



Ruislip Residents' Association

# TOWN CRIER

The Voice of Ruislip Residents  
May 2008



Ruislip on the Olympic Marathon Route...1908  
[centre pages]

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**Ruislip Residents Association**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**8.00 pm Monday 16 June 2008**  
**Winston Churchill Hall**

In addition to the formal business of the AGM, we are delighted to announce  
a presentation entitled:

**Ruislip Woods - a success story**

How co-operation between the community and Hillingdon has produced results and  
what the future may hold

Presenters - Stuart Hunt – Green Spaces Manager Ruislip Northwood  
- David Duncan – Chairman Ruislip Woods Trust

**AGENDA**

- Brief reports and open forum questions
- Election of officers and committee members
- Election of Lewis Hawken to Vice President
- Statement from new Chairman
- Presentation: Ruislip Woods - a success story
- Refreshments - opportunity for informal discussion

If you wish to raise any matters at the AGM, please help us by notifying Mrs Penny Rutherford, Hon. Secretary whose contact details are noted opposite.

**Nominations for Elections 2008-9**

<b>Officers</b>	
Chairman:	Peter Lansdown
Vice-Chairman:	Joan Davis
Treasurer:	John Perkins
Secretary:	Penny Rutherford
Chief Road Steward:	Brian Cowley
Deputy Ch. Rd. Stwd.	Joshua May

<b>Committee</b>	
Janice Andrews	Sue Seagroatt
Elma Hutton	Mike Hodge
Ian Cantley	Ivor John
Keith Allsopp	John Williams

If you would like to help with the work of your Association, please contact our Secretary.
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### Contact us:

Mrs Penny Rutherford, Honorary Secretary  
9 College Drive, Ruislip, HA4 8SD  
01895 636193

email: [feedback@ruislippresidents.org.uk](mailto:feedback@ruislippresidents.org.uk)

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### Your Town Crier

**Y**ou may have noticed we have made some changes to the format and content of the Town Crier over the past year. We intend to continue developing your Town Crier to make it more attractive and focus on things that are relevant, and helpful and interesting to our all sections of our membership.

We currently publish the Town Crier in February, May and September each year.

If you have suggestions for further improvements or would like to contribute an article, please email Keith Allsopp on [kkallsopp@btinternet.com](mailto:kkallsopp@btinternet.com) or contact our Hon. Secretary.

We cannot promise to include your article due to space and any submissions will need to be approved by our editorial committee. Subject to these limitations, we would welcome contributions from any of our membership.

We have also introduced a "Community Notice Board". Not-for-profit entities that serve our community may request the inclusion of notices in this section, subject to the same editorial conditions, and a suitable contribution to publication costs.

## LEWIS HAWKEN

**L**ewis has decided to stand down as Chairman of the Association at the AGM. With his increasing loss of hearing, he now finds it very difficult to chair General Meetings as effectively as he would wish. Although he intends to leave the Committee in June, he will still be available to help us with planning matters and offer advice on prospective legislation.

Born and bred in Ruislip, Lewis enjoyed a distinguished career with Customs and Excise, retiring in 1987. He has been our Chairman for 18 years since being elected in May 1990. I asked him what were the Association's greatest achievements during that period. He said that our challenges of the Council's Accounts at the annual Public Inspections had led to improvements, not publicised, in how they were now operated. He was also pleased with the co-operation we now experience

between the Council and the community over the management of Ruislip Woods and the Lido. His biggest disappointment has been our inability to withstand the surge of applications to build flats in Ruislip. As he says, planning law is subjective with Inspectors having differing views on how the character of an area would be affected.

What has impressed me most has been Lewis's ability to guide the Association through potentially divisive issues such as the application in 1995 to site the Ambulance Station in Kings College playing fields and, more recently, the building of Ruislip High School on 'Green Open Space' in Sidmouth Drive. We shall have an opportunity at the AGM to recognize his services to the Association by electing him to the post of Vice-President.

*(Brian Cowley)*

## COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

### **Eastcote & East Ruislip Safer Neighbourhood Team: Drop-In Surgery**

My name is Emma Thompson, a Police Community Support Officer from the Eastcote and East Ruislip Safer Neighbourhood Team. I will be holding drop-in surgeries at Winston Churchill Hall, Pinn Way, Ruislip. Started on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2008, the 1 hour surgeries will be held every 5 weeks. The dates already planned are:

12:00 to 1:00pm Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> May; Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> June and Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

If you have any questions or concerns, I am more than happy to help. I will also have a selection of crime prevention leaflets for you to take.

