

THE HILLS ECHO

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
NORTHWOOD HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

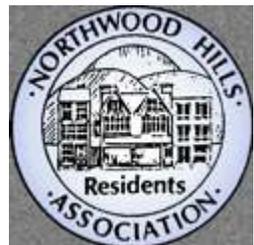


The winning entry in the Annual Photo Competition

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Autumn 2010



Distributed free to Association Members. Subscription is £2 per household per year.

Chairman's Report



Welcome to the autumn edition of The Hills Echo.

Over the last 6 months your Committee have been very active, supporting the Joel Street Fun Day organised by the Chamber of Commerce, the opening of the Walled Garden at Eastcote House, the 100 Year celebration of the

allotments in Joel Street and the 2nd annual Big Lunch event which was held on the field at Salisbury Road and organised in association with Fairfield Church. Thank you to everyone involved with these events!

We also held our AGM in June where we were asked "are there any plans to refurbish the childrens play area between Fore Street and Wiltshire Lane?" Since then we have opened dialogue with local residents, Hillingdon Homes and the Council and hope we will be able to report some positive news in our the next edition of the magazine.

A number of you will have read, or heard about the tragic death of James Wybrow who was in a motor accident in Cuckoo Hill in May. Our sincere condolences go to his family and friends. Two petitions have subsequently been submitted by local residents to the Council requesting that traffic calming measures are put in place to stop further accidents. The petitions are due to be heard shortly.

The 'Stop and Shop' parking area in Joel Street while well received by the local shops and businesses is a causing some concerns. A number of drivers have not realised they should be reversing in to the diagonally marked spaces and driving out in a forward direction. The Council, through notices, is trying to educate drivers to reverse into these spaces and to support this we would be grateful if you would, politely, ask any family, friends and neighbours who may not have realised that it is extremely dangerous to reverse out of these bays in to Joel Street and that they may also be breaking the law.

Finally, please could you make a couple of notes in your diary? On the afternoon of Saturday 27th November we will be joining with the Chamber of Commerce to hold a spectacular event in Joel Street to celebrate the switching on of the Christmas lights. There will be a fun fair for younger children, various stalls and activities and we are also hoping that the local schools, scouts, churches and many other groups will join with us in what promises to be a fun day! Father Christmas has already accepted an invitation to attend.

On Sunday 12th December we will be joining with Fairfield Church for mulled wine, mince pies and carols at the field at Salisbury Road. Last year this event was well attended and good fun and cheer was had by everyone!

Full details of both events will be published nearer the time and I look forward to seeing you at both events.

F R O M T H E E D I T O R

My word, doesn't time pass quickly when you're having fun ?

It seems that we have only just finished distributing the Spring issue of the Echo, and here we are again with the Autumn edition.

My thanks to everyone for your kind and supportive comments on the newsletter; it's really helpful to get such constructive feedback.

It's been an exciting summer in Northwood Hills, with events taking place in Eastcote House Gardens, Joel Street Allotments and on the Salisbury Road Open Space. The Joel Street Funday suffered from our unpredictable weather, but hopefully next time it will be better.

So, what else is coming up ?

Your Committee is working hard to arrange some seasonal events - we are looking at turning on the Christmas Lights in Joel Street, with full supporting cast; and a bigger and better Carol Concert in Salisbury Road.

Next year we plan to repeat our very successful Photographic Competition. We have a pretty good idea of what the subject will be, and we'll announce it in the Spring edition. However, if you have any suggestions for a suitable subject, please let me know (hillsecho@live.co.uk) and I'll give it serious consideration.

The next edition, in Spring, will be earlier than usual, in order to highlight more community events planned around Easter and Passover - please note that Copy Date will be March 15th.

Finally (and it seems strange to be writing this in September), have a great festive season and New Year, and I look forward to seeing you all at some of the many events in our calendar.

Alan Lester
Editor

Delivering The Post In Northwood Hills

I worked for the post office as a "Christmas Casual" in 1962 and the crafty regular postmen dumped all the unpopular rounds on the young students doing a couple of weeks casual work. I was given an armband with a numbered badge and minimal training to sort the letters on my "walk".

The sorting office was in Bridge Street, Pinner but my round was in Northwood Hills delivering to Alandale Drive, Lyndhurst Gardens and Avenue, and Dale Close. This was a good two miles away - and uphill too! I rode my ropey old post office bike which in those days had no front pannier so you carried your letters in satchels over your shoulder. At Christmas this needed two satchels! I fell off my bike one morning while cycling past the traffic lights in Pinner Green because my load was so heavy it overbalanced me as I turned the corner! Folks rushed from the nearby bus stop to pick me up! Gosh I was tired that week. The day started early with clocking on at the Pinner sorting office about 4.30 am and to get there I had to cycle from my home in Hatch End so I was knackered before I started! I can remember the smell of paraffin or oil lamps, wet cycling capes, and the soggy canvas satchels!



I felt honour bound to deliver EVERYTHING in my satchel so I didn't return to the sorting office until all had been delivered. My worst nightmare was a householder running after me with a letter saying I had put it in the wrong letterbox and sometimes this meant retracing my steps quite a long way.

At the end of each week we got paid in cash at the princely rate of two shillings and fourpence farthing an hour. One week I had an easier and far more interesting casual duty on the parcel counter at Hatch End Post Office. The pay rate was just the same but the work was at least all in daylight and indoors! When I completed my couple of weeks my National Insurance card was returned to me with stamps stuck on for each week I had worked. Now that I shall be 65 this year I sometimes wonder if this will do anything to improve my state retirement pension!!

John Howard Norfolk

This 'memory' is from the website www.francisfrith.com where you can post information and stories linked with thousands of photos in The Francis Frith Collection. Why not visit the Frith website today and post some of YOUR memories of the local area for other people to read and enjoy.

The VIEW FROM THE GREENHOUSE

What have I learnt after a very busy summer growing my own ?

Top of the list for the must grow vegetable is the humble tomato. There is nothing like a home grown tomato. If you grow cherry tomatoes, you can pick and eat them straight from the vine. They pop and burst their juice in your mouth.

Lettuces: You cannot grow enough lettuce There are a lot of varieties of seed available at really cheap prices (poundland kind of shops are a great place to buy a pack of mixed seeds). One pack of seeds would keep you going for a long time.

Peas were a great success this year. Don't expect to get many peas for the freezer. As soon as they grow you would want to eat them straight off the vine.

I am not a big fan of beans and I had almost given up when the vines started producing fruit. Would I grow them again next year? Absolutely.

