

Ruislip Residents' Association **TOWN CRIER**

March 2020

www.ruislipresidents.org.uk



DON'T FORGET
2020
Subscription
Due

See page 12 or visit
www.ruislipresidents.org.uk
to pay online

RRA Centenary Tree Project Gets Underway

Read about the project on pages 8 and 20

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Editorial

A New Decade

2020 brings a new decade, and for Ruislip Residents' Association the start of our next 100 years working for the people of Ruislip. In this edition of the *Town Crier* we have coverage of the oak tree planting we have already carried out in our local schools, and information on the next phase – community orchards.

We also have our normal coverage of conservation, health, planning and police.

Don't forget that this year's subscriptions are now due and there is an article about them by our Hon. Treasurer, John Hawley, on page 12. You will also find the subscription form on the same page. John covers some of the current fraud scams on page 13.

And no editorial would be complete without a plea for more volunteers! Look at the vacancies on the right for ideas.

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

Vacant

POLICE LIAISON

Brian Gunn

CONSERVATION

Paul Mitchell

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Graham Bartram

EDUCATION

Susan Midgley

RAF NORTHOLT LIAISON

Peter Lansdown

WOODLANDS & ENVIRONMENT

Graeme Shaw

RUISLIP LIDO

Peter Lansdown

HEALTH

Joan Davis

RUISLIP RETAIL AREA

Vacant

MANOR RETAIL AREA

John Hawley

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Vivien Alcorn

MEMBERSHIP

Alan Wenman

TRAFFIC & PARKING

Vacant

HS2

Phil Taylor

WEBSITE & IT

John Swindells

PLANNING

Mike Hodge

FRIENDS OF EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDEN

🌐 www.eastcotehousegardens.weebly.com

Eastcote House Volunteer Gardeners meet in Winter on the 1st Friday, 2nd Friday, 3rd Thursday and 4th Thursday of every month, at 9.30am. In Summer they meet every Thursday and Friday at 9.30am. On the 4th Thursday of every month they meet at 9.30am for conservation work.

Everyone welcome - tools and refreshments provided - no experience necessary.
Meet in the car park at Eastcote House Gardens.

The Gardens Café is now open daily from 8.30am (10am on Sunday) until 2.00pm.

THE ARTS SOCIETY, HILLINGDON

Lecture Programme March-July 2020

Wednesdays at 2.00pm, Winston Churchill Hall - admission £7 to non-members

11 March	The Emperor Qianlong (1735 - 1796) Renaissance	David Rosier
13 May	The Breughels	Chantal Brotherton-Ratcliffe
10 June	Art Deco Painting - Britain, Europe & Beyond	Dr Scott Andersen
8 July	Soviet Art: Revolution & Propaganda	Jane Angelini

WHAT'S ON AT WINSTON CHURCHILL HALL

Some of the upcoming events at Winston Churchill Hall - check out
🌐 www.hillingdontheatres.co.uk for more information and to book.

25-28 March	Sister Act	
22-25 April	Oklahoma!	
12 June	Last Will & Testament (Dinner Theatre)	Murder Most Fun
24-27 June	Legally Blonde (Musical)	ROS
9 July	RAF Music Centenary Concert	Central Band of the RAF
22-25 July	Kinky Boots (Musical)	Encore Theatre Company

Chairman's Message

RRA



A lot has been happening since the last edition. Boris Johnson, Prime Minister and MP for Uxbridge & South Ruislip, called a general election, in

which David Simmonds was elected to replace Nick Hurd as MP for Ruislip, Northwood & Pinner. You can meet David at our meeting on Thursday, 30th April, where he will be our guest speaker.

Mixed news on the major project front:

Despite all our efforts, HS2 has been given the final permission to proceed - so major works will probably get underway soon.

In better news: the expansion of Heathrow has had a spanner thrown in the works by the Court of Appeal, who ruled that it was incompatible with government policy on reducing carbon emissions. The government has said it will not appeal the decision, but Heathrow Airport Ltd will.

Many of you will know that Hillingdon Hospital is in need of updating. During his victory speech, after winning the Uxbridge & South Ruislip seat, Boris Johnson promised that a new hospital would be built to replace Hillingdon. Since then things have

been moving on apace, with a visit by the Health Secretary, Matt Hancock, to see for himself the problems faced at Hillingdon Hospital and to discuss how it can be replaced (see page 6). The hospital is already recruiting the necessary expertise to plan, design and implement a new building. In the meantime some temporary accommodation is being built on the old site to tackle current requirements.

