

Ruislip Residents' Association **TOWN CRIER**

April 2016

www.ruislipresidents.org.uk

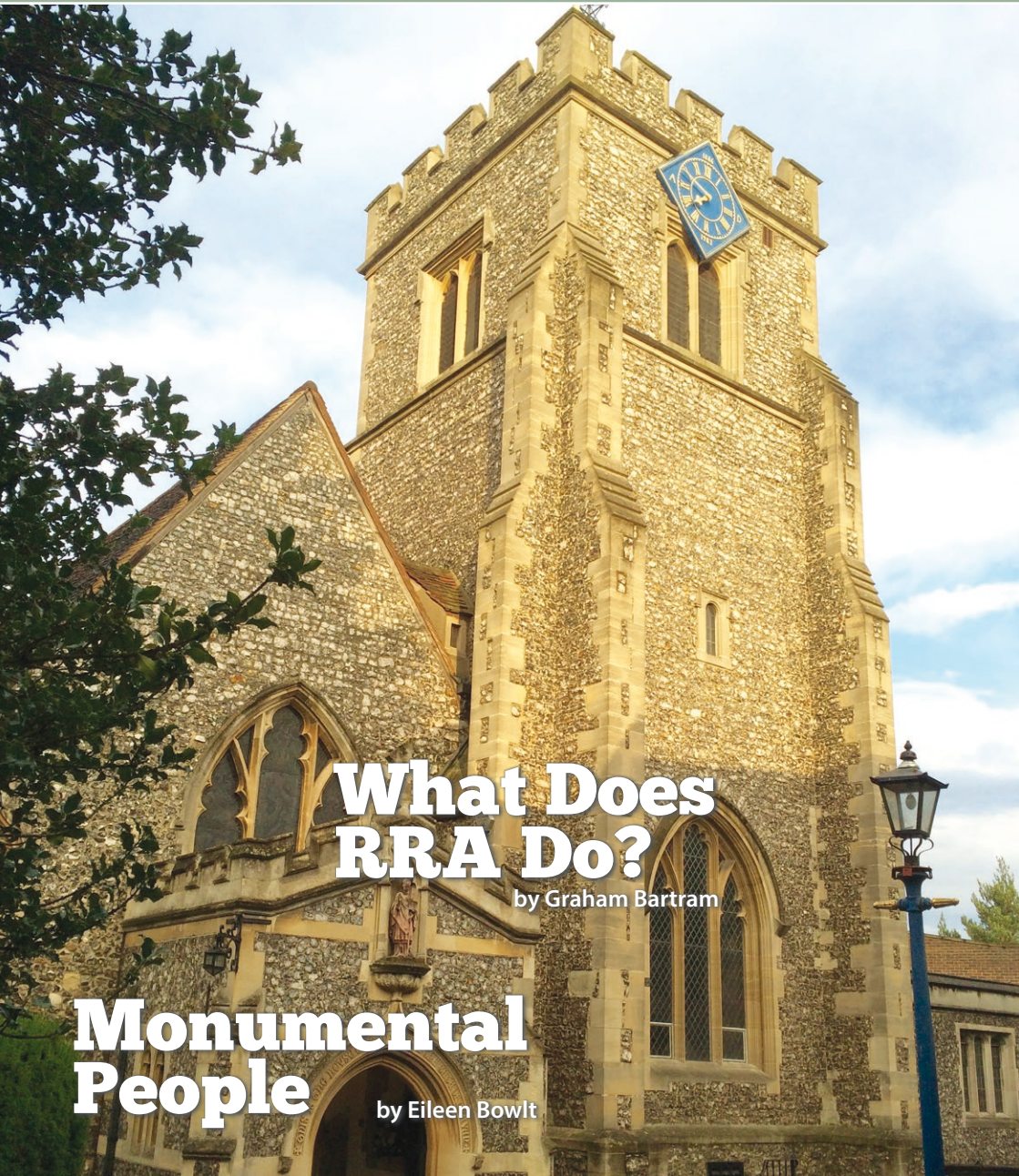


What Does RRA Do?

by Graham Bartram

Monumental People

by Eileen Bowlt



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Editorial

Help Needed!

Ruislip Residents' Association is almost 100 years old and we are planning some changes to keep us relevant and vibrant in the 21st century. More details can be found in my report on page 5.

It seems to be a recurring theme, but we really do need some more help to carry out the work of the Association. If you are interested in helping us with the Environment, Woodlands or Membership portfolios, or as the Deputy Chief Road Steward, please get in touch with me. We had a very successful meeting of our Area and Road Stewards in February, but we still have areas that are not covered, so if you are willing to help distribute the Town Crier twice a year and act as a point-of-contact for your neighbours, please contact the Chief Road Steward:

If anyone knows *Adobe InDesign* and would like to volunteer to help with preparing the *Town Crier*, please contact me. We have a template which makes putting the magazine together reasonably straightforward.