This year, I did not have great success with germinating cucumber and courgette seeds. So no cucumbers but some courgettes, even though they were quite late in the season.

My carrots weren't too bad either. Not as sweet as the ones from the shop but growing your own makes things taste nicer as you have put in so much effort.

Strawberries were a great success. They produced sweetest strawberries ever and gave out more strawberries plants then I knew what to do with, so a lot of people got them (happily or not, here is a strawberry and you will take it home)

Growing herbs is a must as well. I have mint, dill, thyme and basil. I am not a big fan of basil but I grew one plant in the shadows of the tomatoes to hopefully let the flavour get into the growing tomato.

I am not a great fan of flowers. I can't see the point of putting effort into growing something that would not give food at the end. Having said that I grew marigolds and I am a total convert. My garden will see a lot more marigolds next year. They look great and keep the bugs away from tomatoes etc. Sunflowers were also a great success for the first time. We had tried growing them lots of times before without success, but this year I pretty much inserted the seeds amongst the vegetable bed, thinking if they grow they grow. And grow they did, to full human height and they turned out to be red sunflowers which was a real pretty sight.

When I go to see my friends, they don't get chocolates or flowers from me. They get growing salads, or veg of some sort.

continued 

The View from the Greenhouse continued

With all the success I had on the right side of my garden the left side did not do well at all. My cherry tree produced loads of blossom but only about 4 cherries. I need advice on how to prune the tree to have more blossom for next year and the time of year to prune it. The red currant plant has not been interested in producing any fruit either.

I am already looking forward to growing a lot more tomato and other veg from seeds. I hope to have better luck with germinating seeds than I had this year.

The rockets rocked, peppers were a bit pointless and I didn't have much success with my potatoes so any advice would be greatly appreciated

Anila Hashim
anilahashim@hotmail.com

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

The Royal British Legion is the leading tri-service charity that provides long term financial, social and emotional support to millions who have served, or who are currently serving, in the UK's Armed Forces and their dependants.

Over £100 million was spent in 2009 in carrying out its work. Over £32 million came from the Poppy Appeal, the rest from events, legacies, donations, sponsorships, sales, fees and investments.

The Legion has nearly 400,000 members in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Scotland has its own formation), 2,800 Branches, 650 associated Clubs. In this area there is a Branch with associated Club in Eastcote (Southbourne Gardens) and Ruislip (High Street). Legion membership is open to anybody over the age of 16.

Both these local branches are always keen to hear from anybody who wants to join and/or who can spare just a few hours to help collect for the Poppy Appeal in the Eastcote, Pinner, Ruislip, Northwood areas.

For more information contact Jeff Duley, the Principal County Publicity and Recruiting Officer for North West London 07808739434 or by e-mail at jeff.duley@btinternet.com or visit the national website at www.britishlegion.org.uk
Thank you.



Bereavement group wins 'MBE'

For 17 years Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue's Bereavement Support Group has helped members and their families at one of the most difficult times in their lives, an extension of the ethos of the congregation, one of the movement's largest, where the bonds of care have grown as the membership has expanded. Now the group has been awarded the 2010 Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, described in official literature as the MBE for volunteer groups.

The support group was founded in 1993 by Hazel Shestopal and Sharon Goldstein, since which time it has helped more than 700 individuals. It consists today of nine trained volunteers, supervised by Northwood and Pinner psychotherapist, and Jackie Goodman, care coordinator. Five of the nine volunteers have been members since the group's inception.



founded in 1993 by Hazel Shestopal when it has helped more than 700 of nine trained volunteers, supervised member Leezah Hertzman, a Goodman, care coordinator. Five of been members since the group's

The award was presented to the group by the Queen's representative, Wing Commander Ed Partridge, at a special reception at the synagogue, attended by local MP Nick Hurd, Mayor of Hillingdon Councillor David Yarrow, and many other civil and religious dignitaries from local communities.



Group Leader Richard Conradi (left) receiving the award from Wing Commander Ed Partridge

EMMANUEL CHURCH NORTHWOOD ON AIR

On Sunday 30th May, BBC Radio 4 broadcast live worship from Emmanuel Church

The theme that ran through the service was the importance of family life, no matter what form the family takes. The service was a mixture of traditional hymns and contemporary worship songs, and prayers were led by a family of four.

The preacher was Steve Clifford, the newly appointed General Director of the Evangelical Alliance. Founded in 1846, it is the oldest alliance of evangelical Christians in the world.

He began by reminding us that the day was the start of National Family Week, and that -

"Although enormous challenges are being faced by families, family life plays a vital role for both personal happiness and the future of society - its health, employment education, even economic success and social cohesion."

This was a message that is close to the heart of Emmanuel Church which summarises its purpose in three statements.

Focused on God

Committed to one another

Involved in His world.

For we have learned to call God "Our Father" and He is Father to a world wide family, to which all may belong whoever they are, and whatever their present state. God's love is for everyone.



Ken Brading

LOVE HANDLES FAT

First In A Series Of Health Articles By Dr Sabby Kant

Have a go at this short exercise. Close your eyes and gently place your hands on your tummy. Now make a grab! Pinch more than an inch?

Despite its alluring cuddle factor this tummy fat is not as innocent as it feels. Research has now established that the excess fat stored around your tummy is biologically highly active. Not only does it send unhealthy chemical signals to all parts of the body but the fat itself spreads into the internal organs and muscle tissues. This in turn unbalances your immune system which then causes chronic inflammation, a powerful precursor of chronic disease such as diabetes, heart disease as well as some cancers.

So how did this unhealthy muck sneak into you? The simple answer is that it is the result of the equation: Energy-In minus Energy-Out. To rebalance the equation, you need to become aware of how much energy is in your food. This should prompt you to drastically cut down the high-energy dense foods.

Remember that ounce for ounce, fat has twice as much energy as carbohydrates. Stop eating the terribly unhealthy hydrogenated fats present in most processed foods, including your much beloved biscuits and chocolates.

For example, you can scoff down a Mars bar of 300 calories in minutes but it will take you roughly one hour of brisk walking or swimming to use the energy up. Changing over from the unhealthy salty, fatty, sugary foods to healthier fibrous vegetable and fruits will also lower your total calorie intake. Whenever you top-up your body with food (fuel), doesn't it make sense to physically use it up before topping up again?

