



Ruislip Residents' Association

TOWN CRIER

The Voice of Ruislip Residents
May 2012

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RAF Northolt — Typhoon (see page 12)



Ducks Hill — Pegasus Crossing (see page 16)

RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT: Brian Cowley
VICE-PRESIDENT: Peter Lansdown

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

Responsibility	Committee Member	Responsibility	Committee Member
Conservation	Elma Hutton	Public Transport	Tessa Kershaw
Environment	Martin Cartwright	RAF Northolt Liaison	Ivor John
Health	Joan Davis	Ruislip Lido	Peter Lansdown
Manor Retail Area	Joan Davis	Ruislip Retail Area	Peter Lansdown
Membership	Brian Cowley	Traffic & Parking	Peter Lansdown
Police Liaison	Ivor John	Website	John Swindells
Planning	Mike Hodge	Woodlands	Ian Cantley

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RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
7.45 pm, Thursday, 21st June, 2012
Winston Churchill Hall lounge, Manor Farm, Ruislip
(Doors open at 7.30pm)

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of AGM 2011
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts
5. Election of Chairman and Executive Committee
6. Open Forum - questions to a panel of RRA representatives
7. Guest Speaker: John Randall MP *(if Parliamentary business permits)*
8. Any other business
9. Close of business

Light refreshments and informal discussion – The meeting will end at 10pm

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, 30th May

Next meeting: 7.45pm Thursday 11th October 2012, Winston Churchill Hall
(Agenda items to the Secretary by Wednesday 19th September 2012)

EDITORIAL *(Peter Lansdown)*

In this issue there is an article describing the military involvement in the Olympics for our security, and the part being played by RAF Northolt *(page 12)*. You have no doubt heard the Typhoons overhead. As a separate issue, the RAF have asked me to reiterate how much of a danger airborne Chinese Lanterns can be to flying. Please do not use them.

There is also an obituary for Ken MacGregor, the well known organiser of the Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch, sadly missed *(page 10)*.

Another addition is a piece describing the workings of the Hillingdon planning process, by Councillor Lavery, the Chair of the Hillingdon North Planning Committee *(page 17 - first published in the Eastcote RA News)*.

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 2012 at 12.15 pm

May 30th

Johan Hugosson : piano

June 27th

Tianyun Jai: piano

Alexis White : violin

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

- Eastcote House Volunteer Gardeners meet on the 1st Friday, 2nd Saturday and 3rd Thursday of every month. At 9.30 am (10.30 am on Saturdays)
Everyone welcome - tools and refreshments provided - no experience necessary.
Meet in the car park at Eastcote House Gardens.
Diary dates: June 1st, 9th and 21st July 6th, 14th and 19th
 Aug. 3rd, 11th and 16th Sept. 7th, 8th and 20th
- Saturday, 2nd June, 12 noon to 4pm - Jubilee Picnic
The Mayor of Hillingdon will dedicate the Jubilee Orchard
Displays, events and stalls Admission free
- Sunday, 10th June, 11 am to 4pm - Grand opening of Vintage Tea Garden
Home made cakes and cream teas served on bone china
- Bat walks at Eastcote House Gardens and Long Meadow, 26th June and 2nd July
Meet in EHG car park at 8.45 pm—to book contact dknezevic@hilligdon.gov.uk
- History walks from EHG car park at 2 pm, Saturday, 21st July and 4th August, led by Lesley Crowcroft and Susan Toms - to book contact lesley.crowcroft@tiscali.co.uk

Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society

Lecture Programme 2012 2013

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

17 September	Smoke, Soot and Steam: Early Days of London Underground	David Burnell
19 October	AGM & The Enigma that is Shadwell	Alister Douglas
19 November	Charles Dickens: Special Correspondent	Dr. Tony Williams

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE *(Joan Davis)*

This has been a year of conflicting views. When people feel strongly they often find it difficult to understand why others disagree, but our job as a residents' association is to respect differences among our members and to seek common ground.

HS2 compensation causes universal concern and, if HS2 goes ahead, so will traffic problems, noise and mess, so we will campaign on all those issues. A hard surface hockey pitch in Pinn Meadows is opposed by almost all, so we will fight that too.

New owners of The Plough in Bury Street have reduced its signboard name to a tiny mention - our protests fell on deaf ears, without even the courtesy of a written response. Internally, the earliest area is unchanged, but the main restaurant is transformed with modern furnishings and all heritage hidden behind false walls. Some members are distraught, but it is doing good business, so it pleases others.

A long period of relaying water pipes has just begun. No one likes the disruption, but most accept that the work needs doing, so inconvenience is endured.

