

THE HILLS ECHO

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
NORTHWOOD HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



AUTUMN 2012

Visit us at www.northwoodhills.co.uk



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

DIARY DATES

NHRA EVENTS

Clean-Up Day
Saturday 13th October

Carol Singing Date TBA
See Page 22

Christmas Lights
Saturday 17th November
Watch for posters

HILLS ECHO
Copy Date for Next Issue
1 March 2013

WHAT'S ON and WHERE

You can find dates of upcoming events at -

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- Eastcote House Gardens on page 13
- Northwood Hills Library on page 17
- St Edmund's Church on page 25

Cover Photo by Angela Rogers

From The Chairman

Welcome to the autumn edition of The Hills Echo.

Officially, this has been the second wettest summer on record but luckily there have been many sporting attractions to lift everyone's spirits, not least the Diamond Jubilee Celebration, which we organized in association with Northwood Residents' Association. Feedback has been extremely positive and a number of people have written urging us to repeat the event!



Events of this size take a lot of planning. Over 4,000 visitors are estimated to have attended this one, which took 9 months of planning and organising and whilst there is not enough room here to thank everyone by name I would particularly like to thank the members of the organising Committee – Leo Mindel, Tony Ellis, Richard Plume, Ros Plume, Miles Gillman, Lynne Halse and Christine Bushell; the Ward Councillors from Northwood and Northwood Hills who made available a grant from their discretionary Ward Budget fund; the Council in general who steered us through a number of health and safety issues, and the local Scout groups, without whose support the event would not have been possible.. It was also great to see the Councillors entering into the spirit of the day by agreeing to have wet sponges thrown at them.

The build up to the event went global and was featured on French national television, – France 3, evening news and was also featured on a US web site.

Sadly, in the last 6 months Betty Walley, a former Chairman of the Residents' Association, passed away, as did Gordon Pitt, one of our longest serving Road Stewards. Our sincere condolences go to their families and friends.

The future of the Northwood and Pinner hospital site is still uncertain, but as you will see in this magazine we have been working with a specialist consultant to see if a viable proposition can be agreed with the health authorities to secure a long term future for the site that would be acceptable to the community.

We continue to carefully review planning applications and with the help of residents in the catchment areas and support of Cllr Retter we successfully stopped the proposed development at Joel Street Farm, and the application made by KFC to allow staff at their new restaurant in Joel Street to have access to the site 24 hours a day. The latter may go to appeal, so we may need to go further into battle.

Talking of planning, during the last 6 months we have been involved in numerous meetings with officers of Council about the proposed regeneration of Northwood Hills, in particular Joel Street and hope that they will be in a position to move to the public consultation stage shortly. Once everyone is agreed the Council will authorise the development work to commence at the beginning of the next financial year.

In closing, we are now planning the Christmas lights celebration and I hope to see as many of you as possible there.

*Andrew Riley,
Chairman,
Northwood Hills, Residents' Association*

JOEL STREET IMPROVEMENT

Six months ago, we were awarded a large sum of money from Boris Johnson's Outer London Fund, but so far there has been no visible sign of anything actually happening, but that is soon about to change.

Borough architects and consultants have been working to develop plans, which will be made available for public review and comment, probably in November, and probably in Northwood Hills Library.

BRAIN TEASER

Here is a series of numbers.

What is the next number in the sequence?

Answer on page 24

1
11
21
1211
111221
312211
13112221

Northwood Football Club

Our local Community Football club **NORTHWOOD FC** continues to play top-level football in the Evo-Stik League Southern – Central Division and will be looking to improve just a little on the seventh place that they achieved last May.



The League season started in mid-August and they have hit some excellent form recently, scoring fourteen goals in their last three games while progressing to the next stage of the FA Challenge Cup. While dreams of Wembley Stadium are far from realistic, they are hoping for a good run in the competition.

Despite playing some of their most entertaining football for some time, attendances have been stuck at an average of only just over 100 and the Club would love to see more local people come down and give some support to your town's senior team. Everyone is always made very welcome both in the ground and in the club's clubhouse in Northwood Park.

Free Admission

As an introduction to the club, or even if you are a lapsed supporter, the club would like to offer you the opportunity to watch the team in action for **FREE**. All you have to do is e-mail the Club Secretary Alan Evans (alan.evansnfc@btopenworld.com) and ask for up to four complimentary tickets for any home league game between now and December 22nd and these will be sent to you. The offer is limited to one game per household in the area. Admission prices are usually £8 for adults, £4 for concessions and £2 for Under-16s, so it is a great saving.

Possible fixtures to choose from (subject to change) are on Saturday 22nd September (v. Chalfont St Peter); Tuesday 9th October (v. Biggleswade); Saturday 13th October (v. Woodford); Saturday 27th October (v. Leighton); Tuesday 6th November (v. Royston); Saturday 10th November (v. Guildford); Saturday 1st December (v. Burnham); Saturday 15th December (v. Godalming); Saturday 22nd December (v. Slough).

The club is staffed purely by volunteers and is always on the lookout for people to join the set-up and give a few hours now and then to maintain or improve the facilities that are on offer. If anyone local is able to get involved it would be very much appreciated. Again e-mail the Secretary as above or give him a call on 07960 744349. The club would certainly thrive with more of the neighbourhood involved so please give it some thought.

Anyone interested in more about Northwood FC and the huge youth structure it also runs at the club, please log into the award-winning website at www.northwoodfc.com

Alan Evans Club Secretary

Outstanding Results at Northwood School

Northwood School is delighted to announce its best ever GCSE results. 87% of Year 11 students gained 5 or more A*-C grades, with an impressive 71% achieving 5 or more A*-C grades including English and Mathematics.

Both outcomes are significantly above the averages achieved by all schools nationally and represent the fourth successive year of improvement in results at Northwood. As a consequence of this sustained improvement, the school expects to be included in the Government's prestigious list of the 100 top performing schools in England for the second year running, having achieved this accolade in 2011.

Deputy Headteacher, Mark Anderson, who oversees student achievement at the school, commented: "These outstanding results affirm Northwood's status as a high performing, academically successful school. As delighted as I am with them, they come as no surprise because they reflect the outstanding teaching and learning that I see on a daily basis throughout the year."

