



Ruislip Residents' Association TOWN CRIER

The Voice of Ruislip Residents
May 2011



Updated Association Website—Home Page
www.ruislipresidents.org.uk—page 22



Ruislip Manor—new traffic island

Inside this issue:

RRA/Editorial	p2
Gen. Meeting/Traffic	p3
Community Notice Board	p4
Chairman	p5
John Randall/Nick Hurd	p6-7
Ruislip Lido	p7
Where is Murphy's Field?	p8-9
Spotlight Interview	p10
Education	p11
RAF Northolt	p12-13
Hockey Pitch	p14-15
ORCHYD	p16
Police - Manor SNT	p17
Health Matters	p18-19
Planning Matters	p20-21
Website and Computers	p22
High Speed Rail	p23
Photographs	p24

RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT: Brian Cowley
VICE-PRESIDENT: Peter Lansdown

Officers		Committee	
Chairman:	Joan Davis	Ian Cantley	Peter Lansdown
Vice-Chairman:	Mike Hodge	Martin Cartwright	George Pittaway
Treasurer:	John Hawley	Elma Hutton	John Swindells
Secretary:	Penny Rutherford	Ivor John	John Williams
Chief Road Steward:	Brian Cowley	Tessa Kershaw	vacancy
Deputy Ch. Rd. Stwd.	Mary George	vacancy	vacancy

Contact us:
 Mrs Penny Rutherford, Honorary Secretary
 9 College Drive, Ruislip, HA4 8SD
 01895 636193
 secretary@ruislipresidents.org.uk
 www.ruislipresidents.org.uk

Editor: Peter Lansdown towncrier@ruislipresidents.org.uk

EDITORIAL *(Peter Lansdown)*

The Town Crier continues to be published with 24 pages, with some now established regular features. As you may have seen, our website has been redesigned (address above) and is being further developed as you read this (page 22).

Again, I am grateful to all those who have contributed articles, with regular slots for our MPs, the Police and school

news, as well as health and planning matters.

On page 14 there is an article on the proposed additional all-weather hockey pitch adjacent to Kings College Road, which is a cause of concern for many residents.

A short update on HS2 is included on page 23. We await the results of the consultation with great interest.

RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & OPEN FORUM
Thursday 30th June 2011 at 7.30 pm Winston Churchill Hall
Manor Farm, Ruislip

Agenda:	7.30pm	Doors Open
	7.45pm	Welcome and Apologies Chairman's Report Treasurer's Report Election of Officers
	8.15pm	Open Forum: Executive Members and Councillors a) Questions submitted in advance, b) Further questions, as time permits
	9.00pm	A.O.B.
	9.30pm	Close of business Light refreshments and informal discussion
	10.00pm	End of Meeting

We hope to welcome both our MPs to this meeting, parliamentary business permitting.

Questions in advance for the Open Forum to the Hon. Sec. (see page 2 for details)

Motions and proposals for consideration at the AGM and nominations for Officers and committee members, duly proposed and seconded, should be received by the Hon. Sec., not later than Wednesday, 8th June

EDITORIAL *(cont. from page 2)*

On page 7 Nick Hurd writes about Eastcote House gardens, outside our area, but of considerable interest, while John Randall is concerned about the death of cheques.

The ORCHYD Charity, featured on page 16, is worthy of note, if not known to you already.

TRAFFIC/PARKING *(Peter Lansdown)*

Following the consultation on traffic speeds in Park Avenue and Kings College Road, a number of speed tables and other traffic calming measures have been installed in these roads. Traffic certainly slows to navigate the speed tables, but some, particularly motor bikes, seem to regard them as a challenge! Local residents will be taking a close watch on the longer term effects.

(continued on page 21)

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Lunchtime Concerts of Classical Music

St. Martin's Church Hall, Ruislip

(at corner of High Street & Eastcote Road)

Admission Free—Wednesdays in 2011 at 12.15 pm

May 25th

Valentin Schiedermaier : piano

June 29th

Jan Daniel du Preez : piano

September 28th

Valentin Schiedermaier : piano

October 26th

Ashley Frupp : piano

November 30th

Masayuki Tayama : piano

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

FRIENDS OF EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDEN

The Friends of Eastcote House Gardens invite you to a Summer Picnic on Saturday, July 9th, 12-4pm at Eastcote House Gardens, High Road, Eastcote.

Stalls, Games, Entertainments, Refreshments.

Bring your own picnic Please walk or use public transport
Blue Badge Parking only at the Gardens

Please help support the Restoration Fund.

RUISLIP LIONS CLUB

"MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING" - The Rain & Shine Company . Open air performance on Saturday 6th August 2011 in the Manor Farm Courtyard

"LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS" featuring The Friary Guildford Band, on Saturday 17th September 2011 in the Winston Churchill Theatre

Tickets: £12.00 Box Office: 07806 766993

For further information on the above Ruislip Lions events please ring 01895 635791 or 01895 634743 or visit the website: www.ruislipions.org.uk

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE *(Joan Davis)*

My term of office ends in June. It has been a privilege to hold the chair at such a challenging time.

The proposed HS2 route through Ruislip is highly contentious. Our Working Group has been collecting evidence with which to meet that challenge. Governments are not impressed by rhetoric and they expect major construction proposals to raise opposition, so our objections risk being dismissed unless they are backed by hard facts.

