee	
Chairman:	Peter Lansdown	Peter O'Brien	Sue Seagroatt
Vice-Chairman:	Joan Davis	Elma Hutton	Mike Hodge
Treasurer:	John Hawley	Ian Cantley	Ivor John
Secretary:	Penny Rutherford	Keith Allsopp	John Williams
Chief Road Steward:	Brian Cowley	Martin Cartwright	vacancy
Deputy Ch. Rd. Stwd.	Mary George	vacancy	vacancy

Contact us:

Mrs Penny Rutherford, Honorary Secretary
 9 College Drive, Ruislip, HA4 8SD
 01895 636193
 email: feedback@ruislipresidents.org.uk
www.ruislipresidents.org.uk

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Manor Farm Medieval Festival, Sat 14th and Sun 15th August 2010

11 am – 4pm, Manor Farm Site, Ruislip, HA4 8BD

Following last year's record breaking MedFest Manor Farm has teamed up with the Duck Pond Markets to present the 2010 Medieval Festival and Banquet.

Main attractions include: Combat and Jousting on Horseback from Destrier, one of the UK's foremost re-enactment groups, living history in the medieval village, fun activities for families and children, a wide range of local produce and craft from the renowned Duck Pond Market. And then on Saturday evening, the famous Medieval Banquet will be held in the Great Barn.

Entry to the festival is free on both days. Tickets for the Medieval Banquet will be available in advance from the arts service box office. For more information call 01895 678800 or e-mail manorfarmsite@hillington.gov.uk

Got some sensible footwear? Why not get out and about with the
Ruislip and District Natural History Society

Saturday 19th June:

The **2010 annual bird race** against Hillingdon Natural History Society. All day fun event. Details from: John Edwards, 01494 870337

Wednesday 30th June:

Ruislip Woods for Butterflies and other Wildlife: is a joint meeting with the Herts & Middx. Branch of Butterfly Conservation. Details from: Steve Pash 01895 675582

Wednesday 14th July:

Glow-worms and Bats at Harefield Place. An evening walk around this local nature reserve...bring a torch! Details from: Judy Cross, 01895 631015

1st Sunday of every month: **Ruislip Local Nature Reserve workdays.**

Details from: Mark Morgan, 07903 529024

Interested in joining the Ruislip and District Natural History Society or just want more information?

www.ruislip-districtnhs.co.uk

CHAIRMAN'S ROUND-UP *(Peter Lansdown)*

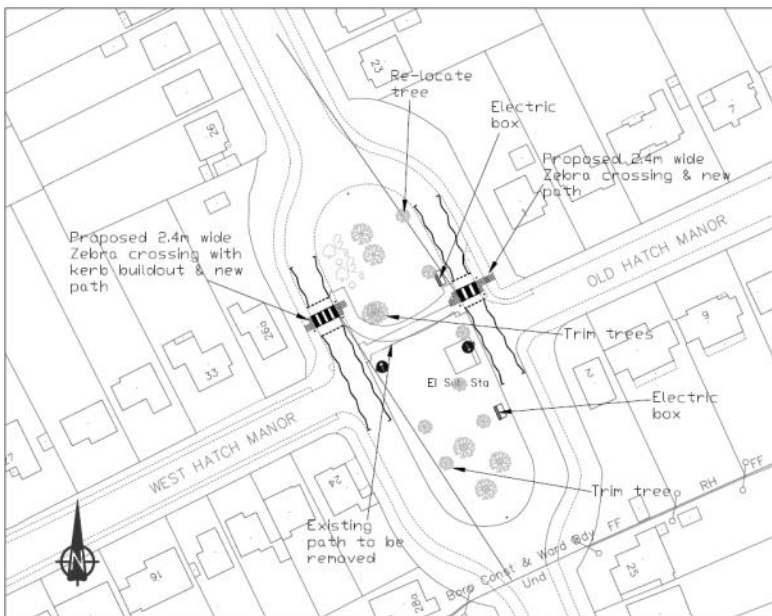
Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held as usual at Winston Churchill Hall on Monday, 28th June, starting at 7.45pm. Apart from the normal business, which we will try to keep as short as possible, I hope that we will be able to arrange a talk on Ruislip Lido and the developments that have been proposed. There will again be an "Open Forum" and it is expected that several issues will be raised. I look forward to seeing you.

