

Ruislip Residents' Association **TOWN CRIER**

September 2015

www.ruislipresidents.org.uk



Boris Johnson

News from our new MP



A Tale of Two Great Barns

by Eileen Bowlit

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Editorial

Painting the Forth Bridge...

The work of a Residents' Association is never done. Just when you think you have solved one problem, another crops up to replace it. All you can do is try and keep on top of it all. Ruislip Manor has had a lot of work done and it is now looking a lot better, but recently I took a long hard look at Ruislip High Street and decided it needs some work. The pavement has not been well maintained and needs work, some of the shopfronts are pretty awful and many of the upper storeys have not been redecorated in many years. The High Street is a conservation area and really should look better, especially given the huge rents that the building owners are charging the shops!

I had hoped to hand over the editorship of *Town Crier* by now, but sadly my replacement has had to withdraw, so I am back at square one. If anyone knows *Adobe InDesign* and would like to volunteer to help with preparing the *Town Crier*, please contact me. We have a template which makes putting the magazine together reasonably straightforward.

Graham Bartram

Graham Bartram, Editor Pro Tem

Please note that the views expressed in articles in the Town Crier are those of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Ruislip Residents' Association.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Jaqueline Bolton

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Brian Gunn

CONSERVATION

Paul Mitchell

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Graham Bartram

EDUCATION

Susan Midgley

RAF NORTHOLT LIAISON

Peter Lansdown

ENVIRONMENT

Christine Andrews

RUISLIP LIDO

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HEALTH

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RUISLIP RETAIL AREA

Pamela Edwards

MANOR RETAIL AREA

Joan Davis

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Vivien Alcorn

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TRAFFIC & PARKING

Brian Cowley

MINUTES SECRETARY

Patricia Wardle

WEBSITE

John Swindells

PLANNING

Mike Hodge

WOODLANDS

Vacant

FRIENDS OF EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDEN

www.eastcotehousegardens.weebly.com

Eastcote House Volunteer Gardeners meet on the 1st Friday, 2nd Friday and 3rd Thursday of every month, at 9.30am.

Everyone welcome - tools and refreshments provided - no experience necessary.

Meet in the car park at Eastcote House Gardens.

Gardening dates: September 4th, 11th, 17th; October 2nd, 9th, 15th;
November 6th, 11th 19th; December 4th, 11th, 17th.

Conservation dates: September 24th, October 22nd, November 26th.

Open House: September 20th; Tree Dressing: November 28th.

HILLINGDON DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY

Lecture Programme Late 2015

Wednesdays at 2.00pm, Winston Churchill Hall - admission £6 to non-members

9 September	AGM & The Art of the American Civil War	Tricha Passes
14 October	Past Imperfect: Why World War II art looting is still an issue today	Shauna Isaac
9 December	Three Wise Men: Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh – traditions of the Magi	Christopher Bradley
13 January	The Power of Jewellery: Adornment and Ritual from Prehistory to the Present	Judy Rudoe

RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD & EASTCOTE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Lecture Programme 2015

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

21 September	From Shillibeer to Borismaster: The Story of the London Bus	John Wagstaff London HA
19 October	Rogers of Eastcote House: An 18th Century Lady of Property	Eileen Bowl RNELHS

Chairman's Message

RRA



Summer is well and truly underway, a typical British Summer with hot sunny days, followed by torrential downpours and flooding! Oh well, at least it isn't snowing...

We have had success with our appeal for new people to join the Executive Committee: Paul Mitchell has agreed to take on the Conservation portfolio, Brian Gunn is now our Police Liaison and Christine Andrews is our new Environment person. I welcome all three to our Executive and hope they enjoy their work there.

HS2 goes ever onwards, like some awful Juggernaut. The Select Committee appears to have rejected our request for a tunnel extension to the M25, so it looks as if we will have to petition to the House of Lords Select Committee, if the bill gets that far. Several Ruislip people had a meeting with HS2 Ltd in July to discuss a serious discrepancy in the information HS2 Ltd provided residents about the tunnel we are getting. It turns out that the tunnel is nowhere near as deep as we had been led to believe. First the depth was measured to the track level, not the top of the tunnel, then it was measured from

the top of the embankment, not people's gardens. It turns out one tunnel goes under the railway embankment and the other is under the land just to the north of it, often people's gardens and sheds. Even given these two "misunderstandings" HS2 Ltd could not make the sum add up and appear to have lost the odd metre or two!

Council consultations are something that have come up recently with many residents unhappy with the way these are publicised and carried out. The matter has been raised with the Council's Head of Democratic Services, but apparently it is up to each department to organise its own consultations, so there is no central expertise on how to do it well, and no one to complain to if it does not work. We will be taking this up with the Council in the coming months, both as RRA and as members of the Hillingdon Association of Residents' Associations (HARA).

