



Volunteers have helped to tidy up the Manor Farm pond

Jewellery find in the River Pinn (page 16)



Lady Banks Junior School
The Snow Queen and her
Acolytes (page 20)



Ruislip Residents' Association

TOWN CRIER

The Voice of Ruislip Residents
February 2014

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Ruislip Post Office - May 2012



Ruislip Post Office - January 2014
Is this an improvement?
What happens next? (see page 21)

RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT: Brian Cowley

VICE-PRESIDENTS: Joan Davis Peter Lansdown

Officers		Executive Committee Members	
Chairman	Graham Bartram	Vivien Alcorn	Susan Midgley
Vice-Chairman	Mike Hodge	Lindsay Baxter	John Swindells
Treasurer	John Hawley	Jaqueline Bolton	John Williams
Secretary	Pamela Edwards	Ian Cantley	
Chief Road Steward	Jack Greiller	Martin Cartwright	
Deputy Ch. Rd. Stwd.	Roy Parsons	Ivor John	
Responsibility	Committee Member	Responsibility	Committee Member
Community Activities	Jaqueline Bolton	Public Transport	Graham Bartram
Conservation	Lindsay Baxter	RAF Northolt Liaison	Ivor John
Education	Susan Midgley	Ruislip Lido	Peter Lansdown
Environment	Martin Cartwright	Ruislip Retail Area	Graham Bartram
Health	Joan Davis	Social Activities	Vivien Alcorn
Manor Retail Area	Joan Davis	Traffic & Parking	Brian Cowley
Membership	Brian Cowley	Website	John Swindells
Planning	Mike Hodge	Woodlands	Ian Cantley
Police Liaison	Ivor John		
<p>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>Editor: Peter Lansdown towncrier@ruislipresidents.org.uk</p>			

**Victoria Road,
Ruislip Manor
Refurbishment -
ongoing**



**Bishop Winnington-
Ingram C of E Primary
School Choir singing
carols in the High
Street (see page 20)**

**The Mayor with the
choir at Blenheim
House (page 21)**



PLANNING POLICY *(Mike Hodge/John Williams)*

As reported in our May issue, the Association has been concerned about the government's further relaxation of the rules relating to permitted development. The Council appears to have been similarly concerned and we were pleased to see that they recently made an Article 4 Direction, requiring owners proposing single storey rear extensions, greater than four metres deep, to submit a full planning application. Unless challenged by the government, this will come into effect on 22nd September 2014.

As part of the development of the new Local Plan, the Council recently agreed a draft proposal to raise the status of King's College Fields from Green Chain to Metropolitan Open Land. This is virtually the same level of protection as Green Belt status. However Friends of Pinn Meadows (FoPM) have expressed concern that this may not provide adequate protection against similar development of that recently proposed by Eastcote Hockey Club (see page 16 for details). We were pleased to learn that, in their recent meeting with the senior members of the Planning Department, FoPM were advised that officers had been instructed to provide maximum protection for the Fields. We therefore await publication of the Council's draft policy with some interest.

POLICE POINTS *(cont. from page14)*

against a backdrop of having to deliver on £500 million of savings - with more reductions to come. We still have a road to walk on delivering the LPM, largely because we are around 50 officers below establishment (10%). I thank you all for your patience and look forward to your ongoing support. The LPM will grow as the concept is understood more and we collectively flex to make the model work for the people of Hillingdon.

2014 will be my last year of policing. Much of my time is currently spent working with junior officers and trying to help mould the leaders of tomorrow, leaders who will build on the successes mentioned above and further strengthen the community partnership with your local police.

RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION - GENERAL MEETING 7.45pm - 10pm, Wednesday, 19th February 2014 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 Speaker: "The London Fire Brigade in Hillingdon",
Martin Wilson, Acting Borough Commander *(to be confirmed)*
4. Open Forum - an opportunity for members to question representatives
on topical subjects - issues sent to the Hon. Sec. *(see page 2)* 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

Annual General Meeting

7.45pm Wednesday, 18th June 2014,

Winston Churchill Hall Lounge, Pinn Way, Ruislip HA4 7QL

Nominations for Chairman, Officers and Executive Members for 2014- 2015, duly proposed and seconded by two members in writing, having obtained the consent of the candidate, must reach the Hon. Secretary by 27th May, 2014, as must agenda items.

EDITORIAL *(Peter Lansdown)*

Our Chairman, Graham Bartram, has a particular interest in public transport and is watching HS2 very closely. His latest comments on HS2 are in his message on page 5 and problems on the Underground are covered on page 10.

