

Ruislip Residents' Association **TOWN CRIER**

February 2015

www.ruislipresidents.org.uk



Did the Romans Live in Ruislip?

by Eileen Bowlt

New Look

A bright new look for your
local town newsletter

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CONTENTS

- 3 *Editorial*
- 4 *Community Noticeboard*
- 5 *Chairman's Message*
- 6 *Sir John Randall MP*
MP for Manor Ward
- 8 *Did the Romans Live in Ruislip?*
- 11 *Nick Hurd MP*
MP for West & East Ruislip Wards
- 12 *Education News*
- 14 *Police Points*
- 16 *Health Matters*
- 18 *Councillors' Comments*
- 19 *Ruislip High Street*
- 20 *Decorative & Fine Arts Society*
- 20 *Parliament & Elizabeth Tower*
- 21 *Planning Update*
- 23 *2015 Subscriptions*
- 24 *General Meeting Notice*

Editorial

A New Year, A New Look

Following Peter Lansdown's retirement as editor of the *Town Crier*, I have taken over the task until we can find a new volunteer to put the magazine together. If you are interested in publishing, and know how to use Adobe InDesign to lay out the magazine, then please get in touch with me.

For the last edition we switched to new printers and this has given us the opportunity to use full colour throughout the *Town Crier*. The new design takes advantage of this to provide a bright, modern look for our venerable publication, but don't panic - all your old favourites will still be here.

Please let us know what you think of the new format. Producing the *Town Crier* is Ruislip Residents' Association's largest cost, and a great deal of effort goes into distributing it, so we really want it to be something you want to read!

Graham Bartram

Graham Bartram, Editor Pro Tem

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

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Jaqueline Bolton

POLICE LIAISON

Vacant

CONSERVATION

Vacant

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Graham Bartram

EDUCATION

Susan Midgley

RAF NORTHOLT LIAISON

Peter Lansdown

ENVIRONMENT

Vacant

RUISLIP LIDO

Peter Lansdown

HEALTH

Joan Davis

RUISLIP RETAIL AREA

Pamela Edwards

MANOR RETAIL AREA

Joan Davis

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Vivien Alcorn

MEMBERSHIP

Brian Cowley

TRAFFIC & PARKING

Brian Cowley

MINUTES SECRETARY

Patricia Wardle

WEBSITE

John Swindells

PLANNING

Mike Hodge

WOODLANDS

Vacant

FRIENDS OF EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDEN

www.eastcotehousegardens.weebly.com

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

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

Meet in the car park at Eastcote House Gardens.

Gardening dates: January 2nd, 9th, 15th; February 6th, 13th, 19th;
March 6th, 13th, 19th; April 3rd, 10th, 16th;

HILLINGDON DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY

Lecture Programme Early 2015

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

11 February	The Taste and Patronage of Louis XIV	Jane Gardiner
11 March	Sir Stanley Spencer: An Autobiography in Pictures.	Carolyn Leder
13 May	The Treasures and Palaces of St Petersburg	Edward Saunders
10 June	Tangled Lives: Admiral Lord Nelson, Emma Lady Hamilton and Sir William Hamilton - collector of the Portland Vase.	Anthea Bryant

RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD & EASTCOTE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Lecture Programme 2015

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

19 January	The Story of the John Tradescants: Their Museum and Botanical Collecting	Jon Newman Lambeth Archives
16 February	An American President in Ealing: The John Quincy Adams Diaries	Paul Fitzmaurice Ealing Historical Author
16 March	18th Century Whitechapel	Jane Cox History Researcher
20 April	Growing Up in Uxbridge	Ken Pearce Uxbridge LH&AS

Chairman's Message



Suddenly it is 2015 and time for me to wish all Ruislip's residents a very prosperous and happy New Year!

2014 was a busy and successful year for Ruislip Residents' Association, with well-attended meetings, successfully supporting residents concerns in planning matters and getting several proposals rejected, persuading the Council to delay the roadworks in Ruislip High Street until after the Christmas shopping period, producing and delivering three issues of the Town Crier and petitioning Parliament about the damage HS2 could do to our community. We hope to repeat that success in 2015.