Sainsbury's in Ruislip High Street and the ASDA and cinema in South Ruislip should start construction in the coming weeks.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our meeting in October (see the back page), but in the meantime if you see me on the High Street feel free to stop me for a chat! ♦

Graham Bartram, Chairman, ☎ 01895 673310

Boris Johnson MP

Our MP for Manor Ward



I was thrilled to have played a part in getting the HS2 tunnel under South Ruislip. I remember the genuine anguish on the faces of residents

as they contemplated the horror ahead - their apple trees demolished and a giant train howling through their back gardens. A tunnel was right and necessary.

So it is very disappointing that we were not able to persuade the HS2 committee to go for a further tunnel extension underneath the Colne Valley, and I will be joining my friend and colleague Nick Hurd in fighting for further mitigation - protecting HOAC and minimising the damage done by the "exit wound".

Whether as Chair of TfL or MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip I take the same view: the HS2 is not acceptable in current form either for London or for the rest of the country.

In the meantime we are pushing on with all the projects that will help to take the

area forward, and on which I campaigned in my manifesto:

- ◆ Helping Hillingdon Hospital with their plans for modernisation.
- ◆ Delivering further improvements to high streets in the area.
- ◆ Protecting green space from inappropriate development.
- ◆ Looking at ways to improve the local bus services.

It is a real pleasure to work with the councillors of Hillingdon, who in my view set an example to the rest of London - providing excellent services at the lowest possible council tax. That is what sensible *One Nation* government should be all about. ◆

So far I have held six advice surgeries, and visited businesses and schools and social enterprises all over the constituency. It is a real privilege to be your MP - and please do not hesitate to get in touch with my office if you think I may be able to help:

✉ boris.johnson.mp@parliament.uk

☎ 020 7219 4682

🐦 [@borisjohnson](https://twitter.com/borisjohnson)

Nick Hurd MP

From our MP for the West & East Ruislip Wards

Ruislip residents will share my deep disappointment at last month's decision by the HS2 Select Committee not to look further at a tunnel extension. I argued alongside Hillingdon Council, that the Committee did not have good enough information to assess the true cost of a tunnel, compared to the viaduct. More work needed to be done, not least because HS2's numbers were dodgy and incomplete. That continues to be my belief.

Our petitions have not been in vain though. The Committee have accepted our argument that more needs to be done to mitigate the horrendous impact from construction on the area. They want to look at options around the railhead. They are not convinced by HS2's plans for traffic. They want to see a solution for HOAC. All this is welcome in pushing HS2 to improve their plans, and we must see what emerges. However it feels like a poor compromise compared to the cleanest solution of a tunnel.

I continue to oppose the current HS2 plans. As I have stated for well over a year now, I will vote against HS2 at the next

stage if we do not get a credible mitigation solution. Frankly, I am now less optimistic that we will be presented with something that is acceptable. However the fight continues. ♦



Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding HS2 or any other matter at:

✉ nick.hurd.mp@parliament.uk

🐦 [@nick-hurdMP](https://twitter.com/nick-hurdMP)

www.nickhurd.com



Nick with members of the HS2 Select Committee during their visit earlier in the year.

A Tale of Two Great Barns

Eileen Bowlt

Historically speaking, Ruislip and Harmondsworth have many similarities. Both have been settled continuously since Saxon times, Harmondsworth somewhat earlier than Ruislip. Both had a priest and therefore presumably a church before 1086 (Domesday Book) and both have a later medieval church surviving. The Harmondsworth church has a Norman door tucked away inside its south porch.

Both places were given to Benedictine Abbeys, Harmondsworth to the Abbey of Holy Trinity at Rouen in 1069 by King William I and Ruislip to the Abbey of Bec c.1087 by Ernulf de Hesdin. Both abbeys established priories on their Middlesex properties. Being owned by French monks, both became Alien Priories in the mid-14th century when war with France was almost continuous and both finally gave up their English lands. Harmondsworth was sold to William of Wykeham in 1391 and given as an endowment to his newly-established Winchester College. Ruislip passed out of Bec's direct ownership in 1404, and was eventually given to the King's College of St Mary and St Nicholas at Cambridge (King's College) in 1451.

The portion of Ruislip, west of Bury Street, from the top of Mad Bess Wood down to the River Pinn, was excluded from Ernulf de Hesdin's gift to Bec, having previously been granted to Holy Trinity, and being administered as part of Harmondsworth. It was separated physically from the Abbey of Bec's property by the splendid embankment (a bit overgrown at present) that can be traced through Mad Bess Wood, parallel with Bury Street. It is topped by stubbed hornbeam of great age. We know it as St Catherine's Manor, a name that arrived in Ruislip via a somewhat circuitous route. Holy Trinity was popularly known as St Catherine's because it had a finger of St Catherine of Alexandria, to whom the townfolk of Rouen had a great devotion. The forester of Harmondsworth had a moated house called Southcote on the north side of Ladygate Lane and looked after what was then unenclosed wooded waste, known as Westwood.

