



Ruislip Residents' Association

# TOWN CRIER

The Voice of Ruislip Residents  
September 2012

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## RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**PRESIDENT:** Brian Cowley  
**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Peter Lansdown

Officers		Committee	
Chairman	Joan Davis	Vivien Alcorn	Tessa Kershaw
Vice-Chairman	Mike Hodge	Ian Cantley	Peter Lansdown
Treasurer	John Hawley	Martin Cartwright	Roy Parsons
Secretary	Pamela Edwards	Brian Cowley	John Swindells
Chief Road Steward	vacancy	Ivor John	John Williams
Deputy Ch. Rd. Stwd.	vacancy	vacancy	vacancy

Responsibility	Committee Member	Responsibility	Committee Member
Conservation	vacancy	Public Transport	Tessa Kershaw
Environment	Martin Cartwright	RAF Northolt Liaison	Ivor John
Health	Joan Davis	Ruislip Lido	Peter Lansdown
Manor Retail Area	Joan Davis	Ruislip Retail Area	Peter Lansdown
Membership	Brian Cowley	Traffic & Parking	Peter Lansdown
Police Liaison	Ivor John	Website	John Swindells
Planning	Mike Hodge	Woodlands	Ian Cantley

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**RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION - GENERAL MEETING**  
**7.45 pm, Thursday, 11th October, 2012**  
**Winston Churchill Hall lounge, Pinn Way, Ruislip**  
*(Doors open at 7.30pm)*

**Agenda**

1. Welcome, apologies and announcements
2. Urgent reports from representatives
3. Open Forum - an opportunity for members to question representatives on topical issues - questions sent to the Hon. Sec. *(see page 2)* in advance will be given priority
4. Guest Speaker - Sqn. Ldr. R. J. Willis will bring us up to date news on the many changes at RAF Northolt
5. Any other business
6. Close of business session

Followed by informal discussion

Light refreshments will be available before and after the business session

The meeting will end at 10pm

Next meeting: 7.45pm, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2013,  
at Ruislip Social Club, Grosvenor Vale, Ruislip Manor  
*(Agenda items to the Hon. Sec. by Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2013)*

**EDITORIAL** *(Peter Lansdown)*

On page 5, our chairman, in her regular message, has emphasised how much we need new blood on our committee. Although there are many active hard working members, there are vacancies - most notably for Chief Road Steward and Deputy Chief Road Steward (important posts for maintaining our membership and managing the delivery of the Town Crier) and, in the near future, Chairman. For your information, of 14 existing members of the committee, four are over 75 and probably half the rest are over 65.

It is possible that we will be able to arrange visits to the Houses of Parliament, sponsored by one of our MPs. These are likely to be on Fridays, in the later part of the morning. Although no dates are available yet, it would be helpful to have a  
*(continued on page 13)*

## 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 2012 at 12.15 pm**

**October 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Valentin Schiedermair: piano**

**November 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Jan Daniel du Preez: 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

- Eastcote House Volunteer Gardeners meet on the 1st Friday, 2nd Saturday and 3rd Thursday of every month. At 9.30 am (10.30 am on Saturdays)  
Everyone welcome - tools and refreshments provided - no experience necessary.  
Meet in the car park at Eastcote House Gardens.  
Diary dates:      October 5th, 13th and 18th      November 2nd, 10th and 15th  
                         December 7th, 8th and 20th      January 4th, 12th and 17th
- Saturday, 1st December 1.30 pm - Join us for Tree Dressing
- This summer the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens, in conjunction with a local firm, Vintage Tea 2 You, have held monthly Vintage Tea Gardens at Eastcote House. Each time, as well as delicious home made cakes and cream teas, there have been many events to entertain everyone, from a petting farm to an exhibition by Eastcote Arts Society. It is intended to hold another season, the second Sunday of each month, starting in May 2013. Make a date and come and join us.

### Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society

#### Lecture Programme 2012/2013

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

15 October	AGM & The Enigma that is Shadwell	Alister Douglas
19 November	Charles Dickens: Special Correspondent	Dr. Tony Williams
17 December	Jubilee Christmas	Members
21 January	Aircraft Manufacture in the London Area	Dr. Ron Smith

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

Ruislip Residents' Association is a stable organisation. Serving on its Executive Committee is rewarding and many members serve it for years, as I have myself. We have a robust pool of experience to meet current needs, but we need new blood.

My personal dilemma typifies that need. I expected to retire from the chair at this year's AGM, but no one came forward to take my place, so I am still in post. Being chairman is a privilege and, ideally, there should be a contested election next June. Our current Executive Committee has several members who could do the job well, but older members feel it is too late to take on that role and younger ones cannot increase their time commitment for professional or personal reasons. Ideally, a new chairman should be familiar with our current work and procedures, even if he or she brings a fresh perspective and plans for change. This pinpoints our need to recruit new blood, either by co-option to the Committee, or by looser association with its members. Both routes are open to volunteers who want to widen their involvement in our work, whether or not they might one day be chairman.