If you are not already a member of the Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, why not join - it's free! Visit:

secure.membra.co.uk/

[HillingdonApplicationForm/](#) for the online membership form.

It's membership subscription time and now you can pay it online on our website:

www.ruislippresidents.org.uk

We rely on your subscriptions to pay for the running of the association, including printing the *Town Crier*, so please take a few moments to try out the online system and pay this year's subscription - it's £5.00.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our meeting in April (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

Health Matters

Joan Davis

THE HILLINGDON HOSPITALS NHS FT

An improvement plan was introduced following the Care Quality Commission's visit last year and sepsis control has subsequently improved.

THH is still under tremendous pressure with a 20% increase in A&E attendances, mainly from outside Hillingdon.



Sarah Tedford and Matt Hancock

Secretary of State Matt Hancock visited Hillingdon Hospital on Monday, 10th February 2020 and was shown round the hospital by Chief Executive Sarah Tedford.

NW LONDON JOINT CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUPS

In September 2019 the eight North West London CCGs agreed to work towards a single CCG from April 2021, in accordance with the NHS Long Term Plan and to cut administrative costs by working together. They have made good progress and are now expected to merge in April 2020.

HILLINGDON CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP

Hillingdon workforce pressures have been greater than elsewhere in London. Hillingdon CCG has long been concerned about THH's discharge process. However, this is now planned on the previous day to reduce problems and a senior member of staff has been appointed to oversee patient administration processes.

MOUNT VERNON CANCER CENTRE

An October 2019 report found Mount Vernon Cancer Centre so dilapidated and

short-staffed that it could not provide basic elements of treatment. The Cancer Centre is currently run by East & North Hertfordshire NHS Trust, based in Stevenage, in buildings and land belonging to the Hillingdon Hospitals NHS FT.

However, the February *Health Service Journal* reports that from April 2021 the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre will be run by University College London Hospitals FT.

MICHAEL SOBELL HOSPICE, AT MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL

Michael Sobell Hospice has always had a close relationship with the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre. After a three month refurbishment project, during which it was closed, the hospice reopened in December 2019. This event was attended by the Mayor of Hillingdon and other dignitaries.

The hospice is now run by Harlington Hospice working with Michael Sobell Hospice Charity,



The Michael Sobell Hospice

CENTRAL AND NORTH WEST LONDON NHS FT

CNWL provides integrated care to a third of London's population as well as others in the South East of England, including the provision of community and mental health services in Hillingdon.

The CNWL Board meets bi-monthly but the most recent Board papers available are for November 2019, when it was reported that Marie O'Brien had been appointed Chief Nurse. Marie O'Brien has a long history of working in Hillingdon, initially within Hillingdon CCG and subsequently she became responsible for Hillingdon services for CNWL.

ROYAL BROMPTON & HAREFIELD NHS FT

Since 2017, Guy's and St Thomas' and Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trusts have been working together, and with colleagues across King's Health Partners, to develop plans to transform care for people with heart and lung disease. The proposals to merge these NHS FTs in April 2021 is approved by NHS England. There are no plans to change services at Harefield Hospital.

The Trust's Trailblazers Youth Forum meets monthly online. A film is being developed to help young patients transition to adult services. Harefield young patients are being recruited to this group. ♦

Education News

Susan Midgley

LOCAL SCHOOLS SUPPORT THE RRA'S TREE PLANTING PROJECT

The Association was proud to have reached its centenary year in 2019 and decided to mark this occasion by planting one hundred trees in Ruislip and Ruislip Manor.

Protecting and preserving our local environment should be a priority for everyone but it is vital for the younger generation. So we were delighted when every one of our local schools agreed to have an oak sapling planted in their grounds to support this project. The oak was chosen as the tree features in the ancient Ruislip/Northwood coat of arms. So far we have had some memorable planting ceremonies and will have all of them completed in the near future.

Lady Banks Junior School – 17th December 2019.

This inaugural ceremony was attended by the Mayor of Hillingdon, Councillor David Yarrow, and the Mayoress, Mary O'Connor MBE. Also in attendance were the Head Teachers of the Junior and Infant Schools, Dr Charlotte Moore, Chair of Governors, Graham Bartram, RRA Chairman, Brian

Cowley, President, Joan Davis, Vice President, members of the Centennial Subcommittee and pupil representatives from the School Council and House Captains.

