



Ruislip Residents' Association

TOWN CRIER

The Voice of Ruislip Residents
February 2013



Ruislip - Remembrance - November 2012



New Year's Day Walk—refreshment break

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RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT: Brian Cowley

VICE-PRESIDENT: Peter Lansdown

Officers		Executive Committee Members	
Chairman	Joan Davis	Vivien Alcorn	Tessa Kershaw
Vice-Chairman	Mike Hodge	Lindsay Baxter	Susan Midgley
Treasurer	John Hawley	Jaqueline Bolton	Roy Parsons
Secretary	Pamela Edwards	Ian Cantley	John Swindells
Chief Road Steward	vacancy	Martin Cartwright	John Williams
Deputy Ch. Rd. Stwd.	vacancy	Ivor John	
Responsibility	Committee Member	Responsibility	Committee Member
Conservation	Lindsay Baxter	Police Liaison	Ivor John
Education	Susan Midgley	Public Transport	Tessa Kershaw
Environment	Martin Cartwright	RAF Northolt Liaison	Ivor John
Health	Joan Davis	Ruislip Lido	Peter Lansdown
Local Activities	Jaqueline Bolton	Ruislip Retail Area	Peter Lansdown
Manor Retail Area	Joan Davis	Traffic & Parking	Peter Lansdown
Membership	Brian Cowley	Website	John Swindells
Planning	Mike Hodge	Woodlands	Ian Cantley
<p style="text-align: center;">Contact us: Mrs Pamela Edwards, Honorary Secretary 98 Eastcote Road, Ruislip HA4 8DT 01895 674148 secretary@ruislipresidents.org.uk www.ruislipresidents.org.uk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Editor: Peter Lansdown towncrier@ruislipresidents.org.uk</p>			

RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION - GENERAL MEETING
7.45 pm, Wednesday, 20th February, 2013
at Ruislip Social Club, Grosvenor Vale, Ruislip HA4 6JQ
(Doors open at 7.30pm)

Agenda

1. Welcome, apologies and announcements
2. Urgent reports from representatives
3. Guest speakers: A HS2 team, led by Peter Fry, London Metropolitan Community and Stakeholder Manager HS2 Ltd.
4. Open Forum - issues *sent to the Hon Secretary in advance will be given priority*
5. Any other business
6. Close of business session - followed by informal discussions

Light refreshments will be available after the business session
The meeting will end at 10pm

Annual General Meeting

7.45pm, Thursday 20th June 2013,
Winston Churchill Hall Lounge, Pinn Way, Ruislip.

Nominations for Chairman, Officers and Executive Members for 2013-14, duly proposed and seconded by two members in writing, having obtained the consent of the candidate, must reach the Hon. Secretary by 28th May 2013, as must agenda items

EDITORIAL *(Peter Lansdown)*

This time, on page 5, our chairman, in her regular message, has included her personal plea for a member interested in taking over as Chairman at our AGM in June, and although new members have joined the committee, there are still vacancies for a Chief Road Steward and Deputy Chief Road Steward (important posts for maintaining our membership and managing the delivery of the Town Crier).

A successful visit to the Houses of Parliament took place on Friday, 14th December, 2012. We had a very good and knowledgeable guide, who succinctly explained many of the idiosyncrasies of the place and much of the history. Unfortunately, as the Lords were sitting, the down-side of the visit was that we
(continued on page 13)

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Lunchtime Concerts of Classical Music

St. Martin's Church Hall, Ruislip

(at corner of High Street & Eastcote Road)

Admission Free - Wednesdays in 2013 at 12.15 pm

January 30th

Masayuki Tayama: piano

February 27th

Warren Mailley-Smith: piano

March 27th

Michael Petrov: cello

Rosie Richardson: piano

April 24th

Valentin Schiedermair: piano

These concerts last about one hour. Retiring collection after each concert to defray expenses. Further information from the Parish Office, 01895 625456, Mondays to Fridays, 0930 to 1200.

FRIENDS OF EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDEN

- Eastcote House Volunteer Gardeners meet on the 1st Friday, 2nd Saturday and 3rd Thursday of every month. At 9.30 am (10.00 am on Saturdays)
Everyone welcome - tools and refreshments provided - no experience necessary.
Meet in the car park at Eastcote House Gardens.
Diary dates: January 17th February 1st, 9th and 21st
 March 1st, 9th and 21st April 5th, 13th and 18th
- This summer the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens, in conjunction with a local firm, Vintage Tea 2 You, have held monthly Vintage Tea Gardens at Eastcote House. Each time, as well as delicious home made cakes and cream teas, there have been many events to entertain everyone, from a petting farm to an exhibition by Eastcote Arts Society. Vintage Teas resume on Sunday, 5th May. Make a date and come and join us.

Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society

Lecture Programme 2013

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

21 January	Aircraft Manufacture in the London Area	Dr. Ron Smith
18 February	The Manor of Denham	Pamela Reed
18 March	Children in the Workhouse	Victoria Preece
15 April	History and Functions of the Bank of England	Tim Kidd

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE *(Joan Davis)*

February is often the coldest month of the year, but we can also hope to see the first snowdrops, harbingers of Spring, so this is a time for looking forward.

At our AGM in June I shall leave the chair. Our Association needs a vigorous and younger chairman in my shoes! Possibly other executive members may also not seek re-election. Now is the time for all members to start thinking about nominations for next year's team.

Any member considering nomination is welcome to discuss with me what might be involved. Assisting or shadowing current office holders might be possible. Some roles are currently vacant and other areas of our work could benefit from extra help, with or without co-option to the Executive Committee. More limited assistance is also welcome, so do not be shy if you can only offer occasional help.

Why volunteer? Taking an active part in local affairs has many rewards. Although I shall retire as chairman, I certainly hope to be part of next year's team. Our Association faces the challenges of HS2, many changes in the NHS, problems inherent in our cash-strapped economy, the impact of new planning law, and no doubt many new but equally compelling issues. Exciting times lie ahead, including developments planned for Ruislip Manor, which it will be a pleasure to watch, and extension of our project to display local children's art-work where it can be enjoyed by local hospital patients.

More immediately, daylight hours are getting longer. We are already well into 2013, but it is not too late for me to wish a "Happy New Year" to all our members. We hope to see many of you at our meeting on Wednesday 20th February.

Joan Davis, Chairman Tel: 01895 636095

Hillingdon Volunteer Awards 2012

Congratulations to our chairman, Joan Davis, on being honoured with the Jubilee Life Long Achievement Award for her work with Community Voice over many years. This was presented to her by the Mayor of Hillingdon, Councillor Michael Markham, at Uxbridge College on Wednesday, 26th September.

FROM OUR MP FOR MANOR WARD - JOHN RANDALL

I remember my maternal grandmother recounting to me how she had been in the West End to see a play just before her 21st birthday and on exiting the theatre witnessing the incredible scenes of crowds celebrating the Relief of Mafeking. She told me that her grandfather had told her how he read of the victory at Waterloo in the Times. My parents gave me first-hand accounts of historic events in their lifetime. I sometimes wonder what similar events have occurred in the last fifty years that future generations will feel as important moments in our nation's life. This year in the UK we have witnessed two events that almost certainly merit that description. My grandmother's generation was the last to have celebrated a monarch's Diamond Jubilee and perhaps in all the excitement it is all too easy to forget what an incredible achievement this year's Jubilee was as Her Majesty is close to becoming the longest serving monarch in our history. The events were a typical British mixture of pomp and circumstance and good honest fun for everyone, inevitably despite the rain. If that was not enough, it was quickly followed by another example of something that we should all be proud of and which will remain as a lasting memory. The Olympics and Paralympics were an unqualified success, despite natural anxiety and a small dose of cynicism. To see the Olympic flame in the streets of Hillingdon was much more exciting than I could have ever imagined at this time last year. I hope that any of the major events that occur in 2013 will similarly be remembered as reasons for happy celebration.

Most of the political landmarks of last year will invariably be quickly forgotten and almost certainly will not be remembered in the coming years. In a strange way I find that reassuring as although they will have had effects on individuals, we do not need constant political earthquakes. We must be careful not to legislate for the sake of it. There is always a danger of that happening as Parliament seeks to justify itself. However there are areas where there is work to be done. Quoting my grandmother once again, "moderation in all things" is a maxim that I think can be applied to all aspects of life and one which serves well. To me it is very much a defining quality of the British and long may it be so.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all members of the Ruislip Residents Association a happy, peaceful and healthy New Year on behalf of myself and my family.

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

It has been a funny old year - a tough time for many and plenty of stuff to be cynical, gloomy and maybe angry about. It is fair to say that my surgery is not full of people coming to tell me how well things are going for them or the country.



Locally, we continue to have a major challenge in HS2, a subject on which I will continue to represent my constituents views to the people in power. However, I always try to side with the optimists and this year was marked by two momentous events. The first was the birth of my fifth child after a long gap. I thought it would be like riding a bike and it isn't! However, the sleepless nights are well worth it. Inevitably, as a parent you think about the world they are growing up in; one that is much more complicated than in my youth. My new responsibility makes me even more determined that our children's future should not be undermined by a huge burden of national debt. Whatever the difficulties I remain convinced that we are on the right economic course and delighted that unemployment continues to fall.

I am also excited by new opportunities opening up for young people. My greatest pride as a Minister is in the work we are doing to develop National Citizen Service which is proving hugely popular with teenagers as you will see by a visit to the NCS Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/ncs>. Locally, I am thrilled by the consistent improvement I see in our schools, not least Northwood.