The organisation of our affairs will be of interest to anyone thinking of volunteering. Every Executive Member takes responsibility for some aspect of our work. Some take on a number of roles, which they would be pleased to share. Other roles are currently vacant, notably Chief Road Steward and coverage of youth and education issues. Some roles would be strengthened by additional help, such as our website coverage of local events. There are opportunities for any member to contribute either an occasional hour or a regular commitment. Ideally every major role should have a deputy, who could be invaluable in an emergency, a luxury that we do not currently enjoy. New blood is needed at many levels.

If you would like to know more please let me know. Members of any age are welcome, but those approaching retirement or newly retired have both most to give and most to get from joining our team. I am happy to discuss options with no obligation.

Joan Davis, Chairman      Tel: 01895 636095

## **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS** *(John Hawley)*

We are very grateful to Mr Salim Haji, Senior Partner of Ashburns Tax Centre of Victoria Road, Ruislip Manor, for taking on the work of examining and certifying the annual accounts of RRA. The work is undertaken without charge to the Association and we are also grateful to the company for taking on the 2011 accounts at short notice in May.

## FROM OUR MP FOR MANOR WARD - JOHN RANDALL

This summer has not been spectacular for the weather, but it has been one of the most memorable. First, we celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, which was a quintessentially British affair. It was a mixture of the pomp and ceremony that we associate with the monarchy, together with a sense of joining in and having fun despite the weather and the general economic blues that we are all feeling. It really is the sort of thing that we excel at.

So to the Olympics, and somewhat nervously, as this was something new for most of us. We were all aware of what could go wrong and many in the media seemed almost to be wishing problems upon the whole enterprise. There were some hiccups of course and some early concerns, not least about the security aspects and the failings of the private company entrusted with that security. However from the moment that the crowds greeted the torch on its journey around the country to when the Olympic flame was extinguished at the closing ceremony, the nation took the Olympic Games to heart and threw itself into the spirit of the thing. An old friend of mine, who had to continue to commute into Central London for the duration of the Games, told me how for the first time in his experience, passengers on his commuter train were talking to each other. Passers-by were greeting each other and the talk would be of the previous evening's highs and lows. At the time of writing the Paralympic Games are about to start. I hope and expect that they too will be as big a success not just in medals but in bringing our country together. When we were awarded the Games I was very excited at the prospect of hosting the Paralympics, as I hoped it would bring much needed access improvements and increased awareness of disability to the country. The Paralympians' achievements are perhaps even more inspiring than our Olympians.

Hopefully the feel good factor will linger on and we can reflect on what constituted that feeling. To me it was a real pride in my country, competitively in the field of sport, but more so in what it represents to me. It is a country that has led the world in so many areas, a land with a tradition of tolerance and of opportunity for all. We have had a "Big Society" for centuries before the term was invented. Yet, for all that, we laugh at ourselves with even the Queen joining in the joke. For me however the real lesson for us all should be that when we work together, as a united country, then we can achieve so much more.

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

Well, I got a bad dose of Olympics fever like many readers of the Town Crier. As I write this, the Paralympics have just started and it is very likely that I will succumb again. It is a bit embarrassing to admit I was a sceptic, on grounds of cost, but I now believe it has been well worth it. For a while the mood of the country changed and there has been a spirit of generous optimism in the air which I wish I could bottle. As the Minister for the Voluntary sector, I am really pleased that the magnificent volunteers got the recognition they deserved. However, we should also recognise that, across the country, volunteers do extraordinarily valuable work day in day out. We know that very well in Ruislip and Hillingdon where volunteers keep going so many events and groups that residents value. However, the truth is that most of the volunteering is done by a relatively small number of people, and they are getting older. So, as a Borough and a country, we cannot take these local heroes for granted.



Just as we want to inspire a new generation of sporting heroes, so we should be thinking about how we inspire new people to get involved locally. Sometimes it needs a new call to arms. So, in the afterglow of the Olympics, I was happy to support a new charity called "Join In" that launched a campaign to celebrate local sport and encourage people to get involved with local sports clubs, like Eastcote Hockey club, which rely on volunteers. It seems to have been a big success with over 6,000 special events and over 250,000 people taking part, including your MP, who unleashed the inner Mo on a "fun run". I hope that many of these people will be inspired to keep on supporting their local clubs in some way. There are other good new ideas to get people involved and I am particularly keen to inspire the young. That is why I am pleased that Hillingdon youngsters have a chance this year to participate in National Citizen Service (*picture on page 23*). They will be part of a network of 30,000 teenagers who between them will give around 750,000 hours of voluntary service in their communities. This will grow. If we can use the Olympics to inspire a new generation of volunteers, that would be a great legacy of a great Games.