Education is becoming a major interest of this Association. It is good to see some children enjoying Christmas (pages 20,23,24). 2014 will be a busy year with changes to the national curriculum and free school lunches.

If you are about to pay your annual subscription, there is a plea from our treasurer on page 10.

(continued on page 17)

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 2014 at 12.15 pm

January 29th	Alexander Karpeyev: piano
February 26th	MinJung Baek: piano
March 26th	Nadia Giliova: piano
April 30th	Masayuki Tayama: piano
May 28th	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

(www.eastcotehousegardens.weebly.com)

Eastcote House Volunteer Gardeners meet on the 1st Friday, 2nd Saturday and 3rd & 4th Thursdays 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.

Gardening dates: February 7th, 8th, 20th, 27th March 7th, 8th, 20th, 27th
April 4th 12th, 17th, 24th May 2nd, 10th, 15th, 22nd

Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society Lecture Programme 2014

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

17 February	Foreshore Archaeology and the Blitz	Gustav Milne UCL Inst. Of Archaeology
17 March	"There's nothing like Dissecting to give you an Appetite" - Dickens	Kevin Brown Alexander Fleming Museum
28 April	The Royal Ordnance Factory at Hayes	Nick Holder Author of <i>The ROF at Hayes</i>

EDUCATION MATTERS *(continued)*

Annual Christmas Visit To Blenheim House : The first engagement for the choir, however, was their annual visit to Blenheim House to sing for the residents. On this occasion the Mayor and Mayoress were in attendance, much to the delight of the pupils. They both joined in with some of the carols and Christmas songs, as did some of the residents. It was heart-warming to see the residents' faces break out in smiles as the children began singing. Afterwards there were drinks and biscuits and a "Well Done!" from the Mayor.

The choir was also invited by Barclays Bank in the High Street to raise money for the charity ORCHYD which provides an annual residential holiday for local physically disabled children.

PLANNING UPDATE *(Mike Hodge/John Williams)*

8 Windmill Hill: The latest application to regularise the unauthorised alterations to the building was refused by the Council last October. The developer has now lodged an Appeal with the Planning Inspectorate against this decision.

Post Office, 48 High Street: Following the dismissal of the Appeal against the Council's refusal of the existing shop front sign and associated adverts, the occupier has to remove them.

Esso petrol station, Eastcote Road: The application submitted last July to redevelop this site with 4x4 Bed houses has yet to be decided.

Supermarket Developments: At the 10/12/13 meeting of the Major Applications Committee, both the Tesco and Morrison applications were recommended for referral to the Mayor of London for a decision. Otherwise officers were recommending refusal. This course of action was taken and these applications will come before the Mayor on 21 January.

28/28A Kingsend: Although the developer varied certain conditions of the original planning permission and enforcement action was taken, the Planning Inspectorate allowed the subsequent appeal.

77 Eastcote Road: The application for a change of use from dwelling house to non-residential use as a child care centre has yet to be decided. The Association have supported neighbours' objections to the proposals.

EDUCATION MATTERS *(Susan Midgley)*

Lady Bankes Junior School's Christmas Production 2013 : I was delighted to be invited to attend the school's production of *The Snow Queen* on Tuesday, December 10th. What a feast of singing, dancing and acting in which every member of the school took part! The show opened with the choir's performance of *Silent Night*. The narrators took the audience seamlessly through Hans Christian Andersen's famous fairy tale of how the wicked Snow Queen finally met her demise. Many of the wonderfully colourful costumes were made by parents and a few were hired. The hour and a half performance was slick and very professional; in fact, an absolute joy to watch and listen to. The cast played to a full house and the audience showed their appreciation by the tremendous applause following the whole school's finale performance of Christmas songs.

There were three performances in total and following each there was a collection for the RSPCA, the children's chosen charity for 2013.

Congratulations to all the pupils, teachers and parents who put in so much time and effort preparing for this excellent show. I certainly hope that I will be invited to next year's Christmas Production!

Carols for Charity : On the bitterly cold and windy Thursday before Christmas, the choir from Bishop Winnington-Ingram C of E Primary School walked from their school to Ruislip High Street to sing carols for the charity *Unique*, which carries out research into rare chromosome disorders in children and supports parents with a child affected by such a disorder.

The carol singers were wrapped up warmly, all sporting festive head-wear. Some wore T-shirts bearing the *Unique* logo and others were armed with red buckets displaying a flier for information, hopeful that they would be full of coins by the end of the hour slot granted by Hillingdon Borough. Despite the cold, all the pupils sang their hearts out much to the delight of passing shoppers who gave generously.