Students achieving individual success included:

- Aishwarya Nair who gained 5A*s and 4As
- Firoza Firozdin who gained 3A*s, 5As and 2Bs
- Nirosch Bhaskaran who gained 2A*s, 6As and 3Bs
- Tyler Heywood who gained 2A*s, 5As and 3Bs
- Michael Winn who gained 1A*, 6As and 3Bs



Firoza Firozdin & Aishwarya Nair

Principal, Graeme Atkins, said: "Our students benefit from the fact that we are a relatively small secondary school therefore we can devote the one-to-one attention that enables them to achieve as well as they do. We are ambitious for them and they in turn are highly motivated to succeed."

These are exciting times for all at Northwood, which was recently selected by the Government as a priority school for new buildings and facilities.

In addition, the school site has been chosen by the Department for Education to be the location for a new university technical college, sponsored by British Airways, Virgin Atlantic and Brunel University, which will sit alongside the main school and specialise in aviation engineering.

*Linda Swan
PA to the Principal
Northwood School
Phone 01923 836363
Fax 01923 836010*

Remember the Diamond Jubilee?

It seems an age ago now doesn't it what with all the Olympics razzamatazz that we have been experiencing lately? But cast your minds back to June 2nd 2012! Northwood Hills Residents Association joined with Northwood Residents Association for the first time EVER to create our very own Queens' Diamond Jubilee Celebration...

...and what an event it turned out to be! It took nine months of planning; our first meeting took place in the William Jolle, but as we couldn't hear ourselves think, the meetings thereafter located to the various homes of the committee.

Amazingly it turned out that each committee member had a certain flair for the various jobs that needed undertaking - advertising, finance, site managing, etc - which meant that we didn't tread on each others' toes too much and that no-one was lumbered with too much to do. Indeed after a couple of glasses of wine, by the end of each meeting we were all very positive and buoyed up with enthusiasm about what we had chosen to do. However by the next morning the doubts would set in - were we REALLY going to pull this off ?

One of my lowest moments came whilst standing in three inches of snow on the football field around mid-January discussing the sound requirements with various members of the technical team. It was 4.00pm and getting dark and very cold. I knew then that I was mad!

But we had come a long way and things WERE coming together. Our councillors had promised us monies, stall holders were committing themselves to organising activities, local restaurants were on board and I managed to book the first of our performers - the falconer!

Yes my job was to organise the on-going all-day performances. I know it wasn't quite up to the standard of the opening ceremony of the Olympics but hey ho, you can only do your best!

If you managed to join us for the day, I hope you'll agree that the event was a great success. At a rough estimate there were about 4000 visitors during the day. The football field was alive with children's entertainers, climbing walls, bouncy castles, dancing and music all day long. The scouts were amazing providing gazebos, fencing and all sorts of useful kit AND lots of scout leaders to help rig and de-rig at the end of the day.



So many people gave so much time and energy to making the day a success - it was great to see such team spirit in our neighbourhood.

For me I have to confess the crowning glory of the day was when the 150 strong Rock Choir led by the lovely Abi closed the event with the National Anthem. I had a very proud, very tired and very patriotic tear in my eye. It's great to be British!

Lynne Halse



The Mayor opens the Jubilee Celebration with Nick Hurd, MP then braves the climbing wall.



Meanwhile, local Councillor Andrew Retter faces up to endless wet sponges, raising money for the Live at Home charity.

United Churches Unite

Northwood Hills United Reformed Church, on Joel Street, and St Andrew's United Reformed Church, in Eastcote, will become One Church on Easter Sunday – 31st March 2013.

Both sites will remain open and the activities will continue at both venues.

After much discussion among both congregations it was decided that the Sunday morning services will take place every week at the St Andrew's site, whilst other services will take place at the Northwood Hills site, including a monthly evening communion service, a midweek communion service and a new midweek service to be followed by lunch. Full details will be made known as soon as possible.

The next big decision to be made will be a new name for the new Church.

Discussions will be held over the summer. Look out for an announcement.

We have shared a minister, Rev. Liz Shaw, for the past seven years and have enjoyed joint pastorate services on many occasions over the past couple of years. Many new friendships have been made and we are looking forward to exciting times ahead.

Charity coffee mornings are held at both sites. The second Saturday every month (first Saturday from 2013) at the Northwood Hills site, and the 3rd Saturday each month at the St Andrews site, both from 10.30 – midday.

Both Churches would welcome people from the local area (or further away). We support a variety of charities both national and local, well known and lesser known, but ALWAYS for a very good cause.

To check what is happening at both Churches look on the websites:

<http://northwoodhillsurchurch.co.uk/index.html>

<http://www.eastcote-st-andrews.org.uk/>

Carolyn Orr



**Congratulations to Catherine Fry
who won the competition for the the best dressed
shop window with a Diamond Jubilee theme,
and is shown receiving the certificate
and £100 cheque from Councillor Keith Burrows**

Pictures from the Past

Local resident and keen photographer, Mark Bearcroft, has provided us with this reminder of what Joel Street looked like before global warming kicked in.



Mark has a fascinating collection of old postcards of local scenes on his website www.flickr.com/photos/swampy3666/sets/72157625321179318/



Remember the True Lovers' Knot ?

Mark also has photos on www.panoramio.com/user/5978964?with_photo_id=72956288
and videos on www.youtube.com/user/swampy3666
which you may find interesting

A message from Councillor Michael Markham The Worshipful The Mayor of Hillingdon

It may be autumn now but the memories of the spring and summer still remain strong in my mind.

The Queen's Jubilee gave the residents of Northwood Hills, as well as those living throughout Hillingdon, a unique opportunity to show how highly she is regarded.

June saw the hugely successful

Northwood event that I had the pleasure of opening with Nick Hurd MP, and then closing with Deputy Lieutenant Wing Commander Ed Partridge, as well as hundreds of other events taking place across the borough.

Indeed, over the four day Jubilee weekend, the Hillingdon Mayoral team - comprising myself, the Deputy Mayor and five Past Mayors' - visited some 120 street parties, with the Mayoress and I visiting 65 of them, in addition to attending many other Jubilee events.



This gave me, as Mayor, the opportunity to thank the many thousands of residents taking part in these celebrations, my thanks for supporting the Queen.

We are also greatly enjoying meeting many other residents through the visits we make to meetings and events – these include visits to such Northwood schools as Northwood College and meeting

Ben Bennett from Northwood School at the finals of the 2012 Jack Petchey public speaking competition.

