



Ruislip Residents' Association

# TOWN CRIER

The Voice of Ruislip Residents  
May 2013

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## RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**PRESIDENT:** Brian Cowley

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Peter Lansdown

Officers		Executive Committee Members	
Chairman	Joan Davis	Vivien Alcorn	Tessa Kershaw
Vice-Chairman	Mike Hodge	Lindsay Baxter	Susan Midgley
Treasurer	John Hawley	Jaqueline Bolton	John Swindells
Secretary	Pamela Edwards	Ian Cantley	John Williams
Chief Road Steward	Jack Greiller	Martin Cartwright	
Deputy Ch. Rd. Stwd.	Roy Parsons	Ivor John	
Responsibility	Committee Member	Responsibility	Committee Member
Community Activities	Jaqueline Bolton	Public Transport	Tessa Kershaw
Conservation	Lindsay Baxter	RAF Northolt Liaison	Ivor John
Education	Susan Midgley	Ruislip Lido	Peter Lansdown
Environment	Martin Cartwright	Ruislip Retail Area	Peter Lansdown
Health	Joan Davis	Social Activities	Vivien Alcorn
Manor Retail Area	Joan Davis	Traffic & Parking	Peter Lansdown
Membership	Brian Cowley	Website	John Swindells
Planning	Mike Hodge	Woodlands	Ian Cantley
Police Liaison	Ivor John		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Contact us:</b>  Mrs Pamela Edwards, Honorary Secretary  98 Eastcote Road, Ruislip HA4 8DT 01895 674148  secretary@ruislipresidents.org.uk  www.ruislipresidents.org.uk  Editor: Peter Lansdown towncrier@ruislipresidents.org.uk</p>			

## **RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**7.45 pm, Thursday, 20th June, 2013**

**at Winston Churchill Hall, Pinn Way, Ruislip**

*(Doors open at 7.30pm)*

### **Agenda**

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Guest speakers: Det. Chief Superintendent Steven Kershaw, Borough Commander, speaking on "Hillingdon Police Issues"
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2012
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts
6. Election of Chairman and Executive Committee 2013-2014
7. Open Forum - with questions to a panel of RRA representatives
8. Any other business
9. Close of business

Followed by informal discussions - light refreshments available

The meeting will end at 10pm

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Next Meeting: 7.45pm Thursday, 24th October 2013, Winston Churchill Hall  
(Agenda items to the secretary by Wednesday, 2nd October 2013)

### **EDITORIAL** *(Peter Lansdown)*

As you will note from our Chairman's Message on page 5, Joan Davis is relinquishing the post as from the AGM next month, although I am pleased that she will still be available for the Executive Committee and cover health for the RRA, while remaining one of our representatives on Community Voice. Now is the time to thank her for all that she has done for the RRA as Chairman for the last three years, which has been a very busy period.

Subject to the satisfactory completion of a formal consultation, a new Ruislip Manor Post Office will be located at 91 Victoria Road from the end of June. The new 'main style' PO will have banking facilities and will be under the same management as the existing sub Post Office at the junction with Cornwall Road.

The future for commercial flights from RAF Northolt is covered on page 13, with *(continued on page 14)*

# COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

## Lunchtime Concerts of Classical Music

## St. Martin's Church Hall, Ruislip

(at corner of High Street & Eastcote Road)

**Admission Free - Wednesdays in 2013 at 12.15 pm**

**May 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Julia Hsu: piano**

**June 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Haruko Seki: piano**

September 25<sup>th</sup>

**Ashley Fripp: piano**

October 30<sup>th</sup>

**Ben Schoeman: piano**

*These concerts last about one hour. Retiring collection after each concert to defray expenses. Further information from the Parish Office, 01895 625456, Mondays to Fridays, 0930 to 1200.*

## FRIENDS OF EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDEN

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

- Eastcote House Volunteer Gardeners meet on the 1st Friday, 2nd Saturday and 3rd Thursday of every month, at 9.30 am (10.00 am on Saturdays)

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

Meet in the car park at Eastcote House Gardens.

Diary dates: May 16th

June 7th, 8th and 20th

July 5th, 13th and 18th

August 2nd, 10th and 15th

- Vintage Teas resumed on Sunday, 5th May, monthly. Make a date to come.
- June 16th, 11am-5pm, Midsummer Gardens - Classic Car Rally - Tug of War
- July 7th, 11am-4pm, Dog Show
- August 4th, 11am-4pm, Flower Arrangement
- September 22nd, 11am-4pm, London Open House Weekend

# Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society

# Lecture Programme 2013

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

16 September	Shaky Foundations: The Legendary Origins of some London Churches	John Clark - Emeritus Curator, Museum of London
21 October	Development of a Garrison Town: Windsor 1066 to the 19th Century	Brigitte Mitchell - Windsor Local History Group
18 November	A New Story of Hornsey	John Hinchelwood
16 December	Members Evening	

## **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE** *(Joan Davis)*

I am now in my last few weeks in the chair of this Association and my thoughts turn to thanks for all those who have given me their support.