Graham Bartram

Graham Bartram, Editor Pro Tem

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

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Jaqueline Bolton

POLICE LIAISON

Brian Gunn

CONSERVATION

Paul Mitchell

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Graham Bartram

EDUCATION

Susan Midgley

RAF NORTHOLT LIAISON

Peter Lansdown

ENVIRONMENT

Vacant

RUISLIP LIDO

Peter Lansdown

HEALTH

Joan Davis

RUISLIP RETAIL AREA

Pamela Edwards

MANOR RETAIL AREA

Joan Davis

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Vivien Alcorn

MEMBERSHIP

Vacant

TRAFFIC & PARKING

Vacant

MINUTES SECRETARY

Patricia Wardle

WEBSITE

John Swindells

PLANNING

Mike Hodge

WOODLANDS

Vacant

FRIENDS OF EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDEN

www.eastcotehousegardens.weebly.com

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

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

Meet in the car park at Eastcote House Gardens.

Gardening dates: April 1st, 8th, 21st; May 6th, 13th, 19th;
June 3rd, 10th, 16th; July 1st, 8th, 21st; August 5th, 12th, 18th.

Conservation dates: April 28th, May 26th, June 23rd, July 28th, August 25th.

The Gardens Café is now open daily from 8.30am (10am on Sunday) until 4.00pm.

HILLINGDON DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY

Lecture Programme Mid 2016

Wednesdays at 2.00pm, Winston Churchill Hall - admission £6 to non-members

11 May	Dame Laura Knight	Rosalind Whyte
8 June	A Courtly Vision: the Tres Riches Heures du Duc de Berry	Gillian White
13 July	Eric Ravilious and the Lure of the Everyday	Jo Walton
9 August	Belgravia and Kensington Gardens: The Establishment moves West	Peter Lawrence

RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD & EASTCOTE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Lecture Programme Mid 2016

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

18 April	Watford after the Dissolution: the Royal Manor of Watford	Pat Simpson Watford Historian
19 September	Meet the Huguenots	Charlie de Wet Huguenots of Spitalfields

Chairman's Message



Winter has finally decided to make its presence felt, but only after we had the Spring blossom! I just do not

know why we bother to have a Met Office if they cannot even get the seasons in the right order...

We are making our next meeting in April a Special General Meeting so that we can make some decisions as to how Ruislip Residents' Association will operate in the 21st century. We want to change our rules to allow two-year membership and online payments. We also want to increase the annual membership fee to £2.50 from 2017, making the new two-year membership £5.00. Members will still be able to pay their subscription by post, if they are not comfortable with online payments. We are also looking at Direct Debit. We will publish the proposed new rules on the Association's website for members to review and we will also deposit copies in the Manor Farm and Ruislip Manor Libraries, should you want to read them offline.

In recent months Ruislip has seen a rise in problems with large groups of young people gathering in the High Street. Many of these groups have been making a nuisance

of themselves, intimidating other people in the street, riding their bicycles, and skateboards on the pavement, etc. The police are trying to tackle the problem and the Council is introducing a Public Spaces Protection Order for the High Street to allow the police to move these groups on.

By the time you read this HS2 Ltd will have held their public meeting at Ickenham Village Hall where they will no doubt have answered all our questions and soothed all our concerns - I doubt! So far they have been unable to do either, and much of the information they have given us has turned out to be wrong. Part of their current plan is to build a temporary 'haul' road from the Harvil Road, across Uxbridge Golf Course, to connect to the A40 on the slip road at Swakeley's Roundabout. However, it is still not clear how they will get material to and from the West Ruislip Portal site from this haul road. Unfortunately HS2 continues to have Government support, for reasons that are beyond me. It is still not too late to let your MP know if you support or do not support HS2.

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

Graham Bartram, Chairman, ☎ 01895 673310

What Does RRA Do?

Graham Bartram

On Monday 22nd February we had a very successful meeting of our Area and Road Stewards to discuss some changes to how RRA operates (see page 5), but during the meeting someone asked a very simple question that I feel needs wider coverage - what does RRA actually do? So I would like to try and answer that, and at the same time give some of the history of our Association.

The Ruislip Ratepayers' Association, as it was then called, was formed in 1919 when much of modern Ruislip was still just plans in developers' offices. In 2019, just three years' time, we will celebrate 100 years of representing the people of Ruislip - and that, in the broadest terms, is what we do. Here are some of the ways we have done that and continue to do so:



© Tom Gowanlock

King's College, Cambridge, used to own large swathes of Ruislip and Northwood

ENVIRONMENT

One of our greatest achievements was the preservation of Ruislip Woods. The original town plan for Ruislip-Northwood in 1914 called for the woods to be developed as part of the grand scheme for the new town of Ruislip-Northwood. In 1932, the Ratepayers' Association realised that if development continued at its current pace, many of the things that made Ruislip a pleasant place to live would be lost. So they approached the largest landowner, King's College, Cambridge, and persuaded them to sell much of the woods to Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council (the local authority at the time) and Middlesex County Council. The College gave the Manor Farm site to the people of Ruislip as a gift. The rest of the woods were purchased five years later. This purchase defined modern Ruislip, with its woods, reservoir (renamed the Lido in 1933) and ancient buildings retained, acting as the heart and lungs of the modern towns of Ruislip and Northwood.