On a happier note, the Ruislip Manor facelift started well. Reducing the width of the pavement by a few inches has eased the passage of buses and lorries, and the parking scheme has improved options, which benefits local trade. The next stage, with upgraded shop fronts and area enhancement, is awaited with great interest. We shall have a stall at the Fun Day there on Saturday 30th June, so please drop in to meet us.

Before then we have marked the Queen's Jubilee by the presentation of a chair to Ruislip Manor Library. This echoes our similar presentation to Ruislip Library last year in memory of Lewis Hawken, our Chairman for 18 years.

We still need help to cover the wide range of local activities. Executive Members who carry the major load would welcome help, particularly with leisure activities, education, and youth issues. Please get in touch if you can help.

John Randall MP hopes to be guest speaker at our AGM. Do come along to give him a warm welcome if you can.

Joan Davis, Chairman
Tel: 01895 636095

FROM OUR MP FOR MANOR WARD - JOHN RANDALL

One of the first things I discovered when I swapped the life of a retailer for that of a politician was that you will never be able to please all the people all the time, and that extends way beyond just politics and policies. For example, if I were to welcome an extended dry sunny period, it might be welcomed by many, but equally I could well have farmers complaining that it could be disastrous, especially if it were to happen at the wrong time of the year for them.

Just before Easter, I spent a few days on the Norfolk coast and I was very fortunate to have a fantastic sighting of an otter. I hadn't seen one for more than twenty years and then that was in their Shetland stronghold. I was absolutely delighted and I couldn't wait to tell colleagues and friends about my good fortune. However I soon discovered that, although many welcome the increase in numbers of this elusive creature, there are others, mainly anglers and fish farmers, who are less pleased about the resurgence of the otter and are asking for control and even culling. Some developments are welcome by some but vehemently opposed by others. It is often difficult to see things from a different view point and it is even more complex to try to find a happy medium. My grandmother had a good motto which was "moderation in all things" and apart from being an excellent code for living, it is, in many respects, how I have always seen the British way of life. We have really not liked or tolerated extremes. Perhaps we have become conditioned by our much maligned weather which epitomises that sense of moderation.

However I have noticed that increasingly issues are becoming more polarised. Perhaps that may be a perception, because only the extremes seem to be given public airing. We all know that the media craves bad news stories. The national media is particularly guilty of this and seem very selective in what they ultimately print or broadcast. Another of their demands is for instant opinions, very often not allowing time to consider the issues calmly and in depth.

The strength of residents' associations and why I value their opinions is because they provide a balanced view based on an understanding of the issues. There is a real wealth of expertise. But what I appreciate most is the willingness to engage sensibly and moderately.

They may not always gain headlines that way, but they will still always achieve more by that method.

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

It is important for every community to listen to their young people. So, a few months ago I invited every secondary school (public and private) in the constituency to put up two teenagers to sit on a "board" that would give me advice on what was important to them. As we sat in the House of Commons talking about global, national and local affairs, I was struck by how different their priorities are from the normal contents of my postbag and inbox. One of the specific things they said that they missed locally was the chance to socialise with kids from other schools. So, in this Olympic year, we came up with the idea of an inter-school community games. An eight sport tournament with teams of kids mixed up from different schools. It will be led by the young people, supported by me and an organisation that has run over 40 of these events before. The event itself is planned for early July to coincide with the Olympics. Not only will it offer children and adults from local and national businesses supporting the initiative the chance to try new sports, such as Goalball and Bocci, both of which will feature in the Paralympics games this summer, but it also gives local sports clubs a chance to showcase what they have on offer locally and encourage new members to join. My hope is that it will become an annual fixture and a lasting legacy of what I hope will be a stunningly successful Olympics. We have such fabulous facilities on offer in our area it seems such a shame not to offer them to all. If any resident would like to get involved with our project, please get in touch. All contact details available on www.nickhurd.com



TRAFFIC/PARKING *(Peter Lansdown)*

The Ruislip Manor "Stop and Shop" parking scheme has now been up and running for a few months and, together with the road widening on the western side of Victoria Road, the result has been to ease the traffic flow and make life a little easier for everyone in the area.

As reported on page 16, the Pegasus Crossing on Ducks Hill Road was officially opened at the end of April. A number of residents would like the speed limit reduced further, to 40mph, but there are no plans for this. What do you think?
(Comments please to traffic@ruislipresidents.org.uk)

The proposed pedestrian crossing in the Ridgeway has been put on hold, to be
(continued on page 16)

HISTORY: THE VILLAGE POST OFFICE (*Eileen Bowlt*)

Ruislip Post Office in the High Street is now housed at the back of the once dignified looking building that was designed in the neo- Georgian style favoured by the Office of Works in the 1920s. Business is transacted in the portion that was originally the parcels office. The building was erected in 1927 and was Ruislip's first purpose-built post office. Four earlier ones had been run from cottages and shops near The Swan and at the entrance to Manor Farm, serving a small village population of 500 or so, before suburban expansion really got going in the 1920s, following the war years when development had come to a halt. There was another post office in Eastcote established by 1851 in a cottage on the High Road and Northwood's needs were being served from a shop on the corner of Maxwell and Murray Roads in the 1890s.