RUISLIP GREAT BARN

Ruislip Priory seems to have flourished, especially when the Proctor-General was living there in the mid-13th century and

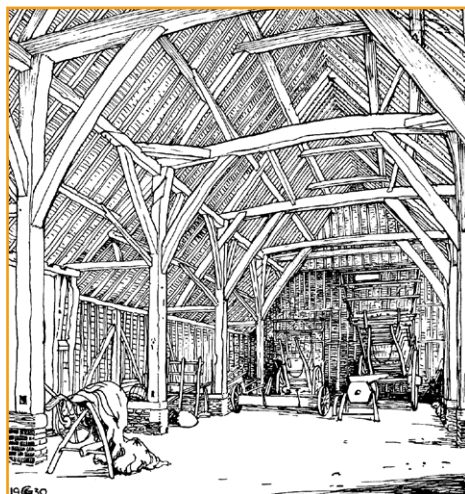
the accounts of all the English manors belonging to Bec, were brought here for the General Audit. The monks grew crops, wheat, peas, beans and some barley on their extensive arable lands running from Eastcote Road to Sharvel Lane on the ridge way beyond the Polish War Memorial. The monks were rectors of Ruislip as well as lords of the manor and were entitled to the Great Tithes (wheat and other crops). Small tithes like eggs and garden produce went to the vicar. So it is no surprise that around 1300 work was begun on a Great Barn, in which to store all this produce. There is one reference to it as the 'great tithing barn', so it may have been intended specifically for the tithe corn.



Ruislip's Great Barn in 2012. The lean-to sheds in the foreground are later additions to the original structure.

There were already barns around the courtyard, but the new one was to be spectacular in quality as well as size. The carpentry has been described by experts as 'King's carpenter' standard because of the complicated types of joints used in

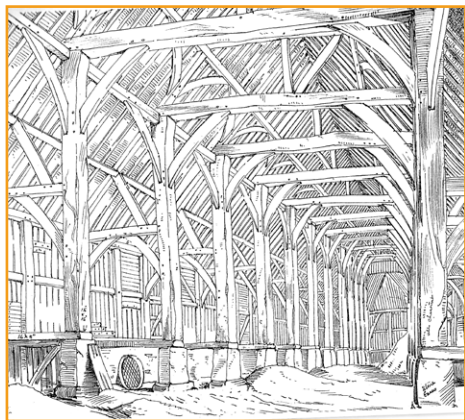
the roof and other techniques like the use of passing braces. It takes the form of a nave with aisles, built in seven bays with a Queen post roof, hipped at both ends. A waggon door in either side allows through passage. It is 120 feet long and 32 feet wide. The timber posts rest on a flint cill, largely repaired with brick over the centuries. The roof was tiled from the start. A tiler is listed in a list of servants of the manor in 1300. Dendrochronological tests on the main posts show that the trees were cut down about 1300. The amount of timber, the number and status of expert workmen involved, could only have been afforded by an institution, such as an abbey or college. Similar, but earlier barns can be seen at Cressing Temple in Essex, owned by the Knights Templar and at Coggeshall, built for an Augustinian Priory.



Edwin Gunn's sketch of the Great Barn's interior in 1930.

HARMONDSWORTH GREAT BARN

In 1424 work began on the Great Barn that still stands (threatened by Heathrow Airport expansion). William Kyppyng, a well-known carpenter, and John atte Oke chose timber, which was floated downstream from Kingston-on-Thames. The work was finished by 1427. As at Ruislip the barn is aisled, but is much bigger, having 12 bays and being 192 feet long. The main posts rest on green sandstone blocks and the plinth beneath the walls is ferrocrete found locally. The roof trusses are King post. The two waggon doors are on the same side and there is a hipped roof.



A sketch of the interior of Harmondsworth's Great Barn.

Ruislip and Harmondsworth continued to be agricultural villages into the Twentieth century. The Great Barn at Ruislip was used for agricultural purposes until 1932 and was saved along with the rest of Manor Farm, by the pertinacity and foresightedness of members of the Ruis-

lip Residents' Association, acting with a sympathetic Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council and helped by the generosity of King's College.

