



Ruislip Residents' Association

TOWN CRIER

The Voice of Ruislip Residents
May 2014

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Ruislip Manor –2014



Have you crossed these lines in Windmill hill?
(see page 16)

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RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT: Brian Cowley

VICE-PRESIDENTS: Joan Davis Peter Lansdown

Officers		Executive Committee Members	
Chairman	Graham Bartram	Vivien Alcorn	Susan Midgley
Vice-Chairman	Mike Hodge	Lindsay Baxter	John Swindells
Treasurer	John Hawley	Jaqueline Bolton	John Williams
Secretary	Pamela Edwards	Ian Cantley	
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	Graham Bartram
Conservation	Lindsay Baxter	RAF Northolt Liaison	Ivor John
Education	Susan Midgley	Ruislip Lido	Peter Lansdown
Environment	Martin Cartwright	Ruislip Retail Area	Graham Bartram
Health	Joan Davis	Social Activities	Vivien Alcorn
Manor Retail Area	Joan Davis	Traffic & Parking	Brian Cowley
Membership	Brian Cowley	Website	John Swindells
Planning	Mike Hodge	Woodlands	Ian Cantley
Police Liaison	Ivor John		
<p style="text-align: center;">Contact us: 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, Wednesday, 18th June 2014

Winston Churchill Hall, Pinn Way, Ruislip HA4 7QL

(Doors open at 7.30pm)

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Guest Speaker: Eileen Bowlt, "Ruislip Manor—Almost a Garden Suburb"
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2013
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts
Proposal to introduce a uniform subscription rate (*see page 17*)
6. Election of Chairman and Executive Committee 2014-2015
7. Open Forum - with questions to a panel of RRA representatives
8. Any other business
9. Close of business

Followed by informal discussions - wine, fruit juices and snacks will be served

The meeting will end at 10pm

Next Meeting: 7.45pm, Thursday, 23rd October 2014, Winston Churchill Hall
(Agenda items to the Secretary by Wednesday, 1st October 2014)

EDITORIAL (*Peter Lansdown*)

As I said in the February issue, our Chairman, Graham Bartram, has a particular interest in the HS2 project and he is still on the case - see page 10 for the latest details. Remember that both the Metropolitan and Piccadilly lines have closures scheduled for July and August. The full list, as we know it, is shown on page 11.

You will note from the pictures on the front cover and detail on page 16 that the problem of the non-roundabout in Windmill Hill has once again raised its head. Until fairly recently I lived a few yards away for at least 30 years and was not aware of any accidents in that time that were attributed to use as a roundabout - most problems were caused by vehicles approaching too fast, usually from the

(continued on page 17)

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 2014 at 12.15 pm

May 28th

June 25th

September 24th

October 29th

Valentin Schiedermaier: piano

Charlotte Ashton: flute/Quim Badia: piano

Ashley Fripp: piano

Mengyang Pan: 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)

Eastcote House Volunteer Gardeners meet on the 1st Friday, 2nd Saturday and 3rd & 4th Thursdays 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.

Gardening dates:

June 6th, 14th, 19th, 26th

August 1st, 8th, 21st, 28th

July 4th, 12th, 17th, 24th

September 5th, 13th, 18th, 25th

Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society Lecture Programme 2014

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

15 September	The Crossrail Archaeology Project	Jay Carver Crossrail Lead Archaeologist
20 October	A Tale of Two Villages Harmondsworth and Ruislip	Colin Bowlt RNELHS
17 November	Down in the Dumps: The Curse of the Suburban Waste Tips 1920-1950	Peter Hounsell London Historian and Author

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE *(Graham Bartram)*

As the saying goes, *Tempus Fugit*, and so it is almost a year since I was elected as Chairman of the association. It has certainly been an interesting year for me personally, and for the association. We have started looking at what sort of organization we should be to meet the needs of our residents in the 21st century, and how we can increase our membership, especially with more young members. The work is continuing, and I would welcome any suggestions from members as to what we could do better, or what we could do that we are not doing.



Planning issues continue to be a major part of our work, with the Post Office being a major problem, first with their appalling shop-front, then their decision to abandon the building, moving to another, much smaller, shop in the High Street, leading to the probable closure of our only consumer electronics shop.

At the end of July and beginning of August the Metropolitan line will not be running between Ruislip and Uxbridge, and for some weekends not at all. This is to allow TfL to replace some of the track and improve the drainage, all in preparation for the new signalling system which should allow more and faster trains on the route (*for details of closures, etc. see page 10*).