Post offices only became common in rural areas after Rowland Hill's transformation and improvement of the postal services in 1839. He reduced the cost of sending letters by introducing a uniform penny post and increased efficiency and profit because under the new regulations all postage had to be paid by the sender, not by the recipient as formerly – a system that had led to uncollected letters and bad debts. Adhesive stamps, the Penny Blacks, were soon introduced to simplify the process. The much-abused privilege of free postage

for MPs and peers was removed, also leading to increased revenue. The reforms coincided with wider literacy as increasing numbers of children attended school and more people became letter writers. Census returns show that 60% of both boys and girls in Ruislip aged between five and 13 were 'scholars' in 1851. This had increased to 75% in 1871 and nearly 90% by 1881, perhaps helped by the introduction of compulsory school attendance in 1876!

The earliest reference to a post office in Ruislip occurs in the 1851 census. William Phillips who lived in the cottage (now half of Haart's Estate Agents offices) at the northern end of the High Street, was in charge and would have received a small remuneration. Since Mr Phillips was also master of the National School that was then situated in the churchyard and was church organist as well, we must assume that postal business was fairly light. His wife was a seamstress and the couple had four children and two scholars as boarders.

By 1861 the Phillips's cottage was occupied by a farm labourer and Daniel Barrenger, living in the cottage next door (the other part of Haart's offices), was running the post office in addition to being a blacksmith and a grocer! About 1867 he moved to The Poplars on the corner of Ickenham Road and the High Street, where he continued in business

HISTORY: THE VILLAGE POST OFFICE *(cont.)*

as a blacksmith and wheelwright, but his former cottage continued to be the village post office until the mid 1890s. Two subsequent occupants, John Howard, a tailor, and William Riddle, carried on the postal business in turn.

Mr Riddle was a man of many parts. An advert in the 1892 edition of the 'King's Uxbridge Gazette Almanack' reads 'W.J. Riddle, coach and cart builder, rick and fruit ladder maker, draper, grocer, corn, coal and General Provision merchant, Post Office, Stamp Office, Money Order & Savings Bank, Stationery, Turps, Oils, etc. Agent for the Post Office. Teas. Carts and Vans of every Description Built to Order'. One feels that the small shop must truly have been the centre of village life and gossip.

Mrs Riddle had a newsagent's business in the cottage until well into the 20th century, but the post office moved to an old timber-framed building that stood on the corner of the High Street and Park Lane or Swan Alley (now The Oaks) where Mr Puddick was postmaster. The building was demolished when the lane was widened about 1930. A photograph of the shop taken about 1907, when it was empty and looking very dilapidated, shows two signs saying Post Office and Telegraph Office respectively. Telegraph offices at both Ruislip and Eastcote opened for business on 7 April 1897, only after Ruislip Parish Council had agreed to indemnify the Postmaster

General against loss up to £40. Fortunately the telegrams sent out in the first two years exceeded the guarantee.

About 1907, Mr H.R. Hailey, who ran a grocery business from outbuildings attached to The George, became postmaster. His house, the eastern portion of the handsome old building at the entrance to Manor Farm that faces straight down the High Street, became the post office and some time later, Ruislip's first telephone exchange. It remained the post office until 1927. Mrs Bray ran the Village Tea Rooms and a sweet shop in the western part of the building. The whole is now the Duck House Restaurant.

The postal services seem to have been excellent. The post offices were always open for 12 hours on weekdays and the number of deliveries increased from one a day in 1881 to three a day – at 6.55am, 12 noon and 4.45pm in 1913. By that time four postmen were employed. This makes credible the post card in the Local History Collection which invites the recipient to come to tea 'this afternoon' and demonstrates the reliability of the post. Post cards had been introduced in the 1870s and as they were carried for a halfpenny, proved a *(continued on page 20)*

OBITUARY - KEN MACGREGOR *(Brian Grisdale)*

It is a few months now since the death on the 12 January of Ken MacGregor, Chairman of the Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group, but his loss continues to be felt by the HNW organisation.