The second momentous event? Well of course it had to be the long summer in which the country did two important things very well. We celebrated 60 years of service to this country by an extraordinary individual and we hosted the best party on earth with an Olympics and Paralympics that few of us will forget and which changed the mood of the country for a while. I don't think I have ever shouted at a telly louder than when Mo sealed his second gold and like everyone I was incredibly impressed by the Gamesmakers and their spirit of service to others. As Minister responsible for our voluntary sector, people often ask me "So how are you going to build on that fantastic spirit?". The truth is that we have big plans to do just that and encourage more people to get involved in their communities. Of course, in our area, community spirit is alive and well and I have been enormously impressed by evidence of it at various street parties; jubilee events and the efforts of fantastic voluntary groups such as Friends of Eastcote House Gardens. That is the spirit of 2012 which we must take into 2013. A very happy New Year to all.

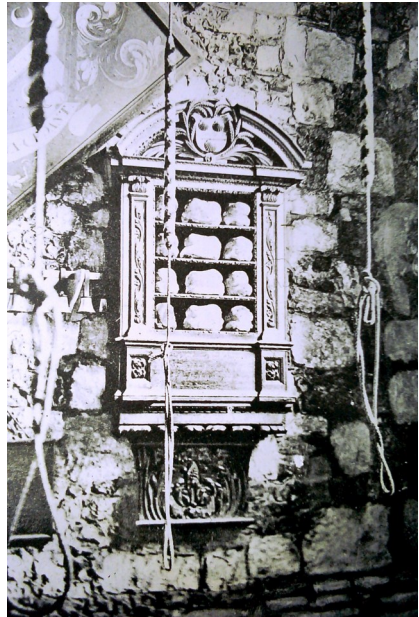
HISTORY: CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME *(Eileen Bowlt)*

When we contribute to charitable organisations in the 21st century, the likelihood is that we are supporting a national or even an international organisation. But in the past charities were usually local and set up to help specific groups of people. Cogges charity, dating from 1717, stipulated that two thirds of the income should benefit poor folk living in the Eastcote part of the parish of Ruislip and the rest was to go to those in Westcote (modern Ruislip). At the time Northwood was divided between the two for administrative purposes. Two other charities were specifically for Eastcote families. Henrietta Howard provided for beef and bread to be given to 25 households on Christmas Day and for blankets to be given to another six families on New Year's Day, while Lady Juliana Hume-Campbell of Highgrove left £10 per annum for coal in 1886.

The vicar and churchwardens of St Martin's were often charged with carrying out the terms of a charity by distributing money or goods to suitable recipients. Elizabeth Rogers of Eastcote House, who died in 1803, directed her executors to invest £380 in 3% consols. From the interest, the vicar was to receive 2 guineas on the first Sunday after Easter, provided that he had preached a sermon on Good Friday morning and the residue was divided among such poor families as most

regularly attended divine service. Elizabeth also ensured the continuation of the wishes of her great grandfather, Ralph Hawtrey, who in his will of October 1724 had bequeathed £200 to the poor of the parish, to be disposed of 'as the minister of the parish and those that live here [Eastcote House] and those that live at Sir Thomas's [Haydon Hall] shall think fit'. During her lifetime, the £200 had been vested in Elizabeth and had been producing £8 annually. In 1803 she directed that £287 should be invested in stock to produce the same sum.

Jeremiah Bright, who was a son of a



The Bread Cupboard

HISTORY: CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME *(cont.)*

vicar of Ruislip, lived in the parish of St Andrew's, Holborn and was master of the Leathersellers' Company. He buried several young children at Ruislip and in 1697 he gave to the church the handsome bread cupboard that now hangs in the north aisle. It is decorated with a shield bearing the Bright coat of arms surrounded by beautifully carved ears of corn. 12 twopenny loaves were to be placed on the shelves each Sunday and 12 sixpenny loaves each Christmas Day, to be given to the poor 'for ever'.

Most of the charities depended for their income upon the investment of sums of money, but Richard Cogges, in 1717, left land in Fore Street, on the north side of the track into Park Wood, to be rented out by the churchwardens.

These charities were amalgamated in 1897 to become the Ruislip Non-Ecclesiastical Charities and continued to be overseen by the vicar and churchwardens. When the vicar could not obtain blankets for 5 shillings in 1918, he gave the money to the recipients instead and gradually small money payments became the norm, although loaves of bread continued to be placed on the shelves of the Bread Cupboard until 1955, being given to the inhabitants of the Almshouses on Monday mornings.

The Ruislip Cottagers' Allotment Charity was instituted in 1882, to administer the

income from the three pieces of common that had been set aside for cottagers to graze their animals at the time of the enclosures in 1814, rights that were not much used by the poor who could not usually afford to own animals. The 1882 scheme set up under the Charity Commission, vested the land (Ruislip Common/Poors Field; a small area behind the Six Bells, part of which is now within the Crematorium grounds; and land near the top of Joel Street) in the Official Trustee of Charity Lands. The trustees were permitted to use the income that was raised by renting the pasturage and hunting rights, in a variety of ways: subscribing to hospitals and dispensaries to secure their benefits for Ruislip poor; the maintenance of a reading room provided with suitable books, where coffee and other refreshments approved by the trustees could be drunk; contributing to the cost of tools, or an outfit for young people entering a trade or going into service.