PLANNING & CONSERVATION

Today we continue to keep a watching brief on the woods and other conservation matters, especially the conservation areas

around the centre of Ruislip. Our conservation officer, Paul Mitchell, sits on the conservation panel and works with our two planning members, Mike Hodge and John Williams, to check all planning applications in Ruislip. Recently this same team has worked on responding to Hillingdon's proposed Local Plan, a Hillingdon consultation on flood risks in Hillingdon, and a DCLG consultation on building homes on Green-Belt land. So they have been very busy.

HEALTH & WELFARE

Joan Davis does a marvellous job keeping an eye on healthcare matters in Ruislip and beyond. The Residents' Association is a member of Community Voice, the NHS oversight body that Joan chairs. Our chairman, Graham Bartram, is also a Public Governor of the Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which covers Hillingdon and Mount Vernon Hospitals. Thanks to Ivor John, the Association works with Bishop Ramsey School to provide the pictures that line the corridors of the Treatment Centre at Mount Vernon Hospital.

EDUCATION

Sue Midgley works with our local schools, keeping the community informed about what the schools are doing, and in 2014 worked with students from Bishop Ramsey School to produce a commemorative album of the men of Ruislip who are commemorated on the War Memorial for the 100th anniversary of World War I.

COUNCILLORS

We have very good working relationships with Councillors from all three of the wards that Ruislip Residents' Association covers. Several of the Councillors regularly attend our monthly executive meetings. We often take up residents' concerns with the Councillors or just discuss general matters that affect all residents, such as parking, litter, etc.

POLICE

Each of the three wards that the Association covers has its own Police Safer Neighbourhood Panel, and Brian Gunn represents us on West Ruislip and Eastcote & East Ruislip. He is still working on Ruislip Manor.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

We work with Ruislip Chamber of Commerce to represent residents' views to the commercial sector. For example, we successfully cooperated in getting Hillingdon Council to delay road works that were planned for November and December 2014 until after the important Christmas trading period. We are currently cooperating to encourage the Council to carry out a comprehensive review of parking in and around Ruislip High Street, to see if we can provide more parking for people wanting to shop in the High Street.

So that is just a sample of where Ruislip Residents' Association works to represent the people of Ruislip and protect the town we love. ♦

Monumental People

Eileen Bowlt

St Martin's is a beautiful medieval church, lovingly cared for by parishioners and, amazingly, open throughout the day not just during service times, giving everyone the opportunity to pop in to say a prayer, or have a look around. There is plenty worth seeing: the wall paintings, the brasses, stained glass windows by C E Kempe, depicting scenes from St Martin's life and of course many monuments, some set in the floor of the chancel and aisles and others fixed to the walls and pillars.

Naturally the people commemorated within the walls are drawn from the gentry and wealthier families living in or connected with Ruislip. The chancel is filled with memorials of the Hawtreys of Eastcote House and the Rogers who had married into the family and succeeded to their estates. The Needham sisters earned their place because they had lived at Eastcote House as companions to their unmarried cousin, Elizabeth Rogers (died 1803). Two younger chaperones who followed them, Philadelphia and Jane Deane lie in a vault close to the pulpit and have a tablet hanging on the first pillar in the north arcade. The Hawtreys, Rogers and Deanes, in turn,

leased the Rectory of Ruislip from the Dean and Canons of Windsor between 1532 and 1867, giving them the right to collect the Great Tithes (later ownership of rectory land), and the responsibility of maintaining the chancel in good repair.



Lady Bankes, died 1661. She had the honour 'to have borne with a constancy and Courage about her sex a Noble porporçon of the Late Calamities'

The most important monument from an artistic viewpoint is on the north wall of the chancel. It was sculpted by John and Matthias Christmas and has busts of Ralph Hawtrey and his wife Mary, who died in 1638 and 1647 respectively.

The most renowned is on the opposite wall and retails the exploits of their daughter, Lady Bankes, in defending Corfe Castle against the Roundheads during the Civil War, showing a 'constancy and courage above her sex'. Lady Bankes School in Ruislip Manor is named after her.

Roger de Southcote, who owned a house surrounded by a moat on the north side of Ladygate Lane, is buried in the NE corner of the sanctuary, under an impressive stone which has a partially-defaced inscription in Lombardic lettering, 'ROGER DE SUTHCOTE IADIS IUS-----JEUS LY ; FACE; VERRAY ; M/ERCI'. It is of 14th century date and is the oldest tomb in the church. Southcote was the hereditary estate of the Forester of Harmondsworth and members of the Southcote family held that office in the 13th and 14th centuries.