The fight over HS2 comes to a head in 2015. By the time you read this the HS2 Select Committee will have visited the Colne Valley to see the sites affected by HS2's proposals. Hillingdon Council have published two reports, one on the viability and cost of continuing the tunnel from West Ruislip to join up with the Chiltern tunnel, and another on the costs to the community of HS2's existing plans. You can find both reports (under 'Latest Updates') at:

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/hs2

The tunnelling report states that not

only is the tunnel possible in engineering terms, but only marginally more expensive (at £1.16bn) than HS2's proposal to build overland (at £1.1bn). It would mean that Ruislip Golf Course would be unaffected, the Hillingdon Outdoors Activity Centre would remain open and the people of Ruislip and Ickenham would be spared a huge amount of disruption. The impact report estimates the economic cost to the Hillingdon community of HS2 at between £41.9m and £157.5m!

The roadworks in Ruislip High Street, which were postponed before Christmas, are now due to happen early this year. The High Street highway is in a very bad way which means that the roadworks will need to be very extensive to rebuild the road. See page 19 for more details.

Cllr Philip Corthorne has been putting pressure on the council to do something about the people who just dump their domestic refuse around the litter bins on the street, both in Ruislip and the Manor. RRA will support him in getting this fixed.

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

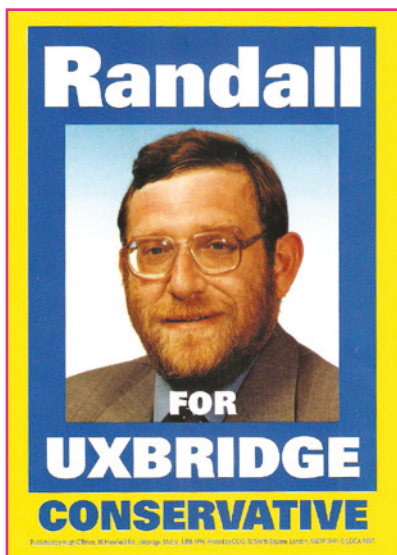
Graham Bartram, Chairman, ☎ 01895 673310

Sir John Randall MP

From our MP for the Manor Ward

Throughout life we have to take important decisions and last year I decided that after what will be nearly eighteen years of serving as a Member of Parliament that was it is time to call it a day. It was not an easy decision as it has been a huge privilege to represent the area that I have always lived in. Someone told me once that being elected as an MP was not unlike the experience felt by a sportsman selected for the national team. It certainly has been an incredible journey.

When I was first elected it seemed so unreal that sitting in the Chamber felt almost like an out of body experience and I nearly had to pinch myself. I could not believe that I was actually there not just watching proceedings on television. Later as a Minister when I regularly walked down Downing Street, I consciously tried to savour the moment so that I would be able to always remember the thrill.



A poster for John's election in 1997



John presents a Bill to limit hare hunting

However I could never daydream for long as there was always something to bring me back to earth. Constituents' problems are ever present and certainly the emails never stop arriving these days. Local issues like the potential expansion of Heathrow, and more recently HS2, are never far away. Answering the mass campaigns emails on all sorts of issues takes

up a lot of time. I do hope that the replies are read but sometimes I do wonder.

There have been some major moments, perhaps most noticeably the Iraq war when I found it difficult to sleep trying to make my mind up which way to vote. Then there was the MPs' expenses scandal which has influenced the public's perception of politicians hugely and the reverberations are still felt.



John, in his role as Treasurer to Her Majesty's Household, with Kate at an official function

One doesn't enter politics for praise and one has to be ready for the brickbats but never imagine that we all have skins as thick as rhinoceroses. Families are perhaps those who are most affected and I can never truly thank my wife, Kate and my three children enough for their support over the years. I am immensely lucky to be able to go home every night and have been able to have a relatively normal life unlike so many of my colleagues. I have also been extremely fortunate in having the same secretary for all of my

time in Parliament and she shares with me a love of people and an ability to listen.

What has made my job really enjoyable is actually that the constituency I have had the honour to serve, represents to me what makes this country the best in the world. It has no extremes, the people are fair minded and possess down to earth common sense.



Wildlife has always been a passion for John

Thank you sincerely for the opportunity to have had this wonderful experience. ♦



In February 2014, John was knighted by the Prince of Wales, becoming Sir John Randall

Did the Romans Live in Ruislip?

