

SUMMER AROUND RUISLIP



The snow may have somewhat disrupted normal life around Ruislip, but didn't it look lovely?

January 7th saw this winter's lowest temperature in Ruislip (so far anyway) of a rather arctic -8°C !

But even in these temperatures there were a few hardy souls willing to venture out. So here are a few "postcards" taken by some of your intrepid Committee members.



Annual General Meeting

Notice is now given of the forthcoming AGM to be held on Monday, 28th June 2010. Motions or proposals for consideration at the AGM and nominations for the Officers and members of the Executive Committee, duly proposed and seconded, should be received by the Secretary not later than 4th June 2010 at:
9 College Drive, Ruislip HA4 8SD.

A further issue of the Town Crier will be made in May



Ruislip Residents' Association

TOWN CRIER

The Voice of Ruislip Residents
February 2010



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Ruislip in the Snow

On the front cover of the previous edition of your Town Crier, we featured sun worshipers frolicking at the Ruislip Lido...how different December and part of January has been.

To demonstrate just how Ruislip can surprise and delight us, I thought I would offer you a photograph straight from a Christmas card. Taken by our own Sue Seagroatt, just a few weeks ago, this an irresistible, idyllic view of our Ruislip.

For more pictures of 'Arctic' Ruislip, take a look at this edition's back cover.

**Ruislip Residents' Association
GENERAL MEETING & OPEN FORUM
Wednesday 17th February 7:00pm**

**RUISLIP MANOR LIBRARY
Linden Avenue
HAVE YOUR SAY ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO YOU**

We are inviting local councillors and other groups to discuss with our residents, current local issues such as:

Stop & Shop proposals	Football club
Health	Green spaces
Waste	Environment
Freight Transport	Planning

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

Treasurer Required

Our Treasurer, John Perkins, after 10 years in the job, has given notice that he will be leaving the Committee in 2010. We need a volunteer to replace him.

If you are interested, in becoming our Treasurer or helping with other Committee activities please contact our Chairman, Peter Lansdown on 01895 623355, or e-mail peter.lansdown@btinternet.com.

Road Stewards are key members of the team that makes the Ruislip Residents' Association what it is. Their activities and invaluable help, bring the Town Crier to your door, make it easy for you to pay the small subscriptions we ask in return for membership and keep your committee informed of issues that matter to you, our members.

If you are able to spare just a few hours 3 or 4 times each year to contribute to our community, please contact our Chief Road Steward, Brian Cowley 020 8582 7810.

REQUEST FROM YOUR LOCAL POLICE

Metropolitan Police non-emergency contact number

Unless it's an emergency, call the Metropolitan Police Service on **0300 123 1212**.

You now only need to know two numbers to contact the Metropolitan Police:

- **In an emergency always call 999**
An emergency is when a crime is happening, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, someone is injured, being threatened or in danger. For example:
If your house is being burgled (or the suspect is nearby) call 999
If your car is being stolen (or the suspect is nearby) call 999
- **Call 0300 123 1212 in a non-emergency**
Call **0300 123 1212** when you need to report crime that is not an emergency. For example:
If your house has been burgled call 0300 123 1212
If your car has been stolen call 0300 123 1212

This number has been introduced to make it simpler for you to contact us and to help reduce the amount of inappropriate 999 calls. You can call it any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Calls from any network will cost no more than those to 01 or 02 numbers, and also count as part of any bundled minutes. If you need to call us from outside of the UK, you can call us on +44 207 230 1212. You can also call 0300 123 1212 when you need to speak to your local police, seek advice on police matters or comment on the service you have received from the Metropolitan Police.



Mount Vernon

Daniel Ward.

No new patients were admitted in 2009 and the PCT has been trying to find alternative placements for the last eight patients. Through The Community Voice, of which RRA is a member, we have been given specific assurances that it will only move patients with the consent of their relatives and to placements fully meeting their needs. However some placements are not yet agreed and there is no date for final closure of the ward.