Ruislip Common was conveyed to the Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council in 1939 to be a public open space. Little Poors Field was sold to the Crematorium Committee in 1960. The land in Joel Street remains under the care of the trustees, having been leased to the Ruislip-Northwood Small *(continued on page 22)*

HIGH SPEED RAIL UPDATE *(Tessa Kershaw)*

The Judicial Review into HS2 was held in London in December and lasted 9 days. The results should be announced sometime in January 2013. The start of the consultation for Phase 2 (including the Heathrow spur) is also expected sometime in the new year.

The Government property and safeguarding consultation is running until 31 January 2013. This is an opportunity for all residents/interested parties to comment. Information can be found on the HS2 Ltd website <http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/> or you can ring 020 7944 4908 for details. The RRA response had not been finalised at the time of going to press, so we will publish it on our RRA website under "HS2" once it has been submitted.

The next RRA General Meeting is on Wednesday 20 February 2013 at Ruislip Social Club, Grosvenor Vale, Ruislip Manor. Representatives from HS2 Ltd have agreed to be our main speakers for the evening. It is hoped that one of the representatives will be an engineer, so that any technical questions can be answered. This will be an opportunity for any interested resident or member to put questions to the HS2 Ltd team. Please note that the number of questions per member may be limited if many people wish to ask a question and members of the RRA will take priority. We would ask that the audience please respect the views and opinions of others.

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO QUESTION THE EXPERTS!
WEDNESDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY

HIGH SPEED RAIL NOTE *(Joan Davis - Chairman of the RRA HS2 Working Group)*

Note: We are currently working with HS2 Ltd. through the South Ruislip to Ickenham Community Forum, but have found this difficult due to a lack of crucial information about the overlap between plans for HS2 Phase I and Phase II.

We are, of course, aware of local opposition to the total HS2 plans, but we feel that overall rejection must go hand-in-hand with detailed scrutiny of the plans, in order to make any relevant objections. Since the proposed Phase I route emerges from a tunnel in Ruislip Golf Course and, within a very short distance, the Phase I route is expected to converge with the proposed Phase II link to Heathrow, it is vital for us to know the details of how and where the routes are expected to link.

We wrote accordingly to the Secretary of State asking for the release of information which he holds, so that we can assess the impact on local people. We regret to inform members that the Secretary of State's response was a blank refusal.

EDUCATION MATTERS *(Susan Midgley)*

For several years the Art Department at Bishop Ramsey School has been providing the GCSE work of twenty students to brighten the corridors of the Princess Christian Unit at Mount Vernon Hospital. This project was the brainchild of Ivor John and has afforded much pleasure to patients and visitors as well as promoting the work of local young people. An annual donation from Ruislip Residents' Association ensures that the paintings are professionally framed for exhibition.

Recently I was fortunate enough to visit the impressive Art Department at Ruislip High School. I am pleased to report that Simon Lordan, Head of Department, was enthusiastic about the project and keen to participate in this initiative. 2013 will see the art work of students from our other local secondary school displayed at the hospital.

Schools are an integral part of any community. In the New Year I will be visiting our primary schools to discuss any new projects which will benefit local people and in which they and the RRA can become jointly involved. I have already arranged a January meeting with Mr. Harmer, headteacher at Whiteheath Junior School, and others have encouraged me to contact them again in the new term. Hopefully I will have more to report in the next issue.

TRAFFIC/PARKING *(Peter Lansdown)*

Comments received suggest that the junction of Eastcote Road with Windmill Hill, with better defined lanes and a slightly raised small roundabout, has been improved, but perhaps only marginally. Many thanks to those members who emailed.

The water pipe replacements around Ruislip seem to have been mainly completed (unless you know better), without major disruption.

Howletts Lane has again been raised as a safety hazard, but accident records do not apparently bear this out. If you would like to comment please contact me.
(traffic@ruislipresidents.org.uk)

RUISLIP LIDO *(Peter Lansdown)*

The Ruislip Lido Management Group (LMAG) met on November 13th, 2012. Unfortunately no council officers were present, which meant that any discussions were meaningless as the officers are in possession of the details needed for any business to be conducted. It was later established from Cllr. Ray Puddifoot, Leader of the Council, that he had instructed that “until further notice, no officer of Hillingdon Council will attend the Ruislip Lido MAG”. As Chairman of LMAG since its inception until three years ago, I find this very disturbing as we had established a good working relationship. A further meeting of LMAG is planned for February when some local Councillors should be present and I hope matters can be put on a better footing.

Refurbishment Update

Overflow Car Park Discussions continue with respect to a licence application for the translocation of the Great Crested Newts and amphibian reptiles. Responses to the 22 planning conditions imposed by the Planning Authority are being reviewed to allow the construction of the car park to start once the ecology mitigation measures have been satisfactorily implemented. The anticipated completion programme for the Car Park development will be approximately four months after this.