For further information contact us on 07909 890 957 or 020 8721 2548

## RUISLIP MANOR STATION

When Metronet carried out the platform rebuild in 2005, they had to remove the trees and vegetation that had acted as a screen from Park Way Green to the north and Linden Close to the south. I am concerned to improve the appearance of both replacement shelters as viewed from the rear by fitting suitable panels and, then to get them screened by planting. From the photos taken from the rear of each shelter, it is clear how prominent and unsightly they are.

Before Metronet started work, they informed local residents that they were in consultation with the Council on a replanting scheme (though enquiry

could not confirm this). In summer 2006 laurels & similar shrubs were planted on the steep bank to the south of the westbound platform. These seem to have taken but don't yet provide any screening for the residents of Linden Close who previously were protected by a line of mature willows.

Metronet did promise in March 2007 to replant on the land to the north of the eastbound platform, but with the demise of the company, unsurprisingly, this hasn't occurred.

I am awaiting a response from the Metropolitan Line management at Baker Street.

*[Brian Cowley]*



Unsightly: rear view of shelter

## MANOR FARM LIBRARY REOPENS *(Sue Seagroatt)*

The re-opening of Manor Farm library in March is excellent news. Initially its closure was to make changes for disabled access, but the council also took the opportunity to refurbish the building entirely. The most striking improvement is the cleaning of the beams and repainting of the ceiling which is now shown off by modern lighting.



Manor Farm Library

ern lighting.

What we now have are two very different and complementary libraries in our area. Ruislip Manor library has a community centre feel to it, and also houses Adult Education. It is arranged around its central coffee shop which has a large television screen. Open

until 10pm from Monday to Thursday.

In contrast to the modern feel at Ruislip Manor, the beautiful listed Manor Farm library retains its old fashioned library feel but with some modern touches – especially the computers. There are 6 Apple Macs and 12 new PCs, as well as a scanner and fully accessible PC (adapted for those with disabilities, and including speech software for people with sight problems.) There are two new PCs in the children's library with child-friendly software, blocking unsuitable material.

There has been much talk and controversy in the press about the restructuring of libraries within Hillingdon. One undeniable loss is that of children's librarian Lorraine Piercey, who many of you will know from story times. She has fantastic specialised knowledge and enthusiasm for her job. Lorraine has now become manager of Harefield library. However, there are no plans to cut back on outreach work.

The new method of operation means that Manor Farm library will offer a library service tailored directly to local users. Staff at Manor Farm are keen to provide activities (see opposite) which including story times for children, reading and creative writing groups. All are free except Creative Writing.

Manor Farm's longer opening hours:  
9-8 Mon-Thurs, Fri 9-5.30, Sat 9-5.

## MANOR FARM COMPLEX UPDATE

### Manor Farm Library Activities

**Story Times** – alternate Fri & Sat in term time 11-12

**Homework Club** – Aimed at children in years 4 to 9 (aged 8 to 14). Supervised by 2 library staff who can offer help with homework. Children have access to computers and photocopying. Term time Mondays 3.30 – 5.30

**Reading Groups** – the first group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month 6.30-7.30.

The second group meets on the last Thursday of each month from 2-3.

**A Literary Appreciation Group** runs Tuesdays fortnightly 5.30-7. Run by English lecturer Eileen McDevitt. They will first be studying Jane Eyre.

**Creative Writing** Wednesdays 7.30-9.30. £3 per session. This will include a workshop session and a feedback session, as well as the opportunity to participate in events and competitions.

**Computer Taster Sessions** – run regularly, pitched according to your level of experience. Staff can help you set up your own email account, learn to use a mouse, search the internet etc..

For more information go to <http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/> or contact manager Darren Deeks at the library. New phone number 01895 558234.

Work on the restoration of the site is nearing completion with opening due at the end of June.

The Manor Farm House is almost complete with only the interpretation section to go in on the ground floor. In addition to the discovery of the 300 year old wallpaper, there is painting on one of the cream walls on the stairs with grey woodwork, the plaster having a paint colour of grey to the edge of the wood beams – this is very rare. In another room there are signs of a red colouring to the plaster.

The knot garden in front of the House is taking shape. The magnolia tree planted here in the 1990s in memory of former President of the Association, 'Bill' Buckham has been relocated near the Duck Pond.

The craft workshops are finished and look very smart. The two under the roof of the Barn have 'cart' doors to cover their doors and windows giving a continuous wooden wall when the workshops are not open.