On April 1st, I took up my new appointment as a Governor of Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, one of the 21 public governors, four of whom specifically represent North Hillingdon. If you have a complaint about either Hillingdon or Mount Vernon Hospitals, the proper route is to contact PALS at Hillingdon (01895 279973) but if you have a comment or idea as to how we can improve things then please feel free to contact me about them. I've already had one suggestion from an RRA member for a better bus shelter at Mount Vernon Hospital.

HS2 never seems to go away. The Bill has passed its second reading in the Commons, so it is now on to the petitioning stage (*again see page 10*). I spoke to the Transport Secretary, Patrick McLoughlin, about HS2 in Ruislip at a recent Parliamentary event, but he didn't seem interested in discussing HS2! Your local councillors are also petitioning on behalf of their wards, and the council on behalf of the borough.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our AGM in June (*see page 3*), where Eileen Bowlt will be talking about some of Ruislip's history.

Graham Bartram -Chairman - 01895 673310

FROM OUR MP FOR MANOR WARD - SIR JOHN RANDALL

Later this year we will be commemorating the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War and there will be many events to mark this anniversary throughout the country and further afield. The terrible images of that conflict, particularly from the trenches of the Western Front, are still a stark reminder of why we should study history and learn lessons from the mistakes of the past. Although we think we live in a more enlightened time, I shudder when I hear some of the more hawkish elements of society advocating military action as a first resort.

The situation in Ukraine is very complex and incredibly volatile. It is also extremely dangerous and just one incident could spark a series of events that would be disastrous. I have always taken a keen interest in Russia having learnt Russian at school and continued with those studies, alongside my somewhat esoteric degree of Serbo-Croat. Having recently been elected as Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Russian Group, I now have an opportunity to learn more and hopefully instigate informed debate on this serious issue. Diplomacy is of course the only sane way forward.

I have often been told that many people find themselves busier in retirement than they were in their working life. While I've certainly not retired as an MP, standing down from my government post has not meant that I am sitting around with nothing to do. I wrote last time about the fight against modern day slavery and I am waiting to see what the Government response to our committee's recommendation on changes to the new Bill will be.

However, I have also become involved in trying to organise a dramatic production about one of the lesser known but fascinating characters of the First World War, Flora Sandes. She was the only British woman officially to serve as a soldier in that war. Initially a St. John Ambulance volunteer, she travelled to Serbia, where, after serving as a nurse there during a terrible typhus epidemic, she formally enrolled in the Serbian army. In 1915 she took part in the mass retreat of the Serbian forces, together with the King and Parliament, in winter through the Albanian mountains and ultimately to Corfu. During the long march, some 240,000 of the retreating Serbs died from the cold, starvation, disease and at the hands of Albanian irregulars. Her story is one that is hardly known in this country. Like so many, she started off with a sense of adventure before coming face to face with the harsh realities of conflict. I am sure that the coming months will unearth more stories of bravery and fortitude and ultimately the brutality of war. History has so much to teach us - we ignore it at our peril.

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

HS2 will not be decided in this Parliament and I honestly do not know if it will go ahead. However, we are now entering a crucial phase where we must win arguments for changes that will minimise the impact on the local area and residents, if it does. We have made some progress. There is now some compensation available for owners of homes closest to the proposed line - and I think we can improve it.



HS2 has responded to the outcry about HGVs using Ruislip High Street and Ladygate Lane - we are told that this will happen only under exceptional circumstances. They also at last recognise the need to look seriously at relocation options in order to save HOAC and the relevant Government Minister is visiting the site. However, as I made clear in my public response to the Environmental Statement, we do not yet have an adequate mitigation strategy for the area. HS2 had to change their plans in response to our challenge, but I think it was done in a rush. The traffic issue has certainly not been settled, not least given the existing pressure that we all know about on key routes and junctions at peak times, especially in Ickenham. I want to try to rule out large construction vehicles on Ruislip High Street and Ladygate Lane under any circumstances. I am also pushing HS2 to reconsider their plan to dump soil on open fields between Ickenham and Harefield, given that this strategy was put together in a hurry and the information is incomplete. It is important that HS2 cooperates fully with the community to explain proposals in more detail and be challenged on them.

However there is a more straightforward way of removing these problems and ensuring a fairer deal for the area.

As many of us have been arguing for some time now, the most effective and fair solution to avoid such damaging impacts is to extend the proposed tunnel, ideally to the other side of the Colne Valley. This would remove the local blight. In the process, I would like to reassure constituents that I will continue to lobby for this vigorously, and persist in my argument that the option to run a spur down to Heathrow should be reviewed and dropped. This would not only free the wider area from a second phase of blight and disruption, but it would also free up significant budget over the life of the project, thereby reducing the complexity and costs associated with the tunnel extension, that we will continue to seek.

I am also currently working with Residents' Associations to support constituents who want to make petitions against the HS2 Bill which is currently going through Parliament. More details can be found on my website.