Remember that the human body is not designed to be sedentary. We are programmed for an active physical lifestyle. Recall how active your grandparents were. Research of bed-bound patients has shown that immobility, even for a few weeks, will shrink your muscles by 20%. So get your body active by exercising for at least 30 minutes per day. The good news is that even repeated bouts of short exercises of, say 10 minutes each, accrue a benefit. Exercise not only burns up excess calories but also drives away the deposited fat and increase your muscle bulk- all of which dramatically hoovers up excess glucose from your blood. So strengthen your muscles and make them into great sugar sucking energy utilisers.

To continue our little exercise, have a peek into the mirror and give your belly a quick cuddle before saying goodbye to your love handles. Treat your body as a temple by lovingly feeding your body with the proper amount of good nourishment and revitalising your physiology by getting physically active. Let love handle your fat.



*Dr Sabby Kant MRCGP
General Practitioner Mountwood Surgery, Northwood*

Hillside Community Church

Would you like to meet and worship with Christians who believe we all have a special place in this community? If you would enjoy an informal style of worship, where we don't worry too much if the children relax and enjoy themselves and the adults want to have a child-like trust in Christ, then **Hillside** could be the Christian community for you. We meet in Hillside Infant School in Northwood Way, Northwood Hills at 11am every Sunday, except for August when we meet in each other's homes and enjoy BBQs.

We are a mixed congregation and we have been meeting in the school for nearly twenty years. As a church plant from Emmanuel Northwood we have the benefits of belonging to the larger church family, as well as enjoying the benefits of a smaller family congregation and an informal style.

Over recent months some of our church members have been visiting in the neighbourhood and asking if people have any prayer requests or need any practical help. If you want the church to pray for you or your family, please make contact and we will ensure we do. We have recently made links with the Hillingdon Interfaith Forum and are committed to serving locally in a variety of ways. We have some great retired members, some teachers, people who work for the NHS, the RAF, musicians and the self employed. We are open to those of faith and of none, to the disabled, young and old. Whoever you are you will be welcome to join us as you make your own journey of discovery into the Christian faith or reconnect with the faith of your youth.

If you want to know more call 01923 826986 and ask for Ray or Angela Flux or call Graham Watts on 01923 845204 or email graham.watts@ecn.org.uk.



THE RED CROSS and THE LIONS

In February 1965, the Red Cross opened its doors at 195 Pinner Road after extensive refurbishment of the derelict premises, built as a Gas Clearance Station at the beginning of the War, later used by the Fire Service as a recreation hall, and then left empty and unused for many years.

The Red Cross used it for a range of activities - First Aid and Nursing Courses; a club for disabled people; Mother and Baby groups; and an annual fund-raising event in St Johns' Church.

In 1972 the first Saturday Market opened to sell whatever local people donated - it raised £4. This amount grew as the market continued.

Subsequently, all the Red Cross activities moved to a property at 62 Hallowell Road, leaving only the Saturday Market behind. Many thousands of pounds were raised for the Red Cross over the next few years, until the house in Hallowell Road was sold, and the Market was told it would have to cease trading on March 15th 2008.

At this point, Northwood Lions stepped in and offered to help the Saturday Market to continue under their umbrella, and since April 2008, over £30,000 has been given to local charities.

The Market relies entirely on the continued support of the community, accepting anything that can be sold; clothing, bric-a-brac, unwanted gifts; even worn out blankets, sheets and curtains which can be bagged up, and sold to a dealer as rags.

Broken items and real junk is not acceptable, as the Market has to pay the Council to have it removed.

The Market is run entirely by volunteers, who give their time and talents freely, rain or shine, week in and week out, and they are now looking forward to celebrating 40 years service in 2012.

Olive Fairclough, Group Leader



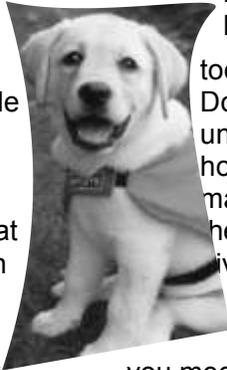
*Goods for sale can be left at 195 Pinner Road Northwood (under cover)
on Wednesday afternoons or Saturday mornings, before 9:45 or after 12:00,
or phone 0208 868 2065 to arrange collection*

Working with Guide Dogs

Over the last 20 years of volunteering for Guide Dogs for the Blind, I have been privileged to meet many courageous people who have overcome their affliction with the help of their loyal companion - a dog. Being blind has not proved to be a handicap to them. I know people who go scuba diving, run marathons and thoroughly enjoy their bird listening holidays, theatre and museum trips.

Initially, I started volunteering as a puppy walker. A puppy comes into your home for up to a year to learn social skills and the basic rudiments of dog training, e.g. recall, walking on a lead, before returning to the Guide Dog Centre for further training and forging a new partnership with a blind or partially sighted person. Because of the initial training you have given the puppy you have helped give the new owner back their independence, mobility and freedom. They belong in society again.

When my own dog became a puppy, I began to board Guide Dogs. The dogs come to your home when the owners are some reason like going on holiday or into hospital. Our home is a second home to owners can relax knowing that their 'eyes' are happy and safe. The freedom a guide dog can give is little short of miraculous and guide dogs have been provided to over 20,000 people since 1931.



too old to cope with another Dogs. The dogs come to your home when the owners are some reason like going on holiday or into hospital. Our many guide dogs and their their 'eyes' are happy and safe. The freedom a guide dog can give is little short of miraculous and guide dogs have been provided to over 20,000 people since 1931.

As a Guide Dog volunteer you meet new people, especially when you go out walking and make a difference to the lives of many blind and partially sighted people, as well as keeping yourself fit.

Our local Harrow & Hillingdon branch was formed in 1984. Funds are raised by holding collections at supermarkets, shopping centres, railway stations and an annual street collection. The association attends local summer fayres where products are sold and information is provided on the work of guide dogs. It costs £1 million a week to run Guide Dogs.

Currently there are 4,500 working guide dog partnerships in the UK and Guide Dog owners pay 50p for the dog to ensure no one is prevented from having one due to lack of funds. The full lifetime cost of a Guide Dog from birth to retirement is £48,500.

So when you care for a Guide Dog you are investing your time in a very valuable and worthwhile asset which gives you lots of love affection and loyalty which is then transferred to its new owner - thanks to you and the Guide Dog team.

Joan Butfield

Joel Street Allotments

It's certainly been a busy year so far at Joel Street Allotments.

During March, several working parties were busy continuing a major project started last season: to re-vamp the central drainage trench for the entire site, from the car park down to the paddock above the stream; nearly all dug by hand. For years, we have had problems with flooding during wet winters as the original drainage system had deteriorated over time. Even though the work still isn't complete, the effects of all the hard work are showing.

