

SUMMER AROUND RUISLIP

Mayor Shirley Harper-O'Neill is congratulated for winning the standing on a skateboard medal during the **skateboard park's 5th anniversary "jam"**. (see p 5)



Sunday, 6th September, was the day to **Help the Heroes**. All sorts completed sponsored laps around Ruislip Lido and, with other attractions on Willow Lawn, including a bouncy castle and a display of military vehicles, more than £13,000 was raised for the charity. Well done everybody!



Harrumph!...why didn't anyone tell me I had to do running? Better take my tie off...

Despite the very serious intent behind the event, a good time was had by all. And when someone shouted "the pub's open", well, the race was on!



...you wait years for Mr Right, then two proposals come along at once!



Pictures courtesy of Michael Nolan



...and this is me when I was 6...



Ruislip Residents' Association

TOWN CRIER

The Voice of Ruislip Residents
September 2009



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Summer Around Ruislip

It may have only been a day or two, but when the summer appeared, didn't we make the most of it! The Lido, the beach and its water playground (pictured) could easily have been mistaken for a coastal resort! And there were visitors from all over, not just Ruislip. How wonderful it would be to bring the lake back into safe leisure use.

Take a look at the back cover for more of what went on around Ruislip this summer. Ah well! It'll soon enough be next year.....

This year your Ruislip Residents' Association will have been serving our community (not the same committee I assure you!) for 90 years.

Ruislip Residents' Association
General Meeting & Open Forum
Monday 19th October 2009 at 7.45pm
Winston Churchill Hall
Guest Speaker: Sqn. Ldr. Richard Willis

We encourage you to come to hear Sqn. Ldr. Richard Willis, Media & Communications Officer, RAF Northolt / Uxbridge talk on "Recent Developments at RAF Northolt". There have been very great changes on this site over the last few years that are now approaching conclusion, with massive expenditure. It will be interesting to hear what we are getting for our money and to ask questions.

It is hoped that our MP, Nick Hurd, will also be on-hand to say a few words and take questions. This will depend on business in the House on the day.

There will then be an "OPEN FORUM". We expect that some of our local Councillors will be present together with members of your committee. This is your chance to ask questions on matters affecting planning, health, traffic, transport, police, etc.
[Light refreshments will be available]

APPEAL TO MEMBERS
from the Chairman and your Committee

Tell us how we are doing!

At present we primarily concentrate on planning applications, health, traffic, police and green spaces, but we would like to know **what really matters to you?**

What would bring you to **your General Meetings?** We have three per year – average attendance 60 – from a membership of well over 3,000 homes.

Where are you?

Is the day inconvenient (meetings often held on a Monday)?

How could we improve the content or format of our meetings?

Who would you like to hear speak, answer questions and on what topics?

Please respond by returning the completed back page portion or emailing us on feedback@ruislipresidents.org.uk

APPEAL TO MEMBERS



Which day(s) would you usually be available to attend a general meeting:

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

Which are your top three local topics/issues

(1)

(2)

(3)

Thinking about local issues, who would you be most likely to attend a meeting to hear speak or to answer questions. Please list your top three.

(1)

(2)

(3)

Any other suggestions or comments (please use separate sheet if needed)

Have you paid your subscription this year?
Why not send it now, with your response.

Return to Hon. Secretary (see address page 3) or email us on feedback@ruislipresidents.org.uk



NHS Hillingdon

New Chairman

Hillingdon PCT is now known as NHS Hillingdon. Mike Robinson has been seconded to The Hillingdon Hospital NH Trust as Interim Chairman and Mike Whitlam is now Interim Chairman of NHS Hillingdon.



Mike Robinson

PCT Commissioning

2009-2010 commissioning has been based on 2008-2009 activity, but A&E plus Urgent Care Centre attendances are up by 16% in the first 15 weeks compared with last year. The PCT is studying why patients attend the Urgent Care Centre, rather than their GP.

Two new systems are now established to encourage provision of out-of-hospital services. The Referral Management Centre processes 40,000 GP referrals annually, sending patients to a community or hospital service or back to their GP. The Clinical Assessment and Treatment Service in dermatology offers quicker consultant appointments in the community, including Saturdays – but other CATS have not yet been launched. These initiatives have not led to financial savings.