Together with the Mayoress, my wife Rosemary, I have also been organising fundraising events for our chosen charities :

The children's hospice **Shooting Star CHASE** – caring for more children from Hillingdon than any other London borough;

Hillingdon Young Carers – all carers play a vital role, but youngsters who give up their childhood caring for others need, it seems to us, special help and recognition; and finally,

AgeUK Hillingdon – it is their 'signposting' and advisory work that we think is so important.

More information about my charity appeal, the events we are organising and, indeed, the history and role of the Mayor in Hillingdon, can be found on www.hillingdon.gov.uk/mayor

Eastcote House Gardens.

This summer the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens, in conjunction with a local firm *Vintage Tea 2 You*, have held monthly Vintage Tea Gardens at Eastcote House.

Each month, as well as delicious home made cakes and cream teas, there have been many events to entertain everyone, from a petting farm to an exhibition by Eastcote Arts Society. It is intended to hold another season the second Sunday of each month starting in May 2013. Make a date and come and join us.

Gardening sessions are still held 1st Friday and 3rd Thursday of each month starting at 9.30am, and the 2nd Saturday starting at 10.30am. Tools & Refreshments provided.

Winners of the poster competition



Tea Garden



*Saturday December 1st
at 1.30pm, join us for a
Tree Dressing.*



Herga Swing Band

If you were at the very successful Jubilee Event in June on the recreation ground off Chestnut Avenue, you may well have been entertained by the music of the **Herga Swing Band**. We are a local band which has been in existence for many years and we practise regularly on Thursday evenings at Fairfield (the church in Windsor Close).

We are always happy to welcome new members to our group, so if you have been thinking of dusting down your trumpet or sax and are interested in joining us then the person to contact is Maisie Ringham on 01923 829889. We are always happy to be hired for special events too.

LOOKING BACK

While we are still celebrating our 80th Anniversary, let's look back briefly at where it all started.

Harry Peachey first formed the Briardale Ratepayers Association in 1934. This developed into the Northwood Hills Ratepayers Association and finally into the Northwood Hills Residents Association.

In the early days Harry Peachey was Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Road Steward all rolled into one but soon others took office.

Mr. Scarsbrook became Chairman, Mr. Harker Secretary and Mrs. Thompson Treasurer, and it is fitting over 60 years later to pay tribute to these pioneers of our Association. Incidentally Harry Peachey lived in Briarwood Drive where several members of the executive committee used to live.

Harry Peachey was born in Hull in 1881 and came here to manage the newly formed Belton Estates. In addition to his lead in developing Northwood Hills he encouraged every form of activity and brought life into the district earning the respect and admiration of all who came into contact with him.

Although Harry died in 1959, his great human qualities and acts of kindness, particularly to the aged and infirm, will not be forgotten.

*Lishman Easby
Former Chairman, NHRA*

LOOKING FORWARD

The Future of Northwood and Pinner Cottage Hospital Site

At the beginning of the year we were outraged to learn that Hillingdon Primary Care Trust (PCT) had made a proposal, hidden away in their 2012/13 budget statement, to sell off the Northwood and Pinner hospital site which, bar use as an ambulance station, has been vacant since 2008.

The Hospital, paid for by public subscription, opened in 1924 as a World War 1 memorial and as such your Residents' Association is not going to allow a 'sell off' to happen without a fight. On hearing the news we immediately went into battle mode with the PCT and at the same time alerted Nick Hurd to the shock announcement. A hastily arranged meeting was called at the Cabinet Office in Whitehall with the PCT, Northwood Hills Residents' Association (NHRA) and Dr Goodman (Mountview Practice) the new Chairman of Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group, which will shortly take over ownership of the PCT's budget when it is disbanded under the Government proposals. It was agreed that the NHS would be asked to look at other uses for the site and that a specialist regeneration consultant be engaged to look at alternative options. Subsequent to her appointment, a number of joint meetings have been held with Northwood Residents' Association, Northwood Hills Residents' Association and Community Voice to allow our input and discuss opportunities.

At the end of August the consultant delivered the proposal paper to Members of the Borough's Clinical Commissioning Group and whilst, at the time of going to print we have not seen the options paper, we are led to believe that the proposals include the option to turn the much-loved building in Pinner Road into a health and wellbeing centre, and a new base for GPs. This would be achieved by relocating Northwood Health Centre from nearby Acre Way. Such a move would allow additional services to be offered, such as day clinics, minor surgery, chiropody, memory clinics and counselling. Hillingdon Community Services would also relocate, creating a 'northern hub' for the borough. The proposals also include some housing, intended mainly for elderly people, to be built on part of the site.

No firm decision has been made on any of the options, and the expert is now drawing up a cost plan.

Tony Ellis, chairman of Northwood Residents' Association, has welcomed the plans as 'a very encouraging sign' that the historic site will be saved.

Joan Davis, of Community Voice, said there was hope, but nothing was set in stone until details of costs emerged.

She said: "We will wait until the consultant comes back with some costed options. Until we know more about them we cannot say anything definite."

If the plan for housing goes ahead, it is hoped developers would help pay for the new health centre, similar to the case of the new Kate Fassnidge Community Centre, which is due to open shortly in High Street, Northwood.



At St John's School we have been privileged to be included in the 'Northwood Live at Home Scheme' and our valuable community work has been able to continue this term with a willing team of Year Eight boys.

We have been busy visiting residents of Northwood and helping them out with clearing up and sorting out garages and sheds, cleaning windows, tidying and weeding gardens, doing a spot of housework and car cleaning.

a In addition to this, lately we have been assisting local Tenants and Residents' Association in a clear-up operation at 'The Crowe's Nest', a community garden in Northwood set up in the memory of their chairman. This area was reclaimed from wasteland that had previously been a small park, but had become overgrown and rubbish-strewn over a number of years. Funds from the Council and the old Hillingdon Homes were secured to bring the area back to a community space a few years ago. Our boys have helped with the sweeping, weeding and digging.

Thank you to the people who have helped us make such a success of this new venture at St John's. We hope to be able to continue our efforts to help local residents in the future.

*Mrs. A. Selwood,
St. John's School.*

Banking Locally - Cheque This Out!

The Residents Association receives numerous questions from both members and non-members every month. A common question asked is - 'What can we do to get a Bank in Northwood Hills?'

Often people are surprised when we respond - we have one - The Post Office!