Mount Vernon Cancer Centre is to be the first NHS centre to have cyberknife, a robotic linear accelerator which treats tumours with high energy X-rays. Common in the USA this facility is available in only one UK private clinic. It costs £3.5 million to install and has high maintenance and treatment costs. Possibly five Mount Vernon patients per week will benefit from its accuracy, which is measured in sub millimetres, lowering the risk to healthy tissues close to tumours - and patients will need fewer treatment sessions too.

Pay and display car parking is now operating at Mount Vernon to the dislike of many. The new Treatment Centre car park is open, with plenty of spaces on ground level but few patients are aware of its existence. We have protested about several issues,

in addition to our original objection to the replacement of “pay on exit” by “pay and display”, to which the Trust is fully committed. The Trust has agreed to address many of our other concerns, but delivery is slow.

All clinics should have notices with a phone number for patients who are worried about their parked cars and assuring patients that car park attendants will be informed when clinics run late. More change machines are expected. Signage is to be improved in the hospital and on the Rickmansworth Road – but the latter requires action by the local authority, not the NHS. Buses are to be diverted to the Treatment Centre entrance.

GP services get a bad rating

Hillingdon was rated “Poor” in the national 2009 GP Patient survey, which looked at waiting times for appointments, cleanliness, out of hours services, availability of GP telephone consultations, and patient care by nurses and receptionists in GP surgeries. Only one in five Hillingdon practices achieved the national average of 91% for patient satisfaction. Now the PCT is to encourage patients to contact PALS (www.pals.nhs.uk) to record shortcomings and to post comments on the NHS Choices website and the PCT’s own website. So, in future, GPs who ignore patients’ concerns will do so at their peril!

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OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE OF YOUR RUISLIP RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION

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

Contact us:

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

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

RUISLIP LIONS CLUB

A local charity raising money for local causes..

Presents:

"Gregg McCann & the Hands of Jazz"

Friday 7th May 2010 at 7.30 pm

Winston Churchill Theatre,
Pinn Way, Ruislip.

Box Office: 07806 766993.

Tickets: £12.00

RAF NORTHOLT

A few places are available for a tour of the development work that has taken place recently at RAF Northolt, on Tuesday, 9th March, at 2pm. Please would anyone interested contact me at peter.lansdown@btinternet.com – first come, first served.

FUSE

Ruislip Baptist Church run a Youth Group called Fuse for young people in school years 7 & 8. Any young person is welcome and our aim is to give young people an enjoyable, positive and safe environment in which to meet and to make friends.

During term time only Thursday evenings from 7:30-9pm.

Please come along and see if you enjoy FUSE. All leaders are CRB Checked.

For more information please call:

Graham Sumbler (Youth Minister of RBC) on 07793 677234 or
email graham.sumbler@ruislipbaptistchurch.co.uk.

Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society

Lecture programme 2010

Meetings held at St Martin's Church Hall, 8:15pm. Visitors welcome.

15 February	Researching Manor Farm	Geraint Franklin English Heritage
15 March	Mr. Waite and Mr. Rose: their first Waitrose shop	Janet Hobbs Acton History Group
19 April	Museums and Archaeology: their relationship	Hedley Swain Mus. Lib. Arch. Council

HEALTH MATTERS *(Joan Davis)*

To save money - London PCTs are working together in Sectors.

Hillingdon PCT is in the North West London Sector, which includes the PCTs in Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, Harrow, Hounslow, Kensington and Chelsea, and Westminster. These PCTs are now contracting as one body for provision of local NHS acute services, to secure better terms from NHS Hospital Trusts. Half of Hillingdon PCT's budget will be handled by the new Partnership, but the PCT remains responsible for provision of local services - its Finance Director, Ann Johnson, has been seconded to work with the Partnership for two days per week.