Our membership is divided on the best response. Some members reject the whole proposal, some support alternative routes, some focus on limiting harmful effects. We know our voice, and that of others along the route, is small compared with wider interests. Our voice will be dwarfed by industry and commerce, towns for which HS2 is a potential salvation, and support from across the political divide.

Our prime aim will always be our members' defence as shown in the letter, on our website, urging our MPs to promote better compensation for planning blight. Some members accept the national need for HS2, but there is universal recognition of HS2's perils for Ruislip and universal determination to protect local interests where we can. We have both a strong moral case and many practical suggestions to minimise local impact if the proposals go ahead. At that point our membership would find it easy to work together and current differences would be forgotten.

In our last Town Crier I urged full participation in the public consultation and it was a pleasure to see so many members at the exhibition in Winston Churchill Hall. Huge public concern is likely to get at least some concessions. Numbers do count, so please play your own part, however small.

Of course, this is not our only current issue. The hard-surface hockey pitch proposed for Kings College Field, the height of the Lido water level, and the Lido car park proposals are all outstanding concerns. We are addressing them all.

I hope my successor has an easier term of office. My personal aim has been reconciliation of our membership and return to harmony and co-operation. I hope the way is now paved to achieve that aim, even if success is not in my time.

FROM OUR MP FOR MANOR WARD - JOHN RANDALL

Spring is certainly an exhilarating time of year. This year, after quite a gloomy winter, (and I'm not just talking about the weather), it has been especially welcome. The blossom has not been blown away prematurely. The birds are singing and butterflies are on the wing. It gives me an opportunity to reflect on some positives for a change.

One of the institutions that we have in Parliament that has been strengthened recently is the Select Committee system. For the first time in their history, the Chairmen and committee members were elected and not appointed. Although many people might think that as a Whip, and the person who might well have had an influential role in selecting members to go on these committees, I would regret the loss of patronage. Not a bit of it. This time no-one can accuse me of being biased for or against them or trying to load the committee with loyalists. Sometimes unfortunately, despite the cross party nature of the committees, party politics can rear its ugly head, but on the whole that is rare. A Select Committee is able to call experts and for written evidence before coming to a decision. The Government then has to respond to the Committee's findings.

I am delighted that the Treasury Committee has decided to look again at the phasing out of cheques. Although this was not a decision made by Government, but by something called the UK Payments Council, the idea is that cheques should be phased out by 2018. I agree that in the scale of things this is not the biggest or most controversial issue. However I do think it will seriously concern many people, particularly those not in the first flush of youth, and quite frankly it seems to be based more on trying to save the banks' costs rather than to consider what their customers need. I confess to still being someone who uses cheques frequently, from sending them to various godchildren for birthdays and Christmas time, but also to small charities and societies who have not got the complicated systems in place for receiving credit cards or PayPal. Actually they also seem to be as secure as anything these days and, as a retailer myself, I can honestly say that the number of bounced or false cheques is very small. I hope that if the Treasury Select Committee comes to the same decision as me, we can put real pressure on the banks to change their minds. After all, the system seems to have worked pretty well for centuries.

Let's hope that commonsense prevails and let's go and enjoy the coming months.

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

Many residents will appreciate the value of the Eastcote Coach House and the beautiful walled gardens behind. The latter have been lovingly restored by a group of dedicated volunteers working in partnership with the Council. It is a good example of the Big Society in action. The next move is even more ambitious. The wonderful Coach House is rundown and boarded up. What a waste! The plan is to restore it as the jewel it is and open it up for community use. We want to make it live rather than witness this slow death. The Council are supportive, but we want this to be a community effort. Soon we will be launching a financial appeal to residents across the area; inviting everyone to show their support. This will help us in our bid for Heritage Lottery funds and I would urge everyone to consider giving a little to help bring to life a really valuable local asset. I am a strong believer in community action and people power. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have a good idea for improving things in the Ruislip area.



Contact details:

Email: nick.hurd.mp@parliament.uk – Website: www.nickhurd.com
Tel: 01923 822 876 (Constituency) - 020 7219 1053 (Westminster)

RUISLIP LIDO - APRIL UPDATE *(Peter Lansdown)*

Water Level Feasibility Study Technical discussions on the proposed Mitigation Scheme have taken place and the publication of the Flood Risk Assessment report is eagerly awaited and long overdue. It is understood that the report is being examined by the Environment Agency.

Toilets/Changing Room Facilities There are a number of minor problems which require attention.

Proposed Overflow Car Park The planning application for the proposed overflow car park attracted a number of local resident consultation responses and also requests for clarification of various points. The Council is seeking to address the issues raised to ensure that information is submitted as part of a further 14 day re-consultation, so that the public have an opportunity to comment accordingly. The timings of the re-consultation will be published in the near future. There were severe parking problems over the Easter holidays, with a number of parking fines being issued.

Water Splash What a pity that this excellent feature was not in use over the Easter weekend!

HISTORY: WHERE IS MURPHY'S FIELD? *(Eileen Bowlit)*

Those who wander up to the top end of Bury Street may gaze into the paddock beside the 'bus stop and wonder what the handsome notice board at the far side is all about. If they have good eyesight (or perhaps binoculars), they will see that it bears the legend 'Murphy's Field'. Many of them may remember Murphy, the donkey that lived there for some thirty-five years, dying in the winter of 1994-95, aged 37.