Woodland Centre/Catering Facility Work has started on this part of the project. We expect to see completion around mid 2013.

Ruislip Lido Railway This is a much enjoyed and valued feature of the Lido and discussions have taken place with the Ruislip Lido Railway Society (RLRS) to ensure there is investment in this facility. A planning application has been approved for new and refurbished Woody Bay Station facilities and a new mess room will be provided for the RLRS volunteers alongside the new catering facility (see above). A further planning application has been submitted for a ticket office and toilet block at the Lido Station. Replacement of the buildings will be co-ordinated throughout the work programme and temporary facilities will be supplied by RLRS to ensure that there is no interruption to the narrow gauge railway service.

Rain shelters Rain shelters for the site have been purchased and will be installed in appropriate areas during the programme of works.

Bathing and Boating The RRA believe that the return of both bathing and boating is unlikely, at least in the near future.

RUISLIP LIDO *(cont.)*

Angling Proposals also include angling opportunities in designated areas for a range of age groups.

Site Security CCTV, security perimeter fencing and appropriate lighting will all be reviewed during the development phase of the project to determine the most suitable options for the whole site.

Staffing Management and appropriate staffing for the site is currently under review to ensure that sufficient resources are in place to cover the new facilities once they are completed. Additional toilet cleaning and litter collection resources have been made available during weekends and school summer holidays and the splash pad area has been deep cleaned.

Nature area The proposals for the enhancement of the Ruislip Lido site will continue to respect and provide quiet natural space for wildlife to flourish.

EDITORIAL *(cont.)*

were only able to visit the Commons: the up-side being that some of the party were able to listen to the debate in the Lords.

There will be another opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament on Friday, 15th March. Applications to join the group should be sent to Vivien Alcorn, email valcorn@blueyonder.co.uk. Please note that places are limited to 2 per resident household and that this trip is already heavily subscribed, but there will be a waiting list.

A further visit has also been arranged to RAF Northolt on Wednesday, 20th March. As the earlier one was heavily oversubscribed, for this visit there is still a long list, which I am working through in order of date application. When the visitor list is finalised, I will make contact with those fortunate to be on it and obtain details for security purposes. If there is anyone who would like to join the waiting list, maximum of two people per household membership of the RRA, let us know, email: towncrier@ruislippresidents.org.uk. Please note that because of general demand there is unlikely to be a third opportunity until 2014.

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

How long have you lived in Ruislip?

38 years, firstly in South Ruislip, then moving to our current house in 1989.

Committee Responsibilities:

Website technical manager

How long have you been a Committee Member?

Coming up for 2 years

Why did you choose to join the Committee?

My family have been members of the Association since moving into the area, and I had been attending some of the meetings and keeping up with local affairs via the Town Crier. There were (and still are!) a number of hot topics on the agenda from the 2011 meeting at the Ruislip Manor library – a good time to volunteer. The committee had commissioned a new website design and was seeking someone to look after it. After a 30 year career working with computers, this was an opportunity for me to put that experience to good use on a community project.

Describe the regular activities you undertake for RRA:

At the start, when I joined the Association, the new website was due to go live in just three weeks. It was a scramble to get it system tested and for any last minute issues to be sorted out. Now that it's up and running, my workload is more about monitoring the functioning of the site, implementing the odd updates, and importantly providing advice to other committee members when problems arise when they add their editorial content to the site.

Who does this involve you liaising with?

Other members of the committee and the original website designer. Much of the work involved though is Internet based administration.

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

Generally just the monthly committee meeting plus other ad hoc visits to provide informal training, resolve problems or discuss development of the website. I also try to attend the three RRA member's meetings each year.

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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

This edition of the "Town Crier" arrives through your letter boxes at the start of the New Year and while the last edition was probably too early to wish you Happy Christmas and Happy New Year this edition is too late, so we hope you had a great time over the Christmas and New Year period.



Looking back on 2012, there were many highlights. The Jubilee celebrations brought communities together and saw an upsurge in many people getting to know their neighbours, which was a great boost to our Borough. The Olympics were a wonderful celebration of GB sporting achievement and again acted as a splendid catalyst for people enjoying and supporting many different sports and those who took part in both the Olympics and Paralympics.

Another wonderful event was that held on the 4th December 2012, when the London Borough of Hillingdon honoured Natasha Baker, "our" double Paralympic Equestrian Gold Medallist, by awarding her the Freedom of the Borough. There was a special Council meeting where the Freedom was granted followed by a presentation dinner at which Natasha spoke in response to the speech of appreciation by the Leader of the Council. "Inspiration" is a word that has often been used about the Paralympics and the achievements of the participants. However, Natasha's speech about how she overcame her particular difficulties to reach these splendid heights of sporting achievement was truly inspirational and uplifting for all those who heard it. It was also an historic event in that Natasha is the youngest and first female recipient of the Freedom since the creation of the Borough in 1964 and it was gratifying to note that she received her Honour when, in the audience, were many prominent female holders of Office, including the recently appointed Chief Executive of the Council and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant. Natasha's message to anyone seeking inspiration from her achievements was: "*Just do it...follow your dreams*"; wise advice for sporting or indeed any other hope of achievement and a great motto to start the New Year.