Ken became the driving force behind HNW very soon after he volunteered to assist the Crime Prevention Officer at Ruislip Police Station some fifteen or so years ago, and his energy never faltered until health problems slowed him down in the latter part of 2011. His work as a Lighting Director at the BBC brought him into contact with many celebrities over the years which occasionally prompted some interesting anecdotes. Ken's electrical background seemed to transpose easily into an understanding of computer technology and a mastery of both the hardware and software elements. This knowledge was invaluable with respect to the management of all HNW IT matters, including solving the inevitable glitches and crashes over which most of us despair. Ken also created and managed the HNW website.

Over the years Ken developed a passion for crime prevention and promoted this in ways other than internet and telephone messaging. When funding became available it was he who developed information booklets and leaflets, sometimes in conjunction with Hillingdon Police, and also researched and purchased many types of alarms and other items for both property and personal protection. At the invitation of the Borough Council he often set up and manned a stall in the Uxbridge Pavilions shopping mall to promote both HNW and crime prevention. Ken also researched and produced the quarterly HNW Newsletter *Watch Out* for more than eleven years. Although HNW is not part of the Metropolitan Police Service Volunteer Programme, Ken's contribution to the community was recognised by a MPSVP award in 2009 presented by Boris Johnson at City Hall.

The time that Ken MacGregor devoted to HNW and the loss of his expertise and enthusiasm will be very difficult to replace and the search is on to recruit two volunteers to carry forward Ken's legacy. A failure to do so may result in the demise of HNW.

Although HNW operates from the much appreciated facilities at Ruislip Police Station, Ken used to carryout a great deal of his work from home with the assistance of his wife. His loss to the family was greatly compounded by her death two weeks later. Our thoughts and sympathy remain with the family.

HIGH SPEED RAIL UPDATE *(Tessa Kershaw)*

In March 2012, HS2 Ltd held Community Forums in towns along the whole length of the first phase of the route - these forums were meetings involving HS2 Ltd staff and nominated representatives from interested local organisations. The aim was to discuss specific details of how the route may affect each local area, and how the community would like to see any issues resolved, if possible. The list of community forums can be found on the Department of Transport website at:

<http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/communityforums>.

The forum for our area is called "South Ruislip to Ickenham", and can be found on the DoT website under the London Metropolitan section. Its first meeting was held on 20 March 2012. Representatives from many local organisations and action groups attended, including the RRA. Items discussed included the possibility of extending the Ruislip tunnel so that it might end at Harvil Road, instead of near Ruislip Golf Club. Also, how the Heathrow spur (or loop) might affect us, though any route is not due to be decided until after the consultation of Phase 2 of HS2, i.e. the route northwards from Birmingham.

The forums have not been set up to be meetings which members of the public can attend, though it has been suggested that some public meetings should be organised in the future. Meanwhile HS2 Ltd has said the minutes of each meeting will be published on the DoT Community Forum website, so that anyone can view them. HS2 Ltd have suggested holding a Community Forum for each area every two months, though at the time of going to press the next forum for our area has not been announced.

Since the decision by the Government in January 2012 that the HS2 project should proceed, various action groups have continued their fight to try to halt or alter the route. Recently some judicial review applications have been submitted by interested parties regarding such subjects as the legality of the consultation, environmental grounds and route choice.

How are the military contributing to the Olympics?

The safety and security of the Olympic and Paralympics Games and those taking part, including London residents, is paramount, which is why the Secretary of State announced last year the deployment of military Units to London to support the overall security plan. These include Typhoon aircraft, HMS Ocean, helicopters, Marine units on the Thames and Ground Based Air Defence systems. At the time, he stated that the Services would support the Police in providing security on the Thames, in the Air over London and at Games venues. Similar capabilities have been made available at every Olympic Games since the Atlanta Games in 1996.

What is RAF Northolt's role?

At the end of 2011 the Secretary of State announced that Typhoon fast jets would be forward based at RAF Northolt to provide a Quick Reaction Alert force to protect the airspace over London. In addition Sea King early warning helicopters and some Army support elements will be accommodated at the base.

What was the Defence Live Exercise?

In preparation for the deployment, it was necessary for the crews to conduct familiarisation flights. These familiarisation flights took place during a live exercise from 2 to 10 May. This live exercise allowed testing of all the parts of the plan which involve the Armed Forces in their role during the Games. Helicopters and supporting crews also operated from Ilford Territorial Army Centre for part of that exercise.

Flying at RAF Northolt

- **Typhoon** – Typhoon jets arrived at RAF Northolt in the afternoon of 2 May for the Live Exercise and departed on 10 May. They will return in mid-July for the Olympic period. During 2-10 May Typhoons flew regularly in order to train the pilots in safe operation from RAF Northolt. Flying during the Olympic period is expected to be far less frequent as the Typhoon force will be primarily reactive to any incident.