Eileen Bowltt

If the question means was there a Roman settlement, villa or modest farm in this area, the answer must be that no evidence has yet been found – although hope springs eternal. Romans certainly passed along the Pinn Valley, carelessly dropping and breaking a few pots and more interestingly, possibly constructing a small building on the site of a house in upper St Martin's Approach. Remains of walls of flint interspersed with Roman brick came to light when the road was laid out and house building began soon after the 1932 handover of Manor Farm to the Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council, as a gift for the people of Ruislip from King's College. They were recorded by archaeologist, Hugh Braun, who was taking a great interest in the earthworks at Manor Farm at the time and wrote a paper called 'Earliest Ruislip' published in the *Transactions of LAMAS* (the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society).

Actual Roman finds in Ruislip are very few and mainly found close to Manor Farm, possibly because that is where most archaeological investigation has taken place over the years. It will be interesting to see if any-

thing Roman turns up at Eastcote House during next summer's community dig. In the autumn of 1964, prior to the building of Winston Churchill Hall, Robin Derricourt, assisted by members of the newly-formed Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society (RNELHS) and others unearthed Neolithic and Mesolithic worked flints and pottery of various dates including two Roman pieces, one being a sherd of black Cais-tor Ware dating from the 4th century.



A Roman potsherd found in the north bank of the earthwork now considered to be a western extension of Grimsdyke

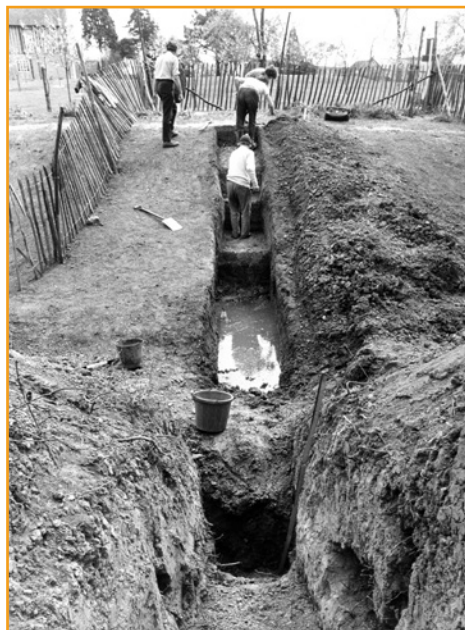
When RNELHS dug a trench across the large earthwork (bank and ditch) at the northern edge of Manor Farm orchard in 1976, Roman pottery turned up again in the northern bank. One piece was part of a mortarium (for grinding corn) and was identified as having been made at Verulamium in the 2nd century.



Rim of a mortarium made in the Verulamium region AD 90-130

These finds were useful in proving that the ditch is post-Roman, but did not help to date it more precisely. Braun believed that the ditch was part of an earthwork that had originally surrounded the earliest settlement at Ruislip. He also suggested that the monks at Ruislip Priory had later diverted water from the Pinn into it to serve as a leat for their watermill situated further along the river near Clack Lane. Both ideas have now been discounted and the ditch is thought to be part of a western extension of Grimsdyke, an enigmatic Saxon earth-

work that runs up Cuckoo Hill and through Harrow Weald to Pear Wood, Stanmore.



Members of the RNELHS dig a trench at Manor Farm in 1976

In that same year a young couple living at 6 Sharps Lane found a piece of sky blue moulded glass, covered by a thick iridescent patina in their back garden. Experts at the Museum of London identified it as part of a ribbed bowl of Mediterranean manufacture. This news caused some excitement and local archaeologists gave the garden a thorough going over in February 1977, finding an 1806 halfpenny, pieces of china dolls, a Victorian glass ink well and a single piece of rough greyware thought to be Roman, all jumbled together. The area of garden where the glass

had been found turned out to be largely composed of rubbish dumped to fill up a pond in the garden of The Old House, prior to the erection of the Sharps Lane cottages in 1885. The glass remains an important Roman find, but could not be provenanced.

SHOULD WE EXPECT TO FIND EVIDENCE OF ROMANS LIVING IN RUISLIP?