## HISTORY: SPORT IN RUISLIP WOODS (*Eileen Bowl*t)

When local estates both large and small were put up for sale in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the auctioneers painted the delights of the countryside around Ruislip in glowing colours and, as a special inducement to *sporting gentlemen*, mentioned the various hunts that were active in the local area. Daniel Norton, in 1891, offered Northwood Hall (now Denville Hall) and its 196 rolling acres to a discerning public with promises of enticing views of Crystal Palace, Knockholt Beeches and the Grandstand at Epsom from the grounds, plus the chance to hunt with the Queen's Hounds and the Old Berkeley Foxhounds.

Hunting was obviously popular at the time and had been so from, one might say, time immemorial, among the leisured and moneyed classes. By the early 19<sup>th</sup> century wealthy tradesmen from London and towns like Uxbridge joined the aristocracy in the local hunts. Originally the animals that were principally hunted were the deer. The earthworks in Park Wood bear eloquent testimony to Ruislip's medieval park, which was kept stocked with deer, being replaced on at least one occasion, in 1270, by live deer from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Harrow Wood. He also had a deer park at Pinner.

A grant by the Provost and Fellows of King's College to John Hawtrey of Eastcote House in 1638/9 granted him

the right to hunt 'buck, doe and fox, etc', and 'hares, conies, partridges, pheasants ..and woodcock, waterfowl, etc' for a period of ten years. His grandson, Ralph Hawtrey who died in 1719, had a licence from King's College to 'hawke, hunt, fish and fowle' in the Manor of Ruislip and, in his will, he left to 'John Owen my huntsman my pack of dogges and also my horse with all the accoutrements belonging to him which he usually rides a-hunting-on'.

Staghunting gave way to foxhunting in the early to mid-18<sup>th</sup> century as fewer deer parks were being maintained. The Queen's Hounds, mentioned in the Northwood Hall advertisement, were buckhounds and hunted deer carted out from Windsor to such places as Hayes, Southall and Uxbridge, where there was a meet in December 1869, starting on the Common above Swakeleys. The deer on being turned out went straight away to Windmill Hill near Ruislip, then over some large fields in the direction of Pinner, crossing the London and NW Railway lines between Pinner and Harrow Stations (now Hatch End and Harrow & Wealdstone Stations). The deer were eventually caught in a pond near Chipping Barnet.

Foxhounds were specially bred to hunt foxes only. The 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Berkeley, whose seat was at Cranford, formed the Berkeley Foxhounds towards the end of



## HISTORY: SPORT IN RUISLIP WOODS *(cont.)*

the 18<sup>th</sup> century, hunting over an enormous area between Wormwood Scrubs and Bristol, which included our part of Middlesex. The hunt became known as the Old Berkeley after the earl's death in 1810. As London spread westwards, the hunting country of Middlesex sank beneath a sea of bricks and mortar and the Old Berkeley divided into two packs with stables at Chorleywood (Dog Kennel Lane) and High Wycombe.

The Sporting Magazine provides a lively and detailed account of a run that took place on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 1805, starting in Mad Bess Wood and ending on Batchworth Heath a few hours later with a greatly depleted field and victory for Mr Reynard. Although the start and finish of the chase were only a mile apart, the wily fox had led the eighty hunters who had started out, on a circuitous route, uphill and down dale, exhausting all but the Huntsman and four of the original field, who 'came up so completely done, that they found it expedient to relinquish the chase'. The hunt had not begun until 11 o'clock because the morning had been frosty and after about an hour the hounds had driven a fox from its hole. It had instantly dashed through the covert for the coppice (Copse Wood), where another fox was unearthed, probably confusing the hounds, but the body of them went after the dog-fox, that soon broke out across Ruislip Common making for Park Wood. Here they met a check, for the fox 'making a direct double,

re-crossed the Common into the coppice and Mad Bess Wood; but being viewed the hounds were soon laid on again.' He was making for Harefield, but being headed by a woodsman, 'turned back through the covert...breaking on the opposite side he went away in a most gallant manner.. to Batchter Heath'. The fox, sped through enclosed fields down to the canal, turned left and headed through Old Park Wood, Harefield Park (now Harefield Hospital), across Harefield Common to Harefield Grove, back to Moor Park, over to Sandy Lodge, where he was headed back to Batchworth Heath. He broke out again to Woodcock Hill, crossed Moor Park close by the mansion, making for Pinner Hill. While descending the hill, perhaps because 'the wind was in his teeth', he turned right and crossed Ruislip Common at its widest part to Copse Wood. There, being hard pressed he made for Batchworth Heath yet again, where the hounds checked and the sorry remnant of the hunt abandoned the pursuit.

Opportunities for hunting evaporated with the development of this area, and the Household Brigade Draghunt, one of four that had survived into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, held its last meet at Harrow in April 1932. But hunting would not lie down.