Pedestrian Crossings, Windmill Hill

In the last issue of the Town Crier, it was suggested that pedestrian crossings may not offer the best solution to safety concerns.

But with the safety of the school children as a priority, your Residents' Association committee, at its first meeting at which detailed proposals could be discussed, agreed unanimously to support the proposal for crossings (see diagram). By law a full consultation must be carried out in the locality and this will happen. It was unfortunate that at the Petition Hearing the Council Cabinet member in charge did not invite anyone to speak, except the school, and then announced that the school will get its crossing, before consultation, as reported in the local press – where is Democracy? At the request of the Association committee, I have taken this up with the Council Leader.



Highgrove Pool Refurbishment (*Sue Seagroatt*)

Having heard Ray Puddifoot talk about plans to refurbish Highgrove Pool, your Association has clarified the position with Nicky McDermott, Leisure Facilities Manager LBH.

There are plans to refurbish the swimming pool aspect of the facility during 2010/11. This project is currently being developed in conjunction with the Council's Major Projects Team, Sport & Leisure and the Council's management operator, Greenwich Leisure Ltd. It is anticipated that the Project will include (subject to approval from the Cabinet as part of the Council's overall capital programme) the following:-

- Refurbish pool surrounds and tank.
- Modernise the pool changing rooms.
- Modernise reception.
- Make the building more integrated and accessible for all users.
- Replace outdated mechanical and electrical equipment.
- Replace Water Treatment Installation

Once further information and plans are available users will be consulted on the proposals'.

These improvements will allow two separate heating systems for the main pool and the teaching pool. This will enable the smaller pool to be heated to a higher temperature which will be much better suited to babies and toddlers.

Over a decade ago, the council's Asset Management Review identified that Highgrove Pool had "suffered from years of under investment". Unfortunately their improvement plans stalled after building on the gym extension and selling off the overflow car park. We are delighted that the long promised refurbishment of the pool itself and the pool changing rooms, is finally to be realised.

For more detail and progress on these plans see our web site www.ruislipresidents.org.uk.

Did You Know?

Dealing with Spam Emails

If you click an "unsubscribe" link in a spam email, that tells the spammer that your email address is live and you'll get even more! Best advice...just delete it.

...and if you are getting lots of junk email, Googling your email address will tell you where on the Internet it is available and you might just be able to get it removed.

Regular weekend closures continue to frustrate **Metropolitan Line** users, with no end in sight. To make matters worse, there are regular points and signal failures. Together with a committee member of Northwood Residents Association, I recently met Nick Hurd MP to discuss the situation. Nick Hurd and other MPs voiced their dissatisfaction to London Underground management, and pressed for improvements.

The Association is a member of the Federation of Metropolitan Line Users Committees, which is pressing for the Metropolitan Line signalling to be renewed. It is worn out and spare parts are scarce. But London Underground has not placed the contract for the new signalling yet, and estimates 2018 as a completion date.

New trains will be introduced on the Metropolitan Line later this year, although they will not all be delivered until 2015. They will have 256 fixed seats (compared with 448 fixed seats in the existing trains), plus 50 tip up seats. London Underground defends the reduction in seating by saying it will run more trains, but without new signalling it is very unlikely that this can be done, nor can the new trains run at the speeds for which they have been designed. The Mayor of London says that the reduction in seating isn't im-

portant, as all the seats in the existing trains are not used anyway. It seems that Boris is unfamiliar with the Underground in peak hours!

I will continue to do all that I can to press for a better service, in particular getting MPs and London Assembly members to press for the finance to be made available for new signalling. If any Metropolitan Line users wish to contact me, please do so on peterslp@aol.com.