Hillingdon's Hospitals' News

MRSA and other nasties

Infection control has improved over the last year, which is good news. By December there had been eight cases of MRSA bacteraemia in Hillingdon Hospital Trust, which is within the current year's target, but no one is complacent as the whole year target is a maximum of 12. Clostridium difficile is decreasing too. Little by little, stringent hygiene controls are proving effective.

Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust is proud to report it had no MRSA cases in the first seven months of the year and fewer clostridium difficile cases.

Secretary of State's medium term vision will have long-term impact

This vision was launched on 10th December. Most significantly, it includes a proposal to link, over time, patient experience and satisfaction with up to 10% of hospital income! It also introduces a 30% marginal rate for non-elective admissions above 2008-09 out-turn levels, hoping that commissioners and providers will work together to share risks and control unwarranted escalation of hospital services.

Ethnic minority staff play a key part in Hillingdon Hospital Trust

36% of Hillingdon Hospital's staff comes from a minority ethnic background, a higher percentage than other London hospitals (average 29% in 2007) or the local population. In Hillingdon 28% of people are from an ethnic minority, a figure set to rise to 37% by 2020. The hospital staff remains mainly female, although men are now 23% compared with 15% a year ago. Most staff members are in the older age group, with 60% aged over 45 years.

Local NHS Finances: Hard times

NHs Hillingdon has paid dearly for past financial failure and is determined to meet the new challenges. In the last two years it broke even despite repaying £20 million towards its historic debt and interest, but this came at a cost. Hillingdon is behind other PCTs in investments in new services, including polyclinics. Significant investments in IT and estates are needed in Hillingdon to support improvements in productivity to release funds to meet the new financial threats. The PCT continues to struggle to balance its books while repaying £7.7 million per year of its debt – a vital requirement for the last £19 million of debt to be written off in 2011.

Spend to save!

Senior staff vacancies were condemned by KPMG in its autumn assessment of NHS Hillingdon. So, a new Medical Director took up post in December, a new Public Health Director was appointed - for the first time a joint appointment with Hillingdon Borough – and a search is on for a new Communications Director and several other senior posts. These appointments will ease pressure on existing staff, who have struggled too long to cover vacancies. Being cynical, but possibly realistic, unpaid salaries have helped the PCT's finances, but the cost has been high.

Reports on NHS finances

Hillingdon Hospital Trust was doing reasonably well as 2009 came to an end, predicting a small surplus for the year-ending March 2010.

In contrast, Hillingdon PCT, now called NHS Hillingdon, was much concerned by its £1.5m in-year overspend due to paying for the increased use of hospital services. The PCT has much at stake, with the risk of losing the write-off of its huge historic debt.

So, the PCT is requiring every department to assist its recovery plan. Hillingdon Hospital and NHS Hillingdon admit that the two organisations are now working together to reduce the cost of local acute services. The PCT's Chief Executive, Yi Mien Koh, noted that this worrying financial position has arisen despite investment in a referral management centre, clinical assessment services and consultant referral panels, all of which have failed to influence the levels of patients being treated in the community rather than in hospitals. The absence of value for money from those initiatives is a further concern.

Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust

At its last Board Meeting this Trust reported double the financial surplus it planned for this point in the year – an excellent achievement!

Our next **General Meeting** will be held at Ruislip Manor Library on Wednesday, 17th February, from 7pm. This venue is excellent in many ways, being central to the Manor area, but we can only use it with an earlier start, as we must be out by 9:45pm. There will be an "Open Forum" and it is expected that several issues will be raised, e.g. the "stop and shop" proposal, the football club, etc. Space is limited – I look forward to seeing you.