*(continued on page 20)*

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

At the last Community Forum meeting with HS2 Ltd in June, further discussion took place about the possibility of extending the Ruislip Tunnel, so that instead of running from Northolt to West Ruislip (ending by Ruislip Golf Course), it would instead finish further north, near Harvil Road. The Forum asked HS2 Ltd to look into the engineering practicality of extending the tunnel in this way, rather than just looking at the financial implications of doing so (which HS2 Ltd currently say make it too uneconomic). However, during these discussions, HS2 Ltd informed everyone that there was a possibility that a junction may be needed in the extended tunnel area, to provide spur railway lines which would lead to and from Heathrow airport (see opposite). This spur junction might therefore prevent any potential extension of the Ruislip Tunnel beyond West Ruislip, as it may make it too complicated to run all the lines and spurs underground. Unfortunately there are not many details about this Heathrow Spur link available yet, as the Government did not include it within the consultation for Phase 1 of HS2 (London to Birmingham) which took place last summer, and which covered the area in which any Heathrow spur junction will be situated. Instead it will be included as part of the consultation for Phase 2 (Birmingham to Leeds), which is scheduled to take place in the autumn of 2012. This means that many residents will have responded to the Phase 1 consultation back in 2011 with no knowledge that another part of the HS2 line might also affect where they live, work or play. We hope to receive more information about this spur junction from HS2 Ltd at the next community forum which is set for 26th September 2012, but it may be that we will need to wait for the Phase 2 consultation to start before we can see any further detail.

The RRA HS2 working group (which any member of the RRA is welcome to join) met in August to discuss the above matters, and it was agreed to write to Justine Greening, the Secretary of State for Transport (now Patrick McLoughlin), to say that it was both illogical and impractical for the Government to have decided to include the Heathrow Spur within the Phase 2 consultation, instead of within Phase 1. The RRA HS2 working group has also begun looking into the practicalities of the spur railway lines, and whether it might actually be possible to accommodate them within any extended Ruislip tunnel. Once we have more information about this we will let you know.

On a national level, various organisations which disagree with some (or all) aspects of the HS2 scheme have been granted a hearing by the High Court, with a view to seek

## HIGH SPEED RAIL UPDATE *(cont.)*

various judicial reviews about how the project has been managed so far. The hearing will take place on 3rd December 2012 and is expected to last for up to eight days. Although there will be only one hearing, each organisation will be able to present, and argue, its own case.

Those taking part in the review are:

HS2 Action Alliance,

51M group of local authorities (of which Hillingdon Council is a member),

Aylesbury Golf Club, and Heathrow Hub.

A summary of the issues to be raised are:

inadequate consultation,

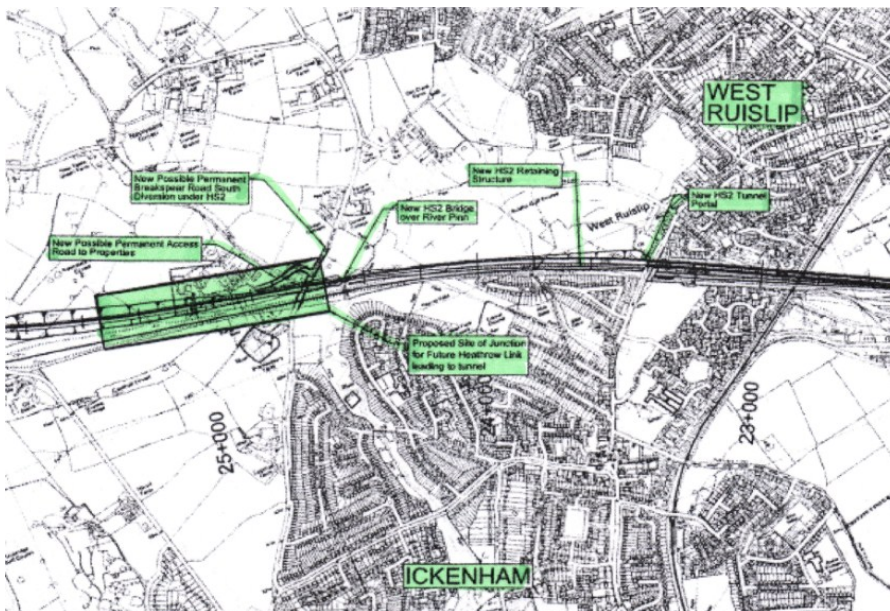
failure to provide adequate information on compensation;

failure to follow European environmental and habitat regulations

failure to consider or consult on alternative routes

the detrimental impact on various areas along the proposed route,

the impact on other transport networks within the area.