HISTORY: FROM PARISH CONSTABLES TO METROPOLITAN POLICE

(Eileen Bowlt)

In times past constables carried heavy responsibilities in the local community. From medieval times they maintained 'Watch and Ward', that is keeping the area safe and later took on the apprehension and detention of suspected criminals, the upkeep of lock-ups and stocks, and the suppression of riots. They inspected alehouses and supervised any religious dissenters who failed to attend divine service. Constables were men with no special training and were unpaid, but received expenses for services rendered.

Two constables were appointed at the Ruislip Manor Court which was held in the hall (main room) of the house called Ruislip Court, but known to us as Manor Farm House. One looked after the Eastcote side of the parish and the other served Westcote, now known simply as Ruislip. Before the 19th century there were only a dozen or so houses in Northwood, so that portion of the parish was divided between the two men. There were no women constables. After appointment constables were sworn in before a Justice of the Peace. In 1690 John Wray and John Bennett were sworn in before Sir Thomas Franklin, who probably saw them at his house, Haydon Hall.

Local constables had the right to the support and help of members of the public, but their office was not always

popular and by-standers sometimes sympathised with those being apprehended. A Ruislip tailor called Henry Hare, was taken before Ralph Hawtrey of Eastcote House (another local Justice) in 1607 for '*hinderinge of the constable of punishing of a vagrant Rogue*'. The Vagrancy laws were quite strict and unless poor persons found begging, be it men, women or children, had a licence, they could be whipped from the parish.

In 1617 John Cogges, constable, was abused - probably sworn at - by Richard Godson, who was '*sett in the stocks at Ruislippe before the alehouse dore where he was drunk and did the abuse, to sit there from the beginning of morning prayer until thend of evening prayer upon Sunday and thence to be brought to the next Justices, and in the meantime to be respited for sureties to be of good behaviour*'. Two of his friends provided bail. The stocks appear to have been outside the inn, later known as The Old Bell, beside the entry to the church.

The Act of Settlement 1662, tried to ensure that poor people from another locality would not become a burden on the poor rates. People likely to need assistance were obliged to carry a certificate from their place of settlement, guaranteeing that they would be received back if necessary. Entitlement

HISTORY: FROM PARISH CONSTABLES TO METROPOLITAN POLICE

(continued)

included place of birth, apprenticeship within a parish, being a ratepayer or being a hired servant for a year and a day . Settlement claims led to endless disputes and law-suits between parishes. Constables were involved as escorts for the luckless individuals or families who were shunted from place to place.

Joshia Kempton had been born in Great Hornmead, Herts. He was a collar-maker who married Hannah Naylor of Ruislip at St Martin's in 1782. About the same time, he rented a shop in Hampstead, where he lived with his family for seven years. By 1792 he, Hannah and three children were in Ruislip and applying to the Overseers of the Poor for relief. The overseers did not see themselves as responsible and obtained a warrant to return them to Hampstead. The constable was paid 5s 6d and it cost 10s 6d to hire a cart and driver.

The Metropolitan Police District was extended to include Uxbridge in 1840 and by 1845 Mounted Police were living at Byeway Cottage, in Ickenham Road. The Police rented a more spacious early Victorian house on the High Street in 1869, which they were able to buy in 1873. The site of the house is now occupied by Ruislip Frames and the way round to the back where there were stables can still be seen. The Police Station had accommodation for a sergeant or inspector and his family, as well as a Charge Room, Parade Room and

cells. Other constables lived about the parish. In 1871 Police Sergeant Brumfield was at the Police Station, PC Hart lived at one of the Beddingfield Place cottages in West End Road, PC Bugden was at Ruislip Common, PC Neale was living near The Gate, Northwood and PC John Whiting was at a cottage in Field End, Eastcote. This meant that there was a police presence in every part of the area.

A large percentage of the cases dealt with by the police related to drunkenness and disorderly behaviour around the numerous local pubs. The landlord of The George, also ran a butcher's shop alongside. He had to leave the pub to serve customers in the shop and one day in 1899, returning to the bar caught a local family man with his hand in the till. The sentence for this offence was 21 days Hard Labour. At the same pub on another occasion PC Dewey had been called to eject a customer, and Harry Massey of Ruislip Common tried to prevent him. The constable overlooked this, but later returned to the pub off-duty, but in uniform, to have a drink. At the end of the evening Mr Ives of Ruislip Common offered the policeman a lift in his trap and seeing Harry Massey there invited him too. At the end of journey there was an attack on the constable, whose

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HS2

As mentioned in my Chairman's message, HS2 has completed its second reading in the Commons and has now moved to the petitioning stage, which closes on May 23. Ruislip Residents' Association has petitioned on behalf of our residents on a number of local matters, including extending the tunnel, traffic congestion, Hillingdon Outdoors Activity Centre and Ruislip Golf Course. Hillingdon Council are petitioning on many more points, including all those above. The local ward Councillors are also petitioning on behalf of each ward. Petitioning is quite a complex process, involving some very archaic language, very particular document requirements, twenty pounds and a personal visit to Parliament to deposit it! Then, if the committee considering the petitions think necessary, the petitioner has to appear before them to argue the case. Having made our petition, we now can only wait to see if we are called to give evidence.