Peter O'Brien

High Speed 2

Plans have recently been published for the new high speed rail line from London to Birmingham, which will run alongside the Chiltern Line up to West Ruislip. Detailed maps of the route are on the HS2 website (<http://www.hs2.org.uk/>).

Also to be found on the website are details of the "Exceptional Hardship Scheme" consultation on which closed on May 20th.

Your Association will be watching developments.

Peter O'Brien

WAITROSE DERELICTION *(Keith Allsopp)*

It is a regular disappointment to see the derelict eyesores, numbers 5 and 7 Kingsend, and the equally awful white hoardings that poorly obscure them. And doubly so when perfectly good, habitable and generally attractive family houses in Kingsend and elsewhere, have been demolished to make way for flats, whilst 5 and 7 remain empty and the site unused.

It appears many Ruislip residents are unaware that these crumbling ruins are owned by Waitrose. Yes, the caring, socially responsible, community hugging Waitrose.

In early 2009 Waitrose/John Lewis response to enquiries was that it acquired the land in 2005 "...to support a store extension ...". The proposals were "...ultimately abandoned..." and the firm intended to sell when "...market conditions improve". Nothing further was heard until April this year, more of which below.

The RRA has also investigated what options may be open to Hillingdon Council. To date it has been following "an informal approach". It is understood that formal options available to the council are essentially action under powers relating to statutory nuisance or an "Empty Dwelling Management Order". The latter of these options, we are advised, could entail significant costs to the Council and would not be undertaken lightly.

In more recent correspondence with Waitrose, it seems to have changed its mind about selling, stating that they "are currently in discussions with the Council regarding the future use of the site. I hope that we will be able to put this to positive use in the not too distant future". But when asked for their comments on this, Hillingdon Council's quite comprehensive statement was:



"The Council has taken the issue of the empty properties up with Waitrose/John Lewis for a period of time and been given a number of undertakings to make use of the site. We have been informed that Waitrose had passed the matter to their Planning Consultants to forward schemes for consideration by Hillingdon Council.

I regret that we have not been able to get a response from them on their progress to date on these undertakings."

So with whom at the Council are Waitrose having their "discussions"? Seems a not unreasonable question to ask.

Cont.../

Ruislip Lido

As is well known by now, in January Cllr. Puddifoot unveiled his development proposals for the Lido including an upgrade of the toilet facilities, increased car parking, the possible reintroduction of boating and even swimming. An 800 signature petition was raised objecting to the proposals. In order to clarify the areas of concern, the Council sent out a questionnaire to 10% of the signatories, asking recipients to indicate which of the 13 proposals they were either objecting to or in favour of, and to add comments. 24 replies were received, one objecting

and two in favour of everything. Of the remaining 21, in general terms, there was very little opposition to upgrading the toilets near the beach, improvements to the railway, relocating and upgrading the woodlands centre and improving site security. The main concerns were the introduction of boating, swimming and additional car parking.

The members of the Lido Management Advisory Group were invited to meet with Cllr. Puddifoot on the 30th March and we are waiting for a further meeting following the elections.

Cont.../Waitrose Dereliction

Ward Councillor, Philip Corthorne, liaising with Hillingdon Council, was informed that Waitrose responded to The Council in February indicating a planning application was imminent. Nothing further, it seems, has been forthcoming.

The Council statement went on to say that it "...will now move to a more formal enforcement approach to resolve this issue using powers in the Housing Acts and other legislation." So, could we finally see these eyesores dealt with?

Given that Waitrose has owned these properties for nearly 5 years and there

is no evident record of Waitrose having made a planning application for the properties, on the Hillingdon Council planning website, it appears they are in no hurry.

There are two other derelict or empty plots in Kingsend. What was once Kings End Avenue, a road planned to be of "high standard" or "imposing" houses leading to Great Kings End (see "A brief history of Kingsend, p11) should be better cared for than this and these plots should be put back to residential use in keeping with that original aim. We hope to see some progress with 5 & 7.

Shortly after our previous issue was published the government issued proposals for a **High Speed Rail** link between London and the West Midlands. The route is planned to follow the existing Chiltern Line railway and would cross our area between South Ruislip and West Ruislip. Full details are available on the government website www.dft.gov.uk. Should the new government adopt these proposals they will surely become the major planning issue to affect us in the coming months.