The Pram Shed for which the Association bid for Chrysalis money of £15,000 is almost complete. It will display about 150 items which the Council have had in store, including horses' leather overshoes, lamb's foster mother, hay forks, butter moulds and a man trap! These will be on view when the House is open. (*Elma Hutton*)



## THE OLYMPIC MARATHON CENTENARY *(Peter Lansdown)*

**D**id you know the marathon came through Ruislip in 1908?

The 1908 Olympic Games were originally awarded to Rome, but the massive eruption of Mount Vesuvius on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1906, killing over 2000 people, gave Italy a huge financial

Bush in west London. It was officially opened on 14<sup>th</sup> May, allowing both the British Olympic trials and the AAA Championships to be held on the site. The London Olympics were the first Games to be recorded on motion picture film. Much of the action still makes exciting viewing.



Dorando Pietri out in front

problem as it began to reconstruct the destroyed region. At Athens in 1906, Rome reluctantly announced that it was unable to stage the 1908 Games. On 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1906, Great Britain volunteered to accept the challenge. The British believed they could do a good job because amateur sports were already an integrated part of our society. At the Opening Ceremony on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 1908, less than two years later, it was clear that this had been achieved.

The magnificent White City Stadium complex, seating 90,000, was completed on time on the grounds of the Franco-British Exhibition at Shepherds

Plans were developed for the Olympic marathon route to extend about 26 miles eastward from Windsor Castle to the White City stadium. Starting at Windsor Castle, the route passed through the villages of Windsor, Eton, Slough, Uxbridge, Ickenham, Ruislip, Eastcote, Pinner, Harrow, Sudbury and Wembley en route to the White City finish. While the route was being finalised, four marathon team trial races were held, each over a different distance, in order to select the best British athletes. Twelve runners were eventually chosen for the British team. The final 1908 Olympic marathon route,



## THE OLYMPIC MARATHON CENTENARY

after passing through Uxbridge, included parts of Swakeleys Road, Ickenham High Road, Ickenham Road, Ruislip High Street, Eastcote Road, Field End Road, Bridle Road and on towards Pinner and Harrow.

Several explanations have been suggested for the eventual decision to make the course 26 miles and 385 yards in length, but it seems to have happened



Dorando Pietri:  
after a shower?

the street to the castle grounds, on the east terrace under the nursery windows. Based on these constraints, the course was then measured as 26 miles from Windsor Castle to the stadium. The added distance to the queen's box was 385 yards! This is still the official international marathon distance.

The race was held on 24<sup>th</sup>

July, 1908 and it was won by an American, John Hayes, but not before an Italian, Dorando Pietri, (no. 19) had entered the stadium ahead of Hayes, having then fallen five times and eventually been helped over the finishing line. Of his total time of 2h 54min 46s, ten minutes were needed for that last 350 metres! He was disqualified, but, for effort, he was presented with a gold cup by Queen Alexandra.

### Why 26 miles 385 yards?

incidentally as a result of plans for the royal family to participate in the start and finish of the marathon. Queen Alexandra was to sit in the royal box at the stadium on the side furthest away from the marathon competitors' entry tunnel and the plan was for athletes to finish in front of her. Runners and spectators would enjoy this, because it meant running more than half a lap around the track inside the packed to capacity stadium. The queen would also play a role in starting the race. By sending a signal to the Princess of Wales at Windsor, she would command Lord Desborough to start the race. The princess wanted her children to view these festivities, and the start point was therefore shifted from

#### **Did You Know ?**

There is an internet site that can plan your journey from A to Z (or Windsor to White City) covering all choices of public transport mode. This site is especially useful for those residents who now have free travel on local buses throughout England.

[http://www.transportdirect.info/  
TransportDirect/en/](http://www.transportdirect.info/TransportDirect/en/)

## RUSLIP HIGH STREET *(Peter Lansdown)*

Early in 2006 we heard that a bid for funds from Transport for London (TfL) had been successful to the tune of around £750,000 to be used over two years, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008. A project design team, including representatives from your Ruislip Residents' Association and the local Chamber of Commerce, held a first meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb. Over £400,000 had to be spent in 2006/2007, primarily on upgrading the pavement and carriageway, but it was decided to include new lampposts and street furniture.

Following a lengthy tender process, Phase 1 of the refurbishment started August 2006 with the west side of the Southern end of the High Street and progressed north to Woolworths on both sides of the road. This included carriage-way realignment and turning the curbs, with an overall minimum gain of a curb width in the carriageway, and new pavement slabs.

Phase 1 was completed before the end of November. New lamp posts were installed, in time for the Christmas lights, and some new trees planted. Suitable street furniture was identified, including heavy-duty seats, with cast iron frames and wooden slats, and new black waste bins purchased for later installation.