Some of the local shopkeepers, hearing the singing, came to their doors and also contributed to the charity, which was much appreciated by the children.

Not satisfied with this session, the choir was once again on duty outside Waitrose on the following Monday morning. Some customers stopped to listen to the carols, a few joining in with old favourites. As on the previous occasion shoppers gave generously.

The pupils were escorted by Mrs. Audrey Wright, Deputy Headteacher, Mrs. Emma Kimsey, HLTA, Mrs. Cleary and several parent volunteers. The choir raised a total of **£289.00** and together with their teachers are to be congratulated on this superb achievement.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE *(Graham Bartram)*

Already 2014 is upon us, and for Ruislip that means one thing – HS2.

In late November 2013, the government published the Hybrid Bill and the Environmental Statement that accompanies it. This is a huge document, consisting of several gigabytes (around 8,000,000,000 characters) of information and an immense amount of material to try to digest.



I have started looking at the bits that seems to affect Ruislip directly but get the feeling that I am only scratching the surface. There are still errors in the basic information, such as where Ruislip Village Conservation Area is, which lead one to doubt the accuracy of much of the rest of the information (we pointed out that particular error in our response to the Draft Environmental Statement). All we can do is to continue going through the information and drawing up new responses.

One good piece of news is that the Environmental Statement confirmed that the tunnel will now run from West Ruislip through to Old Oak Common, so our neighbours in South Ruislip and Northolt should be spared some of the problems. Unfortunately this means that there is now much more spoil from the tunnelling and HS2 seem to be planning to dump a lot of this on the fields between Harvil Road and Ickenham! I am sure that our colleagues in Ickenham Residents' Association will have something to say about this and they will have our full support.

Several areas of road are marked on the new HS2 maps as "may be needed during construction", including sections of West End Road and Herlwyn Avenue. We believe that these are areas where HS2 may need to re-route existing underground services, such as gas, water, sewerage, etc., but we feel it would have been less worrying if this had been made more explicit and we will be asking HS2 for clarification. HS2 have not been good at communicating with residents affected by the proposed line and have often caused them unnecessary worry.

The Croxley link to Watford Junction has also now been given the full go ahead, so hopefully in a few years time we will have the ability to get to Watford town centre via the Met Line, or indeed Watford Junction station for the West Coast Mainline.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our February meeting, which will be held at Ruislip Manor Sports & Social Club in Grosvenor Vale (see page 3 for details).

Graham Bartram -Chairman - 01895 673310

FROM OUR MP FOR MANOR WARD - SIR JOHN RANDALL

As many of you will know, I resigned as a Minister in October and am now on the back benches. As a Minister, I was able to see at first-hand how Government works. It could be rather "Yes Minister" at times. However, I felt that I was able to put forward views and ideas at the very highest level, even if not always accepted. I have also been able to see how important individuals can be in shaping events.

Last year the world mourned the passing of Nelson Mandela and in that one man we have the clearest example of how an individual changed the face of his country. His vision of forgiveness and reconciliation avoided the bloodbath that could so easily have happened. I do wonder whether that example will be followed through by others. It is sad to say that so often we do not learn the lessons of history, especially when it comes to foreign affairs. This year of course marks the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, "the war to end all wars". Enough said.

I, like many people, thought that we had abolished slavery in the early 1800s, with the heroic work of William Wilberforce and others. However, over the last few years I have been shocked to discover that slavery is very much alive today and in every country of the world, including the UK. It is not just unfortunates from abroad being trafficked here, but a large number of our own nationals are involved, both as victims and perpetrators. Sadly, none of us are very far away from a potential incident. Whether it is Vietnamese children being forced to farm cannabis in suburban houses, girls in massage parlours or nail bars, or a whole variety of other ways, if you scratch the surface you will find this abomination going on in a road or high street near you.

I have been fortunate to have been asked to help look at and hopefully strengthen the Government's Draft Modern Day Slavery Bill which I hope will become law before the General Election in 2015.

However there are also major local issues to get stuck into: the HS2 project looks increasingly difficult to justify, and Heathrow expansion never seems to go away. So far from taking it easy on the backbenches, I am looking forward to being extremely busy in 2014. I am always reminded of the motto of another local residents' association "Apathy is the enemy of the people".

Finally I would like to wish all Ruislip residents a happy and healthy New Year as we tackle these issues together.

HEALTH MATTERS *(cont.)*

acute and community health services, social services and third sector agencies.

4. Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group

a. New Urgent Care Centre at Hillingdon Hospital: In October, its first month, the UCC saw an average of 166 patients a day - the previous service saw only 74, and roughly 21 patients a day were transferred to A&E, 480 patients to a specialty department and 150 patients to primary care. The UCC does not yet see children aged below six months, but will do so later. Liaison is good between Hillingdon Hospital and the UCC, which is run by Greenbrook Healthcare.

b. Communication with the public: The public is encouraged to provide comments and recommendations on the Trust's performance by writing to the Chief Operating Officer. Documents will be published on the CCG's website.

5. Central & North West London Foundation Trust

Looked After Children in Hillingdon: These children are four times more likely than others to have a mental health, emotional or behavioural problem, engage in substance misuse and to become a teenage parent. In January 2013, the London Borough of Hillingdon looked after 361 children, down from 420 in 2010.

6. The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

a. Care Quality Commission's Unannounced Visit: The Trust fully met all but three standards and has been placed in CQC's lowest band of risk,

b. Edmunds Ward at Mount Vernon: This was opened on 2nd December and will remain open until end of March 2014, with 20 beds for use of Northwick Park Hospital and 9 beds providing additional winter capacity for Hillingdon Hospital.

c. Hip care: The findings of the National Hip Fracture Database 2013, published in September, show the Trust to have some of the best results in London.

7. Royal Brompton and Harefield Foundation Trust

a. Congenital Heart Disease Review: This ongoing Review covers the whole lifetime pathway of care for people with congenital heart disease, a matter of great importance to the Royal Brompton Hospital. The previous review considered only children's services and concluded that Royal Brompton should lose its paediatric heart surgery, which would have had a devastating effect on other services at both the Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals.

b. Proposals for a large dementia facility on the Harefield Hospital site: This proposal, for a privately run facility, is still in its early stages of development.

1. National Affairs

a. NHS Strategy: The focus is to move services out of the acute sector into the community and to integrate health and social care. In parallel, specialist centres serving large numbers of patients are to be developed, possibly 30 to 50 centres across the country. These are radical changes for NHS direction.

b. NHS Funding: NHS England now allocates funding for public health, primary care, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), specialised healthcare and the integration transformation fund. It also sets the pace of change, since rapid change could destabilise sectors with reduced allocations. It has set target allocations for CCGs, but movement towards targets will be slow. In 2014-15 all CCGs will get at least 2.14% increase per head of population and next year at least 1.70% increase. Hillingdon CCG's above minimum allocations are 4.36% and 3.99%.

c. New inspection and regulation of GPs: From April 2014 GPs will be subject to new inspection procedures by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Inspectors will visit every GP practice over a two year period to consider whether the services are safe, effective, caring, responsive to people's needs and well led. From January there will be a focus on out-of-hours services. There will also be an overview of how services work together and involvement of patients, families and carers.

2. North West London Issues

a. North West London's "Shaping a Healthier Future Programme": Ealing Hospital is to keep its Accident and Emergency Department, but in a reduced form. Hillingdon Hospital A&E is being extended and will provide 24/7 emergency services - it expects more Ealing patients when that hospital's services are reduced.

b. North West London Integrated Care: North West London is one of 14 pioneer sites, from over 100 applications. It will receive Government support and advice. Hillingdon CCG participates in this project but not Hillingdon Council, which has set up instead a Health & Wellbeing Board project. The Department of Health aims to make coordinated health care the norm by 2018.

3. Hillingdon Health and Wellbeing Board

a. Sub Committee for integration of health and social services: Plans for this new form of service delivery must be jointly agreed with key partners by March 2014. A stakeholder group meets every two weeks, which includes Hillingdon CCG, Hillingdon's community health services and Hillingdon Hospital.

b. Current Local Integration Programmes These include the scaling up of rapid response, community dementia pathways, falls services, intermediate care on hospital discharge, improved mental health services and improved joint working by

A recovering economy is good news, but we face a number of threats to quality of life in the area. When the first plans for HS2 came out, there were fears that Ruislip High Street and roads like Ladygate Lane would be choked with movements of HGVs bringing and removing soil. Many of us expressed these concerns to HS2 and, in the latest Environmental Statement, they have changed their plans. They will move more soil by rail and look to "sustainably place" (their language) the rest in fields on the edges of Ickenham, West Ruislip and Harefield. So there will be less traffic, but there will still be a major construction site in the middle of Ickenham and Harvil Road will be very busy for a year, at the very least. This all assumes that HS2 will go ahead. The Prime Minister has made it clear that this depends on whether it has cross party support and this is still not 100% clear. So, for the moment my priority is to press for better mitigation (an extended tunnel) and better compensation for property blight. I have a dedicated HS2 section on my website, www.nickhurd.com, for residents who want to keep up with developments.



