



Ruislip Residents' Association

TOWN CRIER

The Voice of Ruislip Residents
February 2012



Ruislip War Memorial - British Legion 90th Year

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RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT: Brian Cowley
VICE-PRESIDENT: Peter Lansdown

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

Responsibility	Committee Member	Responsibility	Committee Member
Conservation	Elma Hutton	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, Wednesday, 15th February, 2012
at Ruislip Social Club, Grosvenor Vale, Ruislip HA4 6JQ
(Doors open at 7.30pm)

Agenda:

1. Welcome and announcements
2. Apologies
3. Update on HS2 developments
4. Update on improvements to Ruislip Manor shopping area
5. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee
6. Questions to Executive Members
7. Any other business
8. Close of business

Followed by informal discussion - light refreshments available
The meeting will end at 10pm

EDITORIAL *(Peter Lansdown)*

Another 24 page issue, again with concentration on HS2, and inclusion of the written statement by The Secretary of State for Transport (Justine Greening), released on 10 January 2012. It seems that Ruislip will now benefit from an additional tunnel from Northolt to West Ruislip, but there is of course still serious concern about the whole project.

Hillingdon Council have made an application for more than £2m from the GLC Outer London Fund to refurbish the Ruislip Manor town centre at the northern end of Victoria Road: We think that this is important enough to feature at the next General Meeting (see above). The Residents' Association has not been invited to contribute and the only mention of residents in the report is a brief sub-heading on page 61, quote "Residents within Ruislip Manor Town centre catchment" as a stakeholder! We have made a request for a Council Officer to come the meeting to explain the proposals, but this has been refused.

There is a new feature on page 15, an item from local Councillors. It is intended that this will be a regular feature.

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

February 29th

Neil Crossland : piano

March 28th

Nadia Giliava: piano

April 25th

Valentin Schiedermaier : 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 and 3rd Thursday of every month.
Everyone welcome - tools and refreshments provided - no experience necessary.
Meet in the car park at Eastcote House Gardens 9.30am.
Diary dates: Feb 3rd and 16th Mar 2nd and 17th
 Apr 19th May 14th and 17th
- Saturday, 2nd June, 12 noon to 4pm - Jubilee Picnic
Opening of the Jubilee Orchard
- Eastcote House Gardens has been successful in passing Stage 1 of the Heritage Lottery Fund bid for a full restoration of the buildings and gardens. Stage 2 is due to be submitted in February 2013. Past support is greatly appreciated. Continued support is needed more than ever.

Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society

Lecture Programme 2012

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

20 February	The History of RAF Northolt	Mark Bristow RAF Northolt Hist. & Arch.
19 March	The Restoration of Strawberry Hill	Anna Chalcraft Friends of Strawberry Hill
16 April	Johannes Gutenberg and the Story of Print	Peter Balding 'Apsley Paper Trail' Heritage

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE *(Joan Davis)*

By the time this Town Crier reaches you, we shall be well into 2012, with the Olympics just over the horizon. By then the HS2 decision should be known and that, of course, is the most important item on our local agenda. There may also be developments in the hockey pitch proposal for Pinn Fields. Both those issues pose threats to Ruislip and we shall be watching them closely.

However, better things are likely too. The first stage of the Victoria Road facelift may be complete. That will give Ruislip Manor a long awaited boost, but if the Outer London Fund bid is successful, even more exciting things lie ahead. Ruislip Manor could be-

come the envy of other retail areas for miles around, the mecca for new shops and facilities, which would be wonderful for us! We shall know more by the time of our next General Meeting on 15th February, so make sure you are there.

If you want news before then, remember that our website is updated almost daily. Any important developments will most certainly be there:

www.ruislipresidents.org.uk We need assistance with keeping the website up to date with local events, so please get in touch if you might be able to help.

A happy New Year to you all.

Joan Davis, Chairman
Tel: 01895 636095

TRAFFIC/PARKING *(Peter Lansdown)*

The Ruislip Manor "Stop and Shop" scheme is now being installed, with some road widening on the west side of Victoria Road between Shenley Avenue and Cornwall Road. When completed early next month the traffic should be able to flow more freely and parking will be better controlled.

There is a proposal for a pedestrian crossing in the Ridgeway, close to the junction with Old Hatch Manor - part of the Warrender School Travel Plan. However there is significant local objection to this, on the grounds of necessity and cost. Watch this space.

MEMBERSHIP *(Brian Cowley)*

I'm pleased to report that the household membership of 3,800 in 2011 was the highest for many years. My thanks for the hard work put in by our team of Road and Area Stewards and my Deputy, Mary George to help to achieve this.