Harmondsworth Barn was used as a farm building until 1973, when the manor was purchased by Wiltshire PLC, who converted other farm buildings into offices, but restored the Great Barn as an ancient monument. The site was offered to both the London Borough of Hillingdon and English Heritage for £1 after the firm went into receivership in 2006. Both declined and it was bought by a speculator hoping to make a killing if Heathrow expansion should include the barn. The barn fell into disrepair and eventually English Heritage took compulsory action, made urgent repairs and eventually bought it for £20,000. It is now being refurbished.



The roof of Harmondsworth Great Barn being restored by English Heritage.

Visit both barns over the Open House weekend, 19-20 September, and see the medieval craftsmanship for yourselves. ♦



Police Points

Inspector Rob Bryan



I would like to take this opportunity to raise crime awareness about a number of crime types that are becoming more and more prevalent:

ADVICE TO PREVENT YOURSELF FROM BECOMING A VICTIM OF CYBER-CRIME

- ◆ Secure your computer by activating your firewall: firewalls are the first line of cyber defence; they block connections to unknown or bogus sites and will keep out some types of viruses and hackers. Use up-to-date anti-virus/malware software - this can help prevent viruses from infecting your computer.
- ◆ Install the latest operating system updates: turn on automatic updates to prevent potential attacks on older software.
- ◆ Avoid being scammed: the majority of viruses are delivered via a false email that asks you to click on a link. These are often malicious and users should not open unsolicited emails. Remember banks and financial institutes will not send you an email asking you to click on a link and confirm your bank details.
- ◆ Use strong passwords: a strong password is one that contains a minimum of 10 characters and is a combination of letters, numbers and special characters. Use different ID/password combinations for different accounts.
- ◆ Be Social-Media Aware: make sure your social networking profiles are set to private and check your security settings.
- ◆ Protect Your Data: make regular backups of all your important data and store it in a separate location. Consider using encryption for essential files.
- ◆ Protect your e-identity: verify the credentials of organisations and people prior to giving out any personal information.
- ◆ When making on-line purchases make sure that the websites you are using are secure. Using public Wi-Fi 'hot spots' can also leave you vulnerable to a cyber attack. Where possible do not use them to conduct financial transactions.
- ◆ Secure your mobile device: Mobile devices can also be vulnerable to hackers and viruses. Ensure all downloads applications are from trusted sources.

DON'T BECOME A VICTIM OF FRAUD

- ◆ Be suspicious of all 'too good to be true' offers and deals. There are no guaranteed get rich-quick schemes.
- ◆ Do not agree to offers or deals immediately. Insist on having sufficient time to obtain independent or legal advice before making a decision.
- ◆ Do not hand over money or sign anything until you have checked the credentials of the company or individual involved.
- ◆ Never send money or give bank or personal details to anyone you do not know or trust (whether in the UK or abroad) or use methods of payment that you are not comfortable with.
- ◆ Never give banking or personal details to anyone you do not know or trust. This information is valuable - make sure that you protect it.
- ◆ Always log on to a website directly rather than clicking on links provided in an email.
- ◆ Always get independent or legal advice if an offer involves money, time or commitment.
- ◆ If you spot a scam or have been scammed, report it and get help. Contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or online at [actionfraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk). Contact the police if the suspect is known or still in the area.
- ◆ Do not be embarrassed to report a scam. Scammers are cunning and clever there is no shame in being deceived.

By reporting you will make it more difficult for them to deceive others.

- ◆ If you receive a suspicious phone call end it immediately. Hang up the phone. In order to clear your line from the scammer, wait at least 5 minutes before making any calls. DO NOT hand over any money or items purchased as a result of this type of phone call.
- ◆ Please be aware of the following:
 1. Your bank will never attend your home,
 2. Your bank and the police will never collect your bank card,
 3. Your bank and the police will never ask for your PIN.

As always, if you want to contact me directly, the quickest way is at:

 rob.bryan@met.police.uk ◆



WARD PANEL REPORT

Brian Gunn, Police Liaison

The West Ruislip Safer Neighbourhood panel met on the 24th June at Ruislip Police station. The Police representative, Sgt Eleanor Charlston, presented the panel with a "crime map" accompanied by a helpful report detailing police activity in the area. We learnt that the neighbourhood police team now consists of Sgt Charlston, PC Helen Low and PCSO Paul Brighton (the latter 2 officers you may already have seen cycling around the area as part of their duties!) The team have been cracking down hard on criminals who have been causing problems for businesses in the High Street - making arrests for theft and drug offences that were detected. As a result I am pleased to report that incidences of theft from High Street businesses have fallen significantly. PC Low has been holding presentations to major stores and providing much needed training for the staff on security awareness.