In other news, it looks as if the risk of an expanded Heathrow has not gone away. There may be mixed views on this in Ruislip. I have always been opposed to more runways at Heathrow as it makes no sense to increase the frequency of flights over densely populated areas.

The persistent local headache continues to be planning and risks to local character and traffic from new supermarkets (threatened in Ickenham and Northwood) and developers of flats. There is age old tension between the need to conserve and the need to meet modern needs which we have to work through. So, it looks like being a busy year for me. I wish all residents a happy and healthy New Year. If I can be of any help, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

HISTORY: MASTER'S COURT & SHERLEY'S COURT, WOOD LANE

(Eileen Bowlst)

Those who are familiar with the history of Ruislip will have no difficulty in recognising the source of these names. Master's Court replaced the Station Master's House and Sherley's Court was built upon the Station Master's garden. In the 1850s, Frederick Sherley owned the triangular piece of land at the corner of Wood Lane and West End Road, on which they are built, and the farm opposite, which became known as Sherley's Farm and is now The Old Barn Hotel/Hawtrey's Restaurant.

Master's Court and Sherley's Court, two blocks of retirement flats, were built in 1994 and 1996 respectively. They are four storeys high, command an extensive view southwards and present a pleasing appearance to travellers approaching Ruislip High Street along West End Road. The land was cut off from the rest of the fields lying between Ickenham Road and Wood Lane when the Metropolitan Railway line was built 1902-04.

There was always a distinct bend in the bottom part of Wood Lane, as it approached Field End Green, where it joined what is now known as West End Road. At that point there was for centuries a house and farm buildings, entered from Wood Lane, originally known as Kemps Hale. (Hale means bend). James Weedon and Henry Hill

were tenants in Victorian times.

Frederick Sherley's connection with Ruislip is something of a puzzle. He was born around 1787 in Hertfordshire and was living at Haven Green, Barnet in 1851. His unmarried sister was housekeeping for him and a nephew and servant made up the elderly bachelor's household. He seems to have been comfortably placed, being a house agent, land surveyor and manorial bailiff. He had 70 acres and employed three labourers. Two years later he married Mary Ann Wells of Ealing who was 30 years his junior. Within the next year or two he acquired the Ruislip property- perhaps his wife had money- but continued to live at Haven Green according to census returns. Sherley's Farm was let to Thomas Collins.

In 1865-6 Mr Sherley opened a short-lived brickfield, near where Grosvenor Vale is today. The bricks produced seem to have been used to build the cottages called Beddingfield Place in West End Road. The group of three are original and the semi-detached pair has been rebuilt. Maybe the intention was to improve housing for agricultural workers. The population of Ruislip as opposed to Northwood and Eastcote, grew from 633 to 713 between 1861-71 and Mr Sherley had provided five of the 10 new dwellings built in the same period. His

FRIENDS OF PINN MEADOWS *(cont.)*

Finally, to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War, there will be poppies planted all over the country. Hillingdon's Green Spaces Team have kindly agreed to include Pinn Meadows in the project and poppies will be planted in the area next to Elmbridge Drive. So look out them in the summer. It should be a great sight!

Find out more at: www.fopm.org.uk.

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

COUNCILLORS' COMMENTS *(cont. from page 15)*

So it is intended to build on what we believe is the good work already underway. HS2, the third runway, or "where do we build a new airport", and other national issues will continue to dominate the political debate in 2014. We in Hillingdon will have our own important issues to deal with. In 2013, Councillors dealt with many hundreds of enquiries and requests for help from residents. We look forward to playing a significant role in 2014 and beyond. Happy New Year from us to you all.

EDITORIAL *(cont. from page 3)*

There will be another visit to RAF Northolt on Wednesday, 19th March, which, as before, is already oversubscribed, and I am working through the names in order of date application. If there is anyone who would like to join the waiting list for a further visit, maximum of two people per household membership of the RRA, let us know by email: towncrier@ruislipresidents.org.uk.

Residents will be able to attend the Open Day at RAF Northolt this year, on Saturday, 14th June. If you are interested, the details are on page 11.

Further visits to the Houses of Parliament/Elizabeth Tower have been arranged. If you are interested in visiting our Seat of Government, details can be found on page 13.