Much has happened at the **Manor Farm** in recent months which has greatly concerned local residents, including the closure of the Montessori School at The Stables, the building still remaining largely unused, and the granting of a licence for entertainment and alcohol for the Great Barn. At a public hearing, the licence was granted with several conditions. The requested number of days per week was reduced from seven to three, similarly the hours were reduced, limits were placed on the noise from music, etc. and the level of security required during use of the Barn was detailed. Residents are not satisfied that this will solve the problems that have been encountered in the past. They will be keeping a close watch on forthcoming events. As the site continues to develop, it is imperative that residents and other interested organisations are consulted

at every stage. It is the opinion of the Association's Executive Committee that this would be best satisfied by the establishment of a Management Advisory Group (MAG). MAGs have been in place for some time for Ruislip Woods and Ruislip Lido and are generally felt to work very well – to be clear, their function is to advise, not manage. In the January/February 2010 issue of Hillingdon People, Cllr. Ray Puddifoot has said: "In Hillingdon, residents' views always come first" – let's hope he is listening.

A few remaining places are available for a tour of the development work at **RAF Northolt**, on Tuesday, 9th March. (See Community Notice Board)

And finally...At the December Executive Committee meeting (held monthly) there was a unanimous vote of thanks to members, committee and others, for the sterling work carried out in the **planning** field. The Residents' Association has had a number of successes in this area, where unsuitable applications have been refused and others have been approved, but scaled down and with several conditions and alterations.

Peter Lansdown, Chairman

In addition to the “stop & shop” scheme proposed for Ruislip Manor and mentioned elsewhere there are a number of other developments that may be of interest.

South Ruislip Industrial Estate

There has been continuing dialogue with the Council over the last two years or so regarding access to the area for heavy goods vehicles. This resulted in a study being commissioned to identify access improvements, including the possibility of lowering the road under the bridge at South Ruislip station or a new road directly from the A40. Unfortunately, the only recommendation reached in the subsequent report, certainly in the short term, is to improve the signs indicating the preferred route from the A40, i.e. via West End Road, Pembroke Road, Victoria Road. This is not a satisfactory result for residents along this route.

Windmill Hill

A petition has been raised by Warrender School for pedestrian crossings on both the east and west sides of the roundabout at the top of Windmill Hill to improve the safety of schoolchildren and parents. While recognising that there is a problem of vehicle speeds in this area, for a number of reasons the Association committee do not think that the proposal offers the best solution. The petition should be heard soon.

Ex RAF Sites

Although on the boundaries of the Ruislip Residents’ Association patch, the development of the sites in Eastcote and West Ruislip is well under way. There is concern that the local infrastructure, already creaking, will be unable to take the strain, particularly traffic and parking, but also schools, health, police, etc. This is in addition to more housing in Pembroke Road, Kingsend and Bury Street.

Ducks Hill Road

A proposal is being considered by the Council for a Pegasus crossing at the top of the hill between Copse Wood and Mad Bess Wood. This type of controlled crossing is not only suitable for pedestrians, but also for horse riders without dismounting. It is a dangerous area for walkers and riders alike. An official crossing point would also improve access to the Hillingdon Trail.

A regular quarterly meeting of ALMAG was held on Tuesday, 19th January. The venue was moved from the Boathouse to Winston Churchill Hall, as it was decided to combine this event with the unveiling of the Council’s “Ruislip Lido Improvement Programme”. This was introduced by Cllr. Ray Puddifoot, the Leader of the Council and the detail was supplied by Alan Dalton, Interim Deputy Director, Planning and Community Services.

The proposals are one aspect of the Council’s Civic Pride Programme. Over the next two years, the Council will be investing resources to improve and develop facilities at Ruislip Lido. In summary, the proposals include:

- Increased car parking – around 200 additional spaces
- Raised water levels
- Better fishing facilities
- Improved toilets and changing facilities in the beach area

- Improved water quality to allow swimming
- Provision of adult boating and children’s paddle boating
- Further improvement and investment in the miniature railway
- Improvements to the current refreshment facilities
- Improved access to the site

Although not a public meeting, about 50 additional people attended, mainly residents local to the Lido, who were able to question the Leader on the proposals.

Major concerns expressed were already existing parking and anti-social behaviour problems and future consideration for the wild life.