We have a very strong Executive team, eighteen dedicated people who confront the wide ranging issues that concern local people. They have been my inspiration, strength and comfort.

Few members know how much goes on behind the scenes on their behalf; not only the conspicuous threats, such as the proposals for HS2 and for a hard surface hockey pitch on Kings College Fields, or the disfigurement of our High Street by unsightly signage on the main Ruislip Post Office, but also many unsung activities.

Executive members give many hours to productive but unglamorous work, such as liaison with other Hillingdon associations on police and council issues, and exchanges with residents' associations nationally on licensing and planning laws. Other members focus on preserving local treasures, our ancient woods, historic buildings, and much loved Lido, while some organise interesting visits for members, such as those to the Houses of Parliament and RAF Northolt. Others simply keep us informed on local issues and activities – the list is endless - public transport, schools, health services, parks and so on. An even less recognised group keeps our Association afloat, organising meetings, keeping accounts, collecting subscriptions, managing our website's complexities, editing this magazine and organising the distribution of 9,000 copies three times a year.

Recently we held an event for road stewards, the eyes and ears of the Association. Without them we could not exist, so it was a pleasure to meet and to thank them. One asked me to name which of our achievements pleases me most. The answer was easy – seeing the walls of Mount Vernon Hospital embellished by the art work of local children, hanging there in frames provided by this Association. It delights me that by this autumn Ruislip High School pupils will be joining the exhibitors.

There is so much to be proud of in this Association that it has been a great privilege to act as its chairman. I can only thank my colleagues for all their personal support for me in that office and for what they do for all our members.

Joan Davis  
Chairman  
Tel: 01895 636095

## FROM OUR MP FOR MANOR WARD - JOHN RANDALL

I can clearly remember the day in January 1965 when Sir Winston Churchill died. I was still a few months short of my tenth birthday, but I recall the sense of real grief that my mother and father expressed, as did many of their relations and friends. I felt somewhat bewildered as it was like a grandparent dying or an elderly and much loved member of the family. I remember watching the state funeral on television and, although I had been brought up knowing who he was and what he had done for us, I found out more on the days following his death.

The passing of Margaret Thatcher had a different feel inevitably, not just because it is now not far off fifty years later, but because clearly she was a different politician and, even in her death, provoked the gamut of emotions from adoration to hatred.

I can remember listening to the election in 1979 and thinking "Was it really possible for us to have a woman Prime Minister?" A sense of a new era in politics was palpable. I started full time employment months later and so for a very crucial time in my life she was the leader of the country. Years later, within minutes of her resignation, I can clearly remember talking to a young receptionist, at a hotel where Randalls was organising its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner, who could not really believe what she had heard, not because she was a dyed in the wool Conservative, but because she had grown up only knowing "Maggie" at the top.

I believe that the manner of her funeral was deserved and I was very pleased that, despite the dire warnings, the vast majority of British people, including those who despised her in life, respected the day that was for her family and many admirers. In fact it was very much like a family affair with people who had not seen each other for years meeting up and sharing memories. It was quintessentially British too, with the choice of hymns and a very apposite address by the Bishop of London.

Whatever one's thoughts on her premiership, she was a very important player in our national life. She made me feel proud to be British and gave us respect around the world. As someone who had spent a lot of time studying in the old Iron Curtain countries, I recognise that her willpower and steadfastness played a massive role in liberating those people from the oppression of communism.

If Churchill was like losing someone from my grandparents' generation, Mrs Thatcher was my parents' generation and any of their passing is sad. I am not sure that we will see their like again, but we have to come to terms with the fact that life carries on. However, my generation owes them all thanks for their service to our country.

## FROM OUR MP FOR WEST AND EAST RUISLIP WARDS - NICK HURD

It has been a particularly bleak winter, but at last spring is here. This is the time when many constituents will be spending more time in their gardens. Nothing can ruin that experience more than building work next door, especially if that development threatens your view or your light. It is tricky. An Englishman's home is his castle and of course we should have the freedom to make improvements. However in areas where people live close to each other, this must be done with sensitivity to neighbours and the character of the road. In my time as an MP, I have learnt that nothing creates more enmity in a street than a 'bad' extension.



This is where the planning system needs to arbitrate, but in a proportionate way. Big extensions require planning permission, but work below a certain threshold of volume can go through without permission as a Permitted Development. It is not a bad system, although open, in my experience, to some gaming by developers.

There has been a row recently in Parliament on some proposed changes to this system. The Government is understandably keen to get the economy going again. The construction industry is an important part of the economy and has been in the doldrums. So the Government proposed a relaxation of the planning rules and introduced new permitted development rights. These would have made it easier to build bigger extensions without permission. Predictably this has created real concern across London, and I took the opportunity to arrange a meeting with the Minister, so that Ray Puddifoot, John Randall and I could express the Hillingdon view.