Then, in May, we took part in the new Chamber of Commerce's first ever Fun Day, which turned out to be one of the wetter days of the spring! But, thanks to an eye-catching display of plants and photographs, a smiling band of volunteers to man our stall - and a position just outside Wenzels - we managed to capture the attention of people to talk about allotments. And add several names to our waiting list!

During June we had visits from two classes of Year 3 children from Hillside School, all anxious to find out at first hand what plants need to help them grow. (Some of us rather hoped that they would let us into the secret when they had found out!) Then it was our turn for a school visit, when we ran a plant stand at the Harlyn Funshine Fayre. (This day turned out to be the hottest thus far this year! Our gazebo has been a very good buy!) Again, we attracted plenty of people who wanted to talk about plants and allotments.

July provided us with a double celebration: the Centenary of the foundation of our

Society in July 1910 and the official opening of our new composting toilet, funded by

The Big Lottery. This was the result of well over a year's work by members of the Committee, who researched the various systems and developed the application. So our big day was marked by a BBQ on the afternoon of The Big Lunch: as far as we have been able to find out, this was the very first social event in the history of the Society!

Alison Rowe, London Head of The Big Lottery, presented us with a BIG cheque, then Jill Rhodes, former Mayor of Hillingdon, performed the official opening. We took Alison and Jill, along with past and present Councillors; our landlords; and representatives of the Residents' Association, the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Police and the Hillingdon Allotment & Horticultural Federation for a Walkabout around the site. Well over 150 members and friends attended the event, and they all agreed it was a great success. (A very big thank you to all those who toiled to make it so!) Some members are already threatening to make it an annual event!

So, in our Centenary Year, we now have over 90 members; have introduced small Starter Plots for complete novices to allotment gardening; gained Lottery Funding; mounted a display in Northwood Hills Library showing aspects of the allotments, past and present; and - most important of all - are striving to once again become part of the wider community of Northwood Hills. Oh, yes - and I nearly forgot - we're growing plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables as well! Why not join us?

Trevor Dixon (Secretary)

joelstreetallotments@tiscali.co.uk

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HILLS ECHO

I would like to join in the congratulations to our new editor, Alan Lester, at a time when I thought it was going to be difficult to replace Alan Kimber, who produced an excellent magazine for seven years. Thankfully, our chairman Andrew Riley, with the help of others, produced the Autumn 2009 edition. Then along came Alan, who as our new editor has produced the enjoyable and informative Spring 2010 edition.

We have been very fortunate in having, in the past, five successive editors producing an informative and interesting magazine. For some time we had to be satisfied with a two page newsletter, but then, in 1991, Leslie Hodson produced and named "The Hills Echo". Leslie was our editor for several years until, sadly, he died and Margot Barnikel, our secretary, took over, followed by Mike Thatcher, our chairman, until 2002, when Alan Kimber became editor.

"The Hills Echo" was not our first magazine however. An earlier one was "The Resident". I do not know when it started, or how long it survived. The oldest copy I have is dated 1948, and the latest one is dated 1961. The front of each copy shows "The Clump", the island of trees situated in Northwood Way. I believe this group of trees was preserved when the area was developed during the Metroland period of the 1930s.

The front of each copy shows a list of officers and committee members, together with their addresses and telephone numbers, where appropriate, which I consider a good idea. The 1948 copy shows Harry Peachey of 55 Briarwood Drive as president. He was the founder of our association in 1932, firstly under the name of the Briarwood Ratepayers Association, which became the Northwood Hills Ratepayers Association in 1935, and subsequently the Northwood Hills Residents Association. Maybe that is the reason why so many of our officers in the past have lived in Briarwood Drive.

The only person listed in "The Resident" whom I knew was Eddie Carter, who lived next door but one to us. I talked with him on many occasions. His son Alan still lives there, and often writes articles for "The Hills Echo". Alan was very young when his father served on the committee, so does not remember his involvement, but recalls that he was always very interested in local activities. In May 1945 Eddie Carter organised a very successful VE street party in Middleton Drive, which was the subject of one of Alan's articles.

In the Northwood Hills Residents Association we place great value on newsletters, or preferably a magazine, providing a link with our residents, and we have been very fortunate in maintaining that link through the perseverance and devotion of our editors.

LISHMAN EASBY
Vice President

News from St Edmund the King, Pinner Road

We've had quite a busy summer at St Edmund the King, with a fantastic Festival Weekend, when the interior of our church building was filled with the sight and smell of thousands of flowers, delighting parishioners and visitors from further afield alike. It was a lovely event which told a story. Each of the displays depicted one of the festivals from the Church Year, reminding us of the pattern of the year in which we live and worship as Christians. Our main Sunday Service is at 10 am, with activities for children at the same time.

Sunday 26th September is Harvest Festival, and our Service that day is at 11am, followed by a lunch for everyone to enjoy. It's always a happy occasion as we give thanks for all the many blessings we have received –and our children and young people help to lead the worship.

November begins with a period of reflection on those gone before us. This year **Remembrance Sunday falls on November 14th**. At the 10am Sung Eucharist we will be joined by our Uniformed Organisations as we recall those who gave their lives in the service of our country.

In the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday at 3.30pm we'll be holding our annual Memorial Service, a poignantly beautiful occasion which is particularly designed for those who have been bereaved during the past year, although all who've experience the sadness of loss are invited to join us on this occasion. There's an opportunity to light a candle for a departed loved one in remembrance and prayer, giving thanks for their lives and asking God for help in the pain of loss.

Music plays an important part of our life here, and we're fortunate to be able to host concerts of superb quality. **On November 21st there'll be a Classic Concert** at 3.30pm, and we're looking forward to what promises to be a wonderful afternoon of music. Tickets are available in advance, or on the door, at £5, and the concert is followed by a delicious tea.

The **Christmas Bazaar Saturday 27th November** is a chance to support the work of the church by doing a bit of Christmas shopping! The Church Hall will be filled with an array of stalls and games, with gifts, crafts, cakes, a fabulous draw and games and activities for the children, who can also visit Father Christmas in his grotto. It's always a fun event, and we look forward to welcoming you!

Preparations for Christmas and our celebration of the birth of Christ begin on **Advent Sunday, November 28th**, and in the evening an augmented St Edmund's choir will be presenting part of Handel's great work 'Messiah' at 6.30pm. A blockbuster work, great fun to sing and listen to, it's a super way to begin our countdown to Christmas.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is on Sunday 19th December at 6.30pm; then on **Christmas Eve the ever popular Crib Service is at 4.00pm**. During this service the children present their retelling of the birth of Christ, and we raise the roof with the hearty singing of familiar carols. The Christmas celebrations reach their climax as in the beauty and wonder of the **Midnight Mass, beginning at 11.30pm**, we go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and adore the newborn King.