## **RUISLIP HIGH SCHOOL** *(Martina Lecky - Head Teacher)*

The journey for Ruislip High School began when the school opened its doors to its first cohort of Year 7 students in September, 2006. In its short history, the school is proud to have been graded Outstanding by Ofsted in November 2007 and June 2011. The school's logo (*see page 23*) reflects the journey that students experience through their secondary school years. The building itself mirrors the place in between the 'green grass' and the 'blue sky' where dreams can be made and realised. The school's mission statement is as follows:

*"Our aim is to develop confident, independent, flexible thinkers and learners, who are able to respond positively to the ever-changing global environment."*

We believe that students need to take responsibility for their learning and their actions. Students are challenged in lessons and taught to understand that learning is not always about getting the right answer.

At Ruislip High, we offer students a diverse range of opportunities both in and outside the classroom. For example, we are one of a few schools to offer the Duke of Edinburgh Award at all levels - Bronze, Silver and Gold. We believe that students continue to develop their self-esteem and pride through their achievement in lessons and their commitment to enrichment activities, especially when they have to face new challenges.

We are a school both in, and for, the community. We strive to be the best school we can be for our community and are determined to educate all our students so that they can fulfil their undoubted potential. We believe that engagement with our local community is essential. In our short history, we have set up strong relations with local businesses, our feeder primary schools and with Higher Education institutions such as Brunel University. We work closely with parents and have fostered an open and reflective relationship through our annual parental questionnaires and termly parents' focus groups. In addition, we are fortunate to be supported by The Friends of Ruislip High School, who have shown a commitment to the school since its early beginnings.

We also ensure that our students have an established and meaningful 'voice' through subject focus groups, student questionnaires, our prefect bodies and school council. It is through students' positive engagement and sense of ownership that the

## **RUISLIP HIGH SCHOOL** *(cont.)*

school has gone from strength to strength.

This September, 2012, we are delighted to inform the local community that we have increased our Year 7 intake from one hundred and fifty to one hundred and eighty students. The students will be taught in seven form classes rather than six. This increase has resulted in an expansion in our catchment area to include more families in the north of the Borough.

Our vision for Ruislip High School is to ensure that we build on our excellent foundation; we will continue to provide all our students with a first class secondary education which will equip them for the future whether in tertiary education or the workplace.

## **EDITORIAL** *(cont.)*

list of those who may be interested - maximum of two people per household membership of the RRA. Please let us know.

Email: [valcorn@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:valcorn@blueyonder.co.uk) or phone/write to the secretary (*see page 2*)

Some months ago we arranged a very successful visit to RAF Northolt. However, there were a number of members who were disappointed as numbers were limited (we still have a note of these names, who will get priority). It is hoped to arrange more visits in 2013. Although no dates are available yet, again it would be helpful to have a list of those who may be interested - maximum of two people per household membership of the RRA. Please let us know.

Email: [towncrier@ruislipresidents.org.uk](mailto:towncrier@ruislipresidents.org.uk) or phone/write to the secretary

My thanks to those of you who responded to my question with regards to the Ruislip Post Office in the May issue of the Town Crier. I received over 40 emails, with approximately 98% being horrified at the building's appearance. All these have been passed on to our members dealing with planning. See page 21 for the latest information.

## **SPOTLIGHT ON THE EXECUTIVE - JOHN HAWLEY** *(Tessa Kershaw)*

### **How long have you lived in Ruislip?**

Since July 1986: I moved in on the hottest day of the year. I had previously lived in Burnt Oak and Stanmore, but I wanted a larger house and to be nearer to my work. Ruislip is such a lovely area, well placed for access to both town and country, and with great open spaces and historic buildings.

### **Committee Responsibilities:**

Honorary Treasurer. I am solely in charge of Treasury matters and for delivering an annual report on the finances to the AGM each June. I also contribute to the general discussions at each monthly RRA Executive meeting.

### **How long have you been a Committee Member?**

For just over two years.

### **Why did you choose to join the Committee?**

RRA advertised for a Treasurer and, knowing that this is not an easy position to recruit, I felt I ought to step up to the mark. I'm keen on promoting and assisting with local issues and serving the community, and was already a Hillingdon Street Champion and Neighbourhood Watch Road Steward. Therefore, it just seemed to be a fairly natural progression.

### **Describe the regular activities you undertake for RRA:**

Apart from attending the monthly Executive meetings, I process all RRA membership subscriptions that arrive through my letterbox, which include those delivered by Royal Mail, but also many that are hand-delivered throughout the year by the Chief Road Steward, Area Stewards, Road Stewards and individual members. In total I receive about 600 envelopes a year. 100 of these take about two hours to open, before I even start processing the contents. The amounts are logged, receipts written for the bulk envelopes and the money banked. At the end of the year I liaise with Ashburn's Tax Centre in Ruislip Manor to prepare the annual accounts. They have kindly agreed to undertake this work for us on a gratis basis. I also pay any bills relating to RRA expenditure, as well as preparing budgets, and confirming to the Executive what our current balance is at any given time.