I am pleased to say that Ministers have listened to the concerns raised surrounding the impact of the plans and are introducing a light-touch neighbourhood consultation scheme in response.

Under this scheme, those wishing to take advantage of the new permitted development rights for single-storey extensions must write to their local council with their plans, who will in turn inform neighbours, giving them an opportunity to raise objections. If there are no objections, the development may proceed, but if objections are raised the council will consider whether the development would have an unacceptable impact on surrounding neighbours.

*(continued on page 14)*

## HISTORY: SHOE BURIALS (*Eileen Bowl*t)

Why would anyone want to bury a shoe within the structure of a house? It seems a strange thing to do. Yet more than 900 examples of old shoes hidden in chimneys, buried under hearths or placed in roofs, have been found all over the British Isles and in much of Europe. The finds vary in date from the thirteenth century to 1935 and a few have turned up in the local area.

The purpose of the 'burials' seems to be to attract good luck to a house and its inhabitants or to ward off evil. Shoes are especially connected with fertility and in the not too distant past, cars carrying couples away on honeymoon, often had an old shoe attached to the back bumper.

The hearth has special significance as the heart of a house, the centre of sustaining warmth and food. Roofs provide protection from the elements. A few shoes found near windows and doors may have been to prevent evil spirits from entering the house. Rural people sometimes feared that witches might get into a house down the chimney.

Three shoe burials have been recorded in the Ruislip area within the last thirty years.

When a shop at the north end of the High Street (No 6), was being converted into an office for B. S. Hall, the Estate Agent, in the late 1970s, the workmen found a battered old shoe and put it in the window with a price tag on it, for a joke. It was on display during a weekend, when no one was at the shop and had disappeared by the Monday morning, probably into a skip. So nothing more was discovered about that particular shoe, neither its period nor the precise location where it was found.

The building dates from the sixteenth century, but the front portion was built on about 1840. The shoe might relate to that work, as the burials were often made during repairs or alterations to houses, rather than when they were first built.

There was a much more satisfactory and properly recorded find at Bury Farm, Bury Street, a few years later. The house was being stripped out and renovated for new owners in 1985. Bury Farm is medieval in origin and had been modernised sometime around 1600.

The 'buried' shoe was uncovered behind the lath and plaster wall of one of the upstairs rooms, near the chimney. It was sent to the Museum of London for expert examination. The leather shoe turned out to date from circa 1770 and to



## HISTORY: SHOE BURIALS *(cont.)*

have belonged to a woman. It had been worn and repaired over a long period, probably twenty years, and had a hole worn through at the toe.

Clearly the shoe had been hidden nearly 200 years after the rebuilding of the house. It must commemorate some other change to the house's structure. In fact the brick façade, covering the timber frame, marks yet another essay at modernisation, in the eighteenth century. Some initials, a name, John Spicer, and the date, 1776, can be seen scratched in the brickwork. Perhaps that was when the shoe, too old and worn to be much use, was buried to bring luck and a quiverful of children to those who lived there.

The third local example was the finding of a boot in 1988 in a Victorian house, 2 Hope Cottages on Breakspear Road, near the corner with Howletts Lane. It was in a recess at the back of the chimney. This boot may well have been placed in the chimney when the cottages were built in 1886. Like all the other finds, the boot was well worn and had a patch on the back. It was only seven and a quarter inches long and had probably belonged to a child.

Sometimes shoes have been buried along with dead chickens and other objects, seeming to hark back to a pagan idea of sacrifice, to pacify evil spirits. The only local find of this sort was at Swakeleys, where some bird skeletons were found, but then they may have simply become trapped in the chimney by accident.

However, the Museum of London has on display the dessicated remains of four chickens, a candlestick, a glass goblet and two odd old shoes, together with the plaited rush handle of a basket in which these offerings had been laid. Everything came from the sixteenth century Lauderdale House in Highgate and had been found in a recess beside the chimney on the upper floor.



## HIGH SPEED RAIL UPDATE *(Tessa Kershaw)*

**RRA General Meeting** Staff from HS2 Ltd were the guest speakers at our General Meeting on 20 February 2013 and residents were able to ask many questions. We hope that attendees found this direct contact with HS2 Ltd to be useful and/or interesting. A pdf copy of the HS2 Ltd presentation slides is available for download from our website under “HS2”, should anyone wish to study some of the plans, etc. in more detail. With regard to the question about the future of HOAC that a member of the audience raised, this is the official response which HS2 Ltd sent to us:

*“Current proposals show that HS2 will run through the Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre (HOAC), but the exact alignment, and exactly how much land will be needed, is not known for certain at this stage. We are in discussion with HOAC to ensure that all of the options for the Centre are properly explored.*

*Further information on the scheme in this area will be available once the current on-going Environmental Assessments are finished. HS2 Ltd will be consulting the community around Spring time on the draft Environmental Statement.*

**Heathrow Spur/Tunnel** At the most recent community forum (Monday 25 February 2013), the engineer for HS2 Ltd, in response to previous questions from the group, confirmed that it was fully technically feasible for any Heathrow Spur rail link/junction to be built within a tunnel. Whilst this potentially does allow for the practical possibility of the Ruislip tunnel to be extended further, HS2 Ltd has stated that the current proposed route (i.e. without the extra tunnel) would be the one put forward in the draft Environmental Statement for consultation. This mainly appeared to be down to the expected greater cost of building the Spur junction within a tunnel.