A couple who owned Southcote House some 400 years later, John Lewin (died 1770) and his wife Sarah (died 1772), are commemorated on an oval tablet hanging on the first pillar in the south arcade of the nave. They were only 37 and 35 at the time of their deaths. Sarah was a great-niece of

John Child, banker at the sign of the Mari-gold at Temple Bar, who had purchased Southcote and the rest of St Catherine's Manor in 1719. Sara inherited a fourth part of the estate, but John Lewin, who was a merchant of Basinghall Street bought the other shares. Maybe Southcote became their country retreat – it seems unlikely that John would have commuted to the City daily- and they mainly lived in London.

Other Ruislip families also had City connections. Four brasses of different dates can be seen set into a black marble slab in the floor of the nave. The rectangular inscription plate at top left is dedicated to the 'Pious memory of Mary, Second daughter of Mr Richard Living of this Parish and Wife of Abraham Keene Citizen and Coachmaker of London. Who departed this life September the 5th 1696 in the 49th year of her age.' Another slab in the centre aisle commemorates three more Keenes, Abraham, senior, Hannah his wife and their son, Abraham junior 'Citizen and coach maker of London'. Was Abraham, senior, who died in 1720 aged 69 married first to Mary and then to Hannah? Did he make over his coach making business to his son, Abraham, who died in 1732, aged 37? This is speculation, but the dates seem to fit.

A particularly attractive pear-shaped memorial on the first pillar in the north arcade, records John Reading who died in 1705. Decorative features include a

canopy from which curtains fall behind the heads of winged cherubs and around scrolls to an acanthus leaf at the base. The family – the name spelt in various ways – had been in Ruislip since 1232, when Robert de Radinge gave land to the Abbey of Bec. They were gentry and were undertenants of the Hawtreys, from whom they held Manor Farm in the 17th century, as well as being landowners in their own right. A black floor slab in front of the first pew, covers 'the body of IOHN READING Gent of this Parish'. He died in 1670.



John Reading, gentleman, died 1705.

Although most of the monuments date from 17th-19th centuries, there are 20th century examples. Two similar brass tablets can be seen on the first arch of the

south arcade. They are dedicated to Major Leslie Da Costa Penn-Gaskell and 2nd Lieut John Winkworth Bailey who were killed in the early months of 1916, the latter whilst making his first solo flight. Learning to fly was very dangerous in the early days of the Royal Flying Corps and there were a number of fatal accidents at Northolt Aerodrome (opened March 1915) and subsequent burials at St Martin's.

Monuments are not as permanent as one might expect. Families die out, those commemorated are unknown to future generations and sometimes the stone, marble or brass is removed and perhaps reused. When the Almshouses were being restored in 1979-80, Elizabeth Edgell's tablet was found in a fireplace at the Holt (the cottage at the east end). It was brought inside the church and placed in the tower. She was the widow of Hippie Edgell (unusual Christian name) and died at Turnham Green in 1822 and is buried in the family vault. Harry Edgell, her son, transformed an old farmhouse on the High Street into Park House (now owned by the Royal British Legion) and created an estate bounded by Sharps Lane and Ickenham Road. His memorial is on the south wall of the Lady Chapel.

Whatever your interests, artistic, architectural or historical, do visit St Martin's, but bring a torch with you, if you wish to read the monuments. ♦

Thanks to Alan Seymour for the photographs.

Conservation Concerns

Paul Mitchell

Here are some of the recent matters that have come up at recent RRA Executive and Ruislip Village Conservation Panel (RVCP) meetings:

- ◆ Citizens Advice Bureau building: This building is in a critical position within the conservation area, between Manor Farm and St Martins / the Almshouses, and it is in poor condition. We understand that the Council is planning to sell it and if so there are serious concerns about what may be built there. RVCP wrote to the Councillors in December to flag up how important it is to ensure that the purchaser understands, before purchase, the sensitivity of the site and its unsuitability for anything other than minimal development.
- ◆ Government consultation on Green Belt: We submitted a response to the DCLG Consultation Paper on changes to the housing policies in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which would change the policies on housing in the Green Belt, affordable housing definition and the use of Brownfield Sites. Our response largely supported that of the National Organisation of Residents' Associations (NORA), but we also emphasised particular local issues of concern.
- ◆ Parking restrictions: We responded to Cllr Corthorne's request for the RRA's views on parking restrictions in Ruislip, summarising the outcome of our discussion at the February meeting of the RRA Executive. Further discussions are taking place.
- ◆ Demolitions: The RVCP is concerned about the dangers of a precedent being set following two recent approved applications to demolish an existing house (and replace with 2 houses in one case and a bigger house in the other). We have written to other Conservation Panels to seek views on strengthening the existing presumption against demolition to one forbidding demolition in conservation areas.
- ◆ Website updates: The Conservation section of the RRA Website was revamped and relaunched (with help from Joan Davis and John Swindells). ◆

Police Points

Inspector Rob Bryan



This month I would return to my most popular topic - good work by your local police:

GOOD WORK (ALL UNDERTAKEN BY YOUR LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICERS)

- ◆ **A detective in the making:** Last month PC Stawiecki identified a pattern of shoplifting offences and established they were being committed by the same pair of thieves. He gathered all the necessary evidence from a number of stores then arranged an early morning visit for the pair. His excellent evidence meant both put their hands up and were charged with 11 offences.
- ◆ **Calling 999 unnecessarily affects our ability to deal with proper incidents:** PC Foley and PC Moore dealt with a local resident who was calling police on a daily basis making a variety of accusations including that his neighbour had a gun. The officers identified that the person was in need of medical care and were successful in getting

him to hospital for a mental health assessment. Since then the bogus calls have stopped, giving us more time to respond to real emergencies.