*(continued on page 17)*

## 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

It seems a little odd knowing that this piece is to be published in the September or Autumn edition of the *Town Crier*, because as I write we are preparing for a new political “term”. After a brief lull in political activity at the council offices over August, we are looking forward to a very full schedule of meetings and commitments in the coming weeks and months, including the first full Council meeting of the new term in early September. Councillor Markham is now well into his Mayoralty and he and his Deputy have attended many Hillingdon events since their inauguration. The Jubilee events, many pictures of which can be seen in the summer editions of *Hillingdon People*, were a great success and street parties and other events helped to bring residents together to celebrate this great occasion. The feelings of community and national pride were then transferred to a summer of sporting achievements in the splendid spectacle that was the Olympics (and the Paralympics, although they have only just started at the time of writing). There was a real feeling of uplift and national pride at the success of Team GB.

Your Ward Councillors have been working hard over the summer on a range of issues that have come to us; roads and pavements in need of repair, footpaths that are in need of replacement or renewal, invasive trees to be removed and many matters to do with planning are merely a few of the issues raised with us by residents. Recently we have been able to make use once again of the tremendous fillip that is the Ward Budget allocation. By careful and skillful financial management the Council Administration has been able to allocate a Ward Budget to each Ward for use within the local community.

Over the past and more recently, we as Ward Councillors have been lucky enough to be able to allocate monies by way of helpful donations to schools, Scouts, Cadets, and other youth Associations, local interest groups and projects, Resident groups and sporting clubs of all ages, who were in need of a particular donation specifically designed to help, assist or enhance. These allocations have been a significant boost to our local organisations and we are pleased to be putting our residents first in this practical way.

## **PINN MEADOWS - ABLAZE WITH COLOUR** *(Rob Cousins)*

Pinn Meadows has been ablaze with colour this summer with a section of the meadows transformed by an array of colourful wildflowers. The transformation was the fruits of labour of the Friends of Pinn Meadows (FoPM) and Hillingdon Council's Green Spaces Team, who prepared the area and planted the wildflowers seeds in May. FoPM were also asked by the Green Spaces Team to demonstrate their work and enthusiasm to the judges in the "London in Bloom" and "Britain in Bloom" competitions, which Hillingdon had entered. The Council received excellent feedback from the judges on the amount of residents' support and collaboration and the results of the competitions will be announced in October.

FoPM have been incredibly well supported in all of their work on Pinn Meadows by Dragana Knezevic, the LBH Countryside and Conservation Officer, who, as well as designing the Wildflower Meadows, has organised working parties, bat walks and butterfly walks. For all of her support and dedication, FoPM nominated Dragana for a Hillingdon Employee Recognition Award which was presented to her at an Employee Awards Ceremony in August by Council Leader Ray Puddifoot and Chief Executive Hugh Dunnachie.

### **Chrysalis Funding Application Approved**

FoPM have received confirmation from Hillingdon Council of their successful bid for Chrysalis Funding to upgrade the amenities on Pinn Meadows, to enable them to be enjoyed by residents and visitors all year round. As part of this project, which is scheduled to commence in late September, the footpaths along the Celandine Route will be upgraded to avoid them becoming muddy during spells of wet weather. Two new benches and two litter bins will also be provided along the Celandine Route. Bat boxes and bird boxes will be installed around Pinn Meadows and there will be an information board describing the wildlife and natural habitat of the area. The project will provide permanent access to the public car park in Kings College Road adjacent to the existing all-weather hockey pitch and protect the grass around it, and trees will be planted along the street line to provide screening of the existing all-weather pitch. A gate will be installed to provide safe access from Pinn Meadows to Park Avenue.

### **Fighting Proposed Development on Pinn Meadows**

Whilst FoPM have received assurances from the current Council that the required amendments to Eastcote Hockey Club's 60 year lease would not be granted to enable them to build a second Astroturf pitch on King's College Playing Fields, it is possible another administration may reach a different conclusion in the future.



## **PINN MEADOWS - ABLAZE WITH COLOUR** *(cont.)*

Therefore, FoPM will be raising a petition requesting that the Council voluntarily designate Pinn Meadows area as a Village Green. This action has Ward Councillor support and would provide permanent protection for the Pinn Meadows area.

If you would like to support FoPM with their work go to [www.fopm.org.uk](http://www.fopm.org.uk).

## **SPOTLIGHT ON THE EXECUTIVE - JOHN HAWLEY** *(cont.)*

### **Who do you liaise with?**

Mainly Brian Cowley, the Membership Secretary, and the Chairman, Joan Davis.

### **How many meetings, on average, do you attend per month in connection with your duties?**

One, being the monthly RRA Executive meeting, plus occasional ad hoc meetings with Brian Cowley and Joan Davis. I also attend the tri-yearly RRA general open meetings.