Hillingdon PCT is one of eight PCTs forming the new NW London Commissioning Partnership, which will commission for 1.85m people. It expects to improve healthcare and to use its size to reduce costs by about 15%. However, PCTs will retain legal responsibility for local NHS performance.

National Targets

In 2008-09 Hillingdon PCT failed national targets for Chlamydia, staff satisfaction, and teenage pregnancy. It under-achieved for stroke, dental access, early intervention services, primary care access, cardiovascular mortality and childhood immunisation. The ambulance response times target was failed too.

Balanced Scorecard – all GPs can assess their own performance

This benchmarks GP practices on a range of measures in detail. Four key areas are currently used - chronic disease indicators (diabetes, heart disease + palliative care) / accessibility (open hours + appointments) / clinical cost effectiveness of prescribing (statins + other drugs) / quality clinical outcomes (cervical screening, child immunisations, flu and pneumonia vaccinations). 25 of Hillingdon's 49 GP practices were rated as having poor access.

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OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE OF YOUR RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Officers		Committee	
Chairman:	Peter Lansdown	Peter O'Brien	Sue Seagroatt
Vice-Chairman:	Joan Davis	Elma Hutton	Mike Hodge
Treasurer:	John Perkins	Ian Cantley	Ivor John
Secretary:	Penny Rutherford	Keith Allsopp	John Williams
Chief Road Steward:	Brian Cowley	vacancy	vacancy
Deputy Ch. Rd. Stwd.	vacancy	vacancy	vacancy

Contact us:

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

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

RUISLIP CHRISTMAS EVENT Monday 23rd to Saturday 28th November

The Ruislip Chamber is pleased to announce a week-long event to get Christmas off to the best possible start!

For the children - once again there will be a treasure hunt for children up to 11 years of age with some super prizes to be won. The treasure hunt will start on Monday 23rd November and continue right through to Saturday evening 28th November giving everyone a chance to enter. Entry forms will be with local primary schools and many High Street shops.

Saturday sees the arrival of Santa who will be greeting children in his Grotto inside John Sanders. For the very small children there will be a number of rides along the High Street and as dusk falls the Christmas lights will be fully on for the first time.

For the adults - many of the shops will be giving away tickets with purchases during the week to win super prizes, watch out in the High Street for more information nearer the time. Someone is going to have a very **Happy Christmas!**



VICTORIA ROAD CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Christmas Lights in Victoria Road, Ruislip Manor will be switched on at 4.30pm on 14th November by the Mayor, Cllr. Shirley Harper-O'Neill.

During the day the Christmas spirit and entertainment etc will start at 11.00am and finish at 6.00pm. There will be many trade, charity and information stalls, children's fairground rides, dancing, choirs, various displays in the library and a fancy dress competition. A variety of international cuisine will be on sale together with the usual hot dogs and hamburgers. (RMCC)

MAKING A DIFFERENCE DAY

On Sunday 31st October, volunteers are needed for planting wild flower bulbs alongside the River Pinn, High Road Eastcote. Nick Hurd, our MP, is heading the project and arranging funding. For details email: lesley.crowcroft@tiscali.co.uk

HEALTH MATTERS (Joan Davis)

No ambulance station in Ruislip?

Members will recall that Ruislip has lacked an ambulance station for many years but that planning permission was given to build one behind shops in Pembroke Road. In the absence of any activity, the Community Voice wrote several times to the London Ambulance Service seeking an update, to no effect. Finally, it asked Hillingdon LINK to use its statutory powers and subsequently the Hillingdon LINK Officer reported that:

"I have spoken to Margaret Vander of the London Ambulance Service regarding plans for a permanent station for ambulances in Ruislip. The need for a permanent ambulance station has been obviated by a change in deployment approach, instigated two years ago. The LAS now deploy roving ambulances across the borough, as well as cycle and car paramedic teams. Teams are sited at spots where research shows that accidents and incidents are most likely to occur, and provide a fast response coverage across the borough."

Is this a satisfactory response? Originally the Community Voice was working with LAS to help it find a site but when the LAS changed its strategy it treated local people with disdain. Even now we have only a verbal message through an intermediary.

tients for the changes. We are assured that the excellent standard of nursing care at Mount Vernon will be maintained for these patients in their new homes. There will be no staff redundancies, but change is change and can be daunting.