Due to the “imminent” environmental consultation, HS2 Ltd has currently stopped all future community forums. They have stated that the forums will be resumed after the consultation period has ended. At the time of going to press we had not yet heard when the environmental consultation would be starting: it had been due to start in “Spring/early Summer”.

**Tunnel for Northolt** On 23 April 2013 HS2 Ltd announced that it will be recommending that the proposed HS2 rail route should now be tunnelled between Old Oak Common and Northolt, rather than run on the surface. A study recommended that a tunnel would be the best option for this specific section of the route because a surface route would cause far more disruption to traffic, would cost as much or more than a tunnel, and would take 15 months longer to build. A surface route would also have greater design complexity, including the need to replace both spans of the Hanger Lane gyratory.

**Warrender Primary School** - Each year students from Year 5 at this school in Old Hatch Manor are challenged to investigate a local environment issue as part of their geography studies. This year they chose the restoration of Eastcote House Gardens. I was delighted to receive an invitation from headteacher, Mr. Lake, to attend the report of their research, which they presented to the Mayor, Cllr. Michael Markham, together with Cllr. Dann, teachers and members of the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens (FEHG) on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

I was most impressed with the depth of their research, the professionalism of their presentation, and the articulate and confident manner in which the students spoke. The children had visited the gardens, sent questionnaires to their peers, parents, local primary school teachers and friends to collect suggestions for improving the green space off High Road, Eastcote. The main ideas put forward that would make the area more attractive to visitors included the building of toilets, a cafe, an information centre, a nature trail, benches and shelters.

FEHG are working with Hillingdon Council to raise money to restore the listed Grade II buildings and gardens. Money for the £1.5million project is being sought from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The bid, which was submitted at the end of February, included all the research of the Warrender students. The result of the bid will be known some time in June.

Although not actually in Ruislip, the Gardens are close enough for residents to visit and would, with the suggested improvements, be a valuable resource for local primary school teachers to bring to life the rich history of our area.

**Ruislip High School** - Not only is the GCSE art work of students being displayed at Mount Vernon Hospital later this year (as reported in the last issue of the *Town Crier*), but in April students aged 12 to 14 will show their work at the Royal Society of Arts to some important businessmen and women, some from London hotels. Students have been working closely with Venezuelan artist Marcela Teran to produce art inspired by the world of work. We may see some of this work adorning the walls of the hotels! Congratulations to the students and Mr. Simon Lordan, Head of Art, who won the chance to take part in the project through entering a competition.

## **RAF NORTHOLT - CRANES** *(Pete Soanes)*

The Air Navigation Order (UK Law) requires that individuals, companies and contractors who require to operate cranes and lifting equipment within 6 kilometres of an aerodrome boundary and at heights of more than 10 metres above ground level (AGL) or that of surrounding structures or trees, if higher, must receive prior permission from the aerodrome operator.

This means that if you are planning building work (such as an extension) that extends significantly above the surrounding structures such permission is required. However, this also means that if you are having a craned delivery to a building site, it may also need permission. When contacting the crane hire company, please explain to them that you are close to RAF Northolt Aerodrome and that this needs to be taken into consideration. You cannot wait until the day before to do this as 28 days notice of such activity is required. Why? Because there are a number of complex calculations that are needed to agree such activity and also a plan has to be put in if there are issues with the airfield. Do not assume we will agree to your plan straight-away. If you are likely to affect aircraft then this will not be so easy.

Once a plan of action has been agreed, a crane operating permit will be issued and pilots warned of the activity. The activity can only go ahead as agreed and not changed on a whim. Communication is the key and early contact will make everything easier.

To request crane activity in the vicinity of RAF Northolt, please contact:  
Squadron Leader Pete Soanes, [NOR-OPSATCO@mod.uk](mailto:NOR-OPSATCO@mod.uk)

### **Dambusters 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert**

**Performed by the RAF Central Band**

**Thursday 11th July 2013, 7.30pm**

**Winston Churchill Hall, Pinn Way, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 7QL**

**Refreshments available**

**Tickets cost £15 each call 01895 673200**

**or visit [www.compasstheatre.co.uk](http://www.compasstheatre.co.uk)**

**All proceeds will go to the RAF Benevolent Fund**

## RAF NORTHOLT FUTURE BRIEF *(Richard Willis)*

The Government has completed a review of various options to exploit the estate at RAF Northolt and has decided that it should remain an active military airfield. However, in light of the pressures on the public sector generally and the Defence budget in particular, it is important to generate more revenue from the existing estate. Accordingly, Ministers have directed that the existing self-imposed ceiling of 7,000 commercial movements per year is to be increased to 12,000, which is within the existing NATS (National Air Traffic Services) limits of 40 commercial movements per day. The increase is to be achieved gradually over the next 3 years. Military movements are expected to remain at around 5,500 per year.