(photo on front cover)

- **Sea King** – The Royal Navy Sea King air surveillance helicopters exercised their role throughout 2-10 May and were expected to fly occasionally. Due to their role they can get airborne quickly and operate at high level over London.

- **Islander** – The Islander will continue to fly as required.

- **32 (The Royal) Squadron** – 32 (The Royal) Squadron will continue to operate from RAF Northolt.

- **Commercial Aircraft** – The number of movements at all airports in the London area is being carefully controlled and centrally coordinated during the Olympic peri-

RAF NORTHOLT *(cont.)*

od. Due to the increased military flying from RAF Northolt, the number of commercial flights is expected to decrease over the period. It is anticipated that some national delegations and Heads of State will use RAF Northolt to attend the Games.

Noise

It is regretted that some residents close to the perimeter of RAF Northolt have been disturbed by construction works and machinery delivering some of the necessary safety measures to allow Typhoons and other elements to operate from the base. Measures have been taken, wherever possible, to reschedule night works away from the fence-line and to restrict works after 1100pm.

The operation of Typhoons from RAF Northolt will inevitably cause some disturbance due to the engines being much noisier than the aircraft that normally operate from the base. Whilst some flying after dark will be necessary, flying for the Live Exercise did not normally continue beyond 1100pm and was restricted to a small number of take-off and landings. Flying during the Olympics will be mainly reactive and infrequent, although it may happen at any time of day or night. In extreme circumstances Typhoons are cleared for supersonic flight, but this is only allowed when the aircraft is at high altitude and not in the proximity of Northolt.

Safety

In order to ensure the safety of pedestrians and road users from jet engine exhaust, it has been necessary to remove a 60m section of hedge on the West End Road and replace with specialist fencing with an inner mesh that is designed to dissipate the jet exhaust and, in the unlikely event, capture any debris that is blown backwards. As an added measure, the eastern Runway Arrestor Bed has been temporarily turfed, but will maintain the same aircraft stopping characteristics. Working with both the London Borough of Hillingdon and Transport for London we have agreed special signage that will be placed along the West End Road and A40 to alert both pedestrians and road users to unusual and noisy air activity.

When will things return to “normal”?

The Live Exercise ran from 2 to 10 May and local people may have noticed some intense periods of flying activity throughout the exercise. After the exercise, the Typhoons left and activity reverted to a more normal level. However, in the build-up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the level of activity will increase again and is expected to return to normal in mid-September once the Paralympic Games conclude.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE EXECUTIVE - MIKE HODGE *(Tessa Kershaw)*

How long have you lived in Ruislip? 38 years - after three house moves in four years whilst I moved from office to office for my job as a Building Society Manager, I moved to Ruislip with my wife in 1973. Since then we have felt no desire to relocate.

Committee Responsibilities: I run the planning portfolio, with invaluable technical assistance provided by John Williams, another committee member.

How long have you been a Committee Member? 12 years.

Why did you choose to join the Committee? I chose to join the Association after personal help was provided to me back in the 1990s by the much missed Bruce Williams, a former President of the Association. I felt that joining the committee was a good way to reciprocate. I've always covered planning, initially by shadowing Bruce, but since then by working jointly with John Williams.

Describe the regular activities you undertake for RRA: Keeping abreast of local developments, responding to members' concerns about new planning applications, and offering practical advice as to how the planning system works and who best to contact. I also receive weekly summaries of new planning applications from Hillingdon Council, which I filter for any items that might impact on our residents, with particular interest in East & West Ruislip and Ruislip Manor. Anything possibly contentious is reported to the RRA executive committee at our monthly meeting, and if deemed relevant I would write on behalf of the RRA to list any concerns or objections we might have.

Who does this involve you liaising with? Our RRA members, the RRA executive, and also regular liaison with both our local councillors and council planning officers, with whom we have a good working relationship.

How many meetings, on average, do you attend per month in connection with your duties? One or two - normally there is only the regular monthly meeting of the RRA executive to attend, however there are occasional ad hoc meetings with the local authority and others.

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

Best: successful outcomes to planning disputes and the appreciation that this invokes.

Worst: when, despite our best efforts, undeserving planning applications succeed (which are often backed by highly paid legal experts).