St Edmund's is renowned, if not infamous, for the Arrow Players Pantomime, and the New Year just wouldn't be the same without it! It's great family entertainment, and in 2011 we'll be performing **'Puss in Boots'**. **First night is on January 8th** and the box office will soon be opening. Definitely not one to be missed!

There's always lots happening here, come and join in –we look forward to sharing our life with you.

*With all good wishes,
Fr Philip Barnes,*

Vicar of St Edmund the King, Northwood Hills

BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY SPIRIT

On the 18th July the Northwood Hills residents association in partnership with Fairfield church held a 'Big Lunch'. Over 200 people attended the community picnic at Salisbury road green space. There was free Pimms, soft drinks and mountains of gorgeous home made food to enjoy. The bouncy castle and parachute games entertained the young, while the teenagers and young at heart ventured into games of football and rounders. The soul2soul dance troupe from Fairfield and Emmanuel church performed a contemporary dance that had us all tapping our toes to a Cheryl Cole track! The sun shone all afternoon, and many neighbours came out to join in the fun. It was great to just sit and chat and get to know the people in our community.

The 'Big Lunch' is part of a national initiative to get communities out of their homes and into the local streets to meet and mingle with their neighbours. Thousands of people all over the country attended street parties, and headed to their local parks to meet and eat with their neighbours. Check out biglunch.co.uk for more info.

Personally I would like to thank Leo Mindell for the use of the scout's marquees, Steve Rogers for the excellent PA system that provided lovely music throughout the event, soul2soul dance troupe for bringing their energy and enthusiasm, Andrew Retter for providing funding through the ward budget, the members of Fairfield Church who cooked, served, picked up dog poo/litter, ran the games, set up, decorated and cleared up and last but not least Andrew Riley (chairman of NHRA) who encouraged and supported, and ensured we had public liability insurance for the event to go ahead. Thank you also to anyone else who cooked, came and shared their food and their afternoon with us. Lets spread the word and do it all again next summer!!!

The NHRA and Fairfield church are committed to organising events such as the big lunch in order to build community spirit. Please please come along and support these events if you are able.

The next two are **November 27th** for the turning on of the Christmas lights in Joel Street, and on **Sunday 12th December** we are planning another carol concert, with mulled wine and mince pies, at Salisbury Road Green Space. If you would like to get involved in these events please contact me on cbushell@nhs.net or through Northwood Hills Residents Association (NHRA)

Chris Bushell

WELCOME TO SOME NEW ROAD STEWARDS -

Doris Lightup will look after Farmlands, and

Debbie Foster will take on Fore Street

Thanks to you both

LOCAL HERO

Phantom of the Ruhr was one of the best-known Lancasters in Bomber Command. Its motif was a ghoulish hooded skeleton figure throwing bombs out of the night sky

On the night of 23/24 September 1943, on a bombing raid to Mannheim, it was coned in searchlights, then hit by flak and a night-fighter. Its wireless operator on that night was **Lishman Easby**, who is currently vice President of Northwood Hills Residents Association. Lishman kept a diary after each operation. Included in this article is his first-hand account written shortly after going through that terrifying experience.



Lish Easby's diary tells of the events that night:

"After a rather long stand-down we were again detailed for 'ops'. The target this time was Mannheim. Mannheim-Ludwigshafen had been raided twice recently, but as the big chemical works had not been hit, this repeat raid was put on. We took off in daylight and night fell just before reaching the French coast.

Our run up to the target was very quiet, we scarcely encountered any defences at all. One thing, however, we did notice was quite a number of lights on the ground over and above the usual. We reached the target on time and proceeded with our bombing run; the bomb aimer recognised the target by means of a bend in the river.

There were numerous searchlights around the town and very soon one of them picked us up. Immediately the pilot took evasive action, but the searchlight still held us. Other searchlights then joined in and very soon we were in the centre of a cone of about 40 searchlights. We weaved, dived and did everything possible but the searchlights still held us.

Soon we became a target for the flak batteries working in co-operation with the searchlights. Flak was bursting very close when suddenly there was a bang and the aircraft shuddered as we got a direct hit from an anti-aircraft shell. As we were now right over the target the pilot ordered bomb-doors open and the bomb aimer released the bomb load.

The bomb doors had scarcely been closed when with a flash and another heavy shudder, a shell burst on the starboard tail plane. The searchlights were still on us and while we attempted evasive action the aircraft went into a dive, but fortunately the pilot was able to regain control and pull it out. As we afterwards discovered the controls to the starboard aileron had been severed. We had lost a lot of height and were nearly down to 10,000 ft when on top of everything else, we were attacked by a fighter. We never even saw the enemy aircraft as we were all blinded by searchlights, but he fired only one long burst

continued → .

LOCAL HERO (contd)

As we were now getting out of the target area the searchlights were getting thinner until eventually we were free of them altogether. By this time we were down to 8000 ft as we turned for home.

The aircraft was now vibrating violently and the starboard tail unit was shaking as though it was going to fall away any minute. No one expected we could remain airborne for long and I already had my parachute pack on in readiness to jump.

Shortly after leaving the target the engineer went aft to examine the damage. He reported the starboard aileron control severed and that the trimmer tab was still connected and causing the vibration. The engineer then severed the aileron trimmer control and the vibration ceased.

The vibration having also stopped on the tail plane we began to see the possibility of getting home. In fact we got back without any further trouble having climbed to a height of 16,000 ft.

On arriving at base we were given priority to land and the pilot made a good landing in spite of the fact that the flaps were useless. As soon as we landed we examined the damage. Fortunately we had no casualties.

We had received a direct hit by an AA shell in the bomb doors, the shell having passed through the bomb-bay, fuselage and out through the top without exploding. This shell had also severed the aileron control.

Another shell had burst on the starboard tail plane, badly damaging it so that the whole unit was loose. The fuselage was peppered with shrapnel and the Perspex broken in the mid-upper turret. The fighter had hit us in the port main plane with one cannon shell and several bullets.

Finally, to crown everything a 30 lb incendiary evidently dropped by another bomber had struck one of our propellers and the fin of it was still lodged in the radiator.