At a Motorists' Forum meeting, Cllr. Burrows would not agree to remove the bus boarder adjacent to John Sanders, despite much opposition to it, but said that he would be prepared to consider a petition. A petition was raised and this was considered at a hearing on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2007. The decision was to



Let work commence!

retain the existing bus boarder, probably because it is too expensive to remove (quoted £30,000), and that it was originally required and paid for by TfL.

Phase 2 ran from January to March 2007, covering the area between Phase 1 and the Ickenham Road junction and included the new zebra crossing outside Woolworths.

Funds for the refurbishment of the north end of Ruislip High Street were confirmed in early 2007, bringing the

## RUSLIP HIGH STREET



Ickenham Road

total funding to around £950,000.

Work started at the north end of the High Street on the east side in August, 2007, using a different contractor, and progressed rapidly. New railings were installed from Café Rouge (The Swan at that time) to the Harvester, including three 'bells' on the corner. By the end of November the only remaining paving work was the west side, between King Edwards and Ickenham Roads. Additional disabled parking bays were installed in some side roads.

Early in 2008 the remaining paving was finished and the crossing at the east end of Ickenham Road realigned.

Some of the parking signs have been redesigned and replaced.

The project was completed in mid April 2008 (except for snagging), the site huts at the south end of St. Martins Approach were removed and the grass verge reseeded. St. Martins Approach is to be resurfaced during the current financial year.

Many existing trees were retained. Those it was impossible to save were replaced. During the project, the traffic signals near the station were modernised. Apparently these lights, along with the Eastcote set, were two of the three oldest in the Borough!

## PLANNING MATTERS *(Mike Hodge & John Williams)*

### Residential Development

Replacing family homes with blocks of flats continues to be the biggest issue.

cupied by HGB Motorcycles. We have written to the Planning Inspectorate expressing concern about the effect the development would have on the



Another house, no. 28, is demolished in Kingsend (April 2008)

In **Kingsend** applications were refused for redevelopment at Nos **16 & 18** (12 flats). Appeals were also dismissed at **Nos 51 & 53** (14 flats) and **No 53** (9 flats). An Appeal is outstanding at **No 49** (11 flats) and we have written to the Planning Inspectorate supporting local residents objections.

Another Appeal is outstanding on land at the rear of **Nos 69-83 Park Way** (10 flats). The site is behind Park House, which includes the retail premises oc-

cupied by HGB Motorcycles. We have written to the Planning Inspectorate expressing concern about the effect the development would have on the

Applications at **Nos 22-24 Wood Lane** and **No 2 Windmill Hill** (5 flats) were withdrawn just before consideration by the Planning Committee. However at 2 Windmill Hill a new application has been submitted for approval of access, appearance, layout and scale.

The application for 31 sheltered flats at **Nos 55-59 Pembroke Road** was refused. At **22-28 Sharps Lane** McCarthy & Stone have recently lodged an Appeal against the Council's refusal of their application for 35 sheltered flats. We have written to the Planning Inspectorate supporting the Council and local residents' objections and will request the opportunity to speak at the public enquiry.

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### **Civic Amenities Site**

The Council is proposing a comprehensive redevelopment of the New Years Green Lane site to meet the increasing demand for recycling facilities. The proposals include an extension of the site area, new access to New Years Green Lane, rearrangement of existing facilities, new offices and storerooms. The site is in the Green Belt and included in the application is a Design and Access Statement (35 pages). Full details are available on the Council's website.

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### **Developments at Local Schools:**

**Whiteheath School, Ladygate Lane** has applied for permission to construct a single storey L-shaped extension to provide 3 new classrooms. At **Sacred Heart RC Primary School, Herlwyn Ave.** an application has been submitted for a first floor extension facing Herlwyn Ave. to provide additional teaching facilities.

### **STC: the saga of the Blue Fence**

STC sought retrospective planning permission to retain their security fence and to provide a canopy structure linking their existing buildings: July 2002.

Several conditions were imposed as part of the planning approval of February 2003. One of these was to repaint the security fencing from its existing light blue to a more subdued heritage colour such as dark blue or matt black; more in keeping with the immediate surroundings, particularly the crematorium.

Despite many entreaties by your Association and others, as of March the condition had not been complied with .

We are, however, pleased to report that after meeting with the Council, STC have now agreed to repaint their fence in a more appropriate colour. The only question now is...when?

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### **The 2004 Housing Act: Homes in Multiple Occupation.**

Hillingdon Council have adopted transitional licensing arrangements requiring any property with 5 or more individuals, living as 3 or more separate households, to be licensed. This is to ensure the provision of adequate fire protection, means of escape and other amenity standards. If you suspect a property is not licensed, register your concern with Hillingdon Housing Dept.