Historically RAF Northolt operated with around 55,000 movements per year when London Airport from 1947-53. In recent years total movements peaked at 15,100 in 1989, but have been at around 12,500-13,000 in the last few years. The increase to 12,000 commercial movements would take the total to around 17,500 by 2016.

The increase is to be achieved within existing operating parameters and there is therefore no proposal to extend the existing opening hours and the daily number of commercial movements will remain within the existing 40 movements per day permitted under NATS guidelines. Due to airspace capacity issues, there is no likelihood of any further increase in commercial movements at RAF Northolt without a corresponding decrease elsewhere.

Commercial movements will continue to be restricted to quieter aircraft with capacity for no more than 30 passengers. The airfield will remain closed to commercial traffic overnight, and on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings.

An increase of 5,000 flight movements involves a maximum increase of around 2,500 vehicles per year using the West End Road (around 8 per day). The average load is 3 passengers arriving in a single vehicle. The annual average daily flow on the A4180, as published on the DfT website, is in excess of 12,000 cars/taxis (around 15,000 vehicles in all).

Business Aviation activity at RAF Northolt directly employs 80 civilian personnel, while providing business for local limousine services and catering. The increased activity will further increase employment opportunities.

Ministers have written to local Members of Parliament to inform them of the proposal to increase the number of commercial movements. This follows consultation with DfT, CAA and NATS. RAF Northolt is now beginning a process of discussing the proposal with local Councillors and Residents' Groups.

## FROM OUR MP FOR WEST AND EAST RUISLIP WARDS - NICK HURD

*(continued from page 7)*

This process will not involve a fee for householders and will ensure that sensible developments can avoid a drawn-out application process, whilst ensuring neighbours have a say on developments that affect them.

Just to be clear, Permitted Development only covers the planning aspects of the development and the work will still need to comply with other relevant requirements including Building Regulations, the common law Right to Light, the Party Wall Act, and those in relation to listed buildings.

If constituents would like to know more about the proposals, they should go to <https://www.gov.uk/government/topics/planning-and-building> or contact the Planning department at the Civic Centre. As always, if you have any comments or queries please feel free to contact me on [nick.hurd.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:nick.hurd.mp@parliament.uk) or write to Nick Hurd MP, House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA.

## EDITORIAL *(cont.)*

crane working requirements within 6km of airfields outlined on page 12. London's Air Ambulance is now hangered at Northolt over night with a significant reduction in fuel costs and improved maintenance facilities. It is operated as a charity; see page 16 to find out how you can help. Incidentally, the helicopter is mounted on skids, not wheels, and therefore has to land on the small platform shown in the photo on the front page, to be transferred into the hanger – a delicate operation.

After a further successful visit to RAF Northolt on Wednesday, 20th March, it has proved possible to arrange another in November. Again this visit is already heavily oversubscribed, and I will be working through the names in order of date application. When the visitor list is finalised, I will make contact with those fortunate to be on it and obtain details for security purposes. If there is anyone who would like to join the waiting list, maximum of two people per household membership of the RRA, let us know by email: [towncrier@ruislipresidents.org.uk](mailto:towncrier@ruislipresidents.org.uk).

Further visits to the Houses of Parliament took place March and April. Details of future arrangements, including visits to Big Ben, can be found on page 22, with photos on the back page.

## FROM OUR WARD COUNCILLORS *(John Riley)*

**Eastcote and East Ruislip Ward** – Catherine Dann, David Payne, Bruce Baker

**Manor Ward** – Douglas Mills, Michael Markham, Susan O'Brien

**West Ruislip Ward** – Philip Corthorne, Brian Crowe, John Riley

**London Air Ambulance** - On Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, Councillors, representatives from resident groups and other community representatives attended a meeting of the RAF Northolt Community Liaison Group. Following the formal meeting we were lucky to be taken to see the London Air Ambulance Helicopter which is now permanently based at Northolt over night. It was a greatly inspiring session where we were introduced to the new Chief Executive of the Charity, who gave an impromptu talk about the service, the charity and its work, explaining in detail that the primary function of the helicopter is to deliver the highest quality medical intervention to the scene of very serious trauma incidents and provide the very best medical attention at the scene before the move to hospital. All present were very impressed with this presentation and the information provided by one of the pilots present. The extent of the highly specialised equipment on board was extraordinary and the dedication, commitment and professionalism of the team was something that will stay with us for some time. The fact that the helicopter now has a home in Hillingdon at RAF Northolt inspired us to think of ways that the community at large and the Council might give assistance and support to this vital London-wide service. I hope to report to you in future editions of Town Crier how we are taking this opportunity forward.