FRIENDS OF PINN MEADOWS (FOPM) *(Rob Cousins)*

The Friends of Pinn Meadows were advised that at the Hillingdon Cabinet meeting on 24th October 2013 a draft proposal was presented to remove the Pinn Meadows area from Hillingdon's Green Chain and designate it instead as Metropolitan Open Land. The removal of Pinn Meadows from the Green Chain is a concerning development as it was the Council's Green Chain policy which provided the vital protection against Eastcote Hockey Club's most recent planning application for a floodlit and fenced Astroturf pitch on King's College Playing Fields.

After writing to Councillor Keith Burrows, the Cabinet Member for Planning, members of FoPM's Management Committee were offered a meeting with Jales Tippell, Environment Policy Director, and James Rodger, Head of Planning, to discuss the issue. They advised us that they had been asked to provide the greatest possible protection for all Green Chain areas in the Borough. We advised them that we felt that the highest level of protection would be achieved by keeping Pinn Meadows within the Green Chain whilst additionally designating the area as Metropolitan Open Land. This type of dual designation is already used by other London Boroughs and indeed Hillingdon Council already has many Green Chain areas located on its Green Belt land.

We were advised that the option to retain the Green Chain designation for Pinn Meadows would now be considered and that we would have the opportunity to canvass further support when the Hillingdon Draft Local Plan is made available for public consultation later this year. Watch this space!

In other news, we had an exciting time at our December Working Party with the Council's Green Spaces team. Whilst clearing the River Pinn of litter, we discovered a collection of boxed jewellery which had been thrown in the river adjacent to the bridge in Kings College Road. The Council's Park Officers, who were present, also reported to the Police some youths from Brook Drive who were illegally riding their motorbikes around the meadows. The Police arrived promptly and issued the culprits with a warning and took away our hoard of jewellery!

HISTORY: MASTER'S COURT & SHERLEY'S COURT, WOOD LANE *(continued)*

contribution would have been welcome and would also have increased his rent roll.

There is no evidence to show that Frederick Sherley ever lived in Ruislip, but he seems to have had some affection for the place, for he was buried at St Martin's when he died in 1873, although the Burial Register gives his abode as Ealing. His widow seems to have moved to Ruislip and was living at Sherley's Farm in 1881, with Thomas Collins, who was described as a farm bailiff, and his family. She had received some 6 acres immediately south of the farmhouse under the terms of her husband's will and by 1891 she was living in a house called Elm Grove that had been built upon it. Garden Flats replaced it about 1930. Mary Ann died in 1898. Sherley's Farm and Beddingfield Place were sold to Henry James Ewer of Manor Farm in 1902. Members of the Collins family remained until 1947.

As the Sherleys' marriage had been childless, a nephew, Charles Sherley and another relative, Edward Sherley Smith, administered the estate. In October 1901 they sold the whole of the Kemps Hale land with its cottage and outbuildings and the field north of Sherley's Farm where Ruislip Station stands, to the Harrow and Uxbridge Railway Company.

The first Station Master's elevated status, not only gave him a house, but meant that

he wore a top-hat as part of his working uniform. He was named Mr Smith and was responsible for Uxbridge and Ickenham Stations as well. The house was the first in Ruislip to enjoy the benefit of electricity, supplied from the live rails. Electric trains did not run until January 1905, although the power was available from the previous October. Visitors to the Smith's household were disconcerted to find that the lights dipped whenever a train started from the station. The family eventually resorted to oil lamps in the evenings when the Ickenham substation staff were off duty, exacerbating the problem.

The names of farms were fluid in earlier centuries, describing their position or using an owner's surname, which changed from time to time. There were three separate houses called Bury Street Farm and all the cottages near the junction of Wood Lane and West End Road were known as Field End Farm. Gradually names became fixed in the later 19th century, perhaps because of the improved postal system.

By a strange quirk of fate it is the name of Frederick Sherley, who had relatively little to do with Ruislip, whose name has been immortalised.

THE UNDERGROUND *(Graham Bartram)*

There is some disturbing news on the Underground. Bombardier, the Derby-based company that was awarded the contract to modernise the signalling systems on the sub-surface lines, including the Metropolitan, has pulled out of the deal after two years, saying it is beyond them! TfL claim that this will not affect the cost or timescale of this vital project, but it is hard to see how it can fail to. The new signalling is essential for speeding up the existing trains and increasing the number of trains, and therefore more capacity, on the existing lines. The new S-stock trains that you will have seen on the Met, and now the Hammersmith & City and Circle lines, were designed and built to use the new signalling system. I will be meeting with Met Line and senior TfL managers in mid-January and will ask them for more information.

Please note: neither the Metropolitan nor the Piccadilly line will be operating in the Ruislip area on the weekends of 25/26 Jan, 1/2, 8/9 & 22/23 Feb and 8/9 & 15/16 March, due to engineering work. Replacement bus services will be operating. Full details can be found on the TfL website.