The proposed redevelopment of **Mill Works, Bury Street**, with 66 homes finally received approval in March. We were pleased that the developers and Council responded to the concerns of local residents and your Association, and reduced the number of homes from the 93 originally proposed last year. However there remains a concern that there is insufficient parking on site and this will result in an overspill onto adjacent residential streets.

Earlier this year we expressed concern to the Council about two applications which were felt to be overdevelopment of their sites. These are the large rear extension at **53 Pinn Way** and a 3 storey block of flats at **The Ferns, Withy Lane**. Both applications have been under consideration for several months and we expect a decision shortly.

In our previous issue we reported the Council's intention to remove a parcel of land from the Green Belt in **New Years Green Lane**. The Council have since assured us that, although this land is required for the improvements at the adjacent Civic Amenity Site, the works will include the creation of a new landscaped area alongside Harvil Road.

We often receive complaints from residents about what appears to be unauthorised building work in their neighbourhood. Often the work is being carried out within the rules known as **Permitted Development**. This allows homeowners to extend their property without the need to apply for planning permission. If residents have concerns that an owner may be infringing the rules then a useful first port of call is the government website www.planningportal.gov.uk where an online guide is available showing the limits of such works.

Unauthorised additions to the bungalow at **121 Herlwyn Avenue** were subject to an enforcement order to remove after retrospective planning permission was refused. Ultimately changes were made which meant that only the most intrusive extension had to be demolished which we understand has now been complied with.

cont.../

As the 19th tripped into the 20th century, Kingsend didn't exist. The area around White Bear roundabout was then known as "Great Kings End". The High Street extended to Wood Lane, both of which together with Ickenham Road formed the boundary to Wilkins Farm.

With the opening of the Metropolitan Railway extension to Uxbridge in 1904, plans were made to connect Ruislip Station with Great Kings End.

But it was 1907 that what we now know as Kingsend began to take shape. Frederick Herbert Mansford, an architect from London, built the first houses in Kingsend Avenue. Kings College (the land owners) required that houses should be constructed to a "high standard" or be "imposing". To comply and stay within his limited means, Mansford designed the semi-

detached houses at 13 (named "Sanctuary") and 15 ("Walden"). These had a single gate access to a semi-circular path with "front" entrances at the sides. The Mansford family lived in number 15 and let 13.

With the road completed and mains services connected and Kingsend Avenue saw 5 more houses built on the south side before WW1. By 1935 all but number 41 (now flats) and 39 had been built, several by Mansford. Number 9 became the entrance to Kingsend South Car Park, now Waitrose's rear entrance and, sadly, several have since fallen prey to flats' developers and others remain the subject of planning applications for more flats.

(Drawn from Articles by *Hugh Mansford* and *Colleen Cox* published in *The Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote History Society Journal* 1986)

...cont **Planning**

It is proposed to convert first and second floors of **69-77 Park Way**, presently office space, to 4 one bedroom and 4 two bedroom self contained flats. We have not received any objections to this application.

Land forming part of 325 Victoria Road-A planning application to construct 2 two storey, one bed terraced dwellings

and a single storey rear extension on this site was approved on 3rd March.

A planning appeal has been registered against refusal to develop **1 Chudleigh Way** with the addition of part 2 storey, part single storey side extension and single storey rear extension. The appeal will be decided on the basis of written representations.

Major changes in the role of London's Primary Care Trusts

NHs London has five sectors. Following on from the appointment of chief executives for these five sectors, the proposal is for sectors to recruit full time executives for the areas of strategy, finance, performance and contracting, clinical, communications and public health. A joint Committee of PCTs will continue to be the formal mechanism through which PCTs collaborate within each sector. The current agreement about the powers of JCPCTs is being revised, to clarify the decision-making powers that PCT Boards need to delegate to the JCPCTs. The new agreement will be finalised by the end of April in order that it can be presented to PCT Boards for endorsement no later than end of June 2010. Sector JCPCTs are expected to reduce membership to a maximum of 14 people.