## HEALTH MATTERS *(Joan Davis)*

### **Hillingdon Hospital: New Urgent Care Centre**

This Centre, staffed by GPs, has been set up at the entrance to Hillingdon Hospital Accident & Emergency Department. When fully operational it will be open daily, 9am until midnight. A GP will see all patients not requiring A&E emergency care. After immediate advice and treatment, patients may be referred to other primary care services, such as their own GP, or to full A&E services if necessary. This new service should prevent people with minor conditions having to wait several hours for attention and, by taking the pressure off A&E, should speed up delivery of services there too.

### **Hillingdon Hospital Rebuild**

A Pilot Ward for 100% single rooms is to open later this year. This will be used by the Department of Health and the Trust to test out the use of single bedroom wards. If patients and staff like the pilot, this research will influence the design of the new Hillingdon Hospital and other hospitals across the NHS. Demolition of the old huts will be the first stage towards the rebuild of the hospital.

### **Mount Vernon Treatment Centre:**

Construction of the £13m treatment centre, now well advanced, is financed by a "Lease Plus Agreement" – an annual payment over the next 25 years. The new building, due to open early in 2009, will be integrated into the Princess Christian Unit, to avoid patients being wheeled outside between the two centres. It will provide 4 operating theatres, 14 day case beds, 12 short stay beds, and 24 inpatient beds.

### **Mount Vernon Cancer Centre £1m appeal:**

To aid research and to redesign the Chemotherapy Suite. Donations online at: [www.cancertreatment.org.uk](http://www.cancertreatment.org.uk)

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### **Choose and Book:**

From 1<sup>st</sup> April patients are free to choose any hospital for treatment. However, at the March PCT Board Meeting it emerged that patients cannot choose a hospital that is unable to provide treatment within 18 weeks, even if the patient is willing to wait longer. A statement is awaited from the PCT, to clarify this.

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### **Yiewsley site for new health centre?**

The Department of Health is requiring every PCT to make plans for a new health centre or polyclinic with an 8am to 8pm service seven days a week. Hillingdon PCT is considering Yiewsley as its most likely site.

### Adult Mental Health Services:

Hillingdon Service User Consultation, running concurrently with Central North West London Foundation Trust consultations, run until end May 2008. Key issues include:

- Access to psychological therapies and primary care counselling needs to be improved.
- Early intervention is not well developed in Hillingdon.
- Hillingdon is under-performing on key national targets.
- Information about community services is not consistent or easy to access;
- Adequate services are not available where most needed and waiting times vary across the area.
- Too many patients are still referred to secondary care, instead of being treated in the community.

**Hillingdon PCT is using BUPA to challenge providers of NHS services:** A ground-breaking three-year contract was signed in January. Initial work has focused on challenging providers' coding of care episodes, as high coding results in overcharging. Others in the NHS are watching the outcome of this contract with interest.

### How much do you know about Community Voice?

...except that RRA is a member?

Initially, it grew out of the Defence Committee set up in 1990, when Mount Vernon was threatened with closure. With that battle won, local people wanted a continuing link with the hospital, but our activities have widened since then to include all local NHS hospitals – Mount Vernon, Harefield, Hillingdon, Northwick Park and Watford, as well as primary care services.

Our membership now comprises fifty-four local organisations - residents associations, community and patients' groups, branches of all three political parties - and individual members, living in Hillingdon, Harrow and SW Herts.

Our monthly meetings offer a unique opportunity for direct contact with NHS decision makers. We hear speakers and provide a forum for exchange of information. We also campaign on issues of concern.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday every month except January and August, at 7.45pm, at Mount Vernon Hospital Post Graduate Centre. Visitors are welcome, as guests – come along and find out more!  
[www.communityvoicehealth.org.uk](http://www.communityvoicehealth.org.uk)  
 Take a look for yourself!



# RUISLIP BOWLS CLUB

## OPEN DAY

FOR BEGINNERS

SUN. 8th. JUNE

From 11.a.m. to 5.p.m.

FOR DETAILS PLEASE RING

**JIM BAKER 0208 868 5132**

OR JUST CALL-IN TO THE CLUBHOUSE



Photo ©  
Peter  
Musgrave

**MANOR FARM ( adjacent to RUISLIP LIBRARY )**

**Come along and try it !!**

**All the family are welcome .**

**Just wear comfortable clothing  
and flat-soled shoes / trainers .**

**All other equipment provided .**



**AND IT'S FREE!!**

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