In 1958 the new owners of adjacent Cannons Bridge Farm, Mr and Mrs Arnold Brown, needed help to keep their grass down and bought two donkeys from a man called Jack who imported them from Ireland, to graze the field and garden. Both the donkeys were poorly on arrival and only Murphy survived, but he was always tough and later in life fought off an attempt by potential thieves to remove him by van. He was not a success as a substitute lawn mower, but became a Ruislip landmark, much loved by children and others, who talked to him while waiting for the 'bus to come round the corner from Reservoir Road. So much food was pressed onto him that he sometimes became ill and Mrs Kim Brown had notices erected asking people to refrain from feeding him.

Murphy's fame spread beyond Ruislip and he was in demand to give rides at fetes and on one occasion to take part in a Nativity Play in South Harrow. The

vicar and choir-boys arrived on foot to collect him, and the boys took turns to ride him to the church, with a few spills on the way. Alas! Upon arrival he suffered one of his fairly frequent stubborn fits and refused to participate. The embarrassed clergyman opined that Murphy was probably a Roman Catholic donkey and not yet imbued with the spirit of ecumenism! Upon occasion, having broken out of his field, he attracted police attention by rolling over on his back in the middle of Bury Street - by eating roses in gardens - even loitering with intent near The Plough, his local hostelry.

The paddock that Murphy inhabited for so long was rented from the Council, although in earlier times it was part of the land attached to Cannons Bridge Farm. It separates Park Wood from Bury Street and comes under the care of Hillingdon Green Spaces team.

In 2007 Ruislip Woods Management Advisory Group decided that it should be treated as an Environmental Interpretation area. The Ruislip Woods Volunteers created access to the field from Park Wood by building a bridge across the boundary ditch. They also constructed two simple rustic benches for visitors to rest upon whilst contemplating their surroundings. The notice board was placed near the new entrance to provide information about the

HISTORY: WHERE IS MURPHY'S FIELD? *(cont.)*

natural history to be seen around. The notices are changed as the seasons progress and draw the readers' attention to the plants in flower at different times of year and other items of interest such as 'fruiting' toadstools, or conspicuous mosses and lichens. Name tags have been attached to some of the trees and shrubs, but the field is not intended to regenerate as woodland and some cutting and management take place.

Occasionally, historical information is given on the notice board, for Cannons Bridge is medieval in origin, the bridge first being mentioned in the 14th century and a cottage there in 1443-4. The present house is not thought to be quite so old as that, probably dating from the 16th century. The name of the area is almost certainly derived from members of the Canon (spellings vary) family who are mentioned in Ruislip documents from the 13th to the 17th century.

Little is known of the people who lived at Cannons Bridge Farm over the centuries. In fact it was not really a farm, just a cottage with about 5 acres, including a field on the other side of Bury Street. In Victorian times Brills, Lavenders and Tobutts resided there, earning a living as hay dealers, wood dealers, agricultural labourers and hay binders, not particularly lucrative occupations. They were all tenants, the owners from about 1800

being members of the Wilshin family. Eli Poulter, who was living there in the early 20th century, paid £26 13s 3d per annum rent. He had died by March 1919 when Jason Wilshin put the house and land up for sale. The auction details describe the house as having 3 rooms upstairs and 3 rooms down. There was an outside closet; water came from a well, but gas, the only modern convenience, was laid on to the ground floor. The advertisement suggested that the property could continue to be run as a small holding or could be readily adapted to building purposes. Mr Wilshin sold the farm, outbuildings and yard to King's College, Cambridge. The Provost and Scholars were expecting that the whole of Park Wood would soon be sold for building and probably considered that Cannons Bridge Farm a useful adjunct. This association changed all that and Hannah Poulter was living there in the late 1920s.

The timber-framed cottage and barn were in a pitiable condition by the time that the Browns moved in. Arnold Brown was an architect and the house and barn were lovingly restored. A modern extension built on the side made it into a charming residence.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE EXECUTIVE - BRIAN COWLEY *(Tessa Kershaw)*

How long have you lived in Ruislip? Thirty eight years – I moved here in 1973.

Committee Responsibilities: President (since October 2005) plus Chief Road Steward for many years. Previous responsibilities on the Executive Committee include Health Service representative, Deputy Chief Road Steward, and Treasurer.

How long have you been a Committee Member? 22 years in total (excluding a two year break in the early 1990's).

Why did you choose to join the Committee? It was a natural progression after becoming my road's Steward in 1974 and the local area Steward in 1982.

Describe the regular activities you undertake for RRA:

(a) President – Discussing policy matters with our Chairman, Joan Davis, and being prepared to pass on the benefit of my experience to others.

(b) Chief Road Steward – I keep track of the details of all our 3,500 members. This involves liaison with the Deputy Chief Road Steward, Mary George, as well as our numerous Area and Road Stewards. Between us we collect subscriptions door to door, produce receipts, and respond to, or pass on, enquiries from our members when we meet them at their front doors. I am also responsible for arranging the printing and distribution of the RRA magazine, the Town Crier, which is delivered by hand to over 8,000 households and shops three times a year. Again our very busy and helpful Area and Road Stewards assist me greatly in achieving this.