These changes are being forced on PCTs and there is an obvious loss of local power and local decision making. Currently the JCPCTs do not hold Board Meetings in public, so there is a loss of ability to monitor changes that are planned and the evidence basis for proposals. We have already, through the Community Voice, raised our concerns and we will watch these developments very closely.

Polysystems

The eight PCTs in the NW London sector are required to draft plans for polysystems development and rollout, to be discussed at a sector-level meeting of communications leads on 4th May 2010. NHS Hillingdon Board papers note that NW London should learn lessons from elsewhere, in particular North East London Sector, which is among the early implementers of polysystems in the capital – where the public, local community leaders and elected representatives are now actively engaged in high profile local protests against planned or proposed acute sector reconfigurations – and the BMA has joined in with its “London on the Brink” campaign. Our PCT hopes to engage with local communities on its proposals through the local authority, LINK, GP participation groups, the local Youth Forum and Brunel University.

We will be pressing for public consultation on all proposals for change.

Care Quality Commission's Annual Health Check

NHs Hillingdon achieved “Fully met” on existing commitments and is on the threshold of “Good” for national priorities, which would achieve an overall rating of “Good” for quality of service – an improvement over last year. Targets that went from red to green during the year were immunisation, chlamydia screening and dentistry.

Hillingdon Hospital's Annual Plan.

The Trust submitted its final revised Annual Plan for 2010/11 to NHS London in April. This includes a number of aspirations including its plans to increase stroke beds from 16 to 24 and to incorporate additional maternity deliveries, in line with its hope to be a NW London maternity services provider. Its activity level of over 4,000 births per year with a supporting level 2 neonatal unit is expected to expand to manage more than 4,600 births per year by 2014/15.

The Trust has been asked to provide a Paediatric Oncology Shared Care Unit for West London, but the size and configuration are to be determined. There are plans to improve and/or expand a range of other services including Plastics, Ear-Nose-and-Throat, Endoscopy, Bowel Screening, Genito-Urinary Medicine and Trauma. The Trust continues to work closely with NHS Hillingdon and examples of collaborative work include plans for the Urgent Care Centre and the Referral Management Centre.

Hillingdon Hospital Trust's activity levels

New GP referrals remain very high, but the number of births remains lower than previously. A&E and elective surgery has continued to flatten, following introduction of the Urgent Care Centre and possibly too because many local GP surgeries are now opening for extended hours. Non-elective activity trend is high, which causes concern as both the Hospital and the PCT are trying to reduce the tendency for demand to escalate. The Trust faces capping of payment for non-elective activity in 2010/11 - for non-elective admissions above the 2008/2009 levels it will only receive 30% of the usual tariff

NHS Finances in Hillingdon

For the third year in a row our PCT, NHS Hillingdon, has achieved end of year financial break-even. It achieved a small surplus of £3,000 for 2009-2010. Following wipe-out of its historic debt by other London PCTs, it is no longer designated a challenged PCT. However, it has already had nearly £8m taken from this year's income to pay off its own last instalment of its old debt, so this year it is still short of funds.

In practical terms, because of that old debt, our PCT for many years has had less to spend on our health services than was spent on health services in other London Boroughs – hence local shortcomings in things like building maintenance and new health centres and services. Hillingdon Hospital Trust also squeaked home with an end of year surplus of £100,000 (£2.4m behind plan) – but breaking-even allows it to retain pride in its continuous record of achieving financial success.

Hillingdon Community Health Integration with CNWL

The provider arm of NHS Hillingdon, called Hillingdon Community Health, has had a very successful year. This organisation provides clinics in the community, district nurses, health visitors and other local community health services.

However, change is on the way and Hillingdon Community Health is now proposing integration with Central North West London Foundation Trust, which already provides mental health services in Hillingdon and many other London Boroughs. Separating commissioning and provision functions was forced upon all PCTs by Department of Health requirements. The erstwhile provider arms are too small to stand alone and so a subsequent merger of some kind was unavoidable. Hillingdon Hospital Trust had indicated interest in taking that role, but CNWL has been preferred. NHS London has given its approval in principle and formal approval is expected when final negotiations are completed.