Household membership by Ward:

East Ruislip	1245
Manor	1190
West Ruislip	1372

These nos. suggest that we represent a majority of residents in each ward

Editor's Note: Thanks are also due to Brian, who collects many subs himself

FROM OUR MP FOR MANOR WARD - JOHN RANDALL

It is generally recognised that the extended Christmas holiday period can be not only a wonderful time for families and friends getting together, but it can also be a very difficult time for many. Apart from the very real problem of loneliness for some, it is often the time of year when the health of older people deteriorates and I know of course personally several who have had a very worrying time. A close member of my own family has been seriously ill and I have had time to reflect on many things while I have been “on duty”.

First, I would say that my experience of the care that has been on offer from doctors, district nurses and carers has been very positive. I know from my constituency post-bag that this is not always the case, but talking to many others in the same situation, I think it is the exceptional cases that are brought to my attention. I pay tribute to the professionals for their care and kindness.

Old age is not much fun, although I know many people who are not in the first flush of youth who are not only active but still stalwarts of the community. I do not need to mention any by name as I think we all know examples of those who put younger folk to shame by their activity and dedication.

The new film, “The Iron Lady”, has brought a portrayal of dementia to a wide audience. While I think that the timing could be seen as insensitive, I have been struck by the views of younger people about the film. Without the polarised views of those who are old enough to remember voting for or against Margaret Thatcher, through the brilliant acting of Meryl Streep, they can see that old age and dementia can affect anyone whatever their previous position or power.

All those who are now weak and frail have their own stories to tell even if they are not going to be made into blockbusters. I have been fortunate in having letters and diaries of various relations to tell me about their early lives that I did not know anything about. I have recently discovered about a cousin of my mother’s who worked for many years in India as a doctor.

One of the things that will make the work of social historians very difficult in the future will be the lack of such letters. Emails, texts and the like really will not last the course and I wonder what insights into our age will be lost by the demise of letters. For me the real lesson I have learnt from the past few weeks is the inestimable value of spending time with those you love and realising that being busy isn’t everything.

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

By the time you read this, I hope Christmas will be a very happy memory for you and your family. It was an extremely challenging year for lots of people and many of us will be hoping for better things in 2012. The New Year starts with resolutions, many of which do not survive into February. One of mine is to lose some weight: So if you see your MP running through Ruislip Woods, please stop and say hello.



I'm sure many of you are aware, following the statement by the Secretary of State for Transport, that the proposed HS2 rail line from London to Birmingham has been given the go ahead. Following serious concern raised by those along the line of route, much of the original plan has been revised.

There has been a positive improvement for many of those in Ruislip as there will now be a 4400m underground tunnel emerging at West Ruislip. After meeting with representatives of HS2 Ltd., mitigation experts assured me that there will be a provision at the mouth of the tunnel that will minimise noise from the new line. There remains an issue with Ruislip Golf Club, as the tunnel mouth is situated on the site of the current Club House and also Ruislip Rifle Club. With continuing campaigns against the decision and a potential judicial review, there is still much work to be done to get the best possible outcome for residents.

Many of you will know that one of my priorities is to help create better opportunities for young people. As the father of four teenagers, I know how tough and complicated the world they are growing up in is. The media are quick to present negative images of our young people, which in my experience is well off the mark. So I was pleased to have helped raise the money to save the Kickz project, which offers local kids the opportunity to get off the streets and play football at Ruislip High and Harefield Academy. I am excited too that we will have pilots of the National Citizen Service this year in Hillingdon. As the Minister responsible for this programme, I know just how powerful it can be in changing how teenagers see themselves and their opportunity to make a difference in their communities. Last but not least, my team were really thrilled with the response to my invitation to local kids to form a Youth Council to advise me. We had 18 young people come to Westminster to talk about their priorities. I was hugely impressed by these young residents who are full of ideas for improvements they want to see in the area. Working with them to make some of it happen is something I am looking forward to in 2012.

HISTORY: RUISLIP'S PUBS THROUGH THE AGES (*Eileen Bowl*t)

In the middle of the 18th century when the population of the Parish of Ruislip, which included Eastcote and Northwood, was less than one thousand, there were eleven fully licensed houses in the area. Some of the signs are familiar to us today – The Six Bells, The Black Horse, The George, The Swan. Others - The Black Pots, The Leather Bottle, The White Hart, The Red Lion, The Lion and Lamb and The Ram, have sunk without trace – we do not even know where some of them were. The Ship in Joel Street and The True Lovers' Knot in Rickmansworth Road, both replaced by blocks of flats, are still fresh in the memory and anyone who has glanced at an illustrated book on the history of Ruislip must be familiar with The Bell in Ruislip High Street beside the church gate. The Bell was the earliest recorded inn in Ruislip, being mentioned, not by name, but as the inn by the church yard in 17th century manor court rolls. Its licence was surrendered in 1931, leaving, The Swan and The George in the village centre.

The old George was replaced by the present Metroland road-house style building in 1938-9 to meet the needs and possibly the taste of the suburbanites who had settled in the new roads developed around the High Street and Eastcote Road in the 1930s. Completely new public houses such as The Black Bull, The Deane Arms (now The Middle-

sex Arms) and The Bell, in West End Road, were provided for the Manor Homes, the Deane estate at South Ruislip and Ruislip Gardens.