Which people does this involve you liaising with? Apart from those mentioned above, our Treasurer, John Hawley, plus the editor of the Town Crier, Peter Lansdown. I may need to contact Ward Councillors and Council Officers when trying to deal with members' problems.

How many meetings, on average, do you attend per month in connection with your duties? Very few apart from the regular ones for the Executive. However, I am always meeting and talking to our RRA members on their doorsteps.

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

Best: Being told how much what we do for Ruislip is appreciated.

Worst: Not being a touch typist!

EDUCATION *(George Pittaway)*

Welcome to the new Education section, which is designed to provide Ruislip residents' with information and articles on local educational institutions and activities for the benefit of residents.

Bishop Ramsey School

A Zero Waste School

The whole Bishop Ramsey School community will be working on the exciting 'Zero Waste School' project with Groundwork Thames Valley this year to try to create 'zero waste' within the school and at home. The aim of the project is to involve students, staff and parents in the project, raising environmental awareness and putting into action some simple steps to reduce our carbon footprints.

The students carry out a home waste and energy audit followed by actions to reduce energy usage and increase recycling at home. In late February the school took delivery of a bank of wormeries which will help to digest their food technology and canteen food waste and produce large quantities of liquid fertilizer

Local Artist on Display

Bishop Ramsey School is displaying a special art exhibition for students and staff in the approach to Holy Week and Easter, in addition linking with the local community. The exhibition is on display in the school Chapel and Atrium.

The paintings have been produced by local artist and lecturer Jonathon Hutchins on the theme of 'The Stations of the Cross' and related imagery, specially commissioned for his church.

Jonathon Hutchins visited the school to talk to students and staff about his artwork and about the range of paintings that have previously been painted by other artists based on the death of Jesus. He explained the processes and painting techniques which allows you to create your own interpretation of the emotions the artist is trying to portray.

Poppy Dickinson, a Y12 student, gave her impression of the paintings, finding them eye catching and colourful. Although she found them 'amazing individually', she found them better when 'lined up together as you can then see how effective and beautiful the whole collection of paintings are'. She continued saying that it was really interesting and enjoyable to look at all of Jonathan's artwork and find out about his source of inspiration and the reasons behind these amazing paintings of such an important part of Christ's journey on earth.

RAF NORTHOLT, OBITUARY *(Sqd Ldr Richard Willis)*

Group Captain Tom Barrett died on Thursday evening, 10th March, aged 44 following a road traffic accident. He was the Station Commander of RAF Northolt in west London, one of the RAF's last Battle of Britain airfields still in operational service.

Barrett took command of RAF Northolt in September 2009 during a period when the Station was undergoing significant change. Doubling in the number of personnel, Units from all 3 Services, including the Queen's Colour Squadron, the RAF Central Band and the British Forces Post Office were relocated to Northolt as part of the MOD London estate rationalisation. Coining the phrase 'Team Northolt', Barrett's inspirational leadership, tireless commitment and the ability to bring people together resulted in the seamless integration of some 16 extra Units.

Barrett's foremost task was support to current operations and here he led, in typical fashion, from the front, deploying with 32 (The Royal) Squadron on many occasions to the Gulf and Afghanistan. His belief of 'Operations First, People Always', was a mark of a man who was very much a 'people person'; he had a style that achieved the best from all personnel, both military and civilian. The welfare and wellbeing of Northolt's personnel was paramount in all that he did.

Committed to forging strong links with the local community, Councils and numerous associations, he resolutely believed in being a responsible neighbour. He was a visionary for sustainable development within Defence, driving forward numerous projects to reduce the Station's impact on the community and the environment.

Tomas (Tom) Arne Barrett was born in Stockholm on December 1, 1966. After schooling in Sweden, he attended Bristol University where he joined the Air Squadron and learned to fly before joining the RAF in April 1987.

After completing his pilot training he spent a number of years in the Jaguar force initially with 41 Squadron flying in the attack/reconnaissance role. Operating from the Turkish Air Force Base at Incirlik in south-west Turkey he flew many operational patrols on Operation Warden, the Northern Iraqi no-fly zone to secure a safe haven for the Kurdish people of Northern Iraq. His first patrols were in January 1992 and he went on to complete eight detachments to the airfield over a ten-year period leading up to the Iraq War in 2003. After transferring to 54 Squadron he was selected to at-



RAF NORTHOLT, OBITUARY *(cont.)*

tend the weapons instructor course, an appointment reserved for the most capable fast-jet pilots. In November 1993 his squadron maintained regular detachments at an air base in southern Italy when he flew bombing and reconnaissance operations during the Balkan campaigns over Bosnia

Subsequently, he became the first Jaguar pilot on the Air Warfare Centre's Strike Attack Operational Evaluation Unit at Boscombe Down after which he completed a tour on the air staff of the Ministry of Defence. Barrett returned to the Jaguar force as a flight commander with 54 Squadron in October 2000. The Iraqi no-fly zone in Northern Iraq was still in effect and Barrett returned to Incirlik.