Graham Bartram explained that the Association was formed in 1919 to represent and support the interests of the local community, had been doing so for one hundred years and will continue to do so in the future. He then invited the Mayor to plant the sapling; a plaque commemorating the event was then placed in the ground by two pupils.

Graeme Shaw, RRA Woodlands Committee Member, spoke to the pupils about the care of the young tree, commenting that it would be growing for many years to come, long after they had left school and become adults.

Sacred Heart R.C. Primary School – 24th January 2020.

At the beginning of the ceremony Graham Bartram explained to the pupils the work of the Association and why the oak sapling had been chosen. He then invited Head Boy, Joseph and Head Girl, Erin, to

plant the sapling. The commemorative plaque was then placed in the ground by Deputy Head Boy, Christy and Deputy Head Girl, Grace. The four pupils then delighted the gathering with their reading of two very appropriate poems: *Shady Woods* by E M Andrews and *Tall Trees* by Eileen Mathias. Finally Ms T McManus, Head Teacher, thanked the Association for the gift of the tree.

Warrender Primary School – 31st January 2020.

The pupils are very conscious of the importance of protecting the environment and have an Eco Committee whose members took an active role in the ceremony. Mrs Close's Year 5 Class was also present and the children were involved in a question and answer session with members of the Association.

Following the opening remarks by Graham Bartram five pupils from the Eco Committee – Adam, Ishwari, Isla, Isaac & William – placed a spadeful of earth around the sapling. (The oak was a particularly appropriate tree for Warrender as the school's crest is three oak leaves and acorns).

After William placed the plaque in the ground Adam and Ishwari read a delightful and very relevant poem, *The Acorn* by Joseph Enright which had been specially chosen for the occasion by Mr Smith, Head Teacher.



Lady Bankes Junior: Graham Bartram,
Cllr David Yarrow & Pupils



Sacred Heart R.C. Primary: Pupils, Staff
& Guests after Planting the Tree



Warrender Primary: Graeme Shaw, Adam, Ishwari, Mr Smith, William, Isla, Graham Bartram, Isaac, Brian Gunn



Whiteheath Junior: Sophie and Theo plant the oak sapling

Whiteheath Junior School – 7th February 2020

All the pupils participating in the event were members of the school's Gardening Club which is organised by Mrs J Fremantle.

The oak sapling was planted by Sophie and Theo and a commemorative plaque was placed in the ground by Edward. This was followed by two group readings of the poems, *Grand Old Oak* and *The Acorn*.

The pupils were keen to ask Graeme Shaw lots of interesting questions about trees and their importance to the environment, as well as showing their own sound knowledge.

More detailed reports of the above may be found on the Education Page of the Association's website. The reports of the remaining tree plantings will appear in the next edition of the *Town Crier*.

Ruislip Residents' Association would like to thank all the Head Teachers, Teaching staff, Site Managers, Reception staff and, of course, the pupils for their help with and enthusiasm for our tree planting project which has resulted in some delightful ceremonies and, hopefully, made the wider community aware of the Association's work on behalf of our residents.

 education@ruislipresidents.org.uk 

Road Stewards & Town Crier

Alan Jones - Chief Road Steward

The Ruislip Residents' Association believes that the *Town Crier* is a useful and informative way of keeping in touch with the community. It is a free publication containing articles on many subjects written by committee members and other contributors. Most of the committee members have a particular role to play monitoring and commenting on subjects that affect the community; eg. planning, policing, schools and these days, flooding.

Volunteers would be welcomed for the currently vacant areas of Community Activities, Ruislip Retail Area and Traffic and Parking.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Area and Road Stewards for their bi-annual efforts in getting the *Town Crier* through your letter boxes.

There are 10,200 copies to be distributed in March and September. The area covered is bounded by Reservoir Road to the North, Whitby Road to the South, Breakspear Road to the West and Warrender Park to the East.

As the Chief Road Steward, I receive the 10,200 copies in one delivery. I assemble

them into packages and deliver these to the 16 Area Stewards. The Area Stewards then allocate them to the 180 Road Stewards who actually put them through letter boxes.