Both The Swan and The George have become restaurants rather than pubs in recent years, and the former names have only been retained, albeit with the original denominations subjugated to the names of the chains that own them, because of the strength of public feeling and the work of the Conservation Panel. The Plough in Bury Street has recently been taken over by a Steakhouse chain and residents must ensure that the name and pictorial sign remain in a prominent position.

Changes, however, are nothing new. The Six Bells stood on Breakspear Road between Rose Cottage and Howletts Lane in the 18th century, but it was purchased by Samuel Salter, a Rickmansworth brewer, in 1809 and he had the present building in Ducks Hill erected on former roadside waste that had been allotted to him under the Ruislip Enclosure Act. The new Six Bells signalled the demise of The Black Pots that stood in the field behind, roughly where the Crematorium fence is today. Many years ago Curly Woodman told me that the field was known as Black Spots when he was a boy about the time of the First World War.

Temporary names were sometimes giv-

HISTORY: RUISLIP'S PUBS THROUGH THE AGES *(cont.)*

en to pubs in Victorian times. While William Doughty, who was a bricklayer, was at The Bell, it was known as The Bricklayers' Arms. It was quite common for landlords to have another gainful occupation. Perhaps trade was not particularly brisk and many of the customers, being agricultural labourers were fairly poor. A wooden butcher's shop was attached to The George and in the 1851 census James Godliman at The Swan described himself as a farmer as well as publican.

Licensing began in the reign of Mary Tudor, but few Middlesex records survive until 1747, so there may have been other ale houses in Ruislip in Tudor and Stuart times that went unrecorded. Beer houses proliferated after the 1830 Beer House Act allowed any householder who was assessed to the Poor Rate, to sell beer upon payment of two guineas to the Customs & Excise. The Prince Albert at Tile Kilns (no longer with us), The Gate in Northwood, The Case is Altered, The White Bear at Kings End, The Woodman on Breakspear Road and The Plough in Bury Street, started as beer-houses.

Serving the community

The licensed houses were social centres for the hamlets - Ruislip Common, Tile Kilns, King's End - in which they stood. Wood sales (the underwood for coppicing) were held at The Six Bells and sales of timber (the oaks) at The Black Horse until the First World War. Inquests were usual-

ly held at the pub nearest to the home of the deceased. When three-year-old, Owen Aylesbury, whose father was the gardener at Ruislip Park House, died of lockjaw after an accident with a chaff-cutting machine while playing with his brothers in a barn, the inquest was held at The George. The verdict was accidental death. Happier occasions were cricket teas and dinners. Ruislip matches were played on land at Manor Farm and the teams repaired afterwards to The Swan. There is no denying that alcohol can inflame tempers and numerous assaults occurred on licensed premises and were reported in the local papers. In 1872, Harry Lavender and John Bowden, having refused to leave The White Bear when asked to do so by Mrs Weedon, the licensee, compounded matters by assaulting the policeman who came to her assistance.

The latest trend seems to be the conversion of shops to pubs, so that Ruislip Manor gained Hennesseys and St George's Tavern and has lost The Windmill and Ruislip High Street has The Laurels, a name that conjures visions of a very sedate suburban house, and Sweeneys.

Times and customers change, but let us hope that pubs will remain as an interesting and essential link with the past.

HIGH SPEED RAIL - HS2 - COMMENT *(Tessa Kershaw)*

The decision to proceed with HS2 with extra tunnels, including one from Northolt to West Ruislip, was announced on 10 January 2012, just before the Town Crier went to press. As such we have not yet had time to study the changes in any great detail. We do know that there will now be a 2.75 mile (4km) tunnel for most of the route through Ruislip, which appears from studying the maps to start at Northolt, before South Ruislip Station, and to end beyond West Ruislip Station. This tunnel will be a welcome reprieve for many concerned residents and businesses in that area, though land for tunnel vents will still be needed, and there are concerns about possible vibration or subsidence if any houses are above or near the tunnel. Unfortunately it looks like the plan remains to build a rail viaduct over / through Hillingdon Outdoor Activities Centre.

This decision to proceed, by Justine Greening, the Secretary of State for Transport, released on 10 January 2012, is shown in its entirety below and can also be found as a link on our website. On the Department for Transport website, www.dft.gov.uk, you will be able to find all the revised maps of the whole route, showing where the extra tunnels will be, as well as new bridges and road diversions.

At the moment only Phase One, the London to Birmingham part of the route, is being planned to be built, with a spur route to Heathrow being included in the future consultation for Phase Two, where the route would continue north of Birmingham in a Y shape up to Manchester and Leeds. Phase One still has to be agreed in Parliament by way of a Hybrid Bill before the many years of construction and disruption would start. There is already talk of more petitioning, and a possible judicial review, by various opponents to the scheme. If the project does run according to the proposed government timescale, the London to Birmingham stretch of the line would be ready for passenger trains by 2026.