### **What are the best and worst aspects of being a Committee Member?**

**Best:** One often gets to hear about local issues before they 'break' in the local paper or become major discussion points for interested groups. It is good to feel that one's presence and input might make a difference for Ruislip residents. Ruislip offers so much quality of life to its residents - it's great to be able to give something back.

## **ENVIRONMENT** *(Martin Cartwright)*

### **Charge for Dumping DIY Waste**

According to a news item in the Ruislip Gazette, from 1 October West London Waste Authority will charge householders for depositing DIY debris at the waste and recycling centre in Victoria Road, South Ruislip. Charges of £178.00 per tonne will be levied on soil, rubble, bricks, paving, baths and sinks &c - with a minimum fee of £17.50 for a tenth of a tonne, with payment accepted in cash or by credit card. The Gazette story states that "only people bringing large amounts of waste" would be affected, but at the time Town Crier went to press nobody was available from West London Waste to tell the RRA exactly how much would be deemed to be a "large amount".

### **London-wide services that impact on Ruislip patients**

**London's specialised services:** Both London's centralised stroke services and its centralised trauma services are a triumph! Stroke mortality is lower than in the rest of the UK, which saved last year. London is the only region with 24/7 consultant-delivered trauma services, saving 58 lives in the first year. Vascular surgery is being centralised at St Mary's, Paddington and Northwick Park hospitals.

### **www.myhealthlondon is a website that compares London's GP practices.**

It identifies all signed up GP practices within 1 mile, 2 miles, or 5 miles of any London postcode. Any five of these practices can be compared for a wide range of criteria – outcomes for various health conditions, opening hours, patient satisfaction – and comparison with London and national averages is provided too.

### **Services in North West London**

**NHS North West London's Reconfiguration Programme:** Public consultation on this far reaching programme will continue to mid October - its proposals include:

- All nine acute hospitals in NW London (including Central Middlesex) will provide local services and an Urgent Care Centre, but the eight currently with A&E Departments will be reduced to five, which will provide 24/7 A&Es, consultant-led obstetric units, inpatient paediatrics and associated complex care. Three of these major hospitals will be Hillingdon, Northwick Park and St Mary's hospitals. The other two will be either Chelsea & Westminster Hospital (*the preferred option*) or Charing Cross Hospital, and West Middlesex Hospital (*the preferred option*) or Ealing Hospital
- In all options Hammersmith Hospital is proposed as a specialist hospital and the Western Eye Hospital is proposed to move to St Mary's Hospital
- If the preferred option is accepted, the hyper-acute stroke unit at Charing Cross Hospital will move to St Mary's Hospital.
- Additional services will be provided in the community, to provide services nearer to patients' homes and to avoid expensive referrals to hospital

To obtain the consultation documents, 'phone 0800 881 5209. Please send comments on the proposals to Joan Davis, for inclusion in our Association's response (contact details on page 5) Final decisions, in January 2013, will rest with the Joint Committee of the eight North West London Primary Care Trusts.

**Cancer Services:** Aiming to improve diagnosis and outcomes, the five London Cancer Networks are being replaced by two integrated cancer systems a) London

## HEALTH MATTERS *(cont.)*

Cancer, covering North Central and North East London and b) London Cancer Alliance covering the rest. Hillingdon Hospital is designated a cancer unit for the latter, with the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre, Imperial College, Royal Brompton and Royal Marsden hospitals all designated cancer centres. Cancer surgery will take place at hospitals across the Sector. Cancer has now been designated a chronic disease and is becoming one of the leading causes of death in Western Europe.

**Primary Care Trusts - Interim arrangements:** PCTs will cease to exist on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013. The eight NW London PCTs now meet in public only at NHS NW London Board meetings. PCT functions are gradually being transferred to Clinical Commissioning Groups.

**Hillingdon Hospitals FT - New Chief Executive:** Shane DeGaris has been appointed CEO. This is an in-house appointment as he was formerly Deputy Chief Executive. Shane began his professional career as a physiotherapist before moving into hospital management. Married, with two boys, he lives in Muswell Hill.

**Emergency Care Reconfiguration:** The £12.26m capital funding from the Department of Health will provide Hillingdon Hospital with a new 48 beds Admissions Unit, together with a revamp of the A&E Department and integrated Urgent Care Centre. Ambulatory emergency care for surgical and medical patients will be provided.

## TRAFFIC/PARKING *(Peter Lansdown)*

Road layout modifications at the junction of Eastcote Road with Windmill Hill have been completed with better defined lanes and a slightly raised small roundabout (*see front cover*). Is this an improvement? What do you think?  
(Comments please to [traffic@ruislipresidents.org.uk](mailto:traffic@ruislipresidents.org.uk))

The water pipe replacement in Ruislip High Street should have been completed by the time you read this (*see picture on age 23*). Work may be continuing elsewhere..