On promotion to wing commander in 2003 he served on the staff of HQ 1 Group before attending the USAF Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. On his return he was appointed to command 32 (The Royal) Squadron at RAF Northolt. The Squadron's task was to provide a rapid deployment capability for high-priority personnel and equipment in support of Operations to Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as providing a safe, secure and responsive air transport service for military personnel, government ministers and members of the Royal Family. For his innovative work in identifying and implementing the operational role of Command Support Air Transport fleet he was appointed OBE. After a staff tour with a broad portfolio on operational policy, he was appointed to command Northolt when he was appointed as ADC to HM the Queen.

An all-round sportsman, he was president of the RAF Triathlon Association and a keen cyclist and swimmer. An energetic and engaging officer, the tragic loss of Barrett has brought many tributes:

Chief of Air Staff said 'Group Captain Tom Barrett was a very fine officer, leader and friend. A warm, fearless and unerringly enthusiastic man, who took success and setbacks in his stride and naturally led from the front, both metaphorically and physically, his commitment to his subordinates and to the Royal Air Force will serve as a beacon for us all to try and emulate'.

His Air Officer Commanding described him as 'a much loved and respected officer by all with whom he came in contact'. A senior officer serving at Northolt commented 'Tom was an extraordinary person. We were privileged to have him as our Station Commander'.

Tom Barrett married his wife Sophie in September 1997 and she survives him with their two young daughters.

KINGS COLLEGE PLAYING FIELDS UNDER THREAT (FoPM)

In January this year residents living near King's College Playing Fields were dismayed to receive notification from Hillingdon Council of a planning application by Eastcote Hockey Club for the construction of a second all weather pitch with associated floodlighting and fencing. The application stated that neighbours had been consulted, but there was no evidence of this having taken place and, following complaints to Hillingdon Council, the date for neighbours to submit comments and objections was delayed.

The application was a call to action for local residents to defend the much loved area of green fields between the River Pinn and Park Avenue. If accepted, this would be similar to the Club's existing all-weather pitch between the River Pinn and Evelyn Avenue. Five separate petitions against the proposal attracted over 780 signatures in just two weeks. The petitions objected to:

- a) the visual impact on the open green space from the fence and floodlights,
- b) the effect on walkers and other recreational users of the playing fields, especially those following the Celandine Route and the public footpath running adjacent to the River Pinn,
- c) the doubling of light and noise nuisance caused by the existing pitch,
- d) an exacerbation of the current parking problems in Kings College Road, Park Avenue and Evelyn Avenue
- e) the problems caused to local youth football club Ruislip Rangers, who would be disadvantaged by the loss of two of their pitches.

Residents also objected that only Hockey Club members, many of whom live outside the Borough, or organisations to which the pitch was sub-let, would have free access to the area, with local residents permanently excluded. Residents were disappointed when constituency MP Nick Hurd and local ward councillors declined to address their concerns. Their anxieties were heightened when it emerged at a packed Ruislip Residents Association meeting in February that councillors had been briefed on the proposal last year, but had failed to grasp its potentially adverse effects. They were unable to explain why they had not informed their constituents. Of even greater concern was the revelation at that meeting that Hillingdon Council had already pledged to support the Hockey Club with a £150,000 grant – some three-quarters of the total annual budget set aside to provide matched funding support to Sport and Culture throughout the whole Borough.

Residents have discovered that Hillingdon Council has a long record of providing exceptional support for Eastcote Hockey Club, perhaps due initially to strong personal interests among Council Members. While this may account for the granting

KINGS COLLEGE PLAYING FIELDS UNDER THREAT *(cont.)*

of the Club's original lease, it does not justify the contribution in 1996 towards the cost of the current Astroturf pitch. At the same time the Council authorised the Club's current 60 year lease, which also includes a number of grass pitches on King's College Playing Fields. This at first seems odd because hockey has not been played on the grass pitches in the UK since 1997. However, the inclusion of these pitches has enabled the Hockey Club to sub-let them, generating funding for such projects as the proposed second Astroturf pitch. However, sub-letting appears to be in breach of the Club's lease. The present sub-tenant of these grass pitches, Ruislip Rangers Youth FC, is being charged double the rent Eastcote Hockey Club is paying Hillingdon Council - and the sub-lease makes Ruislip Rangers responsible for the maintenance of all these grass pitches.

The Hockey Club's first planning application for a second Astroturf pitch has been withdrawn. While it would be encouraging to think that this was as a result of the strong adverse reaction among residents, including the petitions and some 200 plus individual objections, there have also been technical issues raised by various public bodies, including the Environment Agency. Once these have been addressed, the Hockey Club's Chairman has vowed to re-submit. It is likely that any future application would require a revised lease to be issued by Hillingdon Council, to include areas not covered by the present lease, so this will not remain simply a planning issue, but should enable the proposal to be considered as a matter of general policy.

Council Leader Ray Puddifoot was quoted in the Uxbridge Gazette on 23rd March, 2011, as saying "Protecting our heritage and environment remains one of our commitments. Never again do we want to see allotments, recreation grounds and large areas of Green Belt land under threat of development", so hopefully the Hockey Club's project will be evaluated in this context. Meanwhile, a group, "Friends of Pinn Meadows" (FoPM) has been formed, drawing on the resources of the petitioners, with the objectives of seeing off the present threat, and of ensuring that the whole of this highly valued asset enjoys a stronger measure of protection in the future. To get involved in this important initiative e-mail fopm@sky.com.