Personal customers can pay cheques and cash into their Bank accounts at the Post Office Counter using a normal bank paying in slip. Cash can be withdrawn using a debit or credit card at one of the three 'free' ATMs we now have in Northwood Hills outside the Post Office, Tesco and Space.

Business customers can also pay funds into their Bank account over the Post Office Counter but before doing so will need to speak to their own Bank first to request them to set up an Inter Bank Agency Arrangement. The set up time to put such an arrangements in place should take no more than 10 days.

For both personal and business customer all credits paid in at the Post Office Counter will take one day longer than the normal banking clearing cycle to reach their Bank Account.

Kate Fassnidge Community Hall

After the Ritz Cinema at 76 High Street, Northwood closed, the site became the much loved Northwood Dining club until it too had to close when the building fell into disrepair. However, there is good news! The land is owned by the Trustees of Fassnidge Memorial Trust and in partnership with Howard Homes a new hall has come into being.

The Trustees of Fassnidge Memorial Hall propose that the Hall will be for the community, run by the community, and will be holding a grand opening of the Hall by Nick Hurd, Minister for Civil Society, between 12 noon and 2 pm on 14 September 2012.

If you would like to attend the opening, please provide me with your address so that you can be formally invited.

Frazine Johnson

Clerk & Legal Adviser

Phone 01895 830700 or e-mail frazine@frazinejohnson.co.uk.

EASTCOTE CRICKET CLUB

Eastcote Cricket Club will in three years time be celebrating its 150th year. Our first match was played against Harefield in 1865 (and a copy of the scorecard is on display inside the clubhouse). For many of those years matches would have been played in front of Haydon Hall House, one of the old manorial homes of Eastcote. The 'big house' has gone, but the club has continued to progress during the years. The pavilion has been rebuilt several times, with our present clubhouse being built, mainly by the club members, in the 1970's.

We regard ourselves as a true family club, with our colts and their parents being an important part of our activities both now and in the future. In fact many of our current and past senior players gained their knowledge and love of cricket through our colts section, and now their children are doing the same. The club is based around our senior teams, with the expectation that our existing colts will progress to, and play a substantial part in our teams of the future. At present we have nearly 300 colts aged between 6 and 17 and a waiting list (which is now closed until early next year) of over 100.

Our first team play in the Middlesex Premier League and at the time of writing we expect to finish for the third year running within the top 4 positions (and hopefully higher!). This means that our first team is one of the top 4 amateur clubs within Middlesex – a fantastic achievement for a club which is still fairly small compared to some of our competitors.

Our 2nd and 3rd teams are also competing in the top tier of the Middlesex league and our 2 Sunday sides are also doing well in their leagues.

Our 4th team, which only started regularly last year, and our 2nd Sunday team consist of a substantial number of our older colts accompanied by a small number of "senior" players, with the aim of introducing our youngsters, from about age 14, into senior league cricket.

This year for the first time, we also entered our Ladies team into a league. We have not been able to play all our matches due to lack of players – so if you are interested in a friendly game of cricket, whatever your age, please contact us at the club.

Our colts' section is split into 2 sections with Friday night being the largest evening. This is a true family night including a barbecue for the boys and parents. Our squads meet on various nights and play against other local teams. All our coaches are club members and many hold ECB coaching certificates. Our Child Welfare Officer is an important part of our colts' setup and we are also proud to hold ECB Clubmark accreditation. Our colts' teams have once again had a tremendous year and highlights include 4 of our teams winning their leagues and the other 3 being runners up. The winning teams are now progressing in the various other Middlesex trophies and hoping to bring a few more back.

By the time this is published we will once again have held our annual Funday on the August bank holiday weekend and we hope that many of you will have had a chance to visit us on the day. Our season is about to finish, so if you didn't get a chance to see some cricket at Southill Lane this year, we hope that you will next summer.

*John Clouting
Chairman*

JOEL STREET ALLOTMENTS

Along with everyone else, I expect, we had a wonderful day at the Jubilee Event on 2 June. We hope that a lot of people who came to talk to us were infected with the allotment bug. Our waiting list is still not enormous, so if you're thinking of joining us, why not put your name down now? It's well worth the effort – not only do you get very fresh and wonderfully tasty home-grown produce, but having an allotment is good exercise and an excellent opportunity to make new friends.

In addition to introducing us to new people, our plant sale at the Jubilee Event raised over £250 for Healing Gardens – a charity that aims to improve the everyday quality of life for people with a long-term disability, a terminal illness or those recovering from a serious operation, by focusing on their immediate outside world – their gardens. This helps many people rediscover and find new enjoyment in life through gardening – much as having an allotment might do. Healing Gardens also arranges group trips for disabled clients to local garden centres and sites of gardening interest around London.

It has to be said that it's not been a wonderful year for allotments so far. Where are the long hot May, June and July days we're used to? Everything seems to be growing several weeks later than usual this year, and the abnormal amount of rain has benefited slugs and snails enormously. However, we still have hopes for a late harvest.

After a lapse of many years, we hope to award a prize cup for the best produce from one of Joel Street Allotments later this year. Why not join us now, and next year it could be your name on that splendid silver cup.

Joel Street Allotments can be reached by phone 07914 921390
email joelstreetallotments@hotmail.co.uk
or through our website <http://joelstreetallotments.weebly.com/>

Barbara Cumbers
Acting Secretary

Northwood Live At Home Scheme

A Friends and Family Barbeque on September 2nd provided an opportunity for about 40 members, volunteers, staff and their families to enjoy each other's company, and eat tasty barbequed meats and vegetarian food with salads and puddings. The Live At Home Scheme is flourishing in Northwood Hills with the Monday Friendship Group celebrating the anniversary of its first meeting on Monday October 15th. The meeting will be from 9.45 to 2.30 with lunch at 12.00. If you would like to come and enjoy meeting people in a friendly atmosphere, take part in (not strenuous) activities, and have a healthy lunch, ring our office on 01923 829939. Transport can be provided.

We are very short of volunteers, especially those willing to visit our members in their own homes and befriend them. So if you have a few hours a month free – regular commitment not required - and would like to participate, please ring the office – we would be delighted to hear from you.

Sue Mansfield

SCENES FROM THE BIG LUNCH



OLYMPIC BIG LUNCH – COMMUNITY EVENT

Sponsored by Fairfield Church and Northwood Hills Residents Association

Sunday 8th June 12-30-3pm on the Green space behind Salisbury shops

Yet again this event was a huge success with over 200 neighbours turning out to enjoy fun, laughter, music, games and free Pimms!