Also of note is that the incidence of burglary in the area has fallen by 35% - from 17 down to 11 in the three months prior to the meeting. Although this is welcome news the police are not complacent about these figures. Crime prevention and reassurance visits have been made to all those who were the unfortunate victims. PCSO Paul Brighton has recently been holding talks for senior citizens groups, raising awareness of how residents can protect

themselves from crime such as scams and burglary/theft. Whilst I am on that subject, those who are over 65 can take advantage of a scheme offered by Hillingdon Council and ask for a free burglar alarm to be installed if they do not yet have an alarm system. Meanwhile for all of us it is worth reminding ourselves of basic measures such as checking all doors are locked and windows shut (and locked, if locks are fitted) before leaving home! And remember that on modern uPVC doors, pulling the handle up doesn't actually lock the door - you need to turn the key!

We also learnt of police efforts to reduce motor vehicle crime under an initiative started by Sgt Shard which has seen very positive results.

Sgt Charlston's report also covered community engagement where the team has visited Whiteheath Infant School May Fair, talking to the children about how to stay safe as well as educating the children on the work of police officers. The team supported the Ruislip Woods Festival, engaging with members of the community, answering their questions and concerns, as well as offering crime prevention advice. The team also organised a "meet your local police team" session for West Ruislip Cubs - and I gather that they were met with some very frank and challenging questions about police work! ♦

 police@ruislipresidents.org.uk

Education News

Susan Midgley

MR LAKE LEAVES WARRENDER JUNIOR SCHOOL

After eleven years as Headteacher, Mr Paul Lake left Warrender Junior School at the end of the Summer term. Mr Lake, like most committed members of the teaching profession, said that most of all he would miss the children. The aspect of the job that he would be pleased to leave behind was all the paper work which kept him from contact with the pupils which gave him the most pleasure.

Mr Lake will not, however, be leaving education as he is becoming a link tutor, moving from school to school advising trainee teachers. With his wealth of experience he will certainly be a great help to the students.

Mrs Lake, who also taught at the school, retired at the end of term. After a rest period she plans to involve herself in voluntary work. Both Mr and Mrs Lake are volunteer dog walkers for the Dogs' Trust in Harefield.

Mr Mike Smith will be the new Headteacher in September. He previously held the post of Assistant Headteacher at a primary school in Ealing. Mr Smith was impressed

with the friendly atmosphere of the school and the good manners of the pupils. He spent a few weeks at the end of term getting to know the staff and pupils and learning about the ethos of the school in order to make a smooth transition at the beginning of the new school year.

Mr Lake will be greatly missed by the staff, pupils and parents whom he has served with dedication throughout his term of office. He has made Warrender Junior School one of the most highly regarded schools in Ruislip.



Mr Lake and Mr Smith

The Ruislip Residents' Association send their good wishes to Mr and Mrs Lake for a happy and fulfilled future. We also wish Mr Smith success in his new post.

LATEST NEWS FROM BISHOP WINNINGTON-INGRAM C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Tuesday July 14th, the school held the finals of their annual Young Musician of the Year Award. There were three groups of finalists: Beginner-Grade 2, Ensemble and Grade 3 and above. The judges, Esme Porter and Louis Cowling, were GCSE Music students from Bishop Ramsey School and ex-pupils of BWI. The competition was hosted by Mrs Christine Britton, the school's music specialist, who introduced each performer. In between the sections the audience was entertained by Esme who gave a piano recital and Louis who gave an exciting performance on the drums.

Mrs Gill Westbrook, the school's Head-teacher, presented the certificates to the group finalists and a certificate and cup to the overall winner.

The winners were: Beginner-Grade 2 Hyunwoo Kim, Ensemble Zac, Ella, Max, James, Grade 3 and above Thea Cooke and Young Musician of the Year 2015 Caleb Huang. All the finalists also received a £10 voucher and Caleb was given a £25 voucher to spend at Pro Music, Ickenham.



Caleb Huang, Esme Porter, Louis Cowling, Hyunwoo Kim and Thea Cooke (L to R)

Natasha Baker MBE, Paralympic double gold medal winner for the dressage equestrian event in the 2012 Games, visited the school on Monday, July 20th. to present certificates to two pupils in Year 6 who had raised £100 for South Bucks Riding for the Disabled. It was a wonderful occasion; she met the pupils, gave an interesting account of her career, answered questions after the whole school assembly and was kind enough to stay to sign autographs. She was completely charming and an inspiration to everyone present.

On Tuesday, July 21st. the school held their Annual Awards Assembly and was delighted to welcome James Coleman, Head Boy of Bishop Ramsey School as Guest of Honour to present the certificates, medals and cups. After the pres-

entations James gave a short talk to the pupils, recalling his days as a pupil at BWI and telling them of his plans to study medicine at University. He was very well received and a credit to both schools.