On Saturday, 10th May, HS2 Ltd finally complied with a request from the Community Forum that was made almost at the very start. They organised a visit to see part of the Crossrail tunnelling (*see picture on page 23*).

The tunnel portal site was at Customs House next to the Royal Victoria Docks, where the Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) from Central London come out, so is different from our proposed tunnel portal in Ruislip where the TBMs will be going in, so all the spoil comes out at our end. It was amazing how close their portal was to housing. Basically a row of houses had no road any more, just the pavement and then the building site. Everything has to be carried into and out of the houses by hand. The contractors did say that when they were piling, a very noisy operation, they offered the people in the houses a free stay in a local hotel, to get away from the noise. This site only works 8am to 6pm, whereas ours will be 24hrs. The contractor did mention that the site is surrounded by sound level monitors, and if the noise from the site exceeds agreed levels then automatic messages are sent to the site managers and community liaison officers to inform them of the breach. Hopefully similar systems will be installed at West Ruislip to protect the residents of The Greenway.

The visit to the tunnelling site was a bit of an anti-climax. We took the DLR and a bus to a site near Mile End and stood directly over the TBM, but you could not feel or hear anything. The contractor assured us that the TBM was 26 metres directly beneath our feet and was digging at the time. So hopefully the people who have the tunnel going under their back gardens will not be troubled by noise or vibrations, but only time will tell.

DON'T FORGET!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 18th June

COME ALONG and JOIN US

GUEST SPEAKER - Eileen Bowlt

ASK YOUR BURNING QUESTIONS!
HS2 Heathrow Planning
Transport Traffic Parking

ELECT A NEW COMMITTEE!

(see page 3 for details)

PUBLIC TRANSPORT *(continued)*

Metropolitan and Piccadilly Lines Closures

At the end of July and beginning of August the Metropolitan line will not be running between Ruislip and Uxbridge, and for some weekends not at all. The Piccadilly line will be terminating at Rayners Lane. The full list of closures is:

Weekdays	Weekend	Metropolitan line	Piccadilly line
	19 - 20 Jul	Uxbridge to Wembley Park & Northwood	Uxbridge to Rayners Lane
21 - 25 Jul		Uxbridge to Ruislip	Uxbridge to Rayners Lane
	26 - 27 Jul	Uxbridge to Wembley Park & Northwood	Uxbridge to Rayners Lane
28 Jul - 1 Aug		Uxbridge to Ruislip	Uxbridge to Rayners Lane
	2 - 3 Aug	Uxbridge to Rayners Lane	Uxbridge to Rayners Lane
4 - 8 Aug		Uxbridge to Ruislip	Uxbridge to Rayners Lane
	9 - 10 Aug	Uxbridge to Rayners Lane	Uxbridge to Rayners Lane

HISTORY: FROM PARISH CONSTABLES TO METROPOLITAN POLICE

(continued from page 9)

Ruislip Police Station 1869-1963



eye was cut, and Alfred Lavender, who had also been at The George, helped Massey escape arrest. Eventually he was convicted of common assault by the evidence of several witnesses, including a gamekeeper and the landlord of The Six Bells, and fined 15 shillings. Such was life in Ruislip a relatively short time ago.

OUR WEBSITE *(Joan Davis)*

Have you looked at our website www.ruislippresidents.org.uk recently?

We try to keep it interesting and up to date. On most days there are at least minor changes to its contents.

Some pages are still being developed, so if you have bright ideas for improvements please let us know. We also welcome news to display there – so please tell us about local events, celebrations and plans.

To send us a direct email with suggestions or news for the website just click the envelope at the bottom of each page. Our team of contributors is always pleased to receive constructive comments.

EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDENS *(Lesley Crowcroft)*

Heritage Lottery Funding will support Archaeological Digs at Eastcote House Gardens annually 2014-2017.

The 2014 dig starts 28th June and the final day, which will be an open day, is Sunday July 13th.

There will be opportunities for members of the public to take part in the dig.

If you are interested please contact lesley.crowcroft@gmail.com

The regular gardening sessions continue on the 1st Friday, 2nd Saturday and 3rd & 4th Thursdays. Tools and refreshments are provided (*see page 4 for dates*).