The weather forecast stated 100% chance of rain, and many dog walkers commented in the morning that surely we would be calling it off!! The bouncy castle man even rang twice to say *'are you sure you are still going ahead with this?'*

Thankfully the optimistic Fairfield team and congregation decided to set up 'in faith' that between 12.30 and 3 pm it would be sunny! At 12.25 the rain stopped !! Like an etch-a-sketch in the sky, the clouds moved, leaving beautiful blue sky... by 12.50 someone even asked if I had any sun cream!!

The Pimms flowed; Sarah Thelin & Martin Wilson provided some spectacular live soothing summer music with the help of Steve Rogers who did a fabulous job with all the PA equipment. Jim O'Neill and his team of helpers rustled up people to take part in our own mini Olympic games, competing to win an obscenely large jar of sweets!

Paul Bushell represented the local scouts (2nd Northwood) and manned the climbing wall. He had fun trying to get photos of all the elders and leaders of the church hanging off the climbing wall! The wall was a big hit with all ages.

The bouncy castle also kept many children occupied whilst their parents relaxed.

Lucy Hall, a teacher from Haydon School, did a fantastic job of encouraging new people to join the Residents Association, as raising the profile of this organisation and promoting community spirit is central to all the events that are put on.

Thankfully the rain held off until the end of the event, with a HUGE downpour whilst we were packing away, but many of us were so content it went ahead that we really didn't mind!! I even got sunburnt, which I found highly amusing!

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the shops in Salisbury parade for supporting this event, for advertising, printing leaflets and to 'Paru's' for doing a great deal for us on the Pimms. Thank you also to Fairfield Church family who provided all the amazing food for the event, and the manpower to create all the activities. Thank you to Northwood Hills Residents Association for the financial support for this event, Thanks also to 2nd Northwood Scouts and finally thank you to all the local community who joined us – the event would be pointless without you.

The next event planned on Salisbury green space will be open air carol singing in mid December with free mulled wine and mince pies.

Date to be announced, flyers and posters will be up nearer the time.

If you would like to get involved with the events that happen in this area please contact me on the email address below or via the Northwood Hills Residents' Association.

*Chris Bushell
christine.bushell@mail.com*

Nick Hurd Encourages Volunteering

Well, I got a bad dose of Olympics fever like many readers of the Hills Echo.

As I write this, the Paralympics have just started and it is very likely that I will succumb again. It is a bit embarrassing to admit I was a sceptic, on grounds of cost, but I now believe it has been well worth it. For a while the mood of the country changed and there has been a spirit of generous, optimism in the air which I wish I could bottle.



As the Minister for the Voluntary sector, I am really pleased that the magnificent volunteers got the recognition they deserved. However, we should also recognise that across the country, volunteers do extraordinarily valuable work day in, day out. We know that very well in Northwood Hills and Hillingdon where volunteers keep going so many events and groups that residents value. However, the truth is that most of the volunteering is done by a relatively small number of people, and they are getting older. So, as a borough and a country, we cannot take these local heroes for granted.

Just as we want to inspire a new generation of sporting heroes, so we should be thinking about how we inspire new people to get involved locally. Sometimes it needs a new call to arms.

So, in the afterglow of the Olympics, I was happy to support a new charity called "Join In" that launched a campaign to celebrate local sport and encourage people to get involved with local sports clubs, like Eastcote Hockey club, which rely on volunteers.

It seems to have been a big success with over 6,000 special events and over 250,000 people taking part, including your MP who unleashed the inner Mo on a "fun run". I hope that many of those people will be inspired to keep on supporting their local clubs in some way. There are other good new ideas to get people involved and I am particularly keen to inspire the young. That is why I am pleased that Hillingdon youngsters have a chance this year to participate in National Citizen Service. They will be part of a network of 30,000 teenagers who between them will give around 750,000 hours of voluntary service in their communities. This will grow. If we can use the Olympics to inspire a new generation of volunteers then that would be a great legacy of a great Games.

*Nick Hurd MP
Minister for Civil Society*

Safer Neighbourhood Team

At the beginning of the summer the Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) relocated from Argyll House to Northwood Police Station and at the same time Acting Sergeant Richard Charles moved over to a new role in Hayes.

In the coming weeks we will all start to see the shorter days and longer evenings which means we all should be that much more vigilant. Here are some tips from the team, offered to reduce your chances of becoming a victim of crime - mostly common sense.

Home

Remember that the best burglary deterrent is to make the home look occupied.

- Use automatic timer-switches to turn on your lights when it is getting dark.
- Cancel any milk or newspaper deliveries if you go away.
- Avoid discussing plans to go out where strangers may hear details of your absence from home.
- Give a trusted person a set of keys and ask them to remove any accumulating mail that may be visible from the street if you are away.
- If you normally leave valuable bicycles or similar items in your shed consider putting them in the house.
- Make sure that you lock all outside doors and windows before you leave.
- If you have one make sure your house alarm is switched on when the house is unoccupied.

Travel

- Do not put your home address on your luggage if you are travelling.
- If travelling, although regulations vary, most airlines will restrict you to only one item of hand luggage. Keep valuables like cameras, jewellery, cash and passports in this bag so that they are with you all the time but check regulations before you travel.
- Never leave your luggage unattended at the airport as the chances are that the security staff, or worse still a thief, will remove it.

For further crime prevention advice call the
crime prevention officer on 020 8246 1779.

BRAIN TEASER Answer (see Page 4)

The next number in the sequence is 1113213211, because the rule for creating the next number is to simply describe the previous number. The first number is 1, or 1 (one) 1, so you get 11. To describe 11, you have two 1's, or 21. Now you have one 2 and one 1, so the next number is 1211. The solution is to simply continue describing the previous number using only numbers. Easy when you know how.

News from St Edmund the King, Pinner Road

It's been a busy summer at St. Edmund's, with celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee, and events for the Olympics, which were really happy occasions. Check out our Facebook page to see some of the things we've been up to. After a quieter August, we're now in full swing for the autumn, with a busy programme ahead of us as the 'new term' begins.