Four years after the Claudian invasion of 43 AD, the Romans established Londinium as a completely new town, on the north bank of the Thames near the Wallbrook. At the time the hilly northern part of what became Middlesex was covered in woodland, of which Ruislip Woods are a remnant. Much of the soil was London Clay. Streams like the Pinn forged rather swampy tracks through the forest, which was otherwise difficult of access. Perhaps for this reason, when the Romans moved into the countryside, introducing their style of building and farming, they seem to have kept mainly to the south and east of London, or went further north-west into modern Herts and Bucks, where conditions were more hospitable and villas abounded. The nearest villa to Ruislip was at Moor Park, under the 17th tee of the public course. It was first occupied in the 2nd century and after a long period of disuse, in the 4th century

Some parts of Hillingdon, mainly in the southern part of the borough, are on flatter land, and a few more signs of Roman occupation have been found in places

like Holloway Lane and Cranford Lane. Archaeologists examining a former sports area along Long Lane, Hillingdon, in 1994, found Roman 1st century 'gritty ware' and evidence of a Roman field system. Turnstone Close was built on the site.

However, Romans loved hunting, judging from mosaics and wall paintings, both to obtain food and for sport and it is possible that those who left their traces behind in Ruislip were simply hunters. Sir Montague Sharpe, an early 20th century Middlesex historian, suggested that 'the park for wild animals', mentioned in Ruislip's entry in the Domesday Book was of Roman origin. The section of the Park Pale in the middle of Park Wood was scheduled as an ancient monument of the pre-Domesday period, leaving the actual date open to informed speculation.

Nonetheless, evidence of hunting parties and their camps, rather than an actual permanent settlement is probably the best that we should expect to find in Ruislip. But do look very carefully at any unusual objects that might turn up in your garden. Who knows what you might find?

Most of the 'finds' mentioned above are in the care of the Heritage Team at Uxbridge Library and the excavations have been written up in the *Journals of the Ruislip & District Natural History Society*, *Ruislip-Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society* and *The London Archaeologist*. ♦

Nick Hurd MP

From our MP for the West & East Ruislip Wards

Supporting Local Charities

We are blessed with fantastic local charities and community groups. They do extraordinary work to support people in need and keep going so much of what we value in the community. It is really important that we do not take them for granted.

They need help, especially as many of them are facing increased demand for their services at a time when money is tight. At the same time, I am conscious that in the constituency we have many people of all ages who have time and often very valuable experience to offer. Furthermore, I am aware that more and more young people are looking for opportunities to develop their CVs and lifeskills through volunteering. Sometimes these connections do not happen because people simply do not have the information on what is needed. So I have created a new *Community Giving Hub* on my website at:

www.nickhurd.com

This is an online space that allows charities and local groups to tell us what they need in terms of in-kind donations and volunteering. We have had a great take

up with over 30 charities signing up. I really want this Hub to grow so do please spread the word and if you are involved in a charity

that needs volunteers or specific in-kind donations do get in touch at:

✉ nick.hurd@parliament.uk



If you are interested in volunteering and helping charities in the local community do take a look and see where you can help.

My website is also the place to get updates on HS2 and my other work on behalf of constituents. On HS2, my priority remains to work with Hillingdon Council and residents' groups to win the argument for a tunnel extension that will protect our area.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Happy New Year. If I can be of any help please get in touch. ♦

Education News

Susan Midgley

LADY BANKES CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION 2014

This year's production by the Junior School pupils was *The Wizard Of Oz*. What a feast of acting, dancing and singing in which every single pupil took part.

The story was divided into four parts – one told by each year group and having different narrators. This was an excellent way of ensuring that all pupils could be included.

The opening section by Year 3 incorporated the Nativity story which was a novel way of conveying the true Christmas message. The audience was told "Whatever your religion, let's all be thankful for the gifts we have been given." This was a great way to recognise the diversity of the school community.

Year 4 explained who the Scarecrow without a brain and the Tin Man without a heart were. Their performance was enhanced by the choir's rendition of *Rocking Around The Christmas Tree*.

Between each part of the story the audience was entertained by Ant and Dec's

(not the real ones) awful jokes which were met with good-hearted booing.

In Year 5's part of the story Dorothy is captured by soldiers and taken to the castle of the Wicked Witch. This was followed by the happy ending presented by Year 6. The Wicked Witch is dead, the Scarecrow has a brain, the Tin Man a heart, the Lion courage and Dorothy and Toto return home.

No such show would be complete without the memorable songs *Somewhere Over The Rainbow* and *Follow The Yellow Brick Road*.