**Road resurfacing** – Due to the provision by the Leadership of the Council of additional funding for road resurfacing, Councillors, with the help of residents, have been identifying roads in most need of resurfacing. The ability we have to identify particular roads and get them resurfaced is a great advantage. In March, Heathfield Rise in Ruislip was resurfaced in a very short time with, we hope, only minimal disruption to residents. Other roads have been resurfaced with the new equipment the Council now has. Ward Councillors are undertaking a review of the roads in our area and are requesting that they go on the list for resurfacing. Prudent and skilful financial management has meant that, unlike many other Local Authorities, Hillingdon is able to improve as well as maintain services to residents.

*(continued on page 22)*

## **LONDON'S AIR AMBULANCE MOVES TO RAF NORTHOLT** *(Eva Petrova)*

London's Air Ambulance has moved its overnight base from Denham to RAF Northolt in South Ruislip. The charity that delivers an advanced trauma team to critically injured people in London says the relocation has reduced flight time to and from its helipad at The Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel, thereby saving on fuel costs. London is the only world class capital city in the world with only one helicopter and the charity is currently looking to raise more than £2 million to buy a second aircraft.

Trauma is the commonest cause of death for people aged under 45, causing more lost years than cancer and cardiac arrest. London sees some of the highest rates of trauma in the world and the London's Air Ambulance advanced trauma team not only makes the difference between whether someone lives or dies, but also whether they recover to lead a relatively normal, healthy life.

Using a helicopter by day and rapid response cars by night, a London's Air Ambulance doctor and paramedic team can be at a patient's side within minutes, providing advanced life-saving medical interventions, such as open heart surgery, blood transfusion, and anaesthesia at the roadside. The charity is internationally renowned for clinical excellence and pioneering procedures that are adopted by other organisations.

Attending on average 2,000 missions a year, the charity relies heavily on donations from individuals and corporate partners. London currently only has one helicopter for airborne medical services and fundraising for a second aircraft is a key objective.

### **Graham Hodgkin, Chief Executive Officer of London's Air Ambulance, said:**

*"London's Air Ambulance is a charity relying on your support. Delivering highly specialist doctors and paramedics to the scene of critical injury, the service is an essential part of London's emergency infrastructure. Despite our extraordinary life saving work and prestigious reputation for medical excellence throughout the world, our charity remains relatively unknown within the city in which we operate. A stronger, more powerful relationship with all our supporters will be a key component of the current fundraising effort for a second helicopter."*

If everyone in London signed up to the London's Air Ambulance lottery at just £1 per week London's Air Ambulance could sustain itself for life.

Visit [www.londonsairambulance.co.uk/lottery](http://www.londonsairambulance.co.uk/lottery) to sign up.

To find out more about the charity, visit [www.londonsairambulance.co.uk](http://www.londonsairambulance.co.uk) or email [info@londonsairambulance.co.uk](mailto:info@londonsairambulance.co.uk). Alternatively, call 020 7220 5483.



## RUISLIP LIDO RAILWAY *(Stuart McLean)*

The Ruislip Lido Railway was closed during recent redevelopment work at the Lido. Some significant changes have been made, including a larger ticket office at Woody Bay and a tea room at Ruislip Lido station. With the building work going on, the normal service of one train every 40 minutes on running days at weekends and during school holidays has been scheduled. There is little possibility of running additional trains during busy times at present. For details of the times of the trains and the redevelopments go to our website: <http://www.ruislipidorailway.org/>.

No special events are planned at the moment, but once things settle down there will be a number. Please check the website for details.

**Volunteers needed** The railway is run entirely by volunteers. We are always looking for more to help. Volunteers work as often or little as they can. There are many roles to suit the wishes of each volunteer.

- **Ticket officer** Ticket officers issue tickets to passengers and are often the first person they meet. They help promote the railway and present a professional yet engaging face of the railway.
- **Guards and Drivers** Many ticket officers go on to become guards after training. As the guard is responsible for passenger safety, it is an important role and more than just punching tickets and waving flags. After a period, a guard can go on to learn to drive the locomotives after further training.
- **Workshop** The workshop maintain and service the locomotives and rolling stock on Wednesdays and Sundays. Anyone with some mechanical knowledge would be particularly welcome.
- **Café and Shop** The new tea room and shop will open later this year. We need people to help with these important sources of revenue.
- **Permanent Way** The Permanent Way team maintain the track. The railway is regularly praised for the high standard of the track and the team's work.
- **Young People** Young people between 11 and 17 can join and work in various roles under supervision. A number work on the Permanent Way and in the tea room and shop. It is a great addition to a CV and gives experience of working with the public. It also qualifies under the Community Service section of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

The railway is a great community of various ages. It is really very pleasing to see the faces of our visitors, especially the children, when they ride the train. We look forward to seeing you.