Mount Vernon Car Parking

Up to now car parking at Mount Vernon has cost a flat fee of £2.70 per visit. From some time in September a new "Pay and Display" system is to be introduced with variable fees related to time and clamping as the ultimate deterrent for those who fail to pay. Up to 30 minutes will cost £1, then fees rise in steps up to £3.30 between 2 hours and 10 hours, then £6 for up to 24 hours – a scale of fees matching the charges at Hillingdon Hospital.

The Community Voice, of which Ruislip Residents' Association is a member, protested about the new system to David McVittie, Chief Executive, but he sent reassurances that in a similar system at the back of Hillingdon Hospital no patient or visitor who purchased a ticket and was then delayed in the hospital had been clamped in the past year and that clampers are briefed to be considerate to patients and visitors. The main car park at Hillingdon Hospital operates a pay on exit system but the charges will, from September, be similar in all the Trust's car parks.

The Hillingdon Hospital Trust

Firstly money

The Trust ended July with a surplus of £269k and it now forecasts ending the financial year next March with a surplus of £1.65m. So, it expects to meet its statutory requirement to break even, and to meet the requirements of NHS London. However, the Trust expected and wanted to have a bigger surplus, to allow greater flexibility if problems arise. Why are its profits down? Inpatient activity was low in July, operating costs continued to grow at a faster rate than income and planned efficiency savings were not achieved. To combat these issues and to meet the cost of paying for the new Mount Vernon Treatment Centre, the Board resolved to reduce use of agency staff and to avoid working outside normal hours.

Infections? Mortality rates?

Good news on both these issues – at the end of July the Trust had had only two MRSA bacteraemia cases since 1st April, so it was well within its annual target of maximum 12 cases and its standard mortality rate of 69.5 was way below the average of 100 for hospitals in England.

Children's services

An action plan is in place to address training problems highlighted by the

recent Care Quality Commission Review. Additional training for staff treating children outside the main paediatric area is being introduced and also more training in paediatric pain management. Changes are being made to ensure that consultants have appropriate volumes of paediatric activity to maintain skills and expertise.

European Working time Directive

The requirement for junior doctors to work no more than 48 hours per week has now been met. This was achieved only by recruiting an additional orthopaedic Senior House Officer and by a dispensation that two General Surgery rotas be allowed to work up to 52 hours per week.

Mount Vernon Hospital

Daniels Ward, a continuing care ward for long-stay patients is to be closed. Some staff members have worked there for over 20 years and some patients have been there for many years too, so the prospect of change is traumatic for all of them. However, this is one of the few old fashioned wards still open in this country and it has been long overdue for closure. It is hoped that long-stay patients will benefit from more appropriate surroundings and we are promised that great care will be taken to involve relatives in selection of appropriate nursing homes and to prepare the pa-

As you will be only too well aware, there are a number of on-going house building projects in Ruislip, which together add up to over 1000 new homes. The four major sites in, or abutting, our area are RAF Eastcote, RAF West Ruislip, Bishop Ramsey Lower School and Mill Works in Bury Street.

When one considers the numerous other developments of around 14 units each and the already inhabited apartments in Kingsend and Pembroke Road, this will put an enormous strain on the local services of health, education, traffic, police, etc.

Your committee is very concerned about the apparent lack of strategic planning by the London Borough of Hillingdon to take account of these changes. In the immediate future, traffic is a particular problem. Our roads are already becoming clogged without the imminent very significant increase from the above new residents. And looking outside the area covered by your Association, developments at RAF Northolt and in Ducks Hill Road can only exacerbate the situation.

If members wish us to get further involved with this, we need your help. Please contact me with your thoughts and offers of support (peter.lansdown@btinternet.com).

On a brighter note, the skateboard park last month celebrated its fifth anniversary with a "Jam"! This took the form of a number of competitions for BMX riders and skateboarders. The event was opened by the Mayor and it was a very successful afternoon. So much so that it may become an annual happening. The RRA sponsored the event, covering the insurance cost. Janice Andrews worked very hard with the organisation, helped by Andy Fyfe and some of the boys.