We want to know your views – please email to:
feedback@ruislipresidents.org.uk

/...cont from p10

157-161 High Street: A proposed new development of 13 residential units has been refused on appeal by the Planning Inspectorate.

100 Sharps Lane: The appellant went to appeal on 23 Oct after the council’s refusal to allow the retention of a single storey self contained flat (built without permission). The association continue to support local residents concerns that the original decision should be upheld.

As anticipated in our last report, Ashill Developments submitted an application in late September for 84 homes on the old factory site at **Mill Works, Bury Street**. This was an improvement on their initial proposal for 93 homes and it appeared they had responded in part to the concerns of local residents and your Association. The application still included two four storey apartment blocks and several other features which we felt were not appropriate on this important site in the Ruislip Village Conservation Area.

Following further comment Ashill submitted amended plans just before Christmas, and they now propose 66 dwellings with the apartment blocks reduced to three storeys in height. This is a marked improvement on the original proposal but there are still a few items of concern, which we will be referring to the Planners.

Following the withdrawal of the application for a large side and rear extension at **53 Pinn Way** an amended application has been submitted. Local residents are still concerned that this is over-development of the property and we have supported them in their objections to the Council.

Residents in **Manor Way** and **Gle-nalla Road** have contacted the Association with concerns about the development on the former **Bishop**

Ramsey Lower School site in East-cote Road.

It appears the developer is offering optional layouts on one house type, which are different from the approved plans, and the residents feel will affect the amenity of their properties. We raised the matter with the Planning department who appeared to be unaware of the changes. Officers have investigated and inform us that the developer has withdrawn the option on one plot and is currently reviewing the matter in respect of two other plots.

The Council recently advertised a proposal to remove a parcel of land from the Green Belt in **New Years Green Lane**. We are currently liaising with the Council on the reasons for the proposed transfer.

Following a consultation last year the Council have compiled a list of **Buildings of Architectural or Historic Importance**. A further public consultation commenced on 4th January and will run until 8th February 2010. Details are available on the Council website or in Borough libraries.

Both Agora's planning applications for a) to transfer existing amusement centre from 70 to **80 High Street** and b) to open the former **Woolwich Building Society branch** as a Bingo Hall were refused by the local authority planners on 19 November.

Have you heard of the Sustainable Communities Act?

Passed in October 2007 it was sponsored by local M.P. Nick Hurd.

It is designed to improve local democracy, to give people and Councils a chance to have real influence on the actions of Central Government and in some circumstances to devolve funds from Central to Local spending. (More details about how it works can be found at:

www.localworks.org
www.lga.gov.uk)

Councils have to take action to opt in to use the Act. Some neighbouring Councils have done so but not Hillingdon. We are trying to persuade them to use the Act's provisions to set up local panels. These will be able to raise issues with the Council and for the Council to make proposals themselves about matters to promote local sustainability (which can be defined pretty widely-e.g preserving local High Streets, tackling anti-social behaviour, making planning decisions more local).

Other local Residents' Associations are interested in joining us in trying to influence the Council and we are to meet to see how we can take this forward – so watch this space.

Penny Rutherford

Transport for London (TfL) announced the arrival of new trains for the the Met line (and others) and we should see the first of these enter service in 2010, with the full complement operational by 2011.



According to TfL's website, the 58 new 8 cars trains will feature:

- Air conditioning
- Walk-through carriages
- Wheelchair areas
- Wider doors and walkways
- Easier access between train and platform
- Better audio and visual information systems
- CCTV
- An energy efficient braking system

Reportedly with fewer seats per car, TfL claims the new trains, along with a new signalling system will increase capacity on the Met line by 27%, although not until 2016.