TREASURER'S CORNER *(John Hawley)*

A plea for help

Forms for annual subscriptions are enclosed with many (not all) copies of this edition.

I always welcome envelopes dropped through my front door, but it would be safer if these could be put through the inner door, not just through the porch door (the latter is unlocked in the daytime).

It was great to have a number of donations last year - these are always most welcome.

Finally: please remember that cheques should bear "2014" in the date-line and should be signed. I get about 20 cheques a year with something wrong, which causes a few problems.

COUNCILLORS' COMMENTS *(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



Most of the Town Crier columns I write are for publication much later in the year and so it is with this one. The call from the Editor comes well before Christmas for publication in January, by which time Christmas is very much over and the forward-looking to the New Year has already begun in earnest. Personally I love the run up to Christmas and the day itself, but with the same strength of emotion and given a suitable mourning of Christmas "just gone", I like to get on with the New Year and all that it brings in terms of new projects, events, new people to meet and things to do.

So this year of 2014 brings the exciting prospect of the London Borough elections in May coupled with the "European Elections". Not an idea that any of us think was a good one as history teaches us that multiple elections are never well received, but we must all live with it.

The coming year will see ever more improvements in the Borough, with money being wisely spent on community projects and very local issues. With the improvements in Ruislip Lido substantially complete and almost all of our Libraries fully refurbished and state of the art Leisure Centres built, the Borough is in a healthy state in providing services to residents.

However we will face continued financial challenges created from the failings of the national government. Required ever more to "find savings", the present Hillingdon administration, with its reputation for financial care and creativity, will be setting a budget that will benefit as many in the Borough as is feasible, while maintaining mainstream services across the board. Each of the Ward Councillors that serve the RRA area have made successful cases for "Ward Budget" expenditure and many local groups have benefited from these important financial boosts.

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POLICE POINTS *(Steve Kershaw, Borough Commander.)*

Happy New Year to all the members of the RRA and the readers of this newsletter. 2013 was indeed challenging. I am pleased to report that your police officers, my staff, have continued to work with all partner agencies and the Local Authority to build on the reductions in crime which we achieved in 2012/13.

My heart does, however, go out to those members of the community who have fallen foul to the criminals who prey on us. My comments around crime reduction may seem somewhat tainted, but I can assure you that I would dearly love to deliver on zero crime.

This last year has seen your police officers dealing with investigations which have stretched across a number of countries and continents. It is this tenacity which has shown criminals that, if they offend in Hillingdon, they will be hunted and brought to justice. Such enquiries include offences of murder, abduction and organised criminal activities; such as drug supply and burglary. This is the right thing to do, but does adversely impact on my team's ability to be as visible as we all would want.

Your Police and the Local Authority have been leading the way in addressing crimes against the most vulnerable within our community: crimes against senior citizens by sub-standard carers and organised criminals, and indeed children who are at risk to sexual exploitation. These are all matters which are not visible to those who review police performance, but I can inform you that Team Hillingdon is considered as a shining light in the public protection arena, something which makes me feel really proud.

Anti-Social Behaviour is reducing, again largely due to the Local Authority and Police standing shoulder to shoulder on matters which are blighting our community. We have joint noise patrols and licensing enforcement, and we have robust plans to deal with groups who try to camp illegally on public land and retail car parks; with such groups now being moved on within hours and not the weeks it once took. This is firm, but fair, policing.

All of the above has been achieved at a time when the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has undergone the most significant change to service delivery in a generation or more - the introduction of the Local Policing Model (LPM), and

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DON'T FORGET!

**The next RRA GENERAL MEETING is on
WEDNESDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY**

**COME ALONG and JOIN US
GUEST SPEAKERS**

**ASK YOUR BURNING QUESTIONS!
HS2 Heathrow Planning
Transport Traffic Parking**

**WE NEED YOUR INPUT!
WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU**

(see page 3 for details)