BISHOP RAMSEY SCHOOL'S PRIZE GIVING

On Thursday June 18th, the school held their prize giving to celebrate the achievements of students from Years 7 to 10. A welcome speech was delivered by Year 10 students, Scott McCreeth and Anna Thompson. This was followed by the crystal clear voice of Deborah Jardine performing *Hold Back the River* by James Bay; she was accompanied on the piano by Reanna Gregory, both Year 8 students.

Mr Wilcock then presented his Headteacher's Report which recorded the successes the school had achieved on many fronts during the past academic year. Mr Wilcock's pride in his staff and students was warmly expressed.

A piano recital was then given by Year 9 student Andrei Anghel who played Chopin's *Revolutionary Etude*. Andrei displayed an amazing talent for one so young and when interviewed at the end of the proceedings, he came across as a charming and modest young man. His performance was rapturously applauded.

The Form and Subject prizes were then presented by Guest of Honour, Nick Hurd MP.

Two students who deserve a special mention are Daniel Gibson and Rosie Castle, both of whom were awarded two prizes. Daniel received the John Cule prize for Drama which is named after the school's first Headteacher and a Year 10 Ramsey Award. Rosie's prizes were for Physical Education and Design and Technology.

A very special staff award was presented to Mrs Helen Simmons, Head of Drama, who had been nominated for the Pearson Teacher of the Year Award. Mrs Simmons achieved the Silver Award which makes her one of the nine best teachers in the country. She will go forward for the Gold Award later in the year.

Having presented the prizes Nick Hurd then addressed the assembled students. His most important piece of advice to them was: *Don't be afraid to fail as you can learn much of value from your failures and pursue the path that makes you happy.*

As the audience left the hall there was a retiring collection in aid of Bishop Ramsey's partner school, Malosa School in Malawi, which has been badly affected by floods this year.

BISHOP RAMSEY PRODUCTION SOCIETY PRESENTED GREASE

For four evenings in the final week of the summer term the Production Society gave some amazing performances of the musi-

cal *Grease*. Set in 1959 at the fictional USA's Rydell High School it follows the fortunes of ten senior class students from the period's working class sub-culture known as Greasers. The plot explores the themes of peer pressure, togetherness and friendship. The heart of the story is the romance between Greaser Danny Zuko and new girl on the block, Sandy Dumbrowski who met in the summer. However, back in school, peer pressure and cliques make life complicated for the pair. Danny must maintain his cool dude status and Sandy finds it hard being accepted by the more streetwise girls.

The production was directed by Mrs H Simmons, Head of Drama and Mrs S Neale, Head of Music. The band was conducted by Mr D Cullum. Much of the choreography was directed by students past and present.

This version of the musical included many of the original hits such as *Summer Nights*, *Greased Lightnin'* and *You're The One That I Want*. The whole production was a fantastic combination of acting, singing and dancing from start to finish. All the performers were excellent but some stood out from the crowd. Daniel Manchorov as Danny was a star, strutting his stuff, flicking his hair in true Greaser style, together with a great voice he brought his character to life. Fleur Mahdessi-Sarkissian was completely convincing as the demure, naive Sandy. Her rendition, alone on the stage, of *Totally Devoted To You* was very moving.

Other performances worthy of special mention were Toby Poole as Kenickie, Daniel Gibson as Sonny, Sarah Howden as Rizzo and Alannah Coleman as Patty. These students formed one cast – there were two others which included younger students!

One of the highlights of the production was the unexpected appearance of the systematic, hydromatic, ultramatic car, *Greased Lightnin'*. At the appropriate moment, greeted by appreciative gasps from the audience, the car was wheeled onto the stage. This was a credit to the professionalism of the stage crew, managed by Miss E Neal, as all the scene changes were performed very slickly.



Danny and Sandy in Greased Lightnin'

Congratulations must go to everyone concerned in this wonderful evening's entertainment.

Residents may read fuller reports on the above by visiting the Education section on the RRA website.

✉ education@ruislipresidents.org.uk ♦

Health Matters

Joan Davis

NATIONAL ISSUES

Happy Local NHS Staff: It is generally agreed that happy staff provide good patient services, so it is excellent that all three of Hillingdon's NHS service providers are in the Health Service Journal's 100 best places to work in the NHS in England – Central & North West London FT, Royal Brompton & Harefield FT, and The Hillingdon Hospitals FT. Hillingdon people are very lucky - possibly even unique!

The Secretary of State's July Vision for the NHS: This included the need for 7day NHS services, to ensure that patients are safe at weekends. It also included the establishment of NHS Improvement, the new name for the jointly led Trust Development Authority and Monitor – the Chair Designate is Ed Smith.

Very Senior Managers' Pay: Salaries above £142,500 must now be cleared with Monitor and NHS England. The opportunity to "retire and return" is to end.