*(continued on page 22)*

## HEALTH MATTERS *(Joan Davis)*

There have been huge changes in the NHS nationally since our last edition and major local changes lie ahead too. For reference, the broad picture is noted here:

**Recent NHS news:** For recent news, see our website [www. ruislipresidents.org.uk](http://www.ruislipresidents.org.uk)

**National changes:** Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs), Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), and Local Involvement Networks (LINKs), were abolished on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.

- HealthWatch England and local Healthwatch inherited LINKs' duties, plus additional responsibilities for children and social care.
- Health and Wellbeing Boards within Local Authorities are now responsible for local NHS strategy.
- Many PCT duties have passed to Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).
- School Nursing is transferring to local authorities' control.
- Immunisation and screening are transferring to NHS England, which covers specialised commissioning, funding of GP services and CCGs.
- Health visiting will transfer to local authorities in 18 months time.
- Primary care infection control is the responsibility of NHS England. In care homes it is unclear whether this will become a local authority function.
- Public health responsibility transfers to local authorities.
- The Care Quality Commission is now the independent regulator of all health and social care services in England.

**North West London changes:** The "Shaping a Healthier Future" project led to acceptance of the preferred Option "A", but with some concessions.

- There will be five major hospitals with 24/7 A&Es, urgent care centres (UCCs), trauma, emergency surgery, intensive care, paediatric in-patients and maternity services – Chelsea & Westminster, Hillingdon, Northwick Park, St Mary's, West Middlesex. All require major investment to meet their roles.
- Central Middlesex will be a local hospital with 24/7 UCC, as will Ealing and Charing Cross hospitals, but they will have additional services. Ealing Council has referred to the Secretary of State its concerns about loss of services at Ealing Hospital and has applied for a judicial review
- Hammersmith will be both a local hospital with 24/7 UCC and a specialist hospital with an obstetric-led maternity unit and specialist cardiothoracic, colorectal, urology, transplantation, gynaecology and cancer services.
- St Mary's will incorporate the Western Eye Hospital and gain hyper acute stroke services from Charing Cross.

## HEALTH MATTERS *(cont.)*

- Out of hospital services will be developed over the period to 2017/2018.
- Implementation of the changes will take 5 years, with no closure of existing facilities until integration between NHS and Social Services has been developed. £190m will be invested in out of hospital care plus large sums to improve services at the five major hospitals. Mount Vernon Hospital is expected to be a hub for local community health services.

### **Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group**

**£15m debt inherited from 2012-13:** This new body must operate with a millstone of £15m debt, which it plans to wipe out over five years with efficiency savings.

**Practice Commissioning Improvement Plan:** The aim of the plan is to enable Hillingdon GP practices to manage their commissioning budgets effectively. It provides local practices with a robust clinically led referral management system, to reduce use of hospital services and to save money. Interventions include:

- CCG championed referral pathways – avoiding hospital referrals if possible
- Clinically led peer support and review of GP referrals
- An education programme for GP practices, to encourage use of new pathways
- A coaching programme for GP practices currently overspending

Various risks were identified including:

- Possible non co-operation of GPs
- Possible absence of local community services
- Ineffective coaching to persuade GPs to use new pathways
- Referrals within hospitals without GP review
- High patient expectations
- Costs of monitoring and analysing the plan's progress.

**Hillingdon CCG's key priorities for 2013-14:** These are:

- Enabling people to die in their preferred place of death
- Reducing emergency admissions from care homes by 10%
- Reducing by 10% the average length of stay for people aged over 65 admitted as a result of a fall.

## **PLANNING MATTERS** *(John Williams)*

### **Eastcote Hockey Club (EHC), Kings College Fields**

After due consideration of the application by EHC for a second synthetic pitch, Council officers had decided to recommend it should be refused. Their reasons included concerns about the adverse impact the development would have on the visual amenity of the area, the River Pinn corridor, the local ecology, and on the adjacent mature oak trees. Other concerns included potential risk of flooding, the car parking arrangements and a lack of contribution towards local services. Just one day before the application was due to be considered by the North Area Planning Committee, EHC withdrew it. In spite of this and the strong local opposition to their proposals, the Club chairman has since announced that they intend in due course to submit a revised application.

Friends of Pinn Meadows have since presented the Council with a petition, with over 5,000 signatures, requesting Kings College fields be given Village Green status. If successful this would protect the fields from any further development.

### **Local Development Framework**

This is probably better known as the Local Plan. Part One, which sets out the general strategy for planning in the Borough over the next 15 years, was adopted by the Council in November last year. The Council has now embarked on developing Part Two of the Plan. This will comprise draft proposals for detailed local Development Management Policies, a set of Site Specific Allocations and a Policies Map for the borough, which will eventually replace the existing Hillingdon Saved Unitary Development Plan and Proposals Map.

The policies and proposals to be contained in Part 2 will be required to be in general conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework, the London Plan and Part 1 of the Hillingdon Local Plan.