That was the end of our most eventful trip up to date. We never thought we should see England again and I think the fact that we did get back was mainly due to the skills of the pilot and engineer “

continued →



Lish Easby gives scale to the shell's exit hole by putting his head and shoulders through it. All courtesy Ron Clark

LOCAL HERO (contd)

For their actions that night Pilot Ron Clark was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) and 'Ben' Bennett the Distinguished Flying Medal (DFM). At least 300 shrapnel holes were counted in the aircraft and the Phantom would be out of action until early November undergoing repairs. The crew flew a further four 'ops' with 100 Squadron before being posted with 'C' Flight to form the nucleus of the new 625 Squadron at Kelstern, Lincs.

They flew one further operation before being screened, split up and posted. Most survived the war with the exception of the navigator, Jim Siddell, who was killed over Holland in a Mosquito in 1944. Phantom of the Ruhr was repaired and completed four more operations with 100 Squadron before being transferred to 550 Squadron in November 1943. It continued its charmed and eventful life, going on to complete 121 'ops'.

Despite becoming 550 Squadron's longest-serving Lancaster and being awarded its own DFC, the Phantom, like so many other famous aircraft, was unceremoniously scrapped in February 1946.

However, the Lancaster currently belonging to the Battle of Britain Flight, based at RAF Coningsby, has been completely refurbished, renamed Phantom of the Ruhr, and now carries the Phantom motif.

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*If you know of anyone else living locally with an interesting story to tell,
please contact the Editor*

FUN PAGE

Winter Wordsearch

R R L S E V O L G R L L O
 T S K N I T C A P S R W S
 I N D S T D L O C S S N E
 E A S T M E R F C E S O P S
 O G K O E I R A L W T A S
 T G N O I E T C Z C S R L
 B O K B E T I T F Z L K E
 S B D Z E C S S E R I A C
 P O E E I D K T E N O L I
 O T L I L N I E O T S S B
 C S A M T S I R H C A G T
 S O T C O N N O F T Z K C
 S C A R F I G E L I A T S

BLIZZARD
 BOOTS
 CHRISTMAS
 COLD
 FREEZE
 FROST
 GLOVES

ICE
 ICICLES
 KNIT CAP
 MITTENS
 PARKA
 SCARF

SKATES
 SKIING
 SLED
 SLEET
 SNOW
 TOBOGGAN

Brain Teaser

A Cowboy rides into town on Friday, stays three days, and rides out again on Friday.

How does he do that ?

Answers Page 31

Our masters in Brussels have decided that we will no longer be allowed to say "Spending a Penny" The correct term is now "Euro-nating"

Spelling checker

Eye halve a spelling chequer
 It came with my pea sea
 It plainly marques four my revue
 Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word
 And weight four it two say
 Weather eye am wrong oar write
 It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid It
 nose bee fore two long
 And eye can put the error rite Its
 rarely ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it I
 am shore your pleased two no
 Its letter perfect in it's weigh
 My chequer tolled me sew.

-- Sauce unknown

Metro 29 June

Hill home is streets ahead...

LIFE on the hill is a lot more exclusive than down on the street. Homes with the word 'hill' in the address are typically worth more than twice as much as ones located on a Street. The average cost of a home on a Hill is £341,466, well up on the national average of £217,624 and the typical value of homes on a Street of £155,515. Homes on a Lane average £328,378, followed by those in a Mews at £294,869. The research, by property website Zoopla.co.uk, was based on prices in 858,000 streets.

Northwood Hills Library

Potter Street, Northwood Hills HA6 1QQ

Tel: 01923 824595

Email: northwoodhills-library@hillingdon.gov.uk

Open: Mon & Thurs 10am – 7pm, Tues & Fri 10am – 5.30pm, Sat 9.30am – 4pm
Closed on Wed & Sun

Regular events:

Under 5s storytime – 10.30 -11am

Alternate Tuesday mornings from
7th September

Coffee mornings - 10 - 11.30am
usually 4th Thursday of the month (
Sept 23rd, Oct 21st, Nov 25th)

September 23rd A special coffee morning to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. You will have the opportunity to discover the wealth of information on the web, including campaign diaries, 'the Few', and how the news was actually reported in the press at the time, using online resources such as the Times Digital Archive.

There will be a presentation first, followed by a hands-on session. Please contact the library to reserve a place.

October 25th – 29th Half term week

There will be a craft session for children, aged 5 – 10 years and their parents/carers on Thursday 28th October. Please contact the library to reserve a place.

Refurbishment of the library

The Council is in the process of refurbishing all 17 of the libraries in the London Borough of Hillingdon. Most of the local branches have been done, and now it is our turn. We have not been given a definite date as yet, but it is likely to be around the end of November. What this means in reality is that the library will be closed for several weeks. Obviously this is not good news for our readers in the short term as they will need to use other branches during this period, but hopefully the 'new-look' library will be worth the wait.

All the computers will be updated, and will include some iMacs. There will be a coffee area and more seating available, as well as more space in the library.

In addition we are also likely to be open on Wednesdays, meaning we will be open 6 days a week.

*Gwynneth Bushnell
Branch Manager*

“SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD” IS WORKING

In recent months there have been many complaints from local residents about scooters being ridden in an anti-social manner in Northwood Hills. There have been incidents of scooters being ridden at excessive speed, on pavements and footpaths, into parks, doing wheelies and without crash helmets.

In response, PC Tim Hall of Northwood Hills Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhood Team has initiated an operation to target this problem.

The police team have issued vehicle seizure warning notices to the owners/keepers under Anti Social Behaviour Legislation. This gives police the power to deal with anti-social use of motor vehicles on or off public roads. If a vehicle is witnessed being used carelessly, inconsiderately or off road and in an anti-social way, then the owner will be issued a written warning. If the owner is witnessed driving or riding anti-socially again within 12 months, then any vehicle they are in or on can be seized. Since June 2010, 10 vehicle seizure warning notices have been issued to scooter riders on the ward. This has resulted in a dramatic reduction in this type of anti-social behaviour and improved the quality of life for residents in Northwood Hills.

PS David Wright said, “This operation has been a major success because people don’t want to have their machines seized. They have to pay a lump sum and daily storage fees to get the vehicle back from the vehicle storage pound. If the money is not paid within two weeks the vehicle gets auctioned or destroyed.”

In addition to serving written vehicle seizure warning notices, The Northwood Hills team have been conducting targeted patrols and stopchecks of such vehicles, checking their machines and prosecuting the owners for any road traffic offences.

If you witness vehicles being driven or ridden in such a way, make a note of the following details (if possible) and forward them to northwoodhills.snt@met.police.uk or telephone 02087212546.