The production was played to a full school hall. One could only be amazed by the wonderful costumes and staging. The evening ended with a rendition by the choir and whole cast of *I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day*. The audience showed their appreciation by the lengthy applause which followed.

Congratulations to everyone at the school who worked hard over several weeks to produce such an entertaining show.

PROJECT TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF THE OUTBREAK OF WW1

Regular readers of the *Town Crier* will be aware of this project. For those who are not, let me briefly outline what it involved. The Residents' Association wanted to do something to mark this anniversary. We came up with the idea of creating a photo album of the graves of men from Ruislip whose names appear on the local war memorial; for those who had no known grave we have pictures of the memorials on which their names appear and a memorial scroll with their details. A few are buried in St Martin's churchyard.

I worked with Mr Andy Jeffries, History teacher who has responsibility for Gifted and Talented students at Bishop Ramsey C of E School, Miss Elaine Neal, Senior Librarian and some Year 7 (now Year 8) students. The Residents' Association provided the money for the project. It is now complete and there will be a presentation ceremony attended by the Mayor and Mayoress at Manor Farm Library, Ruislip on Friday, January 16th. from 10.00am till 11.00am.

The album will then be on display in the library for the public to view.

 education@ruislipresidents.org.uk ♦



The Lady Bankes Junior's Production of *The Wizard of Oz*



The Bishop Ramsey WWI Commemoration Project Team with Sue Midgley (L), Andy Jeffries (C) and Elaine Neal (R)

Police Points

Inspector Rob Bryan



By the time you read this, I will have been in post as the inspector for the north of Hillingdon for five months. Thank you to the residents and businesses for making me feel welcomed.

HIGH VISIBILITY TEAM

Our new roving High Visibility Team has had a real impact in the north. Sgt Liam Moore and his team have used a variety of tactics to catch those criminals who seem to think the north of Hillingdon is a soft touch. Tactics have included mobile patrols in uniform and plain clothes, foot and cycle patrols, speed camera and number plate reading operations. Results so far have been very impressive: arrests for possessions with intent to supply drugs including cannabis and cocaine; seizures of mopeds and uninsured cars, and fixed penalty notices for speeding. This is just a snapshot of their work which is focused at those committing offences highlighted as being important to you, the local community.

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS TEAMS

The local Safer Neighbourhoods Teams in the north are different in size to how they were a few years ago so I want to take this opportunity to explain their current format. Each ward has a dedicated PC and PCSO. These two officers work a variety of shifts and are dedicated to their ward. They are not abstracted from that ward unless there is a real emergency. Their primary role is to build rapport with the local community, attend events as well as identify crime prevention opportunities such as visiting all burglaries in their area and speaking to neighbours. Their names and faces are posted on our website at www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods

A local sergeant has responsibility for managing two wards. Again their name is on the website and I encourage you to contact them, or me, if you have an issue that we can help to address. Each sergeant also has 3 or 4 further police constables, who are posted to report daily crimes and provide visibility across the whole of the north.

CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE:

Burglaries where there are no visible signs of forced entry are on the increase. I encourage everyone to follow some simple crime prevention advice:

Don't leave your keys within easy reach of doors, letterboxes or windows as a thief can hook them out.

If you have multi-locking door handles, lift the handle, lock it with the key and remove it. Remember: LIFT - LOCK - REMOVE. Put the key in a safe place out of sight in case of fire.

Lock garages and sheds so garden tools and ladders can't be used to break into

your home and keep side gates locked.

Use timer switches linked to lights and a radio so it appears that someone is at home.

Install a visible intruder alarm system – burglars don't want to be seen or heard. Hillingdon Council offers free burglar alarms to those over 65.

Photograph and mark valuables and sentimental items with your postcode and house number and register items with serial numbers at: www.immobilise.com.

You can email me at any time:

✉ rob.bryan@met.pnn.police.uk ♦



Health Matters

Joan Davis

NATIONAL ISSUES

NHS Foundation Trust's target failures, to September 2014, included:

- ◆ For the third quarter in a row, the sector failed to admit or discharge 95% of patients from A&Es within four hours; major A&E departments breached the target for 23 consecutive weeks.
- ◆ The FT sector again failed to meet the 90% Referral to Treatment target for admitted patients, and the 85% target for 62 day wait from GP referrals for the second quarter in a row.
- ◆ The overall deficit was £254m - close to 80% of acute FTs were in deficit.