On the political scene we acknowledge the challenge we face on a number of fronts. We continue to vigorously fight the folly of HS2 and the Third Runway and will interpret sensibly some of the more "damaging" central government schemes relating to the relaxation of planning/building issues.

(continued on page 23)

PINN MEADOWS - NEW HOCKEY PITCH APPLICATION *(Martin Cartwright)*

On 20th December Friends of Pinn Meadows (FoPM) received an unwelcome Christmas present when the third Planning Application by Eastcote Hockey Club (EHC) to construct a second all-weather pitch on King's College Playing Field appeared on Hillingdon Council's web site. Though not unexpected, the seasonal holiday meant that FoPM, and individual opponents of the scheme, effectively had less time to lodge objections. Leafleting began right away, and petitions followed.

Although the deadline for individual objections is short, (see below) petitions will be accepted much nearer the time that the scheme goes before the Planning Committee. FoPM has been advised that, despite the similarity of the new Application to the previous version, a fresh petition will be required to register local opposition. So if you live, work or study in Hillingdon, are aged 18 or over and you oppose the latest scheme from EHC, please sign the petition when invited to do so, on your doorstep, in the street or at any local venue.

Village Green You will also be invited to sign a second petition urging Hillingdon Council to voluntarily designate the Pinn Meadows area of land between Elmbridge Drive and Bury Street as a Village Green to protect it from development and preserve it for future generations under the Commons Act (2006). The process has been successfully used by councils throughout the country to protect land for the use and enjoyment of residents.

By the time you read this the official deadline for individual objections, 14th January, will have passed. However, in view of the limitations consequent on the timing of the publication of the Application, it seems entirely reasonable that all individual opponents of the new EHC scheme who live, work or study in Hillingdon, or who have an interest in the future of Pinn Meadows, should still register their objection by writing to the Council at Planning Section, L B of Hillingdon, Civic Centre, Uxbridge UB8 1UW.

Use your own words to explain why you object to planning application reference **2414/APP/2012/2812**. Or, if it is still available for objections by the time you read this, you can use the Council web site by clicking the "Enter Comment" button at the following link: <http://w10.hillingdon.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningDetails?reference=2414/APP/2012/2812&from=planningSearch>

The EHC Application follows much the same lines as previous versions, except that the siting of the proposed pitch has been moved slightly to take account of issues raised by the Environment Agency, and some provision of extra off street parking is

PINN MEADOWS - NEW HOCKEY PITCH APPLICATION *(cont.)*

envisaged to address the grounds on which Hillingdon Council officers recommended rejection of the last version. Supporting submissions on such topics as Ecological Impact and Light Pollution remain much the same.

Consultants for EHC claim that, since the officers did not highlight these and other topics in their recommendation to reject the previous proposal, the Club's submissions on these matters should be taken as approved. FoPM will argue that, since the previous Application was withdrawn before going before the Council Planning Committee, no such approval can be inferred.

Moreover, the current proposal covers a much more extensive area than the previous one, bringing the total closer to one hectare, the size which would justify much closer scrutiny by the Environment Agency of all the issues raised. FoPM will argue that the impacted area should include not only the proposed pitch but the lighting pylons and their substantial concrete bases, the additional car parking and access paths, and the extensive up-rating of existing parking provision.

(see page 20 for planning application details)

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

SPOTLIGHT ON THE EXECUTIVE - JOHN SWINDELLS *(cont.)*

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

Best: I enjoy Badminton and Ballroom dancing as my physical exercise hobbies, so I suppose you could say this is my brain exercise! I get a lot of satisfaction from solving problems and making a worthwhile contribution to what is hopefully a facility that the community at large will find valuable. In the early days there was certainly a feast of issues to resolve. Since I first discovered computers in 1970 they have held a fascination, and having retired from full time work this has been a great opportunity to keep up to date and enjoy dabbling again without the stresses and deadlines associated with holding down a job.

Worst: Is there a worst aspect? – Things are quite calm now so there's not much to single out. However, if pushed I'd have to say that the worst part was fielding the overwhelming number of emails that flew to and fro in the first couple of months. That was very time consuming, necessary for co-ordination but not directly productive. Having only just met others members of the Association and not knowing the ins and outs of the new web system, I really felt that I was in at the deep end. Now that that flurry of activity has abated, I can devote more time to improvements that we couldn't fit in before the site went live, whilst the administration side just ticks over in the background.