- 1) Registration number
- 2) Date and time
- 3) Location
- 4) What they are doing
- 5) Description of rider (particularly the crash helmet)

Continued

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS continued from page 31

Local Councillor and resident Andrew Retter said

“Following numerous complaints from residents we have been working with our local Safer Neighbourhood Team to resolve persistent anti-social behaviour by some moped/scooter riders. We fully support the actions being taken by the SNT and encourage young moped/scooter riders to act responsibly or suffer the consequences.

Northwood Hills Residents Association Chairman, Andrew Riley said “ We represent the interests of the Northwood Hills community and are actively involved with many initiatives which improve life for our residents. This Operation by the community police team is one of many we endorse.”

The SNT team also hand out to all riders stopped or spoken to, a leaflet called “Scooter Safe London” This includes how to ride safely and sensibly in London. It includes a course they can book via www.scootersafe-london.co.uk

The Northwood Hills SNT police team have consulted with local motorcycle dealers Daytona Motorcycles and HGB Motorcycles in Ruislip Manor who support the police and can offer practical advice and technical assistance to scooter/motorcycle riders.

RUISLIP BELLES AND BEAUX

We are a group of retired women and men who meet each week to practise playing tunes on hand-bells. Several years ago we managed to raise enough money to purchase some second-hand bells, and have been able to add to them gradually , so now we have a set of bells that covers an octave and a half, with five extras (sharps and flats) to give us a greater range.

We play from number notation rather than music notation, and can play a variety of music from music-hall and folk songs to other old favourites and also some classical pieces. In December we really enjoy ourselves playing a selection of Christmas Carols and the audience sing along with us. We have always aimed to raise money for Charity when playing concerts or demonstrations, so each year we try to find suitable venues where we can perform, asking for a donation at each.

At the moment our chosen Charity is Michael Sobell House and in 2009 we were able to hand over £1,500. If anyone would like us to give a concert for a party, birthday, retirement, nursing home, sheltered housing complex, or similar, please get in touch with the organiser, Barbara Wright, on 01923 820449 to arrange a suitable date and time

SCANNER CENTRE CELEBRATES 25 LIFE SAVING YEARS

The Paul Strickland Scanner Centre has celebrated its 25th anniversary. Situated in the grounds of Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, the Centre is an independent medical charity that provides a local, yet world class scanning service for the accurate and early diagnosis of cancer and other serious diseases. Almost 200,000 scans have been carried out by the Centre in the past 25 years.

The Centre opened in 1985, thanks to the pioneering spirit of Dr Paul Strickland OBE, one of the first cancer specialists to recognise that scanners could save lives through their ability to recognise the disease at an early stage.

The Centre's Mount Vernon Location enables patients to be diagnosed for treatment at their local Cancer Campus, removing the need to travel a great distance to be scanned.

Charitable donations are vitally important to enable the Centre to continue investing in the latest scanning technologies and utilising the expertise of leading Consultant Radiologists at the internationally recognised centre of excellence.

Margaret Sullivan, Chief Executive of the Paul Strickland Scanner Centre, said: “We are grateful to all of our donors, supporters and volunteers from the local community who have helped us for the past 25 years. Their support enables us to provide new equipment and undertake research into new techniques.”

*For further information please see
www.stricklandscanner.org.uk*

HOSPITAL CARE - DIY ?

My husband was in hospital recently having a heart by-pass and I learnt a lot through that experience. I thought if I write it down, it might help someone.

It is very nice to get offers of help and I had a lot of good support through my elder children, and my dear friends who took turns with me being in the hospital with my husband.

Luckily, he was in a private room so I could be there with him for long hours, even late into the night. Which got me thinking that if he was in a ward I would not be allowed to stay with him and he might not have been so well, not just physically but also psychologically.

What I realised is that nurses don't really have time (understandably) to do the little things for the patients; get them some water, put their slippers right, and so on. As they can't get up and go get things for themselves, it is very important for their family and friends to be there as much as they can.

Nights in hospital are uncomfortable and long, and by morning, instead of having had a good rest, the patient is even more tired and distressed. One person from the family should visit the patient in the morning, first thing.

I would urge the management to accommodate that. Visiting hours are all well and good for visitors, but if someone wants to care for the patient and stay in the hospital with them out of visiting hours they should be allowed to do so.

Families need to take a greater responsibility for the patient in hospital and not expect to leave it all to the hospital staff. There was an elderly gentleman in the bed next to my husband's and he was, for want of a better word, confused. The nurses were asking him questions about his meals on wheels and his home care, but he was unable to give a reply. It makes me wonder why there wasn't someone there, or failing that, why wasn't there a number they could call to find out that information. The families must take responsibility and better care of their family members, especially the elderly.

I am not at all surprised that the patients might suffer from malnutrition. There is no one to feed them. When the patient comes out from a major surgery, the best they can expect is that someone will come and take their order for food and at the appropriate time put a tray in front of them. If they don't eat that, the food gets taken away. There has to be someone from the family to feed them, especially if they can't feed themselves and are immobile.

The more a patient has care from their loved ones the quicker the recovery. They won't feel like they have been left there and no one cares for them.



This brings me to the offers of help. Lots of people offer to help, but in a vague, open-ended way. It is much better if the help can be specific so that the family members know who they can rely on and for what. If you can cook for them say which day you can and what food. Try to make a list of who can do what, so they are not served shepherd's pie everyday.

Also, it would be helpful if family and friends could set up a 'visiting rota' so that there is someone there all the time but not overlapping with each other.

I hope we will be able to make the stay in hospital, which is distressing at the best of times, more comfortable for the patient. I also hope that the health care professionals change the way they work to allow people to be in hospital around their family member any time they are needed, even if it is at 11 at night. If there is just one person there, then they won't get in the way of the nurses, they would just be a help to them.

Anila Hashim

DID YOU KNOW THESE MEN ?

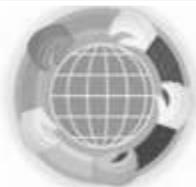
Northwood Bowling Club has been in Chestnut Avenue for 75 years, and in this Diamond Jubilee year, members are working to complete a history of the Club, and particularly of the founding fathers, so this appeal is probably aimed at older readers.

In 1935, the Club was called "Chestnuts"; Harry Brookman was the first Club Captain, and James Page was the President. Nine other names appear in the Minutes of the inaugural meeting, but there are no other details about any of these people.

If you recognise any of the following names, if they are part of your family, or friends of your parents, or if you know anything at all about them, please contact the Club Secretary, Tony Smith, on 01923 822025, with whatever information you can provide. He will be eternally grateful.