Metropolitan Line

New trains will be introduced next year. They will have 30% fewer seats than the current trains, which means a loss of over 1,000 seats at peak times. London Underground promised more trains and faster journey times when the new trains entered service, but this now seems unlikely. A new signalling system is needed first, and that is at least four years away.

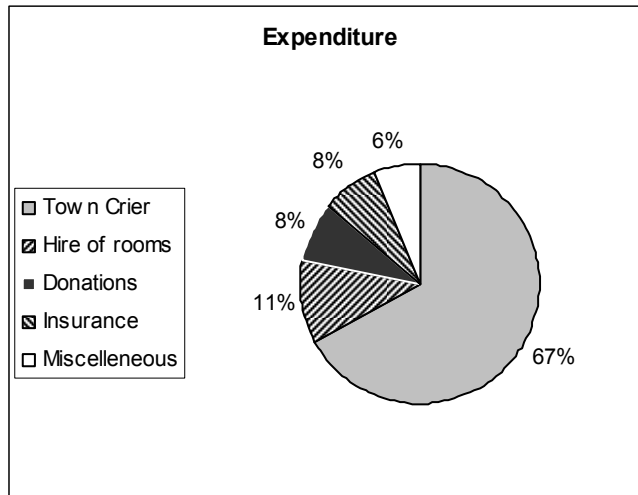
The Mayor of London has deferred disabled accessibility work at Harrow-on-the Hill station, which was due to start in 2010. Other similar projects along the line have been put on hold.

The Association is represented on the Federation of Metropolitan Line Users' Committees, which meets regularly with Metropolitan Line managers.

(Peter O'Brien)

TREASURER'S REPORT *(John Perkins)*

Our expenditure in the present year is expected to be in the region of £6,000. As shown in the chart below two thirds of this is in respect of our 'new look' magazine which has proved most popular.



Assuming that our membership remains at the 2008 level (3,354) we will have 2009 income of approximately £5,000 which will result in a £1,000 deficit for the year.

However, we have reserves of over £8,000 which will amply cover this small deficit.

For 2010 it has been agreed that subscriptions are increased by 50p to £2 with a £1.00 concessionary rate. Provided that we can maintain our membership we should have a surplus in the region of £500 for next year.

Many Road Stewards who have given invaluable service over the years are now retiring. As a result the collection of subscriptions is becoming more difficult. If you have any spare time and are prepared to deliver our magazine to neighbours, however few, three times per year and to collect annual subscriptions, our President and Chief Road Steward, Brian Cowley, would be most pleased to hear from you.

Treasurer Required

Our Treasurer, John Perkins, after 10 years in the job, has given notice that he will be leaving the Committee in December, at the end of the current financial year. We need a volunteer to replace him.

If you are interested, please contact our Chairman, Peter Lansdown on 01895 623355, or e-mail peter.lansdown@btinternet.com.

PLANNING MATTERS *(John Williams & Mike Hodge)*

Ashill Developments have acquired the old **EMI factory at Mill Works, Bury Street** and are proposing to build 84 homes. They have recently arranged consultation meetings with local residents and your Association. We understand that as a result of the comments received Ashill are making some modifications to the scheme, including a slight reduction in the number of homes. Following further consultations Ashill expect to submit a planning application in late September.

Following the refusal of an application earlier this year **Ruislip Baptist Church in Manor Way** is now applying for a part two storey, part single storey side and rear extension involving demolition of rear and side elements of the existing building.

In the **High Street** decisions are awaited on Ablethird's proposal to move the Amusement Arcade from Nos **70 - 80** and at Nos **56-58** KFC's revised application for new shop front sign.

Appeals have been lodged against the Council's refusal for development at **173 West End Road** and **157 - 161 High Street**.

In both cases we have written to the Planning Inspectorate supporting the Council's decision.

100 Sharps Lane: A retrospective planning application to retain a single storey self-contained flat where we supported residents' concerns was refused under delegated powers by the local authority and the decision notice issued on 23 July.

16 and 18 Kingsend: An application to convert existing dwellings to provide 3x1 bedroom and 8x2 bedroom flats was refused by local authority planners on 27 August.