National Tariff 2015 -16: The emergency care marginal rate will be uplifted to 50% from 30%. Commissioners should adjust the 2008-09 baseline where providers have seen a material change in emergency admissions – and the funds retained must be invested in managing the demand for admitted emergency care, with investment decisions evidence based and communicated to stakeholders.

Chancellor George Osborne's Autumn Statement: An additional £2.2bn in 2015-

16 will help to deliver the first year of the NHS Five Year Forward View. To access such funding hospitals must have plans for greater efficiency in the year ahead and be paperless by 2018. Clinical Commissioning Groups that are below target allocation, such as Hillingdon CCG, will receive some additional funding.

Launch of MyNHS website: This is on the NHS Choices website. It seeks to enable people to compare their local hospital, their care services and their local authority – data includes food quality, staffing, patient safety, efficiency and outcomes for individual consultants in some categories.

HILLINGDON CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP

Emergency activity: The recent increase in activity is pressurising Hillingdon's health economy. The CCG's Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention plans are expected to be £2.3m below plan and Hillingdon Hospital expects a year end deficit. The work addressing this problem has three aims:

- ◆ Fewer people attending hospital Emergency Departments

- ◆ Reducing hospital admissions
- ◆ Safely reducing the length of stay

Consultant-led Community Dermatology:

A new Hillingdon service will be provided by Concordia Health Ltd.

Audiology: The service previously provided through the Pan London Diagnostic Services contract has now been awarded to Specsavers. Based on the 2013/14 activity, this should save £28,050 per year.

HILLINGDON HOSPITAL NHS FT

The National Physician Associate Expansion Programme:

Physician Associates are healthcare professionals working under medical supervision on junior tasks eg. medical histories, physical examinations, patient management schemes. They have been part of USA healthcare for over 50 years. There are 200 in UK - the programme to expand their number is hosted at Hillingdon Hospital.

Staffing levels: In November staffing was challenged by the volume of extra capacity beds, ranging from 50 – 70 beds, as well as staff vacancy levels, and the acuity and dependency of patients, but steps were taken to ensure safe and effective nursing care. Details for each ward were provided.

Emergency Department and the Urgent Care Centre:

The volume of patients regularly overwhelms both these units with

insufficient cubicles making it impossible to treat all patients within four hours, despite the UCC allowing the Trust to use two cubicles within its domain. The increased activity led to emergency admissions increasing by 10% in November, at times exhausting the beds available.

New Acute Medical Unit: This opened on 15th December with 40 beds in bays, plus 6 single rooms (one with low pressure for infectious patients). Patients can be admitted by local GPs as well as from the Emergency Department and the Urgent Care Centre – they are expected to stay less than 48 hours.

Winter Funding: The Trust requested over £2m to prepare for winter by increasing A&E and other staffing, supporting weekend working and increasing escalation beds available. £1,292,800 has been received for staffing support and weekend working up to March 2015, but currently nothing for more beds.

Finance: The end of November position was in line with the forecast of £2.8m deficit.

Moves Out of Hours: Non-clinical reasons for moves after 11pm must now be approved by the On Call Senior Manager eg. to provide single sex accommodation - it is difficult to make predictions about the demand for beds with average occupancy at 97%. Elderly patients who live alone are not discharged after 9pm. ◆

Councillors' Comments

Cllr John Riley

Eastcote and East Ruislip Ward – Catherine Dann, Nick Denys, Becky Haggar

Manor Ward – Michael Markham, Douglas Mills, Susan O'Brien

West Ruislip Ward – Philip Corthorne, Brian Crowe, John Riley



So we enter 2015, Christmas and New Year celebrations are just a memory now and we look forward to the year ahead.

The holidays were a very enjoyable time with many people to thank for a previous year's work done.