Messrs Bennett, Ward, Nichols, Atkins Senior and Junior, Potter, Croft, Lewin and Chamberlain. (Could Mr Potter have lent his name to Potter Street ?)





Northwood Area Women's Club
A Multinational Organization for Women
Helping One Another

From coffee and cake to a lifeline –

Relocating home to a new country on either a temporary or permanent basis can be a stressful and daunting experience, especially where a different culture and language is involved. The absence of family and friends is keenly felt and it is an especially isolating experience for wives when their husbands are at work and the children are at school.

Back in the early 1970's a small group of American wives who had accompanied their husbands on a posting to the UK, met over coffee and cake to provide friendship and support to each other. They had no idea that more than 30 years later, their small informal group would develop into a thriving international women's club where up to 75 women meet on a regular basis to share friendship, fun and fundraising whilst supporting each other.

Throughout its existence the club has shown appreciation to the host community through fundraising and volunteer work to support local charities. In May, the Watford Peace Hospice was presented with a cheque for £1000. Our charity for the next season is the Cancer Treatment and Research Trust based at Mount Vernon Hospital.

Our **Out & About Programme** takes members to a wide range of places, events and attractions that are both local and further afield, and even abroad.

Our very wide range of **interest groups** offers the opportunity to meet in small groups to share and develop interests and skills or even learn new ones.

A very warm welcome awaits all women at our monthly general meetings held on the first Thursday of each month, excluding July and August from 9:30am until Midday at St. John's Church Hall in Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 1DN. Our fun and informative meetings feature speakers on a wide variety of topics and also offer members the opportunity to socialise and sign up for activities and events.

Thursday 7th October An interactive talk on Bygones by Jeff Nicholls

Thursday 4th November The Jewellery of Rene Lalique by David Callaghan

If you would like to know more about the Northwood Area women's Club
visit our website at www.northwoodareawomensclub.co.uk

or contact info@northwoodareawomensclub.co.uk

PO Box 46, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 1XN

Northwood Live At Home Scheme Expands Activities

The **Live At Home Scheme** has many members and volunteers living in Northwood Hills. The Scheme offers support to enable older people to live more rewarding lives. We recruit volunteers so we can offer services such as driving and befriending - volunteers who visit members regularly offering friendly company.

Since last year we have been running a weekly lunch club at St John's URC Church Hallowell Road. We have increased our Tea and Chat sessions to two a month at the Oasis Lounge in the Methodist Church in Oaklands Gate, and we are running more coffee mornings at St John's Court, Murray Road. These sessions often have entertainment or give the opportunity to learn more about healthy lifestyles from a guest speaker. We also arrange outings and trips further afield with one-to-one assistance and door-to-door transport to garden centres, restaurants, theatres and places of interest. We offer a comprehensive information service on matters relevant to the elderly locally.

The picture shows a number of our members and volunteers on a recent boat trip at Windsor.

More and more often we are asked for assistance to our members to go shopping. Many of our members feel unable to get to medical appointments or go to the shops by themselves. Choosing your own groceries is a real treat for someone living at home alone, unable to go out alone because of lack of confidence or ability due to frailty. Our volunteers offer our members this support. If you have a "free" hour once a fortnight or just occasionally and would like to help someone, please contact us. Volunteers say they themselves benefit from helping the elderly in our community: a lot of fun as well as the satisfaction of knowing what they do is so much appreciated.

If you think you might benefit from our member services, do please contact us. We look forward to hearing from you!

Contact Angela O'Malley (Manager) or Laura Waller or Sonia Dhami (Asst. Managers) at the office telephone: 01923 842494, St John's United Reformed Church, Hallowell Road, HA6 1DN, email northwood-lah@btconnect.com

LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

As you know, the Residents Association Committee monitors all planning applications in this area, to assess their impact on local residents and services, and then works with Hillingdon Council to ensure that our amenities and views are not compromised.

Earlier this year there was an application by St. John's School on Potter Street Hill to modify a previous approval, which imposed a limit on the number of students and staff. The school had apparently been in breach of the limitation for the past five years, with student and staff numbers well over the permitted limits, and was now seeking approval to raise the previous limits to accept these increased numbers.

The application was brought to the attention of the Residents Association by vigilant neighbours of the school, and together with the help of a neighbouring residents association, the neighbours and residents association opposed the application, on the grounds of traffic and parking problems, and violation of Green Belt legislation.

Two petitions were generated by the local residents to enable them to speak against the application at the planning meeting. The planning committee refused the application of St. John's school despite a recommendation from the council planners for approval.

The school was therefore ordered to reduce their student and staff numbers over the next few years. On the face of it, a great result for the residents and the residents association, but it is understood that the school may appeal this decision.

Local residents also claim that because the school had cut down mature trees at their boundary to clear land for building, this had created damp and flooding, as well as loss of privacy, in some of the houses down the hill from the school, and have asked that the school be ordered to reinstate these trees.

So much for today. What would we like to see in the future ?

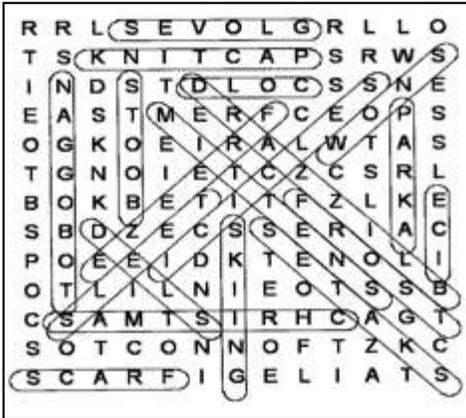
Long term, for major planning/development, we would like to see more contemporary designers coming forward, with encouragement from the council planning departments. When a block of flats is built in place of one or two large houses, it could never conform with the existing street scene, so it should have its own distinctive, individual character.

It should be modern or contemporary, or 'architect designed', not just a box built down to a price. We make our students study architecture for 7 years only to allow them to build square blocks of bricks. That we think is a waste of talent.

We would like to see more micro generation encouraged by the council and no restrictions on solar panels as far as planning is concerned. The council should find one or two reputable suppliers/installers of solar panels who would be properly regulated and monitored by the council for quality of their product and services. So instead of home owners trying to find their own installers, they can have these contractors install solar panels for them. This should bring the cost down as well since one or two suppliers would have the contract for the borough.

Anila Hashim

Wordsearch solution



Brain teaser Answer

His horse
is named Friday