The total number of streets in the area covered is 297. You may appreciate that the effort involved in the whole process is not inconsiderable. After four years I now have assistance in carrying out the first part of this process in the form of Alan Wenman, the Deputy Chief Road Steward. As there is a fair amount of physical effort involved, this help is most welcome.

In reality we are always short of Stewards and at the last assessment were in need of 23. Residents come and go or find that their availability or physical ability changes. Inevitably, our existing Stewards attempt to fill the gaps.

The entire region is divided up in 16 areas for organisation. A map is available at the AGM in October and if you think you might be able to assist in some way, please let the committee know.

Any help available is much appreciated. ♦

Treasurer's Corner

John Hawley

Many thanks for all your subscriptions and donations to enable us to function on your behalf. It is good to be able to report that we ended up with a surplus of £1,249 (subject to certification), although this was mainly achieved by virtue of a single donation of £995.

Subscriptions remain at £5, but please continue with your generous donations which are a very necessary part of our funding.

You can pay your subscription online at:

www.ruislipresidents.org.uk

and click on the yellow "Pay Your Subs" button in the menu bar. Alternatively, you can fill in the form below and either post it to Mail Boxes Etc, or drop it in to Mail Boxes Etc, near Ruislip Station, or to Chimsons Chemist (29 Victoria Road), near to Ruislip Manor Station. We hope this will now assist members in the Ruislip Manor area and save them some postage. ♦

Please detach and return this form if you wish to pay your RRA subscription by cash or cheque:



Post to: RRA, Box No. 231, Mail Boxes Etc, 161 High Street, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 8JY
or hand deliver to Mail Boxes Etc or Chimsons Chemist (Ruislip Manor) in an envelope

Please find enclosed £5.00 for the 2020 subscription and a donation of £ giving a total of £ which is paid by cash*/cheque* (* please circle method chosen)

Cheques should be made payable to 'Ruislip Residents' Association'. Please do not send coins by post, and avoid using staples or sellotape. The cashing of your cheque is proof of its receipt.

Name(s):

Address:

..... Post Code:

Please supply your email address if you are interested in helping to deliver the *Town Crier*.

Email address:

Scams & Cautionary Tales

John Hawley

It is good to see that the government and the banks are moving to protect people from online fraud as long they have taken “every reasonable precaution”. People have been defrauded for large sums when suddenly receiving an email from a ‘solicitor’ to say that their house purchase deposit should be sent to a new account number. This is commonly dubbed the “Friday afternoon scam” (because the banks are closed over the weekend). If you are moving large amounts of money and receive an email like this, it is almost certainly fraud and you should ‘phone the payees to check, or delay payment until you have made checks.

What do you tell taxi drivers when in their cab - how long you will be away on holiday or in hospital? A friend of mine recently got burgled twice whilst in hospital and lost a £20,000 coin collection. Insured? Yes, he was, but the insurers didn’t pay out because he hadn’t informed them of each new coin acquisition. How often do you update the details on your insurance, particularly with regard to valuables? It is always a good idea to take photos of the rooms and items in your home to remind

you of what you might have lost should you be unfortunate enough to be burgled.

How does a burglar pick out a house to burgle? Burglar alarm? No lights on and it’s early evening? High hedges obscuring vision from the road? No sounds coming from the house? No car in the drive? Broken fencing? Security lights? It’s easy these days to switch on some low consumption lights inside and a porch light and to leave a radio on in the kitchen. It’s also cheap to buy timer switches and the cost of the low power consumption will far outweigh the potential losses if one is burgled. Do you always remember to stop your newspapers if you go away and ask a neighbour to put mail through the main door?

Now here is a simple one: if you pay for items with a credit card, online or in shops, you are covered in many ways, including the firm landing in the hands of the receivers. This is not the case with a debit card.

Finally: the police advise that you remove kitchen or patio keys after locking the door – just remember where you hide them! ♦

Reducing Flooding in Ruislip

London Borough of Hillingdon

Heavy rainfall can result in flooding, which affects residents' homes, businesses, highways and transport. We spoke to Hillingdon Council to find out what it's doing to help reduce flooding in Ruislip, and for advice on additional action you can take to protect your home or business.

There are numerous ways that you can reduce the impact of flooding to your home or business and the impact on others.