Whilst the consultation period for Phase One closed last July, lobbying by groups both for and against the HS2 project continued unabated throughout the autumn and winter of 2011. In October the Transport Select Committee published their report on HS2, a link to which can be found on our website, and Hillingdon and Ruislip Against HS2 visited number 10 Downing Street to submit their petition of over 108,000 signatures.

Many other organisations also submitted petitions. A lively parliamentary debate took place on the 13th October in the House of Commons, and in November our MPs Nick Hurd and John Randall accompanied four Hillingdon Children from Ruislip when

they submitted their Children's Petition to Number 10 Downing Street. During that month Justine Greening met with MPs to discuss HS2, and there was also a Lobby Day for all interested parties, including MPs, action groups and the public.

HS2 Ltd has stated that a consultation regarding blight will take place "during Spring 2012". It has also said it will be consulting with community groups along the route, and will set up community forums, planning forums and an environment forum. Once we have more details about these we will let you know.

Our HS2 Working Group, which is open to any RRA member, is being asked to consider the Government's decision in detail, so that it can advise our Executive how to move forward in response to the decision.

Written statement by The Secretary of State for Transport (Justine Greening), released on 10 January 2012:

The consultation *High speed rail: Investing in Britain's future* was one of the largest national consultations ever undertaken by the Department for Transport. 54,909 responses were received from individuals, businesses and organisations across the country. It is clear from the consultation that a national high speed rail network - High Speed 2 - generates strong feelings, both in favour and against the scheme. Since becoming Secretary of State for Transport I have taken time to consider all aspects of the consultation proposals and the evidence arising from both consultation responses and further work undertaken or commissioned by my Department and HS2 Ltd. This statement summarises my decisions.

I have decided Britain should embark upon the most significant transport infrastructure project since the building of the motorways by supporting the development and delivery of a new national high speed rail network. By following in the footsteps of the 19th century railway pioneers, the Government is signalling its commitment to providing 21st century infrastructure and connections – laying the groundwork for long-term, sustainable economic growth.

High Speed 2 (HS2) is a scheme to deliver hugely enhanced rail capacity and connectivity between Britain's major conurbations. It is the largest transport infrastructure investment in the UK for a generation, and, with the exception of High Speed 1 (HS1), is the first major new railway line since the Victorian era.

The HS2 Y network will provide direct, high capacity, high speed links between London, Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester, with intermediate stations in the East Midlands and South Yorkshire. There will also be direct links to Heathrow Airport and to the Continent via the HS1 line. It will form a foundation for a potentially wider high speed network in years to come.

HS2 will be built in two phases to ensure that the benefits of high speed rail are realised at the earliest possible opportunity. The line from London to the West Midlands and the connection to HS1 are expected to open in 2026, followed, in 2032-33, by the onward legs to Manchester and Leeds and the connection to Heathrow. The capital cost at 2011 prices of building the complete Y network is £32.7 billion. At present values, it will generate benefits of up to £47 billion and fare revenues of up to £34 billion over a 60-year period.



The benefits of HS2 will extend beyond the network itself. Links to current lines will enable direct trains to run to cities such as Liverpool, Newcastle, Glasgow and Edinburgh and, with long-distance services transferring to the new network, space will be freed up for new commuter, regional and freight services on other lines, opening up new opportunities for Britain's existing railways. Links to key urban transport networks, such as Crossrail, will help to spread the benefits further still.

HS2 is entirely consistent with the Government's objectives for carbon emissions. Electrified rail is a comparatively low-carbon mode of transport, especially with the continued decarbonisation of the grid. Speed increases power consumption, but also makes HS2 more attractive to those currently flying or driving. The faster journeys on HS2 - Edinburgh and Glasgow will be just 3.5 hours from London - could transfer around 4.5 million journeys per year who might otherwise have travelled by air and 9 million from the roads. HS2 will also create more rail capacity on existing conventional speed lines for freight – removing lorries from our busy trunk roads. HS2 is therefore an important part of transport's low-carbon future.

In securing these benefits for our country, I am committed to developing a network with the lowest feasible impacts on local communities and the natural environment. I have been mindful that we must safeguard the natural environment as far as possible, both for the benefit of those enjoying our beautiful countryside today and for future generations.

People living along the line of route highlighted particular concerns and provided constructive and thoughtful comments about the London to West Midlands route proposed at consultation. Following careful study by my engineers, I can announce a package of alterations to further reduce the route's impacts. The changes mean that more than half the route will now be mitigated by tunnel or cutting and there will also be a reduction in the impacts on people and communities, ancient woodlands and important heritage sites.

The changes include:

A longer, continuous tunnel from Little Missenden to the M25 through the Chilterns;
A new 2.75 mile (4.4 km) bored tunnel along the Northolt Corridor to entirely avoid major works to the Chilterns Line and impacts on local communities in tRuislip;
A longer green tunnel past Chipping Warden and Aston Le Walls, and to curve the route to avoid a cluster of important heritage sites around Edgcote; and,
A longer green tunnel to significantly reduce impacts around Wendover, and an extension to the green tunnel at South Heath.