◆ **Villains - we know what you look like:**

Having local bobbies means the faces of criminals are well known. After parking meters in Eastcote were targeted by thieves, PC Brown trawled through CCTV footage and identified the main offenders. PC Brown set about locating the offenders and caught them in the act of counting the money they had just stolen from another parking meter! As a result of her hard work and perseverance PC Brown secured 6 charges of theft against these offenders.

◆ **Villains - we know what you look like**

part 2: Police received a call to a woman heard screaming in a local address. PC Foley recognised the address and realised it was likely to be a person subject to a non-molestation order returning to the address. He informed his colleagues of who he thought it was. PC Hamilton and PCSO Parihar were in the area and spotted that person going past them in the other direction on a bus. Their eagle eyes meant

they were able to stop the bus and arrest the person for breaching the order.

- ◆ **Villains - we know what you look like part 3:** I think you get the point - local officers with local knowledge mean local crooks are often captured. PC Foley again, this time investigating a theft of a wallet from a local store. PC Foley was able to identify the suspect on the CCTV and make an early arrest. The strength of evidence against this person meant he fully admitted the offence when interviewed.
- ◆ **A police uniform can work magic:** Whilst on patrol PC Christmas was approached by a man who said he had left his wallet in a local pub the night before. When he realised his loss he contacted the pub but they told him they didn't have it. He was convinced that he had left it there. PC Christmas attended the pub and was insistent that they tried a bit harder to find this wallet. His persistence paid off, the wallet was found and returned to the owner with everything still inside it. The owner was really happy that police had managed to help him out where he felt that he was not able to do anything further himself.
- ◆ **Traffic signs apply to everyone:** Sgt Fanton and her team have carried out a number of traffic operations in Northgate where there is a no right turn sign from Ducks Hill Road. This was in response to complaints from

residents in Northgate that the route was used as a cut through and the restrictions flouted by drivers all the time. Approximately 40 cars were stopped and warned about their actions. Other offences were also identified and resulted in several cars being seized and drivers being reported.

- ◆ **Youth disorder:** In recent weeks Ruislip High Street and the fast food outlets there have seen a rise in youth disorder. A range of tactics have been used to try and get this under control. At one end of the scale PC Murphy and PC Brown arrested two youths for public order offences - those kids are now subject to the judicial system because of their behaviour and because they were also found in possession of drugs. Sgt Charlston and I have also met with local fast food restaurant managers, agreeing on a number of tactics to make their restaurants less of a haven for bad behaviour - yes, that includes officers sitting in the restaurants drinking coffee. We are reclaiming the space, not putting our feet up! The names of those we deal with (the majority of whom are very local) are being shared with the local secondary schools who will also be educating these young people. This work is still ongoing.
- ◆ **Bad days have long lasting consequences:** PC Groome investigated an incident where a man purposefully dragged his key down the side of a

car parked at a local gym. There was no reason for him to do this and no previous relationship with the owner of the car. He seemingly was having a bad day and decided to take in out on an innocent person's car. PC Groome arrested him and he has been charged and will be attending court.

- ◆ **Don't be a bad neighbour:** PC Low secured a 10-year Criminal Behaviour Order against Celia Tan at her sentencing hearing at Harrow Crown Court this month. Celia Tan had subjected her neighbours to a campaign of malicious and escalating harassment which included her driving at the neighbour's children. She was also given a 2-year suspended sentence in addition to the 5-months she spent on remand prior to the trial. There is no doubt this woman made her neighbour's life a misery and PC Low's excellent work has finally brought her to book.
- ◆ **Acting on information received:** PC Christopher acted on intelligence received from local residents and executed a search warrant at an address in Eastcote. He arrested one person for drug offences and a police style acrylic baton was also recovered from the address. Ring 101 or Crimestoppers if you know of wrongdoing, or speak to your local officer.
- ◆ **Partnership working:** Sgt Kerr and his team carried out another joint operation with Immigration Services target-

ing illegal workers and anti-social behaviour in Bradfield Road as a result of complaints by local residents. A police dispersal order was put in place whereby 17 persons were issued notices and seven were arrested for immigration offences.