157-161 High Street: An appeal attended by your Association was heard by the Planning Inspector on 26 August in respect of the Council's refusal of a proposed new development for 13 residential units fronting onto Pembroke Road. The inspector's decision is expected within the next week or two.

Did you Know ?

A problem with your neighbour's high hedge?

Help could be at hand. Under recent legislation the Council can now act as a mediator or adjudicator in disputes between neighbours where an evergreen hedge obstructs light or a view. Full details of the scheme are available from the Council's Trees and Landscape Team at the Civic Centre.

HISTORY: RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION 1919-2009

left of Copse Wood, and Mad Bess Wood was purchased for public use in 1936 – the latter by Compulsory Purchase Order. The Association prompted negotiations that led to the acquisition of the Lido by RNUDC in 1951 to prevent its exploitation by commercial interests and opposed similar threats in the early 1990s.

Manor Farm has recently been beautifully restored, after much work by the Manor Farm Working Party (set up in 1993) on which representatives of local societies sat.

Early Twenty-first century: the Garden Suburb under threat

It is ironic that ninety years on, the whole concept of the Garden Suburb - attractively-designed houses with gardens standing in tree-lined streets, in-

terspersed and surrounded by open spaces to provide healthy living conditions - should be suffering a sustained onslaught from developers. Houses with gardens where children can play in safety and large enough to grow fruit and vegetables, in King's End, Sharps Lane, Wood Lane and Pembroke Road, are being replaced by flats, and incorporating the much-vaunted 'landscaped' car park.

The Association, along with some councillors and other groups, has been working to modify the effect of this trend upon suburban Ruislip and recently helped to promote the extension of the Ruislip Village Conservation Area to include the roads between the High Street, Sharps Lane and Wood Lane to protect the early Twentieth century vision of Ruislip as a semi-rural/semi-urban idyll.

Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society Lecture programme 2009 – 2010		
Meetings held at St Martin's Church Hall, 8:15pm. Visitors welcome.		
19 October	The More: Cardinal Wolsey's Palace, Rickmansworth	Heather Falvey History Researcher
16 November	Whitefriars Glass: a Concise History	Mike Beech WG Researcher/Collector
21 December	Ian Tait's Ruislip in the 1920s	Eileen Bowlt Chairman RNELHS
18 January	40 Years at Kodak	Tony Earle Kodak R & D Scientist
15 February	Researching Manor Farm	Geraint Franklin English Heritage

WARRENDER SCHOOL *(Paul Lake, Head Teacher)*

Warrender School has made excellent progress this year. In terms of teaching and learning, children's well-being and their spiritual development, we have worked hard to improve the quality of our provision.

Assessment

We have been working very hard on the way we assess children's progress. From Y1 to Y6 teachers are using the national *Assessing Pupils' Progress* scheme (APP) to highlight every child's achievements and identify the next steps they need to make in reading, writing and maths. Learning targets from this process are shared with the children every term, and are discussed with parents at our termly Parent Consultations.

Last term's Annual School Review report from the Hillingdon inspection team stated:

The school has made good progress here, with systematic records and evidence set up for each year group. The Headteacher has implemented a very effective system of monitoring.

Our excellent work has been recognised by Hillingdon, who have appointed us a *Lead Assessment School*. This means we will be supported next year in extending our own work and in working with other schools to develop their assessment systems.

Quality of teaching

We support our teachers in constantly trying to develop new skills, and teachers are observed by myself or Mrs Tucker each term. This year's observations show over 75% of lessons graded as good or above. Last term's Annual School Review report said:

The overall grade for teaching is Good from the current observation evidence.

Spirituality

We organised assemblies from a variety of faith groups during Community Week, and I have also made a useful link with Father Lawrence from Bishop Ramsey School. In addition, Miss Miranda – who leads RE for the school – has worked with a Religious Education advisor to review and improve our RE curriculum – a brand new scheme of work will be launched with the children in September.

Children's well-being

In April we achieved national *Healthy School* status: this has involved a wide range of consultation with children, parents and the local community to ensure our children are happy and healthy. We have established a wide range of initiatives to support children's well-being

This is impressive progress in less than a year: it is the result of a great deal of effort on the part of our staff and children.