REGIONAL ISSUES

Policy on Referrals within Hospitals: The eight NW London CCGs have a joint policy

on these referrals, with patients referred back to their GPs for further action where possible, but a number of exclusions on clinical grounds permit immediate internal referrals within hospitals if necessary.

London Ambulance Service: This is the busiest emergency ambulance service in the UK. Staffing is an issue given the shortage of paramedics, but LAS has a robust recruitment plan with more joiners than leavers.

Ealing Hospital's Maternity, Neonatal and Gynaecology Services Closed on 1st July: Patients have been transferred to other hospitals, including Hillingdon.

HILLINGDON CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP (CCG)

Mental Health Urgent Care: There is currently no coherent mental health urgent care pathway in Hillingdon, so patients often use Accident & Emergency services at Hillingdon Hospital for crisis care. If approved, the proposed pathway, from 1st October 2015, will deliver a single point of entry for three Outer London Boroughs - Brent, Harrow and Hillingdon – each with

an enhanced Home Treatment Crisis Response Team providing a response within 4 hours, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. CNWL will provide £1.98m to support the proposal and in a full year (2016/17) Hillingdon CCG will provide £357k.

Central & North West London FT's Contract: Agreement on the 2015/16 contract has been reached in principle. This Trust provides Hillingdon's mental health and community health services. Sadly, Hillingdon's historic poor funding of mental health is not improved in the new contract.

Finance: The CCG expects to meet its planned surplus of £3.482m at year end in March 2016, providing it receives expected allocations from North West London and expenditure is in line with its plans.

Integrated Care Planning: Hillingdon Care Community has applied to be one of six early adopters in a pilot developing a joined-up patient record across all care settings, which will be available to patients and will support direct care. The pilot will initially support the 17 practices in North Hillingdon and the care providers involved in the whole systems integrated care programme for over 65s; if successful the system will be deployed across the whole of Hillingdon.

THE HILLINGDON HOSPITALS NHS FT
Mount Vernon: Negotiations with East

& North Herts. NHS Trust to improve the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre wards are progressing - the two chairmen will meet in August and meetings are also underway with the local planning authority.

Finances: The Trust is under increased financial stress. In June 2015, the Trust delivered £472k savings, £247k short of its plan. Reduction in patient length of stay and workforce savings are a big part of the current savings programme.

Charitable Funds: In Quarter 1, income was £28k and expenditure £41k with £677k in reserve. A fundraiser is to be appointed. This will be a senior post, with interviews in September, and an expected start date before Christmas 2015.

ROYAL BROMPTON & HAREFIELD NHS FT

Harefield Activity: In 2014/15 25 heart and 49 lung transplants were undertaken and 47 ventricular assist devices were implanted. Respiratory activity there continues to grow ahead of plan.

Angioplasty: Harefield pioneered primary angioplasty for heart attacks and has one of the fastest UK arrival to treatment times.

Harefield's Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratories: This is one of the top facilities in Europe. ♦

Councillors' Comments

Cllr John Riley

Eastcote and East Ruislip Ward – Catherine Dann, Nick Denys, Becky Haggar
 Manor Ward – Michael Markham, Douglas Mills, Susan O'Brien
 West Ruislip Ward – Philip Corthorne, Brian Crowe, John Riley



The cycle of the *Town Crier* means that I am usually writing a piece that will be published weeks after events, so this is written in August; summer

holidays to look forward to, children returned from University or off school for that long summer break, for some sweltering journeys on the Tube, and then gearing up for the 'back to normal' in September. The year seems to have gone so quickly and with so much done and happened.

HS2

For local Councillors, our major preoccupation, like so many of our residents, has been HS2. The culmination of years of hard work on all fronts and in many ways came with the HS2 Select Committee Hearings in the House of Commons, Committee Room 5.

As an initial observation we were extremely impressed with the information and

organisation surrounding the sittings of the Select Committee and certainly from a councillor's point of view the daily work of Cllr Susan O'Brien in co-ordinating efforts and keeping us well informed was a significant and greatly appreciated effort.

We cannot let this opportunity pass without paying tribute to our Council Officers who have assisted us all with information, helped with our presentations and given us guidance. We are very grateful for all their behind the scenes and 'up front' work. Indeed as many residents will already know the Hillingdon Officer team spoke with great authority and skill at the Committee, dealing with many technical aspects of our objections and concerns. Some of our most senior Officers made presentations and attended the Hearings on a regular basis.