The revised route offers considerable improvements to communities, with the number of dwellings at risk of land take almost halving and the number experiencing increased noise levels reducing by a third. Despite these improvements to limit the negative impacts of the line, HS2 will inevitably affect some homeowners, communities and businesses. To help those affected, we will bring in a package of measures, which are over and above what affected homeowners are already entitled to under law. These include:

A streamlined purchase scheme to simplify the statutory blight process for property owners;

A sale and rent back scheme to give homeowners within the safeguarded area more flexibility;

A streamlined small claims scheme for construction damage which will allow individuals and businesses who are entitled to compensation under existing law to claim it more quickly and simply;

A package of measures to reinforce confidence in properties above tunnels. Homeowners will be offered before and after surveys, a thorough assessment of the impact of similar tunnels, an explanation of the measures that will be taken to prevent perceptible vibration impacts, financial compensation for the compulsory purchase of subsoil, and a legally binding promise that HS2 will be permanently responsible for resolving any related settlement or subsidence issues; and,

A refreshed hardship-based property purchase scheme.

Finally, we will work constructively with local authorities along the line of route to minimise the negative consequences of HS2 and maximise the benefits.

In November I announced the Triennial Review of HS2 Ltd, and in making my decision I have accepted the finding that HS2 Ltd is the appropriate body to continue undertaking this work.

Today I have presented to Parliament a full account of my decisions titled *High speed rail: Investing in Britain's future – decisions and next steps*. My Department has published a series of supporting documents which set out in further detail the basis on which I have reached my decisions. All of this material is available at www.dft.gov.uk/highspeedrail.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE EXECUTIVE - IVOR JOHN *(Tessa Kershaw)*

How long have you lived in Ruislip? Just under 35 years – I was posted to RAF Northolt in July 1977, and moved off the base when I purchased my current house in 1983.

Committee Responsibilities: RAF Northolt Liaison, Police, MV Artwork, Area Steward, NORA

How long have you been a Committee Member? 19 years.

Why did you choose to join the Committee? I saw an advert for an RRA meeting, and noticed that it didn't cover the area where I lived. I went along to see what it was all about, and afterwards the then President, Bruce Williams, suggested I join the committee, and also become road steward for my local area. This became Area 15 and added another 250 households to the RRA coverage area.

Describe the regular activities you undertake for RRA:

(a) RAF Northolt Liaison – attending meetings at RAF Northolt where we are updated about night flights, community activities, etc.

(b) Police – I am currently Chair of the Hillingdon Community and Police Consultative Group (CPCG). As the Chair of CPCG I attend meetings of the Safer Hillingdon Panel Implementation Group, where various agencies such as the fire service, the probation service, police, Council and many other organisations all meet to agree aims and actions for helping to make Hillingdon a safe area in which to live, work or visit. I also join other London Borough Chairs to attend London Community Policing Partnership (LCP2) meetings, plus I attend New Scotland Yard meetings run by the Commissioner or his Deputies to discuss London wide issues of concern, e.g. the August 2011 riots, vulnerable people in custody.

(c) MV Artwork coordinator – this started many years ago when I took my son to physio at Mount Vernon hospital and he commented about how drab the corridors looked. I suggested to the RRA committee that we buy some picture frames, and that the pupils of Bishop Ramsey CE School provide some art work. This community co-operation has now been running for many years, with the art work being changed on an annual basis. The patients and visitors of Mount Vernon hospital seem to be very appreciative. I would like to extend the project but at the moment extra funding is a problem.

(d) Area Steward – I deliver the Town Crier and collect annual subscriptions, and regular conversations with my neighbours/members of RRA. This helps me to bring to the RRA committee meetings any issues that the local residents have discussed with me. *(continued on page 16)*

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]

Ruislip Residents Association geographically covers the three Hillingdon Wards of Eastcote and East Ruislip, Manor and West Ruislip. As Councillors we are very pleased to have an opportunity to add our contribution to these pages.

We welcome comments from, and communication with, residents in whatever form you chose, e.g. meetings at our regular surgeries, emails, letters and phone calls. Indeed residents do keep us informed on a range of issues. Each one of us deals with an extensive range of issues that residents raise with us.

2011 has been a difficult year and we have no illusions but that the New Year and beyond will bring considerable economic and financial challenges for us all. As a Council, we have had to meet significant financial challenges. However, in Hillingdon we can be proud of the fact that, against the national trend, front line services have not suffered unduly. The Council budget setting process is currently under consideration and again we are happy to report a strong and healthy financial position for this Borough including no increases in Council Tax, significant improvements to libraries (where others have closed their library services), improved leisure facilities and many more aspects of renewal and improvement which we know from residents are very important.