MANAGE YOUR PROPERTY DRAINAGE

Drains and pipes on your property are your responsibility if you are the landowner. All residents can help their community by making sure hard surfaces are permeable or drain to a permeable area to reduce the pressure on the road drainage. Additionally, you can:

- ◆ Add water butts to your downpipes

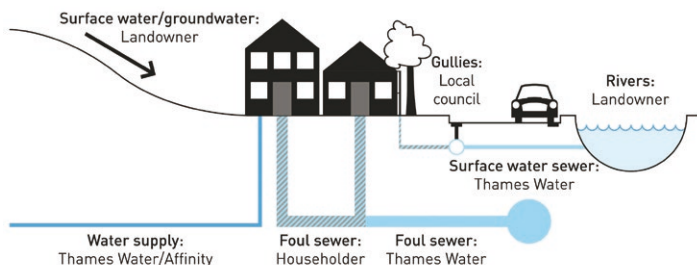
- rainfall from the roof adds to the amount of water that runs into sewers and can affect highways

- ◆ Direct water away from the sewer by repositioning your downpipes into a rain garden planter
- ◆ Reinstall a small section of flower bed to your front drive - this can help reduce local air temperatures and provide much needed habitats
- ◆ Ensure channel drainage is clear of debris and flows into a soakaway

KNOW YOUR FLOOD RISK

The Environment Agency has produced maps to show if you are in an area likely to be affected by flooding from rivers, surface water as well as reservoirs, and how deep that flood may be. For more information, visit:

🌐 www.hillingdon.gov.uk/flooding



The Environment Agency monitors river levels and issues flood warnings. It also undertakes maintenance and operates some key defences on main rivers.

COUNCIL PROJECTS TO REDUCE FLOOD RISK

The council is working on several measures to help alleviate the impact of flooding in Ruislip, including:

Natural Flood Management

The aim is to utilise Ruislip Woods and natural materials to create leaky dams which slow the flow of water from the woods towards residents. The council is working with the Flood Action Groups and Ruislip Woods Management Advisory Group, as well as Natural England and Thames 21 in Park Wood, to enhance the Site of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserve.

Town Centre improvements

Alongside highways and lighting improvements, the council has replaced the brick planters with rain gardens to create more space for surface water flooding.

Pinn Meadows

This year, the council will carry out works to reduce the flood risk to residents around Pinn Meadows, ahead of the Environment Agency's longer-term project in Park Wood and Pinn Meadows, including widening the ditches and river to create more space for water.

For more information and advice on flooding, please visit:

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/flooding ◆



HILLINGDON

LONDON



An example of a rain garden in Eastcote High Street

“The council works hard to maintain land and gullies it has responsibility for, and we are currently working together with Thames Water and the Environment Agency to reduce flood risk to residents in Ruislip. We would also encourage residents to help protect their homes against the risk of flooding by managing property drainage and working together as a community to improve your area's flood protection.”

Cllr Jonathan Bianco, Deputy Leader

Police Points

Brian Gunn



There has been increasing concern lately about a rise in burglary offences in our area. Our local Safer Neighbourhood Panels have been meeting already this year, and heard from the police what efforts they are making to combat such crimes. For instance, anti-burglary patrols are being carried out and where the police find insecure premises or ones where perhaps advice ought to be given on preventative measures, they are calling at the property. Should the premises be unoccupied at the time then they will leave an information leaflet. Also, in response to this issue a public event was held at the Great Barn, Ruislip, on the 25th January. The event was organised by Cllr Devi Radia in conjunction with the Police, Hillingdon Council and Neighbourhood Watch. The aim of the event was to provide reassurance as to what the police are doing and, importantly, to provide information/guidance on crime prevention with particular emphasis in relation to burglary offences. It was, self-evidently, a success with several hundred of our residents attending an interesting and informative event. It was recognised that whilst it would be nigh impossible to eradicate burglaries there were simple

steps that we can take to deter/prevent such crimes from occurring. Anti-burglar advice can also be found on the OWL website and newsletter of 20/12/2019.