Editor's Note: *At its meeting on 4th May, Ruislip Residents' Association Executive Committee discussed these issues and gave unanimous support to the retention of Pinn Meadows as grass covered fields, open to all. It is also urging Hillingdon Council to investigate the damaging, but unconfirmed, assertions that Eastcote Hockey Club has breached its tenancy agreement and, subsequent to those enquiries, to provide reassurances for local residents. The views expressed in the above article are those of the Friends of Pinn Meadows*

ORCHYD *(David Horchover)*

The word ORCHYD is an acronym as the word spells out as Organisation of Ruislip Churches Holidays for Youngsters with Disabilities. This may sound like an enormous mouthful to take on board and digest but every word is vitally important.

Firstly and secondly, ORCHYD is a Charitable Organisation based on, and working with, all the Churches in Ruislip. Thirdly, the sole aim is to provide a free holiday; fourthly, it is aimed at youngsters aged between 8 and 12, and, fifth and most importantly, the children must have a physical disability. The history of this registered charity goes back some forty years and 2011 will see some special fund-raising events to mark and commemorate this very special anniversary.

How does ORCHYD work? Every August, twenty children from all over the country -boys and girls -aged 8 to 12, arrive at the main venue in Ruislip, to begin a fabulous free ten-day holiday, having been carefully screened as to suitability in conjunction with local authorities and their parents.

A comprehensive programme of events is carefully prepared, which includes camping out in Mad Bess Woods for a weekend, thanks to the Ruislip Eastcote and Northwood Scouts, canoeing, visits to special children's farms, games and places of interest which are able to cater for these children. ORCHYD now has its own dedicated and adapted mini-bus, shared with Hillingdon Community Transport, which enables the children to be taken out and about, although other specially equipped coaches are also needed. For this annual event to work smoothly and to ensure that the children are well looked after at all times, secure, fed, cared for and happy, an enormous army of selfless helpers is needed on a 24 hour basis - some 200 plus - and everyone who does help is a volunteer.

ORCHYD needs nurses, cooks, bed-makers, carers, cleaners (the list goes on), but all those who help find it a most rewarding experience and the children enjoy something special and unforgettable, as for most this will be their first time away from home or even on holiday. Their parents and siblings also get a few days when they are given time out from their regular caring which gives them a wonderful break. All helpers are CRB checked and are over 16 and for those who do assist it can be a very valuable extra on the CV.

ORCHYD is totally dependant upon donations and fund-raising activities and events to be able to afford to run these holidays each year so, if you would like to make a donation or enquire about volunteering for any position, please contact the Chairman at corrie@orchyd.org.uk, or write to:

Chairman, ORCHYD, 18a St. Catherine's Road, Ruislip HA4 7RU.

POLICE - MANOR SNT- BURGLARY *(Dee O'Brien)*

Ruislip Manor Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) has been working to reduce burglary across the ward. Whilst figures remain relatively low, burglaries are still occurring that could be prevented by use of good crime prevention advice.

Recently the Ruislip Manor team arrested a male who was preying on the vulnerable, attempting to sell them burglar alarms for just £1. He was using this as a means to enter their premises. Fortunately a diligent member of the public alerted the SNT, who quickly responded and arrested him. Further investigation proved that he was involved in numerous criminal activities. Trading standards conducted an investigation into the company and, as a result of police and trading standards activity, the male is being prosecuted for the offence.

It is important to remember that such cases are rare. However, it is advisable to be aware of such criminal tactics, and to alert the police if you suspect anyone is operating in the area and using such tactics to enter premises. It is also important to remember that there are many legitimate door to door traders. The message really is: If in doubt, contact the police or trading standards.

The Ruislip Manor SNT would like to invite you to the numerous crime prevention events and surgeries that are held. We will be on the ward with the crime prevention bus, on which we have many very useful advice leaflets and materials that can assist you to secure your home. The team will also be on hand to listen to your concerns and answer questions. We can attend your home, when we are free, and conduct a security survey, advising you on how you can improve your security. Things you can do immediately to help secure your home are:

- Close and lock windows and doors when you go out.
- Don't leave keys next to doors or windows.
- Check ID of callers before opening the door.
- Lock valuables away.
- Keep a light on if away in hours of darkness.

For more information, come and see us at one of the times below, or visit www.metbumblebee.org

Crime prevention surgeries -11th May, 4pm - 5pm Ruislip Manor Library
25th May, 10am - 11am Ruislip Manor Library

Contact us on 07909 896437 or, in an emergency, always call 999.

HEALTH MATTERS - ROUND-UP FROM OUR WEBSITE (-Joan Davis)

The Health section of the website has separate pages for each of the three hospitals in Hillingdon as well as pages for NHS National News, NHS London, NHS Hillingdon, Community Health Services and Other Local NHS Services. The last of these is a catch-all to cover Watford and Northwick Park Hospitals and other services based outside the Hillingdon boundary but used by our members. Our web pages capture news on almost a daily basis, so they are more up-to-date than the Town Crier can ever be. Here is a summary from those pages.