We have all contributed in one form or another to the opposition to the **High Speed 2 Rail** route that will cause such damage to our Wards were the government to press ahead with this project. Everyone will be aware of the extent of the opposition that has been organised by residents and the arguments that have been very well articulated thus far. A powerful combination of resident opposition and well-managed local political opposition taking the argument directly to Ministers and officials will, we hope, convince the new Secretary of State of the folly of this proposed route. It may be that a decision has been made by the time that this edition of Town Crier is delivered, however we will continue to fight with Judicial Review Proceedings even if there is an attempt to mitigate with the introduction of a tunnel because of the full impact on Hillingdon. We continue to oppose this proposal in every way we can; the response submission document from Hillingdon was an exceptional piece of work. During the consultation process, individuals and groups have made their views known.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE EXECUTIVE - IVOR JOHN *(continued from page 14)*

(e) National Organisation of Residents Associations – NORA is regularly consulted on government policy, and frequently submits responses to government consultations. I liaise with the NORA Chair, Alan Shrank, and inform the RRA Executive of any documents/consultations that are of interest on a national level, and pass on any comments from RRA for inclusion in the NORA response.

Which people does this involve you liaising with? Police meeting committee members, Bishop Ramsey CE School, Mt Vernon hospital staff, council staff, councillors, the public, local residents, RRA committee members, members from other residents associations, members of other community focused groups.

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

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

Best: Getting things done for residents/the local community.

Worst: Too much to do, with too little time in which to do it!

CHRYSLIS FUND APPLICATION *(Friends of Pinn Meadow - see also page17)*

FoPM have also submitted a Chrysalis application for funding to carry out a programme designed to upgrade the amenities on Pinn Meadows, to enable them to be enjoyed by residents and visitors all year round. If successful:

The footpaths along the Celandine Route will be upgraded to avoid them becoming muddy during spells of wet weather and two new benches and two litter bins will be provided.

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.

Trees will be planted along the street line to provide screening of the existing all-weather pitch, and a gate will be installed to provide safe access from Pinn Meadows to Park Avenue.

Members of FoPM will continue to work with the LBH Conservation Officer by attending volunteer practical conservation days that include tree and shrub maintenance along the River Pinn and playing fields, and will organise another Bat Walk around the meadows in the Spring. Non-members are very welcome to attend - no skills needed, just enthusiasm! For more details please email fopm@sky.com.

KINGS COLLEGE PLAYING FIELDS *(Friends of Pinn Meadows)*

A recent submission by Eastcote Hockey Club for a second Astroturf pitch on King's College Playing Fields, on the north bank of the River Pinn, has been met with the largest petition Hillingdon Council has ever received against a planning application. The pitch on Green Chain land would cover 6,700 sq m and be enclosed by 4.5m high mesh fencing, illuminated by eight 15m high floodlights standing outside the fencing.

The Friends of Pinn Meadows (FoPM) presented their petition of 4,464 signatures to Councillor Bruce Baker on the steps of the Civic Centre (*see page 23*). Councillor Baker, alongside fellow Ward Councillor Catherine Dann, has pledged to support residents with their objections to the proposal.

As well as Councillors' support, FoPM has also 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 on the proposed site on the East field of King's College Playing Fields.

However, Eastcote Hockey Club have continued to apply for planning permission. As well as submitting a record petition, FoPM have submitted a comprehensive letter which details their main objections to the proposal, namely, (i) that it is contrary to Green Chain policy, (ii) the visual impact, (iii) the ecological impact on the area, (iv) the increased flood risk to the area, (v) the increased light and noise pollution, (vi) the exacerbation of the parking problems, (vii) the displacement of a local football team's pitches, (viii) the lack of need and demand for another Astroturf pitch and (ix) the permanent exclusion of residents who have enjoyed open and free access to the area since before it was covenanted in 1938 by King's College, Cambridge to be retained as open space. To view the full objection letter go to the FoPM website, www.fopm.org.uk.

A date has yet to be confirmed for the planning application hearing, probably Thursday, 2nd Feb., but when known, it will appear on the FoPM website so that supporters can attend.

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

WHO'LL FIX IT NOW?

10 yrs ago Bob Hope died 5 yrs ago Johnny Cash died
A couple of months ago Steve Jobs died A few weeks ago Jimmy Savile died

Now we have no Hope, no Cash, no Jobs and nobody left to Fix It

HEALTH MATTERS - ROUND-UP FROM OUR WEBSITE *(-Joan Davis)*

Judicial Review on proposals to end paediatric cardiac surgery in the Royal Brompton Hospital: The Trust won its case, but most of its objections were dismissed. The judgement is only about the way the proposals were reached. A re-run could reach the same conclusions. The future remains uncertain.

Finance in the NW London Sub Cluster: The forecast is that the three PCTs will meet their targets by the end of the financial year. Key risks are the delivery of the savings required by the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention target (QIPP) and higher demands for hospital services than planned. Hillingdon will find it difficult to break even, but hopes to do so.