However, there is a snag. CNWL is a Foundation Trust, which is not legally obliged to hold Board meetings in public, and it chooses not to do so. Ruislip Residents Association, as a member of The Community Voice, has long campaigned to force Foundation

Trusts to meet in public, in the same way as Parliament, Local Authorities and other NHS Trusts, all of whom must hold Board Meetings in public. Currently local watch-dogs find it almost impossible to find out what CNWL is planning for our mental health services. Soon, if the Hillingdon Community Health merger is approved, it will be equally impossible to monitor plans for other local services. We will continue to protest.

Did you know?

A national consultation is currently taking place on the Blue Badge scheme for disabled people?

'Phone 0207 944 5782 for consultation papers (free) or email: bbes@dft.gsi.gov.uk but act quickly, as responses must be received by 2nd July 2010.

Did you also know?

Anyone can attend NHS Board Meetings held in public.

The next meetings of NHS Hillingdon are on Tues. 29th June and Tues. 27th July, both at 2pm in Kirk House, High Street, Yiewsley: 01985 452047 to confirm time and place.

The next meetings of The Hillingdon Hospital Trust are on Wed. 30th June and Wed. 28th July at 2pm in the Board Room Mount Vernon Hospital: 01895 279656 to confirm details).

LEWIS HAWKEN 1931-2010

It is with great regret that I have to report the death of our Vice-President and former Chairman, Lewis Hawken on 9th April.

Born in Luton, Lewis was brought up in Ruislip and educated at Harrow County Grammar School for Boys and Lincoln College, Oxford, where he read history, gaining an MA. He had a distinguished career in Customs and Excise, working in areas such as the Cabinet Office, revenues and budget planning, publicity and briefing of Ministers for debates. He was recognised for his dedication and hard work by being awarded the Companionship of the Order of the Bath (CB) in 1983 which he received in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace. Lewis retired early, cutting short his career, to care for his beloved wife, Bridget who had terminal cancer.

In 1990 he was elected our Chairman, a post he was to hold for 18 years until May 2008. The expertise gained in the Civil Service was clearly demonstrated when he chaired our General Meetings, particularly when controversial matters were being discussed.



In committee he was considerate, always ensuring that differing views could be expressed before a decision had to be made. Lewis was disappointed that he, and the Association, were unable to withstand the surge of applications to build flats in Ruislip; nevertheless,

his knowledge of planning legislation helped to curb some of the worst excesses.

A keen sportsman in his youth, Lewis played rugby, cricket and tennis and ran the 400m. He took this to another level by encouraging all his children to be active and take part in sport.

Lewis was a long term member of the Marylebone Cricket Club and enjoyed watching Test and county cricket at Lord's from the prestigious Long Room in the Pavilion.

We are considering how the Association should recognise Lewis's contribution to the community of Ruislip.

Brian Cowley, President

13TH ANNUAL RUISLIP WOODS OPEN DAY

Yet again a wonderful event and congratulations are due to all who all those who made it possible.

Many hundreds of people braved an unseasonably cold spring day for what was undoubtedly the best open day yet.



"It's just all blow at these events..."



"Did I put my head or my body on back to front this morning?"



Wood's Rangers were surprised by the appearance of a previously unknown variety of giant mushroom.



Someone shouted "beer tent" and got trampled in the rush



...and even more surprised lose the tug-o-war to a handful of Ruislip under 10's.



John delighted exhausted parents by casting a "still and quiet" spell over their children...



...and then conjuring a hat out of a bird!



...while this foxy lady and her friends enthralled all ages with their tales of Reynard the Fox

Looking forward to next year's Ruislip Woods Open Day?
Most definitely!

Membership Subscriptions

If you have a subscription form inserted in your Town Crier, please use this to pay your subscription to our Treasurer. If not, your Road Steward will call to collect it.

Brian Cowley, Chief Road Steward