RAF NORTHOLT OPEN DAY - 14TH JUNE 2014

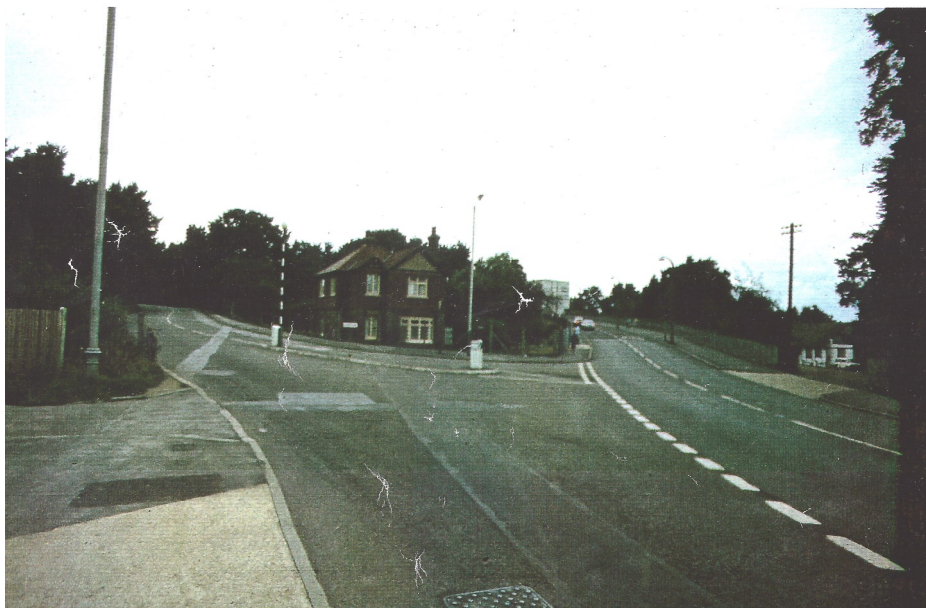
We are now registering interest from local residents for our Open Day on Saturday, 14th June. The gates will open to the public at noon and we are expecting the fly-past from the Queen's Birthday Parade to be overhead RAF Northolt just after 1pm. Entry will be by wristbands' which are available in advance and will cost £10 each (under 5's are free). Anyone bringing a car onto the base will need to purchase a £5 car pass (Disabled Blue Badge holders are free). Wristbands will not be issued until nearer the date, but bookings can be made now. Please provide full names, with nationality of each attendee, together with the make, model and registration number of any vehicles which are to be brought on to the base on the day.

Cheques, payable to "Service Funds RAF Northolt", together with the relevant details of attendees, should be sent to:

Sqn Ldr Richard Willis, MCO, RAF Northolt, West End Road, Ruislip HA4 6NG

Please mark the envelope "Open Day 2014". Payments are non-refundable and RAF Northolt reserves the right to refuse admission.

STATION MASTER'S HOUSE & ENTRANCE TO SHERLEY'S FARM, WOOD LANE *(page 8)*



CANCER CENTRES *(Joan Davis)*

A new cancer centre is being built at Lister Hospital: Until now the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre has been the only cancer centre in Hertfordshire. It is administered by the East & North Herts. Hospitals NHS Trust from the Lister Hospital in Stevenage. Now that Trust is developing a new cancer centre on its main site. A turf-cutting ceremony recently marked the start of work on the new £3 million Lister Macmillan Cancer Centre at the Lister Hospital.

Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre: In its 20th anniversary year, this Mount Vernon charity is also celebrating success in winning a Team Excellence Award at the Macmillan Excellence Awards and its 18th commendation in the annual Medical Book and Patient Information Awards, organised by the British Medical Association. This pioneering centre has been at the forefront of cancer patient support and it now has a 100-strong team of paid and voluntary staff with healthcare professionals, therapists, information specialists, benefits advisers and others.

EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDENS *(Lesley Crowcroft)*

Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent have now been granted. The main works are due to begin in August 2014, with some tree removal work starting in February to avoid the nesting season.

From August the gardens will be closed and we will not be able to hold any events until 2015.

However, before we are overrun with builders, there will be a 'Farewell Picnic' on Saturday, June 7th 2014, 11am -4pm. All the favourites will be there, Classic car rally, Dog Show, St. Lawrence Players, Plant sale - lots for all the family.

At the end of June a three week Archaeological dig will commence with many opportunities for public involvement. Further details will be published on our web site: www.eastcotehousegardens.weebly.com

The regular Gardening sessions will continue - see details on page 4.

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND ELIZABETH TOWER *(Vivien Alcorn)*

Following our successful outings last year, I am pleased to announce that three more visits are now planned for 2014, courtesy of Sir John Randall MP, whose office has provided us with Special Permits. Two are for a tour of the Houses of Parliament and one to visit the Elizabeth Tower (Big Ben).

Several members have already applied, but there are still a few places left for the Houses of Parliament visits.

If you would like your name added to the waiting list, please contact me by email, valcorn@blueyonder.co.uk - stating whether you would like one or two places. It would also be useful if you could include a 'phone number.

Please note: Two places per household - members of RRA only.