NHS Hillingdon's Finance: In 2010-11 Hillingdon's budget was £1.4bn. It achieved a £100k surplus and met its financial targets, but its in-year difficulties led to it being re-entered in the Challenged Trust process. There it remains, alongside NHS Ealing and NHS Hounslow which are also financially challenged.

General NHS Performance in Hillingdon: We have a good record for dental access, cervical screening, breast screening and childhood immunisations, but smoking cessation lags behind target. On the 4 hour A&E target, Hillingdon Hospital does well, but the London Ambulance Service handover times fail to meet targets.

Community Specialist Dentistry in Hillingdon: These services transferred to Hillingdon PCT from Hammersmith and Fulham PCT in 2007 - Uxbridge and Ickenham Health Centres reduced waiting times from 24 months to between 4 and 10 months. The three main categories of service are dentistry for children with special needs, adults with special needs, and advanced restorative care specialties.

A new Community Ophthalmology Service: From March 2012 a consultant led service in Hillingdon will be treating cataracts, glaucoma, floaters etc. Surgery and complex treatments will still be in hospital.

Hillingdon versus London and England: Male life expectancy at birth is 78.6 years (England's best is 84.4 years / worst is 73.7 years), but in south Hillingdon 6.6 fewer years than in the north and 9.1 fewer disability-free years. Female life expectancy is 83.4 years with slightly smaller inequality figures than for males. Hillingdon is significantly worse than the regional and England averages for statutory homelessness, physically active adults and new cases of tuberculosis. It also has more stays in hospital for alcohol related harm, and more diabetes.

HEALTH MATTERS *(cont.)*

Commissioning: Hillingdon's Clinical Commissioning Group is expected to take full responsibility from NHS Hillingdon in April 2013. All Hillingdon GP practices are participating in this pathfinder CCG, which is already engaged in acute contracting and pathway redesign and has delegated budgets for community services, prescribing, outpatients and diagnostics. Subgroups of GP practices provide peer review in the three Hillingdon localities, with three further subgroups in each area.

Hillingdon's new Health and Wellbeing Board: The Department of Health has provided each local authority, including Hillingdon, with £15k to support the capacity building of local Health and Wellbeing Boards so that they can take on their new responsibilities when they come into effect in April 2012 in shadow form.

Ahead: In 2012 NHS Hillingdon is strengthening its work with the local authority, the voluntary sector and the public. It is also developing the infrastructure for the CCG and implementing plans for the Urgent Care Centre at Hillingdon Hospital.

New non-urgent telephone pilot: Harmoni launched this service in November. It will not replace NHS Direct or the 999 service but will provide access to non-urgent care 24 hours per day 365 days per year. Call handlers will be able to connect to a GP or nurse if necessary. Hillingdon is one of three London pilots, all temporarily withdrawn due to objections about lack of tendering.

Hillingdon Hospitals' Finance: The Trust's financial risk rating fell to 2 in November, but by end of December is expected to return to 3, as required from a foundation trust. It is behind plan by over £2m, but expects to regain financial balance by the end of the financial year. Its problems stem from financial caps for payment for work done, high levels of emergency work, theatre maintenance work, and births down compared to 2010 - but both discretionary and agency pay were lower than last year. In 2010/11 the Trust spent £8.32 per patient per day on food.

Hillingdon Hospital Trust's Performance: Infections are within targets. A September analysis identified ten patients causing A&E pressures - one had attended 158 times since 1st April 2011! - the Trust is working with LAS and other partners to ensure alternative care is available to support these people in the community. The new Standard Hospital Mortality Index rates this trust at 88, well below the 100 England average, which is splendid.

Car parking at Hillingdon and Mount Vernon Hospitals: Public charges rose on 1st January, to echo the NHS average charge. Much-needed change machines are now in place at Mount Vernon. The Trust is exploring introduction of fixed penalty fines to replace clamping for parking transgressions. See our website for details.

PLANNING MATTERS *(John Williams)*

National Planning Policy Framework Consultation

Many readers will be aware that this has been a fairly controversial policy document with the comments from several national organisations receiving much attention in the media. As proposed in our last issue, we supported the response by the National Organisation of Residents Association (NORA). In addition we submitted a letter with comments on aspects of the policy which are of particular concern to the Association. The consultation has recently closed and we now await the government's response with interest.

Local Development Framework (LDF)

The LDF will form an important part of the government's new planning policy referred to above. Hillingdon recently completed their draft document and this has now been submitted to the Secretary of State (for Communities and Local Government) for independent examination. This follows the statutory consultation on the pre-submission document which ended on 25 March 2011.

Go to the Council website, www.hillingdon.gov.uk/planning, for full details. When adopted, this document will set the planning policy for our area for the next 15 years

HISTORY: RUISLIP'S PUBS THROUGH THE AGES *(see page 8)*



The picture dates from the 1920s. The oldest part of The Plough is on the right. Bury Street Farm and barn can be seen on the left.