## RUISLIP LIDO *(Peter Lansdown)*

The planning application for a car park for 150 cars was approved in July, with a number of conditions to be met before construction can start. A second application for the provision of a new railway ticket office, mess room and woodland centre, all adjacent to Woody Bay station, was approved at the end of August. A third application for changes around the Ruislip Lido Station near the Waters Edge was submitted in July and is under consideration.

## HISTORY: SPORT IN RUISLIP WOODS *(continued from page 9)*

The photograph shows a meet at The Plough in 1934, presumably of the Pinner Farmers' Draghunt that had been founded soon after the demise of the Household Brigade pack.



### **Ruislip Manor Fun Day**

Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> November, will be the big Fun Day with many attractions, culminating with lighting up the Christmas decorations. Fun for all the family – especially the youngsters. We will be there!

## **PLANNING MATTERS** *(Mike Hodge/John Williams)*

### **Ruislip Lido - Construction of Car Park**

The planning application for 150 additional spaces was approved on 12th July. It remains to be seen whether traffic congestion is relieved or not by this move. There are also recent planning applications for upgrading facilities at both Ruislip Lido and Woody Bay Stations.

### **Pembroke House, 5-9 Pembroke Road**

The proposal to create a nursery facility on this site, which was opposed on the basis that the location itself was entirely unsuitable, has been withdrawn by the sponsors.

### **48 High Street - Post Office**

Given widespread concerns over the new signage, the local authority called for an updated planning application to reflect changes from original plans submitted. This was received on 6th July, but was withdrawn on 7th August due to incomplete information. The local authority are now chasing the acting agents for full details of an amended application. We will continue to closely monitor what clearly is an unsatisfactory state of affairs.

### **Lyon Court & 28-30 Pembroke Road**

The proposed development of this site to provide 61 residential units was approved by the planners on 3rd August. We would sincerely hope that Pembroke Road now gets a respite from any more multiple developments.

### **54 St. Margarets Road**

The planning proposal to raise the roof of the existing bungalow to allow for its conversion to a two storey dwelling with habitable roof-space, including 4 side roof-lights, and completion of single storey rear extension, was withdrawn on 21st June. However revised plans have been submitted and any comments should have been received by 29th August. We are liaising with other interested parties.

### **National Planning Policy Framework**

With regard to the Governments final published version of this, which in our case is the Local Development Framework (LDF), Hillingdon's draft document has now been approved and will be the basis of planning policy in the future.

## COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD *(cont.)*

### **Ruislip Lions ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at the Winston Churchill Theatre  
Tickets : £12.00, Children £8.00

**Box Office: 07806 766993**



### **Ruislip Chamber of Commerce**

Christmas Shopping Day - Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> December

Santa will be in his grotto in John Sanders  
from noon onwards

The children's annual Treasure Hunt will be taking  
place - lots of prizes to be won.

There will also be kiddies rides in the High Street and lots more

### **Age UK Hillingdon**

Did you know that **we** now offer an advice and information service in Ruislip? Situated to the rear of our retail shop at **105 High Street**, we are able to offer information and advice to older people, their relatives and carers. We can also advise on the range of practical home services offered and provide information on our clubs and activities.

### **Martinmas Fair - Spirit of Christmas** **Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> November 10.30am-2.00pm**

Craft, gift and speciality stalls, Santa's grotto, face painting, silent auction, mulled wine and chestnuts, home baking and preserves, café, games of skill and chance for all ages. Get into the festive spirit and get ahead with your Christmas shopping.

Free entry  
St Martin's Church Hall, Eastcote Road, Ruislip, HA4 8DG  
[www.stmartins-ruislip.org](http://www.stmartins-ruislip.org)

## 11 Group Operations Room - RAF Uxbridge

The Operations Room is open to the public by prior arrangement. Why not arrange a visit for your friends or a group. Go to the place that Winston Churchill, the then Prime Minister, visited to see how the Royal Air Force fighter squadrons were getting on in what became known as the “Battle of Britain”. Well worth the effort. If the visit is for young people, then advise the Curator, as there are differing presentations for children and adults.

Contact the Curator, tel.: 01895 238154  
or email: [11gpenquires@btconnect.com](mailto:11gpenquires@btconnect.com)



Ruislip High School logo  
(see page 12)



Nick Hurd MP with a young man taking  
part in the National Citizen Service



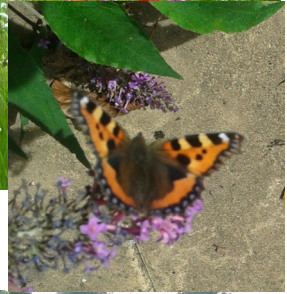
Is this the last of the  
water pipe  
replacements in  
Ruislip High street?





## Summertime

Pinn Meadows (see page 10)



The flood in Pinn Meadows after the water main burst in Park Woods