- ◆ **Disgusting:** A family was being harassed over a period of time culminating in dog faeces being smeared over their front door and car. PC Moore worked hard to link the suspect to the crime, eventually getting sufficient evidence to secure a charge of criminal damage. The victim and his family were very grateful for PC Moore's efforts in finally dealing with an individual who was affecting their lives.

Remember, this is only a snapshot of what your local officers are up to. They do so much more on top.

As always, if you want to contact me directly, the quickest way is at:

✉ rob.bryan@met.police.uk ◆



Police Ward Panel Report

Brian Gunn

Following on from my last report, the safer neighbourhood team led by Sgt Eleanor Charlston have been very busy – as you can see from Inspector Bryan's report. I can also tell you that the team are currently working on the ongoing ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour) issues on Ruislip High Street, in particular the issues with youths congregating around McDonalds. The team are working with McDonalds' management to support them and their staff in dealing with security and preventing ASB on their premises. Hillingdon Council ASB team are working to get a Public Spaces Protection Order in place for the High Street, to help the police manage the problem. The team have been putting in temporary dispersal orders on the weekends to elevate the issues in the short term and continue to enforce any crime and anti-social issues on the High Street.

Apart from that we are aware of some issues with misbehaviour by pupils on local buses (notably the 331 Service). Unfortunately some pupils – from Douay Martyrs School in Ickenham and the Harefield Academy in particular – do not seem to appreciate the disruption that they cause to other passengers with their anti-social behaviour and the Hillingdon Safer Transport team have had these incidents drawn to their attention.

There also seems to be an ongoing issue with motorists and motorcyclists failing to give way to pedestrians on Zebra crossings. At the crossing at the junction of St Martin's Approach and Eastcote Road, vehicles travelling east often approach the crossing too fast and do not stop. At Wood Lane, some motorists deliberately ignore the fact that someone is already on the crossing and continue to drive on without stopping. Both are long established crossings and apart from the obvious danger caused to pedestrians, it is an endorsable offence to fail to accord precedence to someone already on the crossing. The matter has been both reported as a concern to the police and taken up with the Council who have undertaken to look at the signage to see if anything further can be done to improve the awareness of the crossings. On that subject, I shall be asking the Council to conduct an audit of all the road signage in the area as it is quite noticeable that those painted on the road surface have, in many places, become of poor quality or are almost non-existent. If you notice a badly faded or obscured road sign, a non-working Belisha beacon or traffic island bollard, or poor road markings, please let me know, or contact the Council directly. Remember to take careful note of exactly where the problem is. ♦

 police@ruislipresidents.org.uk

Education News

Susan Midgley

BISHOP RAMSEY C OF E SCHOOL'S SAINT CECILIA CONCERT

On Thursday, November 12th. 2015 the school presented its annual music concert. It opened with a lively performance from the Junior Choir who sang *One Short Day* by Stephen Schwarz from the musical *Wicked*. This was followed by the first solo performance of the evening, a Mozart piano sonata performed by Jesse Deng, Year 12. The next item on the programme was a performance from the Wind Band directed by Miss Hunt and led by Alison Waller, a Year 13 student, who played *I Dreamed A Dream* from the musical, *Les Misérables*. There followed performances by the Senior Choir, Sinfonia which consisted of a variety of string players directed by Miss Rottmann, the Glee Club, a new addition to the Music department and run by Renee James and Jacqui Garrett from Year 12, and the Jazz Band led by James Willett, Year 13. The first half drew to a close with a solo violin performance by the very talented Andrei Anghel, Year 10. Andrei is also an accomplished pianist who has represented the school in various music competitions during the past year and won the Northwood Piano Competition.

After the interval the Senior Choir, conducted by Mrs Neale, Head of Music, performed the Gospel song, *Hallelujah, Salvation and Glory* by Stephen Hurd. This rousing performance was, without doubt, due to the obvious enthusiasm of the conductor! Next came Louis Cowling, Year 12, who gave a wonderful solo drum performance. There followed performances from the Junior Choir, the Jazz Band and the Hillingdon Music Service Saxophone Quartet led by Alison Waller. The evening was brought to a close by the Concert Band who performed a James Bond medley.

The school is fortunate to have a number of talented musicians and a very enthusiastic Music department who together produced a very entertaining evening.

BWI PUPILS VISIT GURU NANAK SIKH ACADEMY PRIMARY

On November 25th. 2015 a group of pupils from BWI paid a visit to the primary phase of GNSA in Hayes to celebrate Guru Nanak's birthday. This was a return visit as the Sikh pupils had visited BWI in the summer term to present an assembly on Sikhism. The visit provided a welcome op-

portunity to renew friendships that had been made earlier in the year.

The pupils were welcomed by GNSA Primary's head boy and girl. They then had to remove their shoes and cover their heads before they entered the Gurdwara (temple) for the celebration assembly. There were stories, readings and prayers in Panjabi and English as well as music. After the assembly everyone went to lunch which consisted of curry, rice with peas and carrots, fruit and ice cream. There was then a chance to spend some time together in the playground.