(Keith Allsopp)

HISTORY: Saving Ruislip Woods *(Eileen M Bowlit)*

Ruislip Residents' Association's Greatest Achievement

Park Wood, Ruislip was saved from suburban development seventy-seven years ago. This spectacular event, largely the achievement of the Ruislip Association (now Ruislip Residents' Association), was celebrated on 23 July 1932. Following this momentous first step, the other Ruislip woods, Copse Wood and Mad Bess Wood were purchased to be public open spaces in 1936. Park and Copse Woods belonged to King's College, Cambridge, being part of their manorial demesne. Mad Bess Wood lies in St Catherine's Manor and had been owned by Sir Howard Stransom Button since 1922.

Actually only portions of Park and Copse Wood could be preserved, because King's College had adopted a Town Plan for their estate in 1910. The woods had been designated as the most expensive part of the estate, where imposing houses at three or four to the acre, would be scattered to picturesque effect among the trees. The Broadwalk, Copsewood Way, Links Way and Nicholas Way were already partially built in Copse Wood by the 1930s and Park Avenue, Broadwood Avenue and Sherwood Avenue were being laid out in Park Wood.

The meadows bordering the river were to remain as a recreational and sporting area, but Manor Farm with its

ancient barns and the timber-framed buildings around the church were all to be swept away and replaced with modern houses, shops and workshops.

Newcomers to Ruislip who had been attracted to the new suburb by the 'village atmosphere' and rural surroundings, looked on aghast as both fast disappeared under ever more bricks and mortar. Throughout 1929 members of the Association discussed among themselves, the desirability of saving the village centre around St Martin's and preserving Park Wood as a public open space. Mr J. Hooper approached King's College to open negotiations and he and the vicar, the Rev Edward Cornwall-Jones, attended the Audit Dinner at the College in November 1930. They spoke to the Bursar, J. Maynard Keynes (the famous economist), about the state of the woods and future plans. Ruislip people had many complaints: the woods had been ruthlessly cut, no tree left standing larger than eight inches in diameter; no replanting had taken place and the butt ends and roots had not been cleared. The College excused its management on the grounds that the woods were to be built over.

Mr Keynes was amenable to the idea of Park Wood becoming a permanent open space and would have liked to end the 500-year-old association with Ruislip with a 'gracious

HISTORY: Saving Ruislip Woods

act', by giving, not only Park Wood, but also Manor Farm and the Old Post Office (now Duck House Grill) to Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council. However, the College was governed by the Universities and Colleges' Act and considered a trustee of its lands. A sale had to be negotiated

The total amount paid for Park Wood was £28,100 and Manor Farm and the Old Post Office were included as a gift. Middlesex County Council was persuaded to pay 75% of the cost on the grounds that the woods were used by many outsiders and railway day-trippers. 'Visit Ruislip Woods in Bluebell time!' ran the adverts.



The handing over ceremony, 1932
(printed with permission of E. M. Bowlit)

The handing over ceremony on Saturday 23 July 1932 was a joyous occasion. A platform was set up on the ridge overlooking the Reservoir (the Lido since 1935). The Earl of Balcarras, Chairman of the Council for the

Preservation of Rural England, declared Park Wood open. Five commemorative trees were planted, one by 94-year-old Mrs Tobutt, the oldest inhabitant. Tea followed at the Great Barn, where Maynard Keynes was presented with a commemorative parchment. Games and dancing followed on the lawn in front of Manor Farm and the evening ended with a massed camp-fire and community singing.

Four years later the other woods were purchased: £23,250 was paid for 155 acres of Copse Wood, but the NW corner is still in private hands. Mad Bess Wood was bought by Compulsory Purchase Order for £28,000.

The Ruislip Woods Management Advisory Group, which includes an RRA representative, drew up the Long-term Management Plan in 1982. The Woods had long enjoyed SSSI status and in 1997, the then English Nature designated them and Ruislip Common, a National Nature Reserve.

For more information see: 'Ruislip Woods' by Eileen & Colin Bowlit, 1982.

Ruislip Woods Long-Term management Plan, 1982.

Both books are available at Manor Farm Library.

Eileen M. Bowlit