Foundation Trust status for The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust! This objective was finally achieved on 1st April. Patients are unlikely to notice any immediate change, but the management will be able to focus on improving services rather than meeting the demands of the application process. The Community Voice, of which our Association is a member, will be closely monitoring how the Trust uses its new freedoms. We will keep our own members informed.

Royal Brompton & Harefield Foundation Trust seeks judicial review!

London is deemed to have too many hospitals providing heart surgery for children. Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals is the loser, a major blow for that Trust, threatening all its services and its financial viability. The Trust is seeking judicial review in the hope that the decision process will be declared illegal, and that if run again a different decision would be reached. No children's heart surgery has taken place for many years at Harefield Hospital, but there was major support from Harefield for the public consultation event on this issue on 7th May, at the Emirates Stadium (Arsenal Football Club). Read more about this issue on the Trust's website, where there is also a link to an on-line petition to the Prime Minister.

www.rbht.nhs.uk

Central & North West London NHS Foundation Trust:

This trust provides mental health services for several London Boroughs, including Hillingdon. It has managed Woodlands and the Riverside Centre at Hillingdon Hospital for several years. From February 2011 it also provides Hillingdon's community health services. It has over 3,000 staff. Its Head Office is in central London, near Mornington Crescent Underground Station. CNWL's JADE system provides electronic patient records, holding information such as referrals, care plans, assessments, progress notes, clinical letters and appointments. This system is in use by Adult and Older Adult Services in Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea, Brent, Harrow, Hillingdon and some specialist services. Because these records are available so widely patients should get a better service.

HEALTH MATTERS *(cont.)*

Mount Vernon

This hospital is thriving. The Treatment Centre is dealing with 6,000 day cases per year and 2,000 in-patients. According to the Chief Executive, David McVittie, both the Cancer Centre and the Treatment Centre are safe there for 20 or 30 years, but some site issues must be resolved. Too many tenants are not paying their way and it costs too much to run the site. Empty buildings have a financial cost and so must be pulled down. There are ambitious long-term plans for the site, still in their early stages. Some land could be sold to fund improvements, but no sales are likely for many years ahead.

Local impact of the current Health and Social Care Bill

NHS London claims that it will deliver business as usual, despite facing year-end closure. Most of its 1300 redundancies have already taken place. The Bill also proposes to abolish Primary Care Trusts. NHS Hillingdon powers are already greatly reduced following its amalgamation with NHS Ealing and NHS Hounslow in the Outer North West London Sub-Cluster, within the eight PCTs' North West London Cluster. NHS Hillingdon now has only 18 staff to administer its £300m budget – but most decisions are now taken by the Sub-Cluster based in Hounslow. London is ahead of the rest of the country in preparing for transfer to GP Consortia, which will replace Primary Care Trusts as commissioners of NHS services. It now has 25 GP pathfinder consortia. The Hillingdon GP Consortium recently held elections for its nine voting Board Members, three from each of its three localities, North Hillingdon, Uxbridge & West Drayton, Hayes & Harlington. The North Hillingdon representatives are Dr. Steven Shapiro, Dr. Kuldhir Johallan and Dr. Ian Goodman.



Murphy!

(see page 8)

PLANNING MATTERS *(John Williams)*

Since our last report there have been two significant developments which are of concern to many of our members, the government's revised proposals for the **High Speed Rail Link** and the planning application by **Eastcote Hockey Club at Kings College Road**. An update on HS2 appears on page 23 and an article by the Friends of Pinn Meadows on page 14 outlines many of their concerns about the Hockey Club's proposals. One aspect of the Hockey Club proposal is the visual impact, not only on the local scene, but also on the pathway known as the Celandine Route. Developed by the Council, in partnership with other agencies, their website describes it as a walk "through green spaces, conservation areas and wild-life havens" - for how much longer we wonder, if this proposal is allowed. Pictures showing The Celandine Route looking east from Kings College Road and the existing enclosed hockey pitch, similar to that proposed can be seen on page 24.

Another important issue is the outstanding planning application for an enlarged car park at **Ruislip Lido** which is still under consideration. We understand there are some unresolved issues and the Council are awaiting reports from consultants.

At **Lyon Court, Pembroke Road** developers London Square finally submitted their application for 71 flats in two four storey blocks. Although there are some minor changes from the proposals displayed at their public exhibition last November the overall effect remains the same. This is another bulky high density development on what was previously a street of family homes. We have registered our concerns with the Council in respect of the overall impact, lack of parking, loss of green space etc. This application has now been withdrawn. No doubt it will reappear soon.

In February the Council published its response to the draft consultation on their **Core Strategy Policy**. While a number of our concerns had been discounted, others were noted, with some minor changes to the draft policy. Full details are available on the Council website: www.hillingdon.org.uk. The next stage in this process is the publication of the Site Allocation Document. This document should identify important sites in the Borough and define the Council's intentions for their future use. We await this with considerable interest, as there are several sensitive sites in our area which we would all wish to see protected.

We were pleased to learn that the outstanding Appeals for electric security gates at **Mill Works, Bury Street**, flats at **The Ferns, Withy Lane** and a large extension at **53 Pinn Way** were recently dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate.