Of course, the most important thing we do as a parish community is our Sunday worship, and our main Sung Eucharist is at 10am. We're fairly 'traditional' in our style of worship, with music and singing, ceremonial and teaching in the sermon all being important to us; but at the same time we have lots of things for our children and young people too – for instance, for Harvest Festival this year they're going to be performing part of the musical 'Godspell' as part of the service, and budding actors and actresses will, no doubt, shine!

For the first time last year, we offered an 'alternative' party for our children on Halloween. Conscious that it is night when some people get up to mischief, we wanted to celebrate the real Halloween, which gets its name from 'All Hallows' or All Saints, the following day. The party was such a success we'll be offering it again this year. 'Saints and Sausages' is a great evening of games, fun, food and celebration – it's in the early evening of October 31st, and if you know any children who'd like to come, just let us know, we'd love to welcome them!

November brings with it associations of remembrance of those gone before us. Remembrance Sunday falls on the 11th November this year, and the Eucharist at 10am recalls those who have given their lives to secure the peace and freedom of this land, and includes the two minutes' silence.

In the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday, at 3.30pm, there is a particular invitation to those who have recently lost loved ones to come to our annual Memorial Service. It's a very poignant and beautiful occasion, in which there's an opportunity to come forward and light a candle in prayer and remembrance – giving thanks for their lives and the ongoing love we yet share, and asking God for help in the pain of loss.

Music plays a big part in our life here, and we are very proud to host some really top-quality concerts in our building. Our own 'Classic Concerts' go from strength to strength, and on November 18th there's a concert of varied piano music – from Beethoven to Gershwin, and the fun 'London Suite' by Eric Coates. Tickets are just £6, available at the door, and that includes a delicious tea afterwards. The concerts are a lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon – come along, you'll be most welcome!

Dare we note that Christmas is approaching! The Christmas Bazaar here includes a host of wonderful stalls: mouth-watering cakes, cup-cakes, Christmas puddings and mince-pies; gifts and crafts, a fabulous draw and games and activities for children – not forgetting, of course, Father Christmas in his grotto! It's on 1st December, so make a note in your diary.



In church, the countdown to our celebration of the birth of Jesus begins at Advent, and to begin that season of preparation our own choir and friends are offering 'A Sequence of Music and Readings for Advent' on December 2nd at 6.30pm. Much of the music will be by the composer Joseph Haydn, and his joyful work, 'The Creation', and it promises to be a great way to help us anticipate the forthcoming feast!

Christmas brings with it that wonderful combination of glorious music in the warmth and glow of our candlelit church, and our celebrations for the birth of Christ. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is on Sunday 16th December at 6.30pm; then on Christmas Eve the ever popular Crib Service is at 4.00pm. During this special family 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.

Of course, St. Ed's is justly famous for our pantomime, put on each year by our very own Arrow Players. In 2013 it's going to be the classic 'Aladdin', always a firm favourite with young and old alike. It runs from 12th -19th January, and the Box Office will soon be opening, so watch out for details and come and join the fun!

Life here is busy, rich and rewarding - come and join in, we look forward to sharing it with you.

With all good wishes,

*Fr Philip Barnes,
Vicar of St Edmund the King,
Northwood Hills*

Betty Walley 1924 - 2012

To say that Betty Walley was a good friend and neighbour doesn't begin to say enough about her.

Betty lived, for the majority of her 88 years, in Northwood Hills, first in Middleton Drive with her parents and, after her wedding, in Chamberlain Lane just around the corner. For many years, jointly with her brother, she owned a toy shop on the main parade and knew so many people from those days. Very many of those children later joined local scouting where they found Betty was the Akela. Betty was also a leading light in the football club. There could have scarcely been an activity that Betty wasn't involved in.



This interest in every part of the community continued into her older years and found her on so many committees. She had diverse activities, such as being a police visitor, interests in health, children, Chamber of Trade, our own Residents Association – where she was at one time Chairman, - and many, many more.

Betty was passionate about animals, a keen horse rider and a founder member of the Hillingdon Equestrian Advisory Committee, the link between riders and the Council on equestrian matters. She kept a cob for hacking and even right up to when she passed away she still had two Shetland ponies, which she had successfully taken to horse shows in earlier years. She also once had a duck called Lucy that had a bad foot after being trodden on by one of her horses. Lucy was kept at home and could be found wandering around her and her neighbours gardens in the evening when she was supposed to be kept locked up to protect her from foxes. Lucy, like Betty was tenacious and rather than let the fox have a good meal usually ended up chasing the fox away.

Anyone in trouble could go to Betty and be sure of a warm welcome, a meal and if necessary a bed for as long as there was a need. She was truly a gem; none were turned away in their hour of need and many became lifelong friends.

Betty will be greatly missed by us all.

Gordon Pitt – 1921 - 2012

Gordon was, possibly, our longest serving Road Steward until he stood down earlier this year due to ill health.

Towards the end of the war Gordon was posted to the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers based near Hemel Hempstead. The camp was a considerable distance from the nearest cinema, so during his time there he managed to procure a cine projector and took on the running of evening film shows for the camp. These skills led to an offer of a post in the Army film unit, but this never materialized and after the war he returned to work at GEC Ltd Wembley.

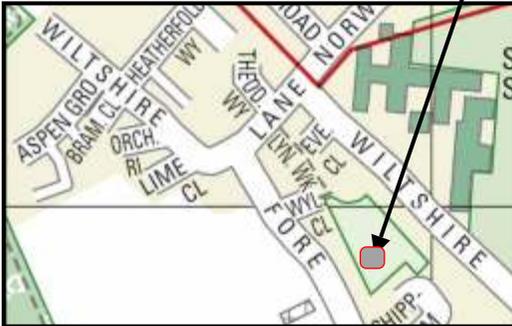
His electrical engineering background led to a job in the early 1950's at Stanley Schofield Productions a firm that specialized in colour documentary film production for almost every trade & industry –including motorsport. Gordon developed the audio recording side of the business, building complex audio mixing equipment from scratch and utilizing the then new magnetic audio tape to record and edit soundtracks and voiceovers. This work took him to many diverse locations: through France & Italy for the Monte Carlo Rally, ice racing in Sweden, motorcycle trials in Yorkshire, numerous European Grand prix races, Le Mans, the Isle of Man Tourist Trophy and his particular favourite - the footplate of the famous locomotive, the Flying Scotsman!