At the event we also learnt of a prevalence of catalytic converter thefts from vehicles and advice was given as to what can be done to prevent this – eg. by installing a “cage” around the exhaust system. Advice on this has also been published in a recent OWL notice (01/02/2020). Interestingly, not long after the event took place, the police reported on OWL that they had successfully arrested four men involved in such crimes. An Ickenham resident reported seeing a VW Golf whose number plates were being changed. That car had been involved in an offence near High Wycombe sometime earlier. Police units working with Neighbourhood Watch members tracked the vehicle to the Ruislip area and, following a chase, the car crashed near Swakeley’s Roundabout and all four occupants were arrested. The VW had been stolen from a Surrey address and had been connected to a number of serious offences as well as at least 15 thefts of catalytic converters in the Met and Thames Valley Po-

lice Areas! This was an excellent result and demonstrates the benefits of our residents working together with the police via OWL CCTV Watch, the Neighbourhood Watch and our thanks are due to all concerned for their efforts in these arrests.

Apart from the above, the police have had other successes, including the arrest of two females who had seen an elderly female resident go into a local bank where she was seen to withdraw money, followed her into a shop and then managed to take her purse without her noticing. However, shop staff had seen the incident and detained the thieves, allowing Ward officers to arrest them and return the money to the victim.

Finally, a word or two about recent scams that have come to our attention:

Courier Scam

There have been three reports of a person ringing, claiming to be a police officer and using a cover story to explain why he is calling. The person then tries to obtain your bank details or persuade you to go to your bank, draw out money and then give it to a courier who will come to collect it from your home address. The police will never ask for such details nor take money from you. As for the example set out below – do not hang up and then try to call the police from that phone as the caller or a colleague will still be on the line and ready to assure you the call was genuine. Make your next

call from a different landline number or mobile to report it to the police!

Amazon Prime Scam

This scam is where a person is contacted via an automated call and told that there has been a fraudulent charge for an Amazon Prime subscription. They are asked to “press 1”. The call is then transferred to a fraudster posing as a customer service representative who asks for remote access to the victim’s computer in order to fix a “security flaw”. Or, in a variation, are told they are due a refund. The person is then asked to download an app (which is often “Team Viewer”) and the fraudster now has direct access to the computer and sensitive personal and financial information of the victim.

The Met’s advice is to:

- a)** always question uninvited approaches in case it is a scam and contact the company via a known email address or telephone number. Remember however that if you hang up and then re-dial to check, the fraudster will still be on the line – make the call from a separate phone number such as a mobile;
- b)** refuse to reveal personal or financial information to any such cold caller – no reputable company would ask you to do this;
- c)** never install software or visit a website as a result of a cold call.

Taking such precautions will help us stay safe from the scammers!

 police@ruislipresidents.org.uk ◆

Conservation Concerns

Paul Mitchell

This is a brief summary of the planning applications received during the second half of 2019 within the Ruislip Conservation Areas and Areas of Special Local Character (CA/ASLCs). It is intended to help residents understand the scale and nature of the planning activity in these areas.

Useful tip: There is plenty of useful information on Ruislip Conservation Areas and Areas of Special Local Character readily available online. Good sources are:

- a) London Borough of Hillingdon website – under *Planning / Conservation, Heritage Assets*, and
- b) Ruislip Residents' Association website – under *Conservation Concerns*.

The number of planning applications submitted in these areas has levelled off after a decline over recent years. Within the CA/ASLCs 42 planning applications were submitted during the second half of 2019, which is just one more than in the same period in 2018.

The approval rate was higher than recently. Of the 42 applications, 26 were approved, while only 12 were refused. Of the remaining four one was withdrawn and

the other three remain undecided at the time of writing. The approval rate (67%) is significantly higher than that in the corresponding period in 2018 (44%).

Across the whole of the year 2019 there were 82 planning applications in these areas of which approximately two thirds (68%) were approved.

Each approval/refusal decision follows detailed consideration and consultation by the Council Planning Department and their decision is supported by specific reasons and cross-referenced to relevant policies where relevant. The details are available for all to view on the Council's Planning website. We (Ruislip Residents' Association) continually monitor all applications as they arrive and submit our concerns and/or suggestions to the Council whenever we feel it appropriate. Between us we are striving to retain the character of the area while not being resistant to positive development proposals.

Of the 42 applications in the second half of 2019, 17 were from properties in the High Street, with another five in Bury Street, four

in Sharps Lane and the remaining 15 from properties in a number of other roads.