Residents are invited to submit representations as to what they think the document should contain. This is an opportunity to register any particular concerns they may have about the future development of their area. The proposed scope of the Council's content for Part 2 of the Hillingdon Local Plan can be found on the Council website ([www.hillingdon.gov.uk/planning](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/planning)). The consultation ends at 5.00pm on Friday 31 May 2013.

### **Permitted Development**

The government has recently announced plans to relax even further the rules relating to home extensions. In particular they were proposing that the maximum depth of a single storey rear extension could be increased from 3 metre to six metres for semi-detached houses, and from 4 metres to 8 metres for detached houses. This would have meant that a neighbour could build an extension of that size without the need to obtain planning consent or consult with adjoining owners. We were very concerned about the impact this could have on adjoining owners and conveyed our views to Nick Hurd MP. Apparently we were not

## **PLANNING MATTERS** *(John Williams - cont.)*

alone and the government is now proposing to amend its proposals to require a home owner proposing an extension to inform the local planning authority. They will then consult with adjoining owners who will have an opportunity to object. At the moment it is not quite clear how this will work and until further details are published it is difficult to know whether this is an acceptable compromise. For an illustration of the possible effect the change might have see back page

## **PLANNING MATTERS** *(Mike Hodge)*

51-53 PEMBROKE ROAD: We understand that the revised planning application to construct 2 x 4 bedroom detached bungalows with habitable roof-space, so called back garden development, has been refused by local planners. This decision is considered important as, once a precedent is set to approve this type of application, little can be done to defend future ones.

POST OFFICE 48 HIGH STREET: A formal planning application has finally been lodged basically requesting that the current external signage with NISA branding be permitted to remain. Both the Association and the Chamber of Commerce are strongly opposing such an outcome and have written to the Council accordingly. The current signage is entirely inappropriate, not in harmony with the local street scene and in a Conservation Area. The focus on commercial activities does not reflect the primary function as the main Post Office in Ruislip.

28/28a KINGSEND: This development entailed the erection of a three storey building to contain 7-two bedroom flats and 1-one bedroom flat when finally approved. As reported in the last issue of the Town Crier, a number of conditions of approval have not been adhered to, namely ---the actual roof profile, non provision of a bin store, alternative tree planting to agreed plan and differing road materials. The developer has sought to vary all of these conditions, which does raise the question of having them in the first place. The Council is expected to refer these matters to a full planning committee meeting for deliberation.

RUISLIP HIGH STREET: With the recent closure of Hinds the jewellers, Boots rationalisation (closing an outlet) and Swifts, the dry cleaners, relocating, there is a worrying trend of empty shops or some being rented by charitable enterprises. Clearly the general economic situation is starting to bite. We hope there is some light at the end of the tunnel!

## FROM OUR WARD COUNCILLORS *(cont.)*

**Local Referendum** – As part of our on-going commitment to improving residents' living conditions in the Borough, the Council is conducting a Local Referendum on the Third Runway at Heathrow. This Referendum will be held between the 21<sup>st</sup> April and the 16<sup>th</sup> May. Each registered voter has been sent a unique voting card. Residents may vote on line, by post, at libraries or at the Council Reception.

## RUISLIP LIDO RAILWAY *(cont.)*

### **Any old film/video of the railway?**

During 2013, we will be filming and producing a video about the railway, which will include a short history. The last time a video was made was about 11 years ago. We want to show how the railway has developed since the first train ran in 1945. To help tell the story, we are looking for old film/video footage of the Lido and the railway, prior to the 1990s, in whatever format. Footage of the original 1945 steam loco 'Prince Edward' in action would greatly be appreciated, but also general footage from the 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s. Do you have any footage that could be copied and included in the video? If so, please contact Matt by emailing:

**[marketing@ruislidlidorailway.org](mailto:marketing@ruislidlidorailway.org)**

We are happy to credit any used footage and also provide some complimentary tickets as a thank you.

## VISITS TO PARLIAMENT *(Vivien Alcorn)*

Two groups of residents visited the Houses of Parliament in March and April, courtesy of John Randall MP (see back page).

Meeting up at Ruislip Station and travelling by Underground to Westminster gave everyone plenty of time to chat, relax and make new friends. The tour itself gave a fascinating insight into the running of Parliament and included visits to the Queen's Robing Room, the Houses of Commons and Lords and the statue of Baroness Thatcher.

More trips have been requested by RRA for dates later in the year, although we have been warned that waiting lists are growing as more groups are requesting them. In addition, two visits to the Elizabeth Tower, better known as Big Ben, have been arranged for August 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

.If you would like to be included in any of these, please contact Vivien Alcorn:

**[valcorn@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:valcorn@blueyonder.co.uk)**

Please note: 2 places per household for residents who subscribe to RRA.

## RUISLIP LIDO RAILWAY (see page 17)



## Shoe Burials (see page 8) Bury (Shoe) Farm



## Poor's Field

The cattle should be back  
Please keep dogs under control





## Members Visits to the Houses of Parliament



March 2013



April 2013

**Permitted  
Development  
possible effects**