Up-to-date news

There is always a delay between the Town Crier being assembled and the subsequent printing and distribution of copies, so this report may be out of date by the time it is read. For the latest news, members with internet access may like to see our website at www.ruislipresidents.org.uk - the health services section has a number of pages, regularly updated and more detailed than is possible here. Currently Hillingdon health services face many pressures, summarised below.

National pressures

- a. All NHS organisations are currently pressed to reduce costs and save money.
- b. The NHS mandate has five key areas, which impact on all NHS services:
 - Preventing people from dying prematurely
 - Enhancing quality of life for people with long-term conditions
 - Helping people recover from episodes of ill health or injury
 - Treating people in a safe environment / protecting them from avoidable harm
 - Ensuring that people have a positive experience of care

Regional pressures

“Shaping a healthier future”: Despite opposition from people whose A&E would close, most respondents to the NHS NW London consultation backed the preferred option - Urgent Care Centres at all the area's acute hospitals but A&E facilities, with enhanced 24/7 consultant-led teams, at only five - Hillingdon, Northwick Park, St Mary's, Chelsea and Westminster, and West Middlesex hospitals. The second strand to the proposals, moving services out of hospitals into the community, may actually have more impact on patients than changes to emergency services.

Decisions rest with the joint Primary Care Trusts at a meeting early in 2013. In expectation that the proposals will go ahead, both Northwick Park and Hillingdon hospitals have received grants to update their A&E Departments, to cope with increased patient numbers and to provide full A&E services 365 days per year.

NHS Hillingdon

Clinical Commissioning: All Primary Care Trusts are to be abolished on 1st April 2013. Currently Clinical Commissioning Groups are preparing to take on most of their responsibilities but the NHS Commissioning Board will commission primary care and specialised services, which will stop problems due to “postcode lottery”.

Debt: Hillingdon PCT is forecasting a deficit of £21.2m at year end in March 2013 – *this is without the £2m non-payment for readmissions to hospital, noted below.* A loan of £15m from Brent PCT and other measures will hide that fact, but Hillingdon

HEALTH MATTERS *(cont.)*

Clinical Commissioning Group will inherit a big debt, crippling Hillingdon's health services for years ahead. All three Hillingdon MPs have been asked to intervene.

Performance: National targets are generally met in Hillingdon, except for:-

- Choose and Book proportion of GP referrals (24% v. 90% target),
- proportion of population receiving psychological therapies (0.4% v 1.3%),
- offering of health checks to ages 40-74 (3.7% v 10%),
- receiving such checks (2% v 5%),
- some cancer referrals (75% v 90%),
- 12 week maternity access (80.2% v 90%),
- teenage conception rates (36.2 v 30.2 per 1,000 females aged 15-17),
- immunisation of 12-13 year olds for HPV (83.4% v 95%)
- access to dentistry (127,203 v 139,883)

Hillingdon Hospital

“Putting People First”: This new initiative responds to the NHS mandate requirement to improve patients' experience, focussing on the elderly, pregnant mothers, those with dementia or other long-term conditions. The message is being cascaded from top to bottom of the Trust, but it holds no surprises, only what patients have always expected – personal care to meet the patient's needs, excellent treatment combined with kindness, compassion and good communication.

The family and friends test: This NHS test, asking patients if they would recommend the services they received to their family and friends, is to be introduced nationally in April 2013. This Trust is determined to get good results!

Rapid assessment on admission: Senior staff now see patients soon after admission. Frail elderly services are being improved to meet increasing demand, but the aim is to discharge most non-elective admissions within two days or less.

Finances: The Trust has maintained the financial risk rating required for a foundation trust, despite higher than planned activity and with 40 fewer staff than it had last year. More births than last year have helped its income.

Emergency Readmissions: There is no payment to the Trust for patients readmitted within 30 days of discharge, robbing the Trust of around £2m per year. Commissioners should reinvest such savings in services to prevent future readmissions, and show how that money was used— - but this is not happening in Hillingdon, so local people are not getting the service they need. Protests have been made to our three MPs as well as at regional levels of the NHS.

Eastcote Hockey Club, Kings College Fields

Despite the overwhelming local opposition to the Club's previous proposals for a second all-weather synthetic pitch they have recently submitted a new planning application. This was discussed at the last Executive Committee meeting on 02/01/13, when it was unanimously agreed that the Association should lodge a formal objection. The latest proposal encroaches further into the Fields than the earlier schemes and now includes the construction of a private car park, which will necessitate the removal of some trees.

The Council have recently adopted their new Local Plan and the Hillingdon Landscape Character Assessment (HLCA) document. In these the Council has expressed a desire to conserve and enhance the open character of meadows with long open views along the River Pinn Corridor, which includes Kings College Fields. One of the views in the HLCA document is identical to that across the application site and this would be ruined if the proposed pitch was allowed (pictures - page 23).

Other aspects of the proposal which continue to be of concern are:

- the enclosure of a public open space for the exclusive use of a private club
- the impact on the local ecology

- increase in traffic with the associated congestion, noise and pollution

- light pollution on both the River Pinn Corridor and the local night skyline

- increased risk of flooding in surrounding areas.