Below is a list of the applications refused during the second half of 2019:

Address	Application
70 High Street (Papa John's pizza) 3862/ADV/2019/49	Installation of an internally-illuminated fascia sign and an internally-illuminated hanging sign.
97-99 High Street (The Works) 7376/ADV/2019/57	Installation of an externally-illuminated sign and a projecting sign.
158-160 High Street (Tao Pe-king) 56331/APP/2019/3099 & 3156	Installation of new shop front, and proposed outbuilding to rear for use as car parking and storage.
162 High Street (Nail World) 12967/APP/2019/3704	Use as a nail and beauty salon (Application for a Certificate of Lawful Development for an existing development).
172-174 High Street (Gibbs Gillespie) 12342/APP/2019/3648	First floor rear extension to create one 1-bed self-contained flat.
Miller and Carter, Bury Street (The Plough) 701/APP/2019/4115 & 4116	Minor refurbishment works and the erection of Bull Statue (Main Application / Application for Listed Building Consent).
15 King Edwards Road 43419/APP/2019/3075	Installation of two air conditioning units plus replacement of three windows (retrospective).
31 King Edwards Road 49195/APP/2019/2952	Conversion of roof space to habitable use and landscaping to the front of the property.
100 Manor Way 74017/APP/2019/2987	First floor side and rear extension.
15 Sharps Lane 23160/APP/2019/3333	Conversion of roof space to habitable use and alterations to side elevation.

In the last issue I gave a brief report on what was happening at the fenced-off site which the Citizens' Advice Bureau used to occupy at the top of the High Street, next to the War Memorial. At that time, the demolition work was due to commence in August 2019 prior to archaeological works to find out if any heritage assets survived there.

The latest information I received from the Council (in February 2020) is the following: "The draft archaeological report has been received from the consultants and it con-

cludes that no significant archaeological features were observed and subject to confirmation from the Greater London Archaeology Service (GLAAS), it is unlikely that any further investigation is required. Options for the future of the site will now be prepared for consideration by (Council) Members. I cannot say at the moment when officers will be reporting to Members but I hope this will be within the next couple of months."

We will continue to liaise with the Council on this matter. ♦

Centenary Tree Project

Pat Wardle

You will be aware from the last edition, RRA chose to celebrate 100 years of representing the residents of Ruislip by planting 100 trees. A sub-committee was set up to lead this project, and we have been busy organising tree planting at the local schools in Ruislip and the Manor – more on that in the Education item on page 8.

To date we have been upcycling oak trees which have been planted by forgetful squirrels and jays. Many of these trees have been rescued from the golf course, instead of being destroyed by HS2.

The next stage is to expand the planting, initially in Bessingby Park, where we aim to plant 18 fruit trees working in partnership with the Green Spaces Team from the London Borough of Hillingdon. We hope to have a selection of trees that are local to Ruislip, including the Newton Wonder

Apple associated with Ruislip. We plan to make this a community event, and nearer the time will be inviting a range of community groups to take part in the planting.



Bessingby Park

Our next stage is to find further funding for the project, including a number of formal routes, but we hope that the residents and businesses of Ruislip and the Manor will continue to support us. Any individuals who want to plant a tree can contact:

✉ secretary2@ruislipresidents.org.uk
for more information. ♦

This Community Project particularly thanks:

Carpets 4 All Seasons

Patrick Graham Jewellers

Red Onion Café

Neil Simpson, owner of Quickstep Ruislip

Wok Chi

Caroline Burns (Slimming World)

The Linen Chest

Post Office Ruislip

S. Ripper

Waitrose & Partners

Vivien Alcorn and Joan Davis

Eastcote & Ruislip Choral Society

🌐 www.eastcote-ruislip-choral.org

The choir meets every Tuesday at Ruislip Methodist Church, Ickenham Road, from 8pm to 10pm and welcomes new singers.

~~Their next concert is Handel's Messiah on Saturday, 28th March at St. Edmund's Church, Ickenham Wood Hills, at 7.30pm.~~

~~The Summer concert is on 4th July at Douay Martyr's School, Ickenham, at 7.30pm. It will feature American secular music, including Copeland and Bernstein.~~ ♦



© Eastcote & Ruislip Choral Society

The Eastcote & Ruislip Choral Society

The Arts Society Moor Park

🌐 www.moorparkdfas.com

The society holds Wednesday morning talks, open to all, at Winston Churchill Hall at 10:50am; complimentary coffee/tea available from 10:15am. A donation on the door of £8.00 per person is requested. No booking is required.

For enquiries and details of ticketed events at Moor Park Mansion and outside visits see the website above.