The restoration and building works are due to start 1st August 2014. This means car parking will be restricted, as will access to the Walled Garden and other areas of the Gardens. Once a timetable for the works is known, it will be published on the EHG website, address above.

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND ELIZABETH TOWER *(Vivien Alcorn)*

We have had two more successful trips to the Houses of Parliament with groups of residents - about 20 per group - and another trip which took 14 intrepid explorers up the Elizabeth Tower to sample the thrills of the Big Ben chimes. There will be another chance to climb the 334 steps up the Tower later this year on October 6th.

If you would like to apply, please send an email to valcorn@blueyonder.co.uk, together with a phone number for easy contact.

Please note 2 places are available per resident member household.

HEALTH MATTERS *(continued from page 17)*

g. Farewell to Chairman: Mike Robinson has retired after five years service. He received much praise, thanks and good wishes at his last Board Meeting in public.

h. Looking ahead: Plans include the official launch of the new MRI scanner, the Acute Medical Unit, the refurbished Maternity Unit and Beaconsfield East Ward.

5. Royal Brompton and Harefield Foundation Trust

Royal Brompton Hospital's planning problems: To realise funds for its rebuilding plans, the Trust seeks designation of some of its land for residential use, but this is opposed by its neighbour, the Royal Marsden Hospital. This causes much concern at both Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals.

FIRE SAFETY NEWS

(Martin Wilson, Borough Commander, London Fire Brigade, Hillingdon.)

The London Fire Brigade is not just about attending fires. We also try to stop fires happening and reduce the severity of fires on the lives and property of London's residents. For many years we have been promoting the use of smoke alarms, because we know that they save lives.

In recent years we have been carrying out home fire safety visits, particularly focusing on the vulnerable members of our community. Crews throughout Hillingdon, including Ruislip, want to ensure that local residents are as safe as possible in their own homes, particularly those more vulnerable, such as the elderly or those living alone.

New research released by the London Fire Brigade shows that vulnerable people are 18 times less likely to have a fire if they receive a home fire safety visit from firefighters. The study, the first of its kind in London, looked at the 400,000 visits attended over the last six years and estimated that their impact had prevented around 5,000 fires from starting in people's homes.

During a home fire safety visit, which is a free service, firefighters offer potentially life saving information on how to prevent fires, and fit free smoke alarms where needed. The majority of fires in the home are caused by cooking, cigarettes and candles, so safety advice focuses on those issues, as well as information on how to escape should a fire break out.

Fire chiefs have identified homes in London [that](#) are more at risk from fire and specifically target their visits at them. Those at risk are usually affected by several of the 'risk factors' below:

- Disability, especially impaired mobility
- Visual and / or hearing impairments
- Mental health problems
- Intoxication by drugs and / or alcohol
- Smoking
- Old age
- Living alone

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COUNCILLORS' COMMENTS *(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

This is the last of these columns that I shall write before the elections in May this year. Indeed, as I write this, those of us seeking re-election are preparing for the election period.



One of our retiring Councillors from the RRA area was, together with seven other notable and worthy recipients, granted the Freedom of the London Borough of Hillingdon at a special Council meeting on Thursday the 3rd April. The Leader of the Council, Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE, proposed that Councillors Shirley Harper O'Neill (South Ruislip), Josephine Barrett (Uxbridge North), David Payne (Eastcote and East Ruislip), David Routledge (Uxbridge North), Paul Harmsworth (Yiewsley) and John Major (Barnhill) together with Jill Rhodes, a former Councillor, and the Borough's retiring Deputy Lieutenant, Wing Commander Ed Partridge, be granted the Freedom of the Borough. The Council was unanimous in its approval of the proposition and these eight people, who had dedicated so much of their lives to public service, were added to the Borough's Roll of Honour. Since the London Borough of Hillingdon was created in 1964, 13 people have been honoured in this way. It was a great pleasure to be at this ceremony and to hear the speeches of acceptance from the recipients at the celebration dinner afterwards. Many congratulations to each of them for all their hard and dedicated work for this community.

Sticking with the theme of community engagement, on the 4th April a very much smaller, but to those involved an important, ceremony took place at Ickenham Cricket Club. This was the presentation by West Ruislip Ward Councillors of a plaque to mark the completion of drainage work on a second field used by the cricket club where they now have a second pitch, which is useable from much earlier in the year; a pitch especially to be made use of by the Junior and Ladies teams. The extensive underground work that vastly improves the playing field next to the main square was financed by the Council's Chrysalis Fund which is used to create significant projects for local communities of different types.