- the grant of public funds towards an expensive facility in a flood plain. In the event of a flood it is likely that substantial refurbishment costs would be incurred.

Full details on the Council website: www.hillingdon.gov.uk/planningsearch

Planning Policy

In recent months there has been much activity by our Council and the Coalition in respect of changes to planning policy.

As mentioned above the Council recently adopted their new Local Plan (Part 1 – Strategic Policies). This sets out the planning framework for the Borough over the next 15 years. The Cabinet also adopted the first Part 2 document, Hillingdon Landscape Character Assessment which identifies areas of importance within the Borough. During 2013 the Council intends to prepare and consult on the remainder of Part 2 of the Plan which will consist of Development Management Policies, Site Specific Allocations and an associated Policy Map.

Details of the Local Plan may be viewed at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/localplan

PLANNING MATTERS *(John Williams - cont.)*

The HLCA document is accessible via:

www.ruislipresidents.org.uk/landscape-character-assessment

At a national level, a Parliamentary committee has been reviewing the Growth & Infrastructure Bill. Included in the draft Bill were proposals to remove planning powers from local authorities deemed to be under performing and pass responsibility to the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol. Other measures proposed included relaxing the requirements for developers to contribute towards local infrastructure, relaxing the requirements for affordable homes and allowing telecoms companies more freedom on the installation of phone masts, cabinets and cables.

A consultation on Permitted Development rights was proposing to relax the limit on the size of extensions to both residential and commercial properties. For example the current limit allowing a rear extension on a house to a depth of 3.0 metres to be increased to 6.0 metres.

The above changes seem to be in conflict with the spirit of the Coalition's original policy of Localism. The National Organisation of Residents Associations, to which RRA is affiliated, prepared a robust response to both proposals. We have endorsed our support of their concerns to both our local MPs and the Department of Communities and Local Government.

PLANNING MATTERS *(Mike Hodge)*

28/28a Kingsend

Erection of a three storey building to contain 7, two-bedroom and 1, one bedroom flat. Following planning permission being granted construction went ahead, but certain conditions of that approval were not complied with. As a result Council Enforcement officers have been holding meetings with the developer with court action a possibility if common ground is not found.

Post Office, 48 High Street

On the vexed question of the current external signage, the latest information we have is that suitable plans have still not been presented by the owner/agent. As a result Council Officers are considering enforcement action to remedy the situation.

54 St Margarets Road

The planning application to demolish the existing bungalow and construct a 2-storey house was approved by North Planning Committee on 22 November. Local residents presented a petition against the development, which was supported by Cllr. Philip Corthorne and our Association.

HISTORY: CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME *(cont.)*

Holding and Allotment Society since 1909.

Nowadays, everyone has access to NHS hospitals and public libraries and other benefits are available to all, but there are still needy people. The Non-Ecclesiastical Charities and the Cottagers Allotment Charity were joined in 1993 to become the Ruislip Combined Charity. The trustees include local councillors and at least one clergyman and others with local knowledge. After allowing for reinvestment, the income is distributed in the form of monetary gifts. Sums are given to the vicars of churches within the old parish of Ruislip, to disburse among disadvantaged members of their flock and Social Workers suggest names of suitable recipients. The trustees from time to time assist organisations that help the disabled to participate in sport of various kinds and pay for young people to attend creative courses that their families cannot afford. The aim of the trustees is to safeguard the charity and to administer it in the spirit intended by the original donors.

OBITUARY: CLIVE PIGRAM *(Martin Cartwright)*

It is with sincere regret that the Town Crier marks the death on Boxing Day of Clive Pigram. Clive was an energetic supporter of many local institutions, at various times sharing management responsibility in St Martin's Church, Bishop Winnington Ingram School, and Bishop Ramsey School. He was a distinguished figure in Middlesex Freemasonry. A Chartered Surveyor, Clive was Secretary of Ruislip Village Trust until 1993 and Chairman of Ruislip Conservation Panel from 1999. He was instrumental in extending the Conservation Area from the ancient village centre to include much of the High Street and Kings End. Clear thinking, and with an acerbic wit, Clive was a determined champion of the many local causes he espoused.



FROM OUR WARD COUNCILLORS (cont.)

We put “Our Residents First” and will always do so.

The Mayor and Mayoress and Cllr Jonathan Bianco, Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business services, together with Cllrs. Corthorne, Crowe and Riley (pictured together), were very pleased to attend a Green Flag ceremony in November at the Breakspear Crematorium; celebrating these wonderful grounds and the exceptional work of staff at this peaceful site.



A Happy New Year.

Eastcote Hockey Club Proposals (see page 20)



View from Kings College Road, by the Pinn bridge, looking east across Pinn Meadows. The site of the proposed pitch!!



The existing pitch superimposed on the view above

Ruislip Manor Fun Day November 2012



Reflections



Autumn