~~18 March 2020 - The Civic & Livery Company
At St. Dunstons Church, London - Paul D Jagger~~

~~15 April 2020 - A Decorative story
of Wall Paper - Joanna Banham~~

20 May 2020 - John Peter Russell: the Lost Impressionist - Lucrezia Walker

17 June 2020 - The GPO Film Unit: The Birth of the Documentary Film - Howard Smith ♦

Planning Update

John Williams

By the end of last year the Council had received over 4,000 planning applications in 2019, which reflected the increased activity in our area. A significant number of the applications were for extensions to private dwellings, usually under the permitted development rules. Typical of these were single storey rear extensions and conversion of roof spaces to habitable accommodation.

The proposed replacement of the Scout hut in Ladygate Lane with four houses was finally approved last October. Presumably, with agreement already reached on the upgrade of their St Catherine's Road site, we can expect to their new facilities in the not too distant future.



Ladygate Lane Scout Hut

Other current applications of interest are for a new stable building at The Old Work-

house and some internal alterations in Manor Farm Library.



The Manor Farm Library

We plan to publish a monthly list of all applications in our area on our website. Further details of these and any other applications may then be seen on the Council website hillingdon.gov.uk under "planning search reference".

On 17th January 2020 a full Council meeting adopted the new Local Plan Part 2. Together with the previously adopted Part 1, the Council now has an up to date planning policy for the next decade. Full details are available on the council website and will provide a useful reference for residents who may have concerns about a particular application. ♦

Houses of Parliament Visit

Vivien Alcorn

Ruislip Residents will be pleased to know that we have another opportunity to go on a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament, thanks to a Special Permit sent from the office of David Simmonds MP.

The trip will take place on Friday, 19th June, travelling by tube from Ruislip Station. 25 places are available - two per RRA member household - and will be reserved on a first come, first served basis. If you would like to be included, please contact me by email at:

✉ social@ruislippresidents.org.uk

Please include a phone number (if possible a mobile one), and state whether you would like one or two places reserved. Confirmation and further details will be sent once all places are allocated. NB: Please let me know if you unsuccessfully applied for a previous trip. ♦



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RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING

CANCELLED

~~7.45pm, Thursday, 30th April 2020~~

~~Winston Churchill Hall~~

~~Pinn Way, Ruislip HA4 7QL~~

~~Doors open at 7.30pm~~

The Guest Speaker will be David Simmonds MP
the new MP for Ruislip, Northwood & Pinner
followed by an Open Forum, with questions to a
panel of RRA representatives. The meeting will end at 10pm

Wine, fruit juices and snacks will be served

Open Forum items to the Secretary by Thursday, 23rd April 2020

The next meeting is on the 22nd October 2020

COVID-19 Addendum

Graham Bartram

If a week is a long time in politics, it's an eternity in a global health crisis! Two weeks ago we sent this edition of the *Town Crier* to the printers, but since then we have had to cancel our general meeting in April, and many of the events we were promoting in this issue have also had to be cancelled. All over-70s have been advised to self-isolate, and since that includes many of our road stewards it also looks like we won't be able to deliver the printed copies of the *Town Crier* until after the emergency is over.

Please try and follow the Government's health advice and stay safe:

- ◆ Wash your hands frequently, for at least 20 seconds each time
- ◆ Use a tissue or your sleeve to cover a cough - bin the tissue immediately
- ◆ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- ◆ If you are over 70, or have a chronic health condition such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease, etc. then you should avoid all social contact and stay indoors
- ◆ If you have a dry, persistent cough and/or a high temperature, use 111.nhs.uk to get advice

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Our plan for this years subscriptions was to offer a second drop-off location in Ruislip Manor. This option is still available, but obviously won't work if you are self-isolating. You could post the form in but that would mean a trip to the postbox, so the simplest and safest way to pay your subscription is to use our online system, by clicking the yellow "Pay Your Subs" on our website's menu bar:

www.ruislippresidents.org.uk

WE NEED A NEW TREASURER

John Hawley, our treasurer for the past 10 years, has decided that he wishes to retire at this year's AGM. This means that we need to find someone willing to replace him by October. We don't have a huge turnover so it is not too onerous a task, mainly dealing with subscription payments, but we need someone with basic bookkeeping experience. If you are interested, please contact me, Graham Bartram, at chairman@ruislippresidents.org.uk or [01895 673310](tel:01895673310). ◆