As ever there is much to do and as soon as the "working week" began the emails and correspondence came thick and fast. Issues continue from last year and new ones arise. Your Councillors have a regular selection of issues, some personal to an individual resident, others more applicable on a wider ward basis. One recurring theme is of course parking. The need to balance all of our desires regarding parking becomes ever more complex. With high car ownership per household in our Wards, the desire of residents to park near to their homes and visitors to have access to parking on our streets, the bal-

ance becomes more difficult - especially with the limited space available. Add to this the need for our High Streets to remain vibrant and viable for business and in turn for our residents and the mix of interests is quite complex. We as Councillors will continue to work to balance all of the competing interests in this difficult area over the coming months; we are acutely aware of the problems and we are seeking solutions to address the issue.

We are fortunate in the wards that serve the RRA area that, as with our colleagues in the rest of the Borough, we once again have access to a "Ward Budget". As with previous years we are looking to assist the various groups and organisations in the Wards in this area. In the past we have assisted our schools, young people's clubs, older people's clubs, societies, local organisations and others who have shown a need for modest assistance with projects. This is a most welcome resource for us as Councillors to be able to use for the good

of our community; we hope to identify many more local projects suggested to us by residents in our wards.

The beginning of 2015 would not be complete without mention of the upcoming General Election in May this year. For those interested in politics this will be one of the more fascinating elections to observe and participate in. The national parties have already begun their pre-election campaigns

and lines are being drawn on policy and argument. There is a feeling shared by many that this may be the first of a “new breed” of election with social media and other communication methods playing a greater part in how people receive information and discuss issues. We are looking forward to an interesting General Election campaign, to meeting our residents as usual and dealing with your issues as your Councillors. ♦

Ruislip High Street

Graham Bartram

The roadworks in Ruislip High Street, which were postponed before Christmas, are now due to happen towards the end of March and this is bound to cause quite a bit of congestion. The highway is in a very bad way, with no real foundations. Instead it is a simple sandwich of a few inches of concrete, covered with a couple of inches of tarmac, sitting on a bed of London clay. This explains why the road has been cracking and means that the roadworks will need to be very extensive to rebuild the road to a satisfactory standard for an A-road.

The plan is to close the High Street southbound between Ickenham Road and Kingsend. You will still be able to go north along the High Street. Traffic going south will be diverted around the closure via

Ickenham Road and Kingsend, to rejoin the road at the traffic lights at the bottom of the High Street. Parking will be suspended on the affected section and southbound buses will be diverted, probably via the same route, although that is still to be confirmed.

Obviously this is going to be very inconvenient and we can only hope that the work is completed as quickly as possible.

Please try and support the shops and restaurants during this difficult period, even if it is harder to get to them.

Finally, TfL promise that the bus shelter outside of *Subways* will be reinstated by the end of March. ♦

Planning Update

Mike Hodge & John Williams

2 Midcroft: A proposal to demolish the former petrol station and replace it with a four storey block of flats was recently rejected by the planning committee. This is despite officers recommending approval. We believe this decision was due in no small part to the combined efforts of all the ward councillors (six in total as the site lies at the boundary of two wards) and several local organisations, including RRA, objecting on the grounds of its incompatibility with the Conservation Area and Midcroft Area of Special Local Character. It was considered that too little regard was paid to these factors, plus a lack of knowledge of local characteristics, in writing up the officers' report.

Pembroke House: Currently the building is being converted to residential accommodation. This is being done under the recently introduced 'prior approval' rules, which means the Council have only limited control over the layout and appearance. In addition the developer has painted the faced brickwork elevations of the building, which many residents feel is detrimental to the overall appearance.

High Street Shopfronts: Recent applications have been submitted by M&S, McDonalds, Foxton Estate Agents, and NatWest; we have lobbied against the M&S and NatWest plans and modifications are being considered.



NatWest Bank in Ruislip High Street



M&S Simply Food in Ruislip High Street

New for Old: Two recent instances of proposals to demolish an old house and replace with two new ones at 173 Park Avenue and 15 King Edwards Road.

Land Forming Part of 147 Cornwall Road: An earlier application to construct two new dwellings on this site was refused by planners. An alternative proposal to construct one two-storey 3 bed detached dwelling has been submitted. We are supporting local residents' concerns as previously.

9 Ickenham Road: We are expressing our concern over proposed works to increase the height of this building to create first floor living accommodation over the shop in a Conservation Area.

The George Harvester: With regard to new signage at this outlet we have written requesting that greater prominence should be given to the 1981 'The George' sign.

2 St Edmunds Avenue: Appeal allowed for conversion of roof space to habitable use and conversion of roof from hip to part-gable end with a Juliette balcony to rear.