HISTORY: RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION 1919-2009

Ninety years serving the community.
by Eileen M. Bowlt

The Ruislip Residents' Association was inaugurated in February 1919 as the Ruislip & Eastcote Association. Eastcote residents formed their own group in 1930. It seems scarcely credible that 30 years have passed since I first wrote in the October 1979 Town Crier about the early years of the Association to celebrate its 60th birthday. There was another essay in February 1994 for the 75th anniversary. I still believe that the saving of the woods and Manor Farm is the Association's greatest achievement.

Early 20th century: Garden Suburb

The Association was formed in February 1919, as life was just beginning to return to normal after the Great War. The Provost and Scholars of King's College, Cambridge, who were Lords of the Manor, were determined to continue the development of Ruislip as a Garden Suburb, as laid down in the College's detailed Town Planning Scheme for their demesne lands, in 1910. The demesne consisted of Copse Wood, Park Wood and Manor Farm, the lands of which extended south almost to Northolt Junction (now South Ruislip Station) and pasture land called Wythycrofts between Ickenham Road and Wood Lane. Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council's Town Plan of 1914, covered the whole

UDC area and set the King's College Plan at its heart.

'Ancients' and 'Squatters'

By 1919 the total population of the Urban District was some 9,500, mostly resident in Northwood where development had started in 1887, following the opening of the Metropolitan Line Station. Of the 4000 living in Ruislip and Eastcote, some 3000 were newcomers, living in roads built on the Park and King's End estates, and around Eastcote and Northolt Junction Stations between 1906 and 1914.

These 'squatters', who 'ran to the station each morning with the shaving lather still on their faces', had well and truly swamped the 'ancients', the surviving rural inhabitants. It is quite clear from early minute books that it was the squatters who had formed and were running the Association in pursuit of their own interests – beautiful and spacious houses, rural charm, tranquillity and fresh air, within easy reach of Town. What did the natives think of these immigrants who had irrevocably changed the old way of life? Some accepted the changes unquestioningly. Others embraced the expansion of their horizon in the way of better education and the opportunity to work elsewhere. Those hay dealers, wood dealers, smallholders and farm labour-

HISTORY: RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION 1919-2009

ers, who saw their jobs gradually disappear as land was swallowed up by builders, were less happy. Farmers, some of whom owned their farms, were also displaced, but compensated to some extent by the money they received from developers.

Unification (or absorption) by 1935

The Advertiser and Gazette (3 May 1935) remarked that 'the relationship between the "squatters" and the "ancients" was put on a happy basis, largely through the agency of the Ruislip Association'. The 'ancients' had been absorbed into suburban life and by 1935 shared the aspirations of the dominant group. The young village women had found work as maids (often living-in) at houses in King's End, Church Avenue, King Edward's Road and even in more modestly-sized houses like the first Prowting house in Howletts Lane, built in 1912. Their mothers worked as chars and did laundry and sewing for the newcomers. There was so much domestic work available that girls from depressed areas, such as Wales and the North-East also came to Ruislip. In his book 'Flutes of Autumn', Peter Levy fondly remembered the Rigg sisters from South Shields who ran the Levy household at 63 King's End. Building sites in West End Road and south of the railway line were constant sources of employment for the men.

Changing concerns – 'improvement' to 'conservation'

At first the Association had concentrated on improving urban amenities - cheaper gas from Pinner Gas Company, electricity from Northwood Electric Company and water from the Colne Valley Water Company - local businesses which the Association hoped to be able to influence. Residents were concerned about damage to trees and shrubs, heavy lorries on the High Street, the state of the flower beds at Ruislip Station. They particularly desired 'a proper Post Office' to replace the one at Hailey's shop (now Blubecker's). The present building dates from 1926, but in 2009 events have turned full circle and the post office has been relegated once again to the back of a shop!

The Town Planners had intended to sweep away the whole of Manor Farm and the old cottages at the end of the High Street, despite featuring them in advertising literature meant to attract buyers, and build throughout Park and Copse Woods. The sudden felling of elm trees bordering the High Street in 1927, prior to a Prowting development, galvanised the Association into more militant action, which ended in the preservation of Park Wood and the handing over of Manor Farm to the people of Ruislip in 1932. What was