FROM OUR WARD COUNCILLORS *(John Riley)*

Eastcote and East Ruislip Ward – Catherine Dann, David Payne, Bruce Baker,
Manor Ward – Douglas Mills, Michael Markham, Susan O'Brien,
West Ruislip Ward – Philip Corthorne, Brian Crowe, John Riley

As I write this piece, all the Councillors that serve the RRA area are very busy with making contributions to the London Mayoral elections, which will have taken place by the time you read this. Throughout the campaign Mayor Boris has been a frequent visitor to the borough, appearing in Ruislip High Street on a number of occasions and having the opportunity to speak to residents about a range of issues. One of the great benefits of this campaign has been that while we as Councillors have had many leaflets to deliver, we have used the opportunity to talk to residents on the “doorstep” and have enjoyed the varied topics raised concerning local and national issues that we will take away and either pass on or deal with, however we can.

We are coming up to the time of year when the Council elects the Mayor for the coming “Council Year”. We would like to pay tribute to the dedication and work of our outgoing Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr. Mary O'Connor MBE, who has worked tirelessly across the borough undertaking and enjoying many hundreds of visits to local organisations and events. She has been an enthusiastic promoter of her selected charities which have benefited from significant sums raised over the year and has brought great joy to wherever she has visited. It has been a tremendously successful year for Mary as Mayor of our Borough and we wish her well and a deserved rest, which she is unlikely to take, but we thank her for all the work she has done. The Deputy Mayor, our own Councilor Mike Markham, who has already been very busy in his civic role will, we hope, succeed Mary and we wish him a splendid year as Mayor.

We continue to monitor the situation regarding HS2. We now have the Government decision. I need not repeat in detail our opposition to the route as all of the arguments have been well rehearsed and set out. We maintain our support in opposition to this scheme and are behind every effort to put an end to it.

Times are difficult. However we are fortunate that we have a Leader and Cabinet that have a strong grip on the finances of the Council. In a recent speech the Leader of the Council, Cllr Ray Puddifoot, reported that the finances were sound and that the Council was in a healthy financial situation, shown by the continued programme of improvements to amenities for residents, especially to our library and leisure facilities. We continue to put our residents first; providing good services while efficiently controlling the financial side in very challenging times.

PEGASUS CROSSING *(Andrew Riley)*

Ruislip Woods is the largest block of woodland in greater London which makes it extremely popular with walkers, horse riders, cyclists and dog walkers. Until recently, crossing Ducks Hill Road from Copse Wood to Mad Bess Wood was not easy and for horse riders the issue was compounded by the poor site lines at the point where the bridleway crossed the road, due to the proximity of a bend and the brow of a hill, which left little braking distance for vehicles travelling at speed. It was an accident waiting to happen .

Members of the Hillingdon Equestrian Advisory Committee (HEAC), which is the recognised link between riders and the London Borough of Hillingdon, debated the issue and in view of their strong concerns decided to speak with Ruislip Residents' Association and other groups to see if they would support the establishment of a Pegasus Crossing which, if agreed, would result in a number of footpaths including the Hillingdon Trail, and the bridleway being diverted to a single safe crossing point close to the entrance to the Car Park.

There was great support and a petition was raised. But it wasn't as simple as that. HEAC faced a number of issues. The UK had gone into deep recession and like other councils Hillingdon was planning major spending cuts and HEAC struggled to get meaningful data about the number of reported accidents that had happened in Ducks Hill Road. In addition there was a requirement to introduce a 50 mph speed limit, which may not be acceptable to some local residents. However, the petition received favourable consideration from the Council and funding was made available by TfL.

The Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr Mary O'Connor, MBE, officially opened the crossing on Saturday 28th April, and, for the Borough, accepted a "Certificate of Thanks" presented by Dr Phil Wadey, Chairman of The British Horse Society Trustees.
(photo on front cover)

TRAFFIC/PARKING *(cont.)*

reviewed, but there appears to be no good reason for it., as shown by recent surveys

As I write this, improvement work is scheduled to start at the junction of Eastcote Road with Windmill Hill. The proposals include a new raised central dome with an outer ring of red surfacing, new and longer refuge islands on all approaches and footway re-surfacing.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS *(Eddie Lavery)*

I have been Chairman of the North Planning Committee of the London Borough of Hillingdon for the last 3 years. This committee of seven experienced councillors deals with applications in the North of the Borough including the Ruislip area. Planning is one the key functions of the local authority, but can also be one of its most controversial.

It is often difficult to explain to people how planning works and the factors that are relevant to an application. Planning law starts with Government Planning Policy Statements which give general principles for planning (including greenbelt, sustainable development, open space and recreation.). These have just been rewritten but as yet the effect that this will have is unclear. In London we have the London Plan written by the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson (this includes more detailed guidance on acceptable housing density, property size and car parking standards). Hillingdon policies have to comply with both the London Plan and Government Policy. The Hillingdon Policy is contained with the Unitary Development Plan (UDP), shortly to be replaced by the Local Development Framework (LDF). Hillingdon also has a series of design statements (HDAS) which give guidance on what is acceptable for particular types of development. The HDAS documents are not binding but inform planning decisions.