For the afternoon session BWI pupils spent time with their respective year groups in the Sikh pupils' classes to join in with a variety of activities. One group had fun making biscuit balls from crushed digestive biscuits, puffed rice and condensed milk.

Below, in their own words, is the BWI pupils' evaluation of their visit : "It was great to learn more about the Sikh religion; about their beliefs, place of worship and holy book. We noticed many differences between Christianity and Sikhism but also many similarities. We should like to thank them for making us feel so welcome and for being a part of our community."

Residents may read fuller reports on the above by visiting the Education section on the RRA website.

 education@ruislipresidents.org.uk ♦



**Andrei Anghel practising for the
St Cecilia's Day Concert**



**Pupils from GNSA and BWI on their
exchange visit**

Health Matters

Joan Davis

NATIONAL ISSUES

The NHS missed many targets nationally in November 2015: Ambulance pick-up times; A&E Units not seeing, treating, or discharging patients within four hours; over six weeks' waits for diagnostic tests; failure to start cancer treatment within 62 days of GP referral; failure to answer NHS 111 phone calls within 60 seconds; also significant problems over hospital discharges.

Female Genital Mutilation Legislative Requirements: From 31st October healthcare professionals must alert the police if they treat a girl under 18 who has had female genital mutilation.

Registered Nurse and Midwife Revalidation: From April 2016, revalidation at three year intervals will require evidence of a range of factors to show that the individual is keeping up to date and getting current practice.

Proposed national tariff changes: The rate for emergency admissions above the agreed level is to rise from 30% to 70%.

REGIONAL ISSUES

London Ambulance Service: After a Care Quality Commission inspection, LAS, which serves around 8.6m people, has been put into special measures due to number of frontline vacancies, poor staff training, demoralised and bullied staff, lack of senior staff supervision and failure to meet response target times.

"Like Minded": This NW London CCGs' mental health programme notes that too many people think that mental illness will not affect them, although it affects more people than cancer, heart disease, stroke or diabetes. In the course of a year almost one in four people will have a diagnosable mental illness.

HILLINGDON CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP (CCG)

Finance - December 2015: The CCG achieved its year to date planned surplus of £2.611m and was forecasting a revised surplus of £7.482m by year end, £4m above plan, which will be carried forward into 2016/17.

Mental Health Services November 2015: Difficulties in finding placements for pa-

tients led to delayed transfers of care from acute beds. Waiting time pressures due to increased demand for child and adolescent mental health services are being addressed by a recruitment plan. An early / late appointment system is also being implemented to improve standards.

November 2015 A&E Services: Neither Hillingdon Hospital nor Northwick Park Hospital was able to admit or treat / discharge 95% of patients within four hours.

THE HILLINGDON HOSPITALS NHS FT Integrated Quality and Performance report:

- ◆ *Clostridium difficile*: to the end of December the Trust had ten cases against a whole-year target of eight, and a further case in January is being investigated.
- ◆ *Hospital-acquired pressure ulcers*: the Trust is on target year to date.

Staffing: Vacancies rose by 0.28% in December compared to 2014. The current vacancy rate is 10.26%. In December 2015 the Trust made 152 offers of employment with 50 new starters during the month. There was a 9% increase in staff for all professions compared with December 2014.

Finance: Year end revenue forecast is now a deficit of £1.5m. Year-end forecast capital expenditure has been reduced by £900k, which reflects the slippage on the paediatric scheme.

Maternity Services at Hillingdon Hospital: The number of deliveries per month is expected to stabilise when the mothers who have transferred from Ealing Hospital have delivered their babies. The Trust will then be able to build a business case for the recruitment of more midwives, based on firm numbers.

Caesarean births: The elective caesarean rate is 8.1%, the lowest rate in NW London, but the Trust's emergency caesarean rate has increased to 20.8%.

Foundation Trust Membership: If you are interested in becoming a member of the local Foundation Trust, please visit: <http://www.thh.nhs.uk/about/ft/membership/> Members receive the Trust's newsletter, *Pulse*, and elect the Public Governors.

CENTRAL & NORTH WEST LONDON NHS FT Hillingdon Mental Health services: The services have had a high vacancy rate, sickness of 19.93% and staff turnover of 21.1%, with correspondingly high agency spend. They were overspent in December by £183k in month, £488k year to date.

HEALTHWATCH HILLINGDON

Operational Priorities 2016-17: There are four priorities (i) Unsafe Discharge from hospitals (ii) Maternity, following the closure of services at Ealing Hospital (iii) Hillingdon Care Homes (iv) Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Wellbeing. ◆

Special General Meeting

7.45pm, Wednesday, 20th April 2016

Winston Churchill Hall, Pinn Way, Ruislip HA4 7QL

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Talk by Nick Hurd MP, Member of Parliament for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner
3. Approval of changes to the Rules of Ruislip Residents' Association
 4. Approval of the membership fee for 2017
5. Open Forum - with questions to a panel of RRA representatives
(Items to the Secretary by Wednesday, 13th April)
6. Any Other Business
7. 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, 22nd September 2016, Winston Churchill Hall ♦



The Winston Churchill Hall



The Foyer

A Cornucopia of Culture

Graham Bartram

Ruislip really is blessed when it comes to cultural facilities. We have an excellent theatre in Winston Churchill Hall, and of course the Compass Theatre in Ickenham. You can find out what is on at the two theatres at the Hillingdon Theatres website:

<http://www.hillingdontheatres.uk>.