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TRAFFIC *(Brian Cowley)*

Revised Road Markings at the Traffic Island in Windmill Hill

Early in April LBH's Safer Roads replaced the broken white lines marking the hatched areas to the north and south of the island with solid ones. The new markings have been installed on an experimental basis following several complaints from (unidentified) residents and Council officers' observations of near misses with vehicles (proceeding from West & Old Hatch Manor) treating the island as a roundabout. Safer Roads say the proposal was supported by Ward Councillors. The solid road markings will be reviewed after six months and any comments received regarding them will be taken into consideration before a final decision is made whether to keep or remove them.

From personal observation vehicles travelling to and from Warrender School are still proceeding across the hatched areas, having, of course, first given way to any traffic coming up Windmill Hill. Residents in Old Hatch Manor are most concerned about the change which means that, for example, cars coming from West Hatch Manor now have to turn left into Windmill Hill and carry out a 360 degree turn at the Eastcote road roundabout to avoid committing a traffic offence, a somewhat dangerous manoeuvre. Comments to the Council on the markings can be sent to either jpickett@hillingdon.gov.uk or chaywood@hillingdon.gov.uk.

(Editor; What do you think? - Comments to towncrier@ruislipresidents.org.uk.)

Incidentally, Safer Roads has also drawn my attention to rule 130 of the 2007 Highway Code, which effectively means that you should only enter the hatched area to overtake a parked vehicle. Strictly speaking, the island should never have been used as a roundabout.

Consultation on possible 'No Entry' restriction into Bembridge Gardens

Following receipt of a petition from residents in the 'RAF' estate, an area not covered by the Association, the Council has consulted residents in the Wood Lane area on a proposal to prevent vehicles entering Bembridge Gardens from Chichester Avenue. This would stop vehicles currently using Lymington Drive and Lysander Road as a cut through to avoid queueing at the White Bear roundabout. This will not be implemented unless the majority of responses from the consultation are in favour.

COUNCILLORS' COMMENTS *(continued from page 15)*

The Club is keen to receive expressions of interest, particularly from younger and female residents, who want to learn a wonderful sport and become a part of this friendly and welcoming club in our local community. The Chrysalis fund demonstrated investment in the community for our sporting clubs and our Residents.

FIRE SAFETY NEWS *(continued from page 14)*

As a community, it is important that we look out for friends, neighbours and family members, and the residents of Ruislip can help us prevent fires by following simple fire safety advice.

If you know someone who you think could be at risk of having a fire at home, please speak to them about arranging a free home fire safety visit – you may well save their life. A visit can be arranged by calling either the free phone number of 08000 284428, or 020 85551200 extension 38215, or by visiting the London Fire Brigade

SUBSCRIPTIONS *(Brian Cowley)*

A motion on behalf of the Executive Committee will be put to members at the AGM (see page 3) to introduce a uniform subscription rate of £2 in 2015. The few householders who have previously paid the concessionary rate of £1 for Senior Citizens, and feel unable to afford the increase, will still be welcome to make a small donation.

Naturally we continue to welcome other donations from all households!

MINUTES SECRETARY *(Brian Cowley)*

The Executive Committee urgently needs a member to volunteer to take the minutes at its regular monthly meetings and prepare them for approval at the next meeting. These meetings are held at 8 pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the Community Hut in St Martin's Approach Car Park. The appointment of the Minutes Secretary would be associated with the award of an honorarium if appropriate. Please contact membership@ruislipresidents.org.uk if you are interested.

EDITORIAL *(cont. from page 3)*

north, and unable to take the first bend. If the white lines cannot be crossed there will be chaos as traffic from West Hatch Manor will have to circle the roundabout in Eastcote Road and from Old Hatch Manor turn right into Pembroke Road or Manor Way, both difficult turns. Let me know your thoughts. Watch this space.

Another cracker from Eileen Bowlt on page 8!

North West London Issues

1. North West London's "Shaping a Healthier Future Programme": It is acknowledged that the money allocated to improve the Maternity and Accident & Emergency Departments at Hillingdon Hospital does not fully support the backlog maintenance needed there, which is therefore being reviewed.

2. Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group

a. Paul Strickland Scanner Centre: The Community Voice, of which we are a member, asked this CCG to explain why Herts. GPs can refer patients to this widely supported local charity, but Hillingdon GPs cannot do so. Slow and unsatisfactory correspondence has ensued, which is still ongoing.

b. Better Care Fund, Hillingdon Plan: Hillingdon will get £17.99m from this fund in 2015/16, but it will come from existing local budgets. The focus of the plan is frail elderly people, dementia, 7-day services, better data sharing and joint care.

c. London Ambulance Service: Penalties for slow transfer of patients are £200 for an ambulance wait over 30 minutes and £1000 for over an hour. Unexpected private ambulances arriving together have caused problems at Hillingdon Hospital.

d. Finance: This CCG's end of year forecast is a deficit of £5.25m, £7m better than plan. Having been assessed as 9% under its target allocation, Hillingdon CCG has therefore received larger than average increases for 2014-15 and 2015-16.

e. Out of Hospital Strategy: New care pathways are in place, including Gynaecology, Ear Nose & Throat, and Urology. Patients are being helped to care for their own long term conditions, starting with Diabetes, Asthma, and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. A Psychiatric Liaison Service is planned.

f. Integrated health and social care: Plans aim to reduce hospital admissions for falls by elderly people. A 15% reduction in fractured neck of femur cases would save over £126k in acute, £119k in social and £220k in community healthcare.

3. Central & North West London Foundation Trust

a. Community Health Patient Survey Report 2013: 88% of Hillingdon respondents rated CNWL Community Health Services as good or excellent.

b. Restructuring: CNWL now has three divisions, each with a borough focus plus responsibility for other aspects of its work. Division B, led by Marie O'Brien, covers Hillingdon, Camden, Children, Adolescents, Older people and healthy ageing.

c. The Hawthorn Intermediate Care Unit: CNWL is responsible for this Unit, housed in The Woodlands at Hillingdon Hospital, which replaces the Northwood & Pinner Unit at Mount Vernon Hospital, but with better facilities – it has two-bedded bedrooms, good communal areas and a garden. The nurse-led unit provides intermediate rehabilitation and short-term inpatient care. Medical care is provided by The Hillingdon Hospitals Care of the Elderly team.

4. The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

a. A&E: In 2013, the Trust invested in extra staff to meet peak periods of demand, resourced through Winter Funds. In January and February it was one of the top performing hospitals in London. About 60% of patients arriving at A&E are now seen in the Hillingdon Urgent Care Centre. Completion of emergency care reconfiguration is expected in May, some eight weeks late due to the wet winter.

b. Support for Northwick Park Hospital: Edmunds Ward will now stay open until end of April to provide additional bed capacity for Northwick Park. The Trust received 515 referrals from Northwick Park for elective procedures and many patients have had operations at Mount Vernon Treatment Centre. Payments received to assist Northwick Park Hospital meet its over-winter demands have helped this trust to forecast a better end of year financial outcome than expected.

c. The new Ambulatory Gynaecology Clinic opened on 27th January: It accepts direct referrals from GPs, the Urgent Care Centre and A&E, which helps it to prevent admissions as well as improving capacity in A&E.

d. Opening of the new Endoscopy Unit at Mount Vernon on 28th February: It is beautifully laid out and offers a more comfortable environment than the old unit. It has a four-bedded ward for Gastroscopy or Colonoscopy patients. The "State of the Art" Endoscopy machine is adjacent to the ward and the nearby theatres.

e. Monitor risk ratings: Financial rating 3; Continuity of services rating 4; Governance rating Green – all very satisfactory.

f. Charitable funds: In the first nine months of the year "patient welfare and amenities" was the highest category of expenditure. In that period £46k was spent against an income of £26k, leaving £595k in reserve, a reduction in the total balances held and in line with current policy.

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Project to Commemorate the Centenary of the Outbreak of WW1 : The Residents' Association together with students from Bishop Ramsey C of E Secondary School are working on a project which we hope will be of interest to local people. The first step was to record from Ruislip War Memorial the names of the local men who gave their lives in WW1. We discovered that a few are buried in St. Martin's churchyard, but the majority either have graves in foreign Commonwealth War Graves cemeteries or their names appear on war memorials such as Tiepval or the Menin Gate.

With the guidance of Andy Jeffries, teacher of history with responsibility for gifted and talented students, and Elaine Neal, the school's senior librarian, the students are using the War Graves Photographic Project to find pictures of the men's graves. The RRA is providing the money to purchase these photographs and the publication of an album which will be kept in Ruislip Library. We hope this will be a fitting tribute to those local men who sacrificed their lives. It will also ensure that young people learn about WW1 and continue to remember the cost in human terms.

If there are residents related to any of the men, I will be very interested to hear from you. Please contact me at smidgley@hotmail.co.uk.

Ex Bishop Ramsey Student Now A Bestselling Author: Recently the school welcomed back ex-student and bestselling author Samantha Shannon. She returned to talk to Year 7 and 8 students about becoming an author as part of the school's Book Week. Samantha left the school in 2010 to study English Literature at Oxford University. Samantha, 22, is the author of ***The Bone Season*** which is the first in a series of seven fantasy novels.

She began her talk by describing how she first started writing little stories at thirteen. Later, as well as studying for her GCSEs, she continued writing. Having her first novel turned down by various literary agents, she stopped writing and did not start again until she was at university.