Only material planning considerations can influence a decision. These can include parking (currently there is a maximum car parking standard for new homes not a minimum), street scene, size and bulk, conservation, impact on green belt, overlooking and over shadowing, but not the impact of a development on the price of property. The bulk of planning decisions are taken by planning officers in the council who view each scheme against the various policies and design statements to decide upon its acceptability. The Planning Committee only decides on large schemes and smaller schemes that are referred by a resident's petition or a ward councillor. It also decides on schemes involving the greenbelt or changes of use for shops. By definition the committee gets all of the difficult applications.

The Planning Committee meets in public every 3 weeks. Decisions are made after reviewing the officer report, hearing petitioners, applicants and ward councillors. Members may visit a site if they deem this to be appropriate. In arriving at a decision they need to consider all planning facts. This will include any previous appeal decisions in respect of a site.

Sometimes the final decision is closely balanced, but remember that a hideous extension to one person is someone else's ideal home.

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

Recent news from Hillingdon Hospital includes:

- **A new Admissions Unit:** A £12.36m Department of Health grant will enable reconfiguration of A&E to include a new Urgent Care Centre and an adjacent Admissions Ward with 45 to 50 beds. Paediatrics will be redesigned and Endoscopy relocated.
- **Cleaning and Catering contracts:** These services are to come in-house when the Sodexo contract ends in October. The contract for ready-made patient meals is being market tested.
- **Internal inpatient surveys:** Mothers would like family members to stay overnight during early labour or after a caesarean section – visiting arrangements are being reviewed.
- **Board Members' monthly unannounced visits to Wards:** Beaconsfield East Ward and Marina Ward have already been visited and both received very good reports. Staff were clearly proud of their wards and their care of patients.
- **Volunteers:** After recently recruiting 45 more, the Trust now has over 450 volunteers helping patients at mealtimes and supporting visitors and patients in the hospital. Others wishing to volunteer should telephone 01895 279973.
- **The Leaving Hospital Project is to be extended across the hospital:** Matrons visit wards to discuss discharge plans. Phone calls check any problems after discharge. A closer relationship is being built with community nursing staff.
- **Outpatient Project:** This project, now underway, includes an improved booking system, better handling of telephone calls, phone or text reminders of patients' appointments and a better system to process referral letters.

Central & North West London FT's mental health projects:

Phone number for crisis support: Work is in progress to improve the number of service users with a phone number for crisis contact and to monitor patient satisfaction with the support provided

Care planning: Service users are being more involved, and more have a written care plan.

Hillingdon Community Health, a service provided by CNWL:

Current aims include::

Reducing medication errors

Successful promotion of breast feeding

Reducing the number of pressure ulcers

Improving diabetic support.

HEALTH MATTERS *(cont.)*

Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals:

Sadly, the judicial review ruling against the public consultation on paediatric heart services was overturned on appeal. What the future holds is now unclear. The Trusts's current priorities include improving advice to patients about their medication, improving communication about tests and treatments and increasing the focus on achieving optimum outcomes from treatment.

London Ambulance Service (LAS) priorities:

Last year's priorities included training in mental health for front-line staff, reports to GPs when falls were treated without hospital attendance and a quality dashboard with 44 indicators offering comparison with other ambulance services – LAS came top for 13 and in the upper quartile for 22 indicators. Priorities this year are mental health, diabetes, alcohol and the Olympics.

Our local NHS planning and commissioning structure:

London is divided into sectors with Hillingdon in NHS North West London. Planning responsibilities are gradually transferring from Primary Care Trusts to the new Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). CCGs, led by GPs, are in shadow form until full authorisation, expected April 2013, when PCTs cease to exist. The CCGs of Brent, Ealing, Harrow and Hillingdon now form the Outer NW London collaborative group.

Hillingdon's NHS services are influenced by national and regional factors:

Strengthening of Health Visitors is a national priority. NHS NW London may close three of the sector's five A&E departments, but fortunately Hillingdon and Northwick Park services are not threatened. The Outer NW London CCGs, in co-operation with health services providers, are developing an Integrated Care Pilot, with an initial focus on the Elderly and Diabetes pathways, with pulmonary disease and heart disease later.

Future plans will also be influenced by local NHS themes, which are:

To provide easy access to high quality primary services, e.g. 111 telephone advice 12 hours a day, 7 days a week., which is now operational in Hillingdon.
To meet urgent needs promptly, e.g. enhanced rapid response teams.
To manage long-term conditions, e.g. the frail, elderly; diabetics; end of life care.
To manage hospital discharge better, e.g. supported discharge into good care.
To simplify pathways: e.g. better referral from GPs; shift services closer to home.