Again, and we cannot reiterate this enough, the immense effort, support, passion, skillfully argued presentations and commitment to the opposition to HS2 and its ef-

fects on this area shown by our Residents in the RRA area, Ickenham and elsewhere was extraordinary. Those who were present to witness the days of presentations, but for me at least, especially on the 29th and 30th June saw a show of 'force' by residents and others [including your Chairman], that was deeply moving, passionate and full of principle. People talked of the utter devastation of the HS2 build as they saw it on their home area, speeches were made that demonstrated the futility of the project, the unnecessary harm to our area, the blight that will be visited on us, the many years of expected upheaval for transport and the people of this area being able to go about our lives over future years. Listening to these various presentations from residents, in groups and individuals, from local organisations and others, I saw a community united in our resolve against this terrible scheme but more especially a community with a real sense of wanting to protect our area. Hillingdon is made up of many smaller 'towns' or 'villages' and that sense of real community, belonging, history and 'Home' was fully on display in the Select Committee hearings.

Many of your councillors spoke at the hearings including the Leader of the Council and all three of the West Ruislip councillors. Councillors representing Ruislip Manor and South Ruislip all spoke with reference to their particular Wards and beyond; the show of strength and unity was an im-

pressive factor for the Committee. We had to accept that we were not fighting the decision to build but seeking "proper mitigation" in the event of the build of this ill conceived, geographically misplaced and wasteful project. We were all united in our request to the Committee for a tunnel extension through Ruislip / Ickenham and out into Buckinghamshire.

Despite all our efforts we now know the Committee's decision but the fight and commitment goes on; as councillors we know that the vast expense on this project is misplaced and we will fight and press for as much mitigation as we can. We are extremely proud of how our community has responded to this issue.

THE HIGH STREET

By the time you read this Ruislip High Street will have had all the resurfacing and other work completed. We are grateful for everyone's patience especially perhaps the businesses in the High Street and the Chamber of Commerce. Judging from the number of residents and visitors we are back to a busy and vibrant local commercial centre.

As councillors we continue as ever to receive communications from our residents and to fulfil all of our Council duties. We are now in the process of gearing up for the London Assembly and Mayoral elections in 2016, so it continues to be a busy year. ♦

Planning Update

Mike Hodge & John Williams

9 ICKENHAM ROAD: This application, to provide living accommodation in the roof space, has had its appeal dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate as an unsuitable development in a conservation area and having design concerns about the size of the proposed accommodation. The intention was to create a first floor level with raised roof to house a one-bed flat with independent access over a barber's shop.



9 Ickenham Road



WAITROSE: We are supporting affected residents' concerns over the proposed extended opening hours to the store, where it is considered that such a move would exacerbate an already known level of congestion, pollution, noise and floodlighting - all to the detriment of local residents.

13 KING EDWARDS ROAD: The proposed two storey side extension and single storey front extension having been refused by local planners, the owner has submitted new plans for a smaller side extension with no front extension. These have been approved.

AUDEN HOUSE (formerly CHELMSINE COURT), BURY STREET: It is proposed to erect a three storey building to include six two-bed self-contained flats, with associated parking, cycle store, bin store and amenity space, involving the demolition of an existing two storey building.



Auden House, Bury Street

WINDMILL PUBLIC HOUSE: A planning application to create a gymnasium facility on this partly developed site (at ground floor level) would seem to be a starting point for other retail units to set up, given the length of time since the site was first developed, way back in 2007!



Corner of Pembroke Rd and Windmill Hill

65 ST MARGARET'S ROAD: An application to develop this property, to include front/side/rear extensions and raising the roof to allow the creation of a first floor level, conversion of the roof space to habitable use and a rear dormer window was approved on 20 August last year. A condition of this approval was that details of materials, colours and finishes to external surfaces should be submitted for approval. The applicant's choice of the type and colour of roof tile to be used was considered to be unsatisfactory and was refused by the Planning Committee. Although this case was subsequently referred to the Planning Inspectorate on appeal, the case was dismissed on 29 July, primarily due to a failure to harmonise with the character and appearance of other properties in the surrounding area. ♦

Houses of Parliament Visit

Vivien Alcorn

A visit to the Houses of Parliament, courtesy of Nick Hurd MP, will take place on November 27th. The visit is free, apart from the Tube fare, but is limited to 25 people, two per household. If you would like to join us, please contact me at the email address below and include a contact number. We will try and obtain permits for more visits next year. ♦

✉ social@ruislipresidents.org.uk



RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING



7.45pm, Thursday, 22nd October 2015

Winston Churchill Hall

Pinn Way, Ruislip HA4 7QL

Doors open at 7.30pm

The talk will be on Cyber Security (using computers and phones safely)
and will be given by the Volunteer Police Cadets

followed by an Open Forum, with questions to a panel of
RRA representatives. The meeting will end at 10pm

Wine, fruit juices and snacks will be served

Open Forum items to the Secretary by Thursday, 15th October 2015

The next meeting is on the 17th February 2016