The Bone Season is a story that was written in about six months and she was lucky that the literary agent with whom she had secured an internship was impressed with her work. The rights for the first three books in the series were eventually bought by the publishers Bloomsbury.

Samantha now works as a full time author. She advised the students that it was crucial to believe in their writing. Her final message to them was : *Find your unique voice; creativity comes from you. **Don't Give Up!***

PLANNING UPDATE *(Mike Hodge/John Williams)*

8 Windmill Hill The appellant lost his appeal against the Council's enforcement notice requiring the reinstatement of the original roof. The Planning Inspector also dismissed a subsequent application for a roof extension in the form constructed. The only concession was an extension of time from 3 to 9 months to comply with the notice.

26a Windmill Hill The proposed development to construct a single storey 1-bed detached dwelling with habitable roof-space on adjacent land was refused by local planners, but subsequently went to appeal on 5th February. The Association wrote in support of the Council's decision and concerned neighbours. The appeal will be decided by an exchange of written statements coupled with a site visit. The outcome however was still undecided at 25th April.

52 St. Martin's Approach A proposed planning application to construct a first floor side extension with habitable roof-space, single storey side extension and installation of dormer to side has been refused by local planners. The Association supported local neighbours concerns, in particular on proximity issues.

77 Eastcote Road The proposed change of use from Use Class C3 (Dwelling House) to Use Class 3/D1 (Dwelling House/Non-Residential Institutions) for childcare use during the day and as a residence at night was refused by local planners in March 2014. It is not yet known whether the decision will be appealed. Note: The definition of the existing accommodation and proposed change are as set out above and not the abbreviated description printed in February's Town Crier. Apologies are offered for any inconvenience so caused.

Post Office, 48 High Street In keeping with the Council's enforcement notice, all external signage has been removed. Plans are still awaited for alternative signage to better blend within a conservation area. However, Post Office Ltd have since made it known that they are proposing to create a new Post Office at 68 High Street (currently occupied by Sony) and are presently consulting. We shall have to wait to see how this works out, as, should it go ahead, the Post Office would vacate No 48, presumably when the new premises are ready.

Stop Press A new planning application has been received for this site, to change use from Class A1 (Shops) to Class A3 (Restaurants).

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FRIENDS OF PINN MEADOWS (FoPM) *(Martin Cartwright)*

Green Chain Changes Public consultation on changes to the Hillingdon Local Plan – which would remove Pinn Meadows, together with Eastcote House and Manor Farm, from the Green Chain and re-designate them Metropolitan Open Land - is now scheduled to begin at the end of May. The wording of the Green Chain policy would also be altered. Watch the Council, RRA and FoPM web sites for the chance to have your say.

Working Party There was a good turnout for Easter Saturday. It was great to see some new faces. The session was devoted mainly to clearing the river of debris, removing shoots of invasive Himalayan balsam and litter picking along the meadows. One volunteer retrieved a road works barrier, a traffic cone and a rusty wheelbarrow!

Flooding Our latest Chrysalis Funding application for help with drainage to prevent flooding on the meadows has been put on hold for the time being. Many residents will have noticed that some areas remain very wet following recent flooding. A topographical survey will facilitate a revised FoPM Chrysalis project being developed in collaboration with Countryside and Conservation Officer Dragana Knezevic.

River Habitat Two FoPM members, together with Dragana, recently attended an Environment Agency study day in practical River Management. The topics covered included installing simple structures to enhance habitat for various kinds of wildlife. Sadly there is little imminent prospect of encouraging trout to colonise the River Pinn *(see picture opposite)*.

FoPM Big Picnic This year's event will be on Saturday, 5th July, on the Meadows. Look for more details on the web site (<http://fopm.org.uk>) nearer the time, but put the date in your diary and make a note to bring along your family and friends.

(Editor's Note: The views expressed above are those of the Friends of Pinn Meadows)

PLANNING POLICY *(continued from page 21)*

The Ferns, Withy Lane An application has been submitted to construct 2 x two-storey, 2 bed semi detached dwellings involving demolition of existing Use Class (B2) industrial building, with associated parking and amenity space. Earlier applications have been submitted for this site, but have been refused by planners.

Local Plan Part 2 Publication of the Site Allocation Designation document is still awaited. This was originally due to have been published in late March. A draft response is being prepared and would certainly seek to protect the existing status of important sites such as Pinn Meadows and Grosvenor Vale. We intend to comment on the document when finally published.

Crossrail Tunnel Portal
(see page 10)



Training for Friends of Pinn Meadows



A recent members' visit to RAF Northolt



A recent members' visit to Parliament

Woods Festival 2014