Many of the productions are put on by the area's thriving amateur dramatics groups, and the ticket prices tend to be very reasonable. So why not take advantage of all these facilities and go and see a show or concert?

DK ProduKtions & London Borough of Hillingdon presents

Alice in Wonderland

Compass Theatre, Tue to Sat, 5th to 9th April

Tickets £15.00/£11.00 or £44 family ticket

Join Alice and drop down the rabbit hole to a magical place in Wonderland. Keep your head firmly on your shoulders and stay on the good side of the Queen of Hearts, plus attend a tea party that would make anyone go mad. Get ready for one of the world's great adventures!

Ruislip Operatic Society presents

Thoroughly Modern Millie

Winston Churchill Hall, Wed to Sat, 6th to 9th April

Tickets £15.00/£12.00

Join Millie - a thoroughly modern 1920's lady as she moves to New York City intent on finding and marrying a wealthy man. As Millie finds out the road to romance is never straight forward.

Pastiche Theatre Group presents

Half A Sixpence

Compass Theatre, Wed to Sat, 20th to 23rd April

Tickets £13.00/£11.00

Arthur Kipps is an orphan who unexpectedly inherits a fortune, and climbs the social ladder before losing everything and realizing that you just can't buy happiness.

The Mayor of Hillingdon and Encore Theatre presents

The Mayor's Charity Cabaret

Compass Theatre, Sat, 30th April

Tickets £15.00

A glittering programme of popular music, dance and comedy with show-stopping numbers from Encore's productions of *Hairspray*, *Seussical* and *Legally Blonde*.

Hillingdon Artists: Spring Exhibition

Manor Farm, Sun to Sat, 1st to 7th May

The Hillingdon Artist's Group present their Spring Exhibition at the Cow Byre Gallery at Manor Farm. ♦

Planning Update

Mike Hodge & John Williams

32 CHUDLEIGH WAY: It is proposed to construct a two storey three bed end-of-terrace dwelling on part of this plot - Ruislip Residents' Association are not raising any objections nor has there been any feedback from affected neighbours.



32 and 30 Chudleigh Way

2 SOUTHPARK WAY: Similarly, there is a new proposal to erect a two storey three bed detached dwelling on this plot. Again, to date, there has not been any adverse reactions - however progress will be monitored.



2 Southpark Way

1 DULVERTON ROAD: Another new build is a proposal to erect a two storey two bed detached dwelling on land forming part of this plot. Should any concerns be raised we would assist where we can.



1 Dulverton Road

59 RESERVOIR ROAD: An application to erect two single storey outbuildings for use as a store and playroom having been refused by local planners has gone to appeal which will be decided on the basis of an exchange of written representations.



59 Reservoir Road

PEMBROKE HOUSE: Following the refusal by the local planners, upheld by the Planning Inspectorate, of plans to erect a two storey detached office building, there are now new proposals for a smaller and lower 1½ storey building which is presently under consideration.



Pembroke House

CANNONS BRIDGE FARM, BURY STREET: A planning application has been submitted to erect a two storey front and rear extensions involving demolition of a ground

floor family room. Extension of listed building consent is also being sought.

26-28 CORNWALL ROAD: Following the refusal by local planners to allow the erection of a single storey detached outbuilding for use as a gym/store, the applicant has appealed to the Planning Inspectorate, who will decide, based on written representations, whether to uphold the Council's decision or override it. Currently it is taking some weeks before an outcome is known.

35 PARK AVENUE: Another application to go to appeal is for a proposed single storey rear extension, after being refused by the Council. The Planning Inspectorate will take a decision based on written representations, but as this appeal is under the Household Appeals Service there is no opportunity for other representations to be made. ♦

Houses of Parliament Visits

Vivien Alcorn

We hope to receive a special permit for another tour of Parliament, courtesy of MP Nick Hurd's office, in the near future, although the date is not set yet. If you would like to be included, please email me at the address below and your name will be added to the waiting list. A phone contact would also be useful. Please note there is a limit of two places per household. ♦

✉ social@ruislipresidents.org.uk



RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

7.45pm, Wednesday, 20th April 2016

Winston Churchill Hall

Pinn Way, Ruislip HA4 7QL

Doors open at 7.30pm

The talk will be by Nick Murd MP

Member of Parliament for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner

followed by an Open Forum, with questions to a panel of

RRA representatives. The meeting will end at 10pm

Wine, fruit juices and snacks will be served

Open Forum items to the Secretary by Wednesday, 13th April 2016

The next meeting is on the 22nd September 2016