PLANNING MATTERS *(Mike Hodge)*

Kings College Playing Fields

Planning application submitted by Eastcote Hockey Club for the construction of an all-weather multi purpose sports playing pitch. A similar application was withdrawn in February 2011 following fierce local opposition and if anything there is an even greater groundswell of public opposition on this occasion primarily due to the potential loss of what is currently public land. The date for this application to be considered by the North Planning Committee is still to be confirmed, but is probably, Thursday, 2nd Feb. *(see page 17 for more on this issue)*

48 High Street(Post Office)

A planning application to create 4-studio and 1-bed flats as part of a first floor rear extension which was refused by local planners, went to appeal on 15 November. A decision will be made on the basis of written statements and a site visit by the Planning Inspector.

70a Park Way

Following a proposal to change the usage of this dwelling to HMO (House of Multi-Occupancy), which was refused on 31 October, an alternative planning application to convert the dwelling house to 3, two bed, self-contained flats has been submitted. We will hold a watching brief.

Land at roundabout, junction of Park Avenue and Kings College road.- 02/Vodafone proposed telecommunications monopole.

A joint planning application has been submitted by 02/Vodafone for the installation of a 14.8m high metre telecoms mast. This appears to be broadly similar to an application put forward in June 2006. Application refused.

Pembroke House 5-9 Pembroke Road.

A proposed part conversion from retail/offices to 6, two bed flats and 3, three bed flats with associated parking and other alterations was approved on 22 December, after certain onerous provisions were withdrawn from the original application.

FREE BURGLAR ALARM *(Ivor John)*

If you are aged 65 and a Hillingdon resident you can get a free burglar alarm. These alarms will be professionally fitted by a reputable firm, with 18 months servicing free too! Call the Hillingdon Council Contact Centre on 01895 250111 to be put on the waiting list. Just leave your name, address, date of birth and a day-time telephone number.

RRICHH – Relatives of Residents In Care Homes in Hillingdon is a voluntary organisation that aims to improve the quality of life for residents not only in Ruislip care homes, but in all homes throughout the borough. RRICHH does this by encouraging effective communication between homes, relatives and friends. It also promotes awareness of the role of relatives and friends in residential care settings and has developed a network of mutual support. RRICHH is supported by Age UK Hillingdon and Hillingdon Carers.

Ruislip - there are five care homes: Fairways and Poplars both in Ickenham Road, Ruislip Nursing Home in West End Road, Blenheim Care Centre in West Ruislip and The Boyne in Ruislip Manor.

Entering a Care Home is a major step, not only for the person concerned, but also for their close family and friends. Once the decision is made, and an assessment completed, it can often mean relatives dealing with practical and financial matters, assisting with the move and sharing the period of adjustment into a new way of life.

RRICHH provides a forum for relatives and friends to discuss issues, share information and consider options with others who have had similar experiences and share similar concerns.

Do you have a friend or relative in a care home? RRICHH can offer advice and information, informal meetings for mutual support and public meetings on care home issues.

Meetings - We invite people with specialist knowledge on useful and relevant topics, as well as care home staff and other interested professionals, to speak. Time is set aside for discussion, questions and issues that individuals want to raise. These events help relatives and friends develop a good working relationship with care home staff and contribute to high quality care for residents.

Resident's Voice, Volunteers Wanted - an exciting brand new service offered by **RRICHH**. We are seeking volunteers who can help and support older people to have their voice heard in a Ruislip care home setting. Could you work closely with older people and assist them with sorting out their problems? If you have a couple of hours or more to spare each week and are a good communicator then why not consider becoming a Ruislip 'Resident's Voice' volunteer? You will be part of a small and dedicated team where training and support will be given and transport costs paid. To volunteer or for any queries, contact:

Neil Jackson, tel: 020 8589 0071, email: njackson@ageukhillington.org.uk

RAF NORTHOLT *(Richard Willis, RAF)*

The Secretary of State for Defence has announced plans for military support to the Olympic Games in London next year. As part of that a small number of Typhoon fast jets will be temporarily based at RAF Northolt in the run up to and during the Olympic Games. This will necessitate some increased basing of service men and women at RAF Northolt and some minor building works.

Personnel at RAF Northolt are mindful of the strong support received from the local community and it is hoped that this will be maintained despite the inevitable increased noise caused by the presence of fast jets here. RAF Northolt was key to the defence of London during the Battle of Britain and it is consistent with our tradition that once again front line RAF aircraft will be operating here in defence of London's airspace.

Kings College Playing Fields Presenting the Petition (page 17)





Ruislip Manor Fun Day

**Coppicing in Copse Woods
Part of the 100 year plan**



Ruislip Manor “Stop & Shop” Scheme

Annual General Meeting

Notice is now given of the forthcoming AGM to be held on Thursday, 21st June 2012. Motions or proposals for consideration at this meeting and nominations for Officers and members of the Executive Committee, duly proposed and seconded, should be received by the Secretary not later than 31st May.