HISTORY: THE VILLAGE POST OFFICE *(continued from page 9)*

very popular and speedy means of communication.

The Post Office was of great social benefit, enabling people to maintain contact with absent friends and relatives – young girls away in service for example and the ability to put money into the Savings Bank encouraged thrift.

Times have changed and we have quicker and easier means of communication, but the sight of the postman in the street and the plop of a letter falling through the letter box still brings a throb of anticipatory pleasure.



Ruislip's earliest post offices pictured between 1919-21. William Phillips first post master (part time) lived in the end cottages (Crookalls in the photograph). Daniel Barrenger, John Howard and William Riddle ran the post office successively from the cottage with the shop front. From 1897 to 1907, Mr Puddick's post office was in the white building in the middle of the picture beside The Swan.

Go to page 23 to see the present day version!!

54 St Margarets Road - We are supporting local residents concerns over the proposed redevelopment of this site, which is to convert the existing bungalow to a two storey dwelling with habitable roof-space as well as a single storey rear extension. Apart from impacting unfavourably on the existing street scene, the proposal is considered to be overdevelopment and to pay scant regard to the interests of immediate neighbours. A petition is to be raised to be presented to the North Planning Committee when the application comes up for decision. Work already in hand on site has been halted in the mean time.

5-9 Pembroke Road - The proposal is for a change of use of ground and first floor to house a nursery. In common with near neighbours the site is considered inappropriate for such a purpose. For the accommodation of 90 children and 27 cars there appears to be a lack of secure amenity/play area space and no direct connection between floors. Drop off and pick up points would be restricted by parked vehicles and busy through traffic. A planning decision is still awaited.

5-7 Kingsend - The houses on this site are owned by Waitrose and are currently boarded up and in disrepair. After many months of inactivity it appears that there are now proposals afoot to refurbish these properties and put them up for sale. We look forward to such a positive outcome.

48 High Street (Post Office) - A new planning application has been submitted for the creation of 4 studio flats and 1 one bedroom self-contained flat, involving a first floor rear extension and raising of the ground floor roof to the rear. The proprietors of the post office store have recently installed new external signs displaying the brand "NISA" with a smaller reference to the Post Office. There is concern that this may have been done without prior consultation or planning permission and this has been taken up with the local authority planners (*see page 23*).

Lyon Court & 28-30 Pembroke Road - There is a new amended application in from the developers, which is for the provision of 61 residential units. A copy of the revised plans has been requested so that a decision can be made as to whether anything further needs to be done. An objection was made on 9th March.

National Planning Policy Framework - The Government has published a final version of this framework which places great emphasis on Local Plans, in our case the Local Development Framework (LDF). As mentioned in the last issue of the Town Crier, Hillingdon has already submitted their draft document for approval.

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD (cont.)

Ruislip Lions & Ruislip Operatic Society Open Air Performance Saturday 14th July POP PICNIC PARTY

A Celebration of 60's & 70's music to be held in the Manor Farm Courtyard
Tickets £12, Children £8, Family ticket £35, rising to £13, £8.50, £40 on the 1st July

Box Office: 07806 766993

Gates open at 5.00pm, bring your picnic

Show starts at 7.00pm.

Ruislip Lions present THE BIG CHRIS BARBER BAND

Friday 14th September 2012 in the Winston Churchill Theatre Tickets £21.00

Box Office: 01895 634743

Ruislip Lions ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday 15th December 2012 at the Winston Churchill Theatre

Tickets : £12.00, Children £8.00

Box Office: 07806 766993

Age UK Hillingdon

Did you know that **we** now offer an advice and information service in Ruislip?
Situating to the rear of our retail shop at **105 High Street**, we are able to offer information and advice to older people, their relatives and carers. We can also advise on the range of practical home services offered and provide information on our clubs and activities.

Friends of St Martin's Summer Festival 15th to 17th June

Friends of St Martin's is holding a Summer Festival with a series of events to appeal to all ages. A tea dance, art display, young people's dance exhibition and evening concert of 17th and 18th century music, are among the attractions and the church will be open throughout with a Festival of Flowers, and a plant sale at the weekend. Funds raised during the festival will help to support the work of the church by preserving this beautiful historic building for future generations. Full details in the Activities page at www.stmartins-ruislip.org

Jubilee Chair



Post Office



What do you think of this? Comments please to:
towncrier@ruislipresidents.org.uk

Ruislip Residents' Association have celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by donating a chair to Ruislip Manor Library in Linden Avenue. The chair was presented to the library's Manager, Sandra Kendall, by members of the Association's committee.

Woods Festival - 13th May



Springtime