Local Plan: In September the Council published their draft proposals for the future use of major sites in the Borough. Generally this seemed to be a well thought through document but we did have some concerns about the level of protection proposed for the large areas of open

space in our area, eg. the River Pinn corridor, King's College Fields, Bessingby Playing Fields, etc. and have commented accordingly.

Estate Agents' Boards

Recently we have seen a growing trend for some Estate Agents to put up 'Let By' and 'Sold' signs when they have let or sold a property and then just leaving them up for weeks, if not months, as free advertising.

The law on Estate Agents' boards is that they are considered to be temporary advertisements, controlled by the *The Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007* (as amended), which our own chairman has advised on. These state that Class 3(A) adverts (which the boards are classed as) must be within a set size and must be removed within 14 days of the transaction being completed. You can read the plain English guide to the regulations on the www.gov.uk website (search for "Outdoor advertisements and signs: a guide for advertisers"). Class 3(A) is discussed on page 14 of the guide.

When the overstaying boards were pointed out to the Estate Agents who put them up, most immediately agreed to take them down. One major local agency refused - we will not name them, but next time you are in Ruislip High Street, look above the shopfronts and it will be obvious! ♦

Decorative & Fine Arts Society

Jaqueline Bolton

The Hillingdon Decorative & Fine Arts Society was founded in 2000, to enhance its members' appreciation of our artistic heritage and cultural influences, from the British Isles to further afield, in the company of other people with similar interests.

Each year the society holds ten monthly lectures, three special interest days and several outings to galleries, museums, historic houses and other places of interest. The society also provides support for community involvement in our artistic

heritage through their Young Arts projects and through their involvement in Hillingdon Arts.

The lectures are held at the Winston Churchill Hall on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm (see page 4). Visitors are welcome to attend the lectures for a fee of £6. Annual membership costs £42 and includes a NADFAS membership discount card and quarterly copies of *The NADFAS Review*. More information at:

www.hillingdondfas.co.uk ♦

Parliament & Elizabeth Tower

Vivien Alcorn

The photograph shows another group of intrepid residents on their way to climb the 334 steps that will take them to the top of Elizabeth Tower in time to hear the chimes of Big Ben and see the wonderful view.

Two more trips to the Houses of Parliament and Elizabeth Tower are planned for February; both are already fully booked, but more have been applied for later in the year. ♦



2015 Subscriptions


It's RRA's job to organise the network of Area and Road Stewards who deliver the *Town Crier* to your letterbox. So if you enjoy reading the *Town Crier* and value the contribution the Association makes to the local community, please take a few minutes to fill in the form below and send or deliver it, with your subscription, to our Treasurer. The annual subscription rate for 2015 is £2 per household. *Those of you who have previously paid your subscription at the door to your Road Steward are welcome to continue to do this.*

Visit our website, www.ruislipresidents.org.uk, to find out more about the Association's activities. For enquiries on membership contact us by email:

 membership@ruislipresidents.org.uk

We can now send you a monthly update on current issues by email so please add your own address below if this would interest you. Other enquiries should be addressed to:

 secretary@ruislipresidents.org.uk

Brian Cowley, Membership Secretary 

Please detach and return this form:



To: Hon. Treasurer, Ruislip Residents' Association,
21 The Ridgeway, Ruislip, Middx HA4 8QP

Please find enclosed £2 for the 2015 subscription and a donation of £ giving a total of £ (cash or cheque - please delete as appropriate)

Cheques should be made payable to 'Ruislip Residents' Association'. Please do not send cash by post, and avoid using staples or sellotape. The cashing of your cheque is proof of its receipt, but please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if a receipt is required.

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Please tick the box if you are willing to collect subscriptions and/or deliver the *Town Crier* locally. ☐

RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING

7.45pm, Wednesday, 18th February 2015

Ruislip Social Club, Grosvenor Vale, Ruislip HA4 6JQ

Doors open at 7.30pm

The Guest Speaker will be Inspector Rob Bryan,
Commanding Officer, North Cluster, Hillingdon, Metropolitan Police
followed by an Open forum, with questions to a panel of RRA representatives

The meeting will end at 10pm

Open forum items to the Secretary by Tuesday, 10th February 2015