During the mid 1950's the company began to produce audio LPs of various motor racing events. Known as "sound stories" these records soon gained popularity with motorsport fans, particularly the ones covering the Isle of Man Tourist Trophy motorcycle races. This extensive series ran for over 9 years with Gordon as chief sound engineer, travelling to the Island every year to record the sounds of bikes on the iconic 37 ¼ mile circuit and interviews with the famous riders of the day. He was very proud of this part of his career and would passionately recount numerous stories of his time on the island and the motorcycling legends he met - he often said that his job was more like a paid hobby!

One other passion was his love of Formula 1 racing inspired by his time spent during the 50s & 60s at numerous Grand Prix races, working with racing legends such as Stirling Moss, Bruce McLaren, Jim Clark, Graham Hill and commentators Peter Arnold & Graham & Murray Walker.

Rest in Peace.

New Children's Playground Now Open



Although the opening ceremony was delayed due to the torrential rain earlier in the year, the new playground, close to Haydon School, is now being used enthusiastically by local children, who especially enjoy the zip wire.



UPDATE - NHRA FINANCES

As a Committee we always look to ensure that our expenditure is kept to a minimum but over the last few years have experienced a number of increased costs, such as the cost of producing the bi-annual magazine which we have tried to defray with increased advertising. Whilst this has been successful, sadly, there is still a gap between our income and expenditure which we need to address in the following ways -

First, we urgently need a volunteer to bring in more advertising revenue. There are many local shops and businesses which could benefit from advertising in the Echo - they just need to be contacted.

Second, the cost of membership. No-one currently on the Committee can recall the annual subscription being raised to the present level of £2 per household per year, which suggests that it has been held at this level for 10 years, or maybe more!

With some reluctance the members agreed at the AGM that the annual membership subscription be increased to £3, which is still less than one penny per day.

The new membership fee structure will come into effect on 1st April 2013.

It was also agreed at the AGM that the Committee would look to contribute to certain projects which would help enhance the Community and/or help improve the facilities in the Community. If you would like to nominate a project which could be considered please contact our acting secretary, Roz Lester, either by e-mail to secretary@northwoodhills.co.uk or by letter to 18 Winchester Road, HA6 1JF

Andrew Riley Chairman NHRA

Congratulations! **Some of the many messages received from visitors to the Jubilee Celebration**

Thought the whole thing was terrific for a small community like ours and all the participants are to be congratulated, especially given the weather.

Vic Abbott

We've just come back from your Jubilee celebration – what a fabulous day out – thank you so much for organising.

Thank you *Fiona Clark*

Wow, that was a fantastic event. Congratulations to the organising team and thank you.

Jo and Willie Lawrence

To all who arranged the Fete on Saturday.

Congratulations on arranging and running an excellent Fete on Saturday.

All your hard work was rewarded by a fantastic day, enjoyed by all.

Well done !!!

We had a very successful day with our stalls busy all day.

Thanks again..... *Martin for Northwood Lions.*

Just a quick email to say thanks for putting on such a great show, I'm sure everyone enjoyed themselves as much as we did, who knows maybe you will make it an annual event. Thanks again *Simon & Patricia flower days*

Congratulations to all your Committee for such a splendid occasion which provided so much enjoyment to many. Best wishes. *Lynette Bridger*

Congratulations on a fantastic day. A great result for the community and my sincerest gratitude for your efforts and passion in organising the day. All the people who organised, managed and produced such a wonderful event should, be praised, and collectively, I believe Northwood Hills and Northwood is now firmly on the map. Thanks

Shanti Panchani Intoto Kitchens

A personal thank you for organising yesterday's Jubilee event on Northwood Rec, The event's success can be gauged by seeing so many people attending and enjoying themselves.

However, you may have created a monster with an insatiable appetite a community event organised in cooperation between both Residents Associations for the benefit of all our residents.

I look forward to the debrief and plans for the next community event..

Best regards. *Cllr Andrew Retter.*

Nick Hurd left a message to congratulate everyone involved in organising the Jubilee event. He has spoken with a number of people all of whom have said that it was a great success which surpassed all expectation.

I bumped into someone this evening who recognised me from the Jubilee Celebration and he asked me to pass on some very positive feedback. He said it was very worthwhile attending, very well organised and should be repeated next year. I guess you are looking forward to a rest before considering a repeat event, but I thought that you would be pleased to hear such enthusiasm for the day.

Regards David Pinn (Meet and Greet and car park bit from 8.30 to 1.00pm)

Visitor feedback continued

Lesley Davis on Meet & Greet at the clubhouse end reports that many people on their way out said to pass on their congratulations to the organisers.

Sat was a great day and I think the most entertaining Jubilee event I've done all weekend ! So well done to all those involved. *Best regards Janette, Cooper's Beans & Leaves*

"A very big WELL DONE to everyone involved in the organising of this event. A huge amount of people came through the gates on Chestnut Avenue and had a great afternoon. THANK YOU!"

"I can't speak for all the residents of Northwood Hills and/or Northwood, but a big thank you to the organisers of today's Jubilee Celebration and also to all those who worked so hard to make the event so enjoyable and successful. Big up to the man upstairs for bringing out the sun too."

Congratulations on organising and hosting such a wonderful Jubilee event – it was a real success! Thank you for inviting us to be a part of it. Many thanks
Gemma Premier Ki Taekwondo Club

A huge well done to you ! It was a fantastic event... hope you are managing to relax now !!
GxDinky Dancers

.... And a massive thank you to you too on behalf of Rock Choir! It was a wonderful afternoon (thankfully warmer than the morning in Harpenden where I conducted on a hay stack due to my stand seeping into the ground from rain!!) and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. I know these things take huge amount of time and organisation, and it was a relief to be at something which was very slick and SO well organised. I felt very proud of the singers as they sang their hearts out with smiling faces....the children dancing along added to the lovely family atmosphere.
Kind regards, Abigail Leader for Harpenden, Hertford, St. Albans and Watford Choirs

Saturday's event was a success all round judging by all the numerous unsolicited and very positive comments from those leaving and in particular by the sight of young children crying because they didn't want to go home!
Kevin Mulvaney Car Park Chief

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Elthorne Hillingdon thank you so much for organising such a splendid fete. It was a great atmosphere and everyone came together as a community. The site and the setup were fantastic and we did very well on our stall both financially and by way of possible new members.

We know that these events don't simply happen and involve many people and much time to make them look effortless. Congratulations to all concerned. I do hope you will consider making this an annual event.