PLANNING MATTERS *(Mike Hodge)*

Recent changes in the High Street include the recent opening of Café Nero, a prime retail site previously occupied by Howard Scott shoe retailers. There is also a planning application in to change part of the Post Office building into residential accommodation by creating 4 x studio and 1 x one-bedroom flat involving a first floor rear extension.

Land to rear of 51-53 Pembroke Road:

A planning application to erect 2 five-bedroom, two storey detached dwellings with habitable roof-space having been previously refused by local planners went to appeal on 2nd March. As previously we have written with our objections primarily based on 'back garden' development.

New telecoms mast proposals submitted on behalf of Vodafone in respect of sites at the junction of Bury Street and Plough Farm Close and at the junction of East Way and Park Way, Ruislip Manor have both been refused by the local authority. Since a spate of such applications 2 to 3 years ago it would seem that the planners have not softened their stance as the majority of these telecoms installations have been declined.

TRAFFIC & PARKING *(continued from page 3)*

Council work has been almost completed on the Pegasus crossing at the top of Ducks Hill. This crossing will help both horses and pedestrians to cross a busy main road with poor visibility. It now remains for TfL to install and commission the traffic lights and for the agreed 50mph speed restriction to be imposed.

The pedestrian crossing in Eastcote Road, at the junction of St. Martins Approach, has not been safe for some time, with vehicles continuing across

with pedestrians in the middle of the road. In an effort to improve safety, the Zebrite system will be installed soon. This should make the crossing more conspicuous. If you are not familiar with this, the flashing yellow lights are replaced by a bright halo effect, as can be seen at the crossing further along Eastcote Road adjacent to Hume Way.

A new traffic island has been installed in the Manor at the junction of Cornwall Road with Victoria Road.

WEBSITE AND COMPUTERS *(Joan Davis)*

Website

Over time there have been many developments, so our old website needed updating. We achieved a Grassroots Award from North West London Community Foundation, allowing us to commission a professional designer, which was a huge benefit. The new website was launched on 31st March.

This has been an exciting project. The designer has been generous with both time and patience and we were lucky to have help from three members with professional experience – Keith Allsopp, now abroad, John Swindells, Website Technical Manager, and Daniel O’Neill, Computer Manager. We are very grateful to them all.

It will take time to meet the opportunities that our new website presents. Most of those involved have no previous experience of operating a website, but their responsibilities are suddenly extended! This is because our work is divided into what we rather grandly call portfolios, and each holder is now responsible for a sector of the website.

Some sectors have one page, others have several. For example, “Retail Areas” has four pages - a home page for common issues and one each for “Ruislip High Street”, “Ruislip Manor” and “Other local retail facilities”. Currently they have only skeleton content, but they offer the potential to update our members. There are over twenty

sectors, everything from Education to Public Transport, Police to Planning, Woodlands to Conservation. There are sections on Local Activities and local facilities, which we hope you will help us to expand. The website will be of real value to our members, their first port of call for local information, but we need to ensure that everything published is accurate, up-to-date, informative and interesting. A challenge indeed!

Computers

Most of our Executive are familiar with computers, but members have been using their own equipment. It was agreed that we should computerise, both to protect our records and to ensure that taking up office would no longer require the provision of expensive personal equipment.

So, alongside our website project, we have developed a computer project, a Grassroots Award helping with the cost. Some of our officers now use RRA computers for the work they do on our behalf. In absence or illness the records and a computer can be passed to someone else and the Computer Manager will hold a copy of the records on an external hard drive – a big step forward for us. The Grassroots Award also provided training and members are currently practising newly acquired skills. In the year ahead we hope to show off these skills in improved publicity materials.

HIGH SPEED RAIL LINK - HS2 *(Tessa Kershaw)*

The Public Consultation was launched on 28th February 2011. It closes on Friday 29th July 2011. Please see <http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk> or contact HS2 Ltd on tel: 020 7944 4908 or e-mail HS2enquiries@hs2.gsi.gov.uk.

As part of the consultation, HS2 Ltd is holding road-shows at various towns along the route. The road-show for Ruislip took place on 30th/31st March at the Winston Churchill Hall. If you weren't able to attend, you can visit any of the future road-shows – please see the list of towns and dates on the HS2Ltd website.

You can fill in your response to the consultation on-line, or alternatively, you can download a response form from the website and send it to:

Freepost RSLX-UCGZ-UKSS
High Speed Rail Consultation
PO Box 59528, London SE21 9AX

Following on from our General Meeting in February, Ruislip Residents' Association set up a fact finding working group to study various aspects of the proposed project, including route, tunnel potential, noise, etc. Any member of the Association was welcome to join the group, which led to both supporters and opponents becoming involved. Despite differences of opinion over national factors, there has been universal concern about the local impact of the HS2 proposals.

The working group's final report will be passed to the RRA Executive at its meeting on 4th May to provide evidence for our response to the consultation. A full Working Group timetable and our letter to MPs, detailing our concerns about HS2 compensation, are displayed on our website.



High Speed 2 –
Proposed Viaduct
near Harefield

Eastcote Hockey Club

(see page 14/15)

Existing pitch



Existing floodlight

Proposed site, looking east
from Kings College Road



Ruislip Library Chair



This chair, in memory of our late Chairman Lewis Hawken, was presented by the Association to Manor Farm Library at a short ceremony on Wednesday, 2nd February, attended by members of the Hawken family.