Many thanks again. *Joan Greening, Rotary Club of Elthorne Hillingdon*

Thank you to everyone for arranging. All the hard work was well worth it and both Harry and Mike enjoyed it very much so well done!
Maureen Donald

Great event brilliantly organised. *Ophelia Friends of Michael Sobell House*

Well done to everyone involved for all your organisation in bringing today together. It was fantastic to see such an awesome crowd, with lots of great entertainment. *Angela Rogers*

The Jubilee event was just amazing - so well organised and a fun day out. All credit to you, Leo, the cllrs and all rest of the community who helped.

I was really pleased to have been there and seen its success first hand, and especially the climbing wall. Well done to everyone. *Jales Tippell*

I thought it was a great day, a lot of hard work had obviously gone into it but it paid off and it was a great success. Congratulations to everyone concerned.
*Catherine Livingston
Branch Manager Northwood Library*

From the Editor

Hasn't this been a fantastic summer ?

First, our Jubilee Celebrations together with Northwood Residents' Association, then our own Big Lunch on Salisbury Road Open Space, and finally, the Olympics.

Although I don't follow any sport apart from bowling, I went along to the Paralympic Games, primarily to see the venues, which I have been paying for.

I have been totally sceptical from the beginning - I didn't want the Olympics here, I wasn't interested, and I didn't expect we could do anything properly.

But once in the Olympic Park, like many others, I was overwhelmed and impressed. The venues were magnificent, and the logistics and organisation worked to perfection. The volunteers were exceptional, and clearly enjoyed helping visitors. Even the weather behaved itself, and we were back in the sunshine days of my childhood.

The Paralympic athletes were astonishing: I knew what to expect when watching wheelchair table-tennis, and blind five-a-side football, but Bocchia, bowling from wheelchairs, came as a complete surprise, and the skill of these contestants, severely handicapped by both physical and mental traumas, was absolutely remarkable.

The only downside to the Olympic experience was the online ticketing procedure. Trying to buy tickets from the website was like playing a demented computer game, where the rules changed by the minute, and winners became losers with the click of a mouse.

Fortunately, there will be no tickets needed for our next local functions -

- Christmas Lights Big Switch On - Saturday 17th November
- Carol Service at Salisbury Road Open Space sometime in December.

I look forward to meeting you there.

Alan Lester

Ruislip Woods Festival

3000 people came to celebrate and learn about woodland tradition at London's biggest wooded area at the festival in April helped by what was at the time a rare glimpse of sunny weather.

Ruislip Woods Festival, a celebration of woodland life past and present was boosted by a rare burst of warm, sunny weather. With Morris Dancing, falconry, tug of war, a fun dog show, chainsaw carving and believe it or not daytime astronomy (everyone was offered the chance to view the sun in a different light through a filtered telescope) there were plenty of things to keep both children and adults entertained at an event supported by Hillingdon Council.

Planning for the 'free' event next year has already commenced and it is hoped that by then a new 150 space car park will be in operation.

Local Voluntary Workers Honoured

In the Diamond Jubilee Birthday Honours List published on Her Majesty's Official Birthday - 16 June 2012 - local resident Dr Barry Twigg was made a Member of The Order of The British Empire (M.B.E.) It is in recognition of his voluntary work in the education and counselling of young people.

This was a well deserved award recognising Barry's voluntary roles with the National Drugs Prevention Alliance, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the Constitutional Monarchy Association (the Education Officer aspect of it), the talks he gives to schools and universities and his long-term mentoring and counselling work with individuals.



Also honoured was Richard Plume. Again this was a well deserved award recognising Richard's work as an executive committee member with 1st Northwood Scouts and a fundraiser for Northwood Live at Home Scheme. Richard was awarded the British Empire Medal (B.E.M). Richard was also a member of the Northwood and Northwood Hills Diamond Jubilee event organising committee.

Richard was nominated by his wife Ros, said he was "amazed and taken aback" when he learnt he had received the honour. We congratulate Barry and Richard and who knows, if they keep up the good work we may at a future point be saying arise Sir Barry and Sir Richard!



Northwood Bowls Clubs

Although the weather was a little grey and damp on the day of the Jubilee Celebration, Northwood Bowling Clubs had a busy and exciting time.

Many of the visitors through our gates came primarily to use the toilet facilities, but several stayed to see what our lovely game looked and felt like, and seemed to enjoy the experience.

We certainly enjoyed providing one-to-one taster sessions on the Green, some of which we hope will develop into future membership of our Clubs.

We would like to thank the Residents Associations for putting on this event, and our Club Members who took part in all the activities of the day.

*Tony Smith
Club Secretary*

**Northwood Hills Residents Association
Committee Officers as at March 2012**

President	Tony Lane
	Erika Kimber
Vice Presidents	Lishman Easby
	Vacant
Chairman	Andrew Riley ACIB
Vice Chairman	Leo Mindel
Hon Secretary	Roz Lester (Acting)
Minutes Secretary	Maxine Goswell
Hon Treasurer	Fiona Morgan FCCA
Hon Auditor	Jane Brightman FCCA
Road Steward Coordinator	Paul Akers
Planning	Anila Hashim
Transport	Herbert Levinger
Health Officers	Christine Bushell
	Herbert Levinger*
Hillingdon Police Committee	Graham Mann
Environment Consultant	Lesley Crowcroft
Press Officer	Andrew Riley
Shops Coordinator	Steve Allen
Editor of The Echo	Alan Lester
Web Master	Ray Krystofiak
	Lynne Halse
Events Committee	Christine Bushell
	Leo Mindel
	Jane Clayfield
Committee Members	Lyn Ives
	Lucy Hall**

* Herbert Levinger is also the NHRA Representative on the GP Patient & Public Involvement Strategy Development Working Group.

** Lucy Hall is also proofreader for the Hills Echo

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Councillors	Jonathan Bianco (Con) John Morgan (Con) Andrew Retter (Con)	01895 250316
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Medical	Acre Surgery Carepoint Dr Haring Hillingdon Hospital A&E Mount Vernon Minor Injuries Mountwood Surgery Northwick Park Hospital Watford General Hospital	01923 820844 01923 820866 01923 829608 01895 238282 01923 826111 01923 828488 020 8864 3232 01923 244366
	NPLS Bereavement Group Cruse Bereavement Care Templeton Centre United Reform Church	01923 822592 01895 811330 01923 823999

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