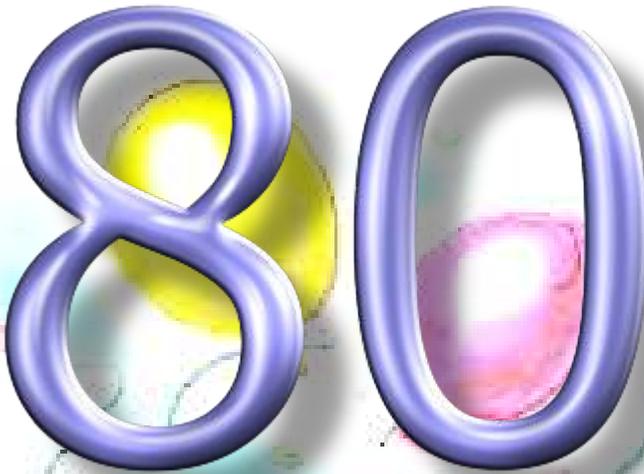


THE HILLS ECHO

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
NORTHWOOD HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NHRA Celebrates



years of support
for our community

1932 - 2012

SPRING 2012

Visit us at www.northwoodhills.co.uk



Diary Dates					
Date		Run By	Subject	Time	See Page
March	22	Library	Coffee Morning		47
April	12	Library	Easter Crafts	10.30am	47
April	14	Live at Home	Barber Shop	7.15pm	13
April	18	NADCA	AGM	8 pm	39
April	19	Library	Coffee Morning		47
May	10	Arrow	Spy Me to the Moon		40
May	12	Scouts	Jumble Sale	2 pm	45
May	16	WOS	Musical		23
May	19	St Eds	Plant Sale	10.30am	40
May	23	NHRA	AGM	7.30pm	7
May	24	Library	Coffee Morning		47
June	2	NHRA	JUBILEE EVENT	11.00am	9
June	4	St Eds	Barbecue		40
June	7	Library	Jubilee crafts	10.30am	47
June	8	NADCA	Ploughmans Lunch		39
June	21	Library	Coffee Morning		47
June	23	St Eds	Summer Fair		40
July	19	Library	Coffee Morning		47
Aug	23	Library	Coffee Morning		47
Sep	1	ECHO	COPY DATE		
Sep	20	Library	Coffee Morning		47

HILLS ECHO
Copy Date for Next Issue
1 September 2012

From The Chairman

Welcome to the Spring 2012 edition of the Hills Echo, which marks our 80th birthday!



On Valentines Day I was delighted to be invited to meet with Mayor Boris Johnson in West Drayton and hear the announcement that the funding bid to rejuvenate Northwood Hills had been successful. £1.33m had been awarded and I would like to thank everyone who worked on the bid document and also everyone who sent in the numerous letters of support.

I was also equally pleased with the turnout in December at the Christmas Lights Switch On event and thank all the students/schools that took part on the day. I would also thank St John's School for sponsoring the Christmas tree; the Namaste Lounge for sponsoring the tree lights; and the William Jolle for supplying the mince pies, mulled wine and the buffet for the Mayor, and not forgetting all those that organized the event.

Looking forward to June 2nd when we will be joining forces with Northwood Residents' Association to hold a once-in-a-lifetime Carnival to mark our Queen's Diamond Jubilee on the football/cricket fields roughly bordered by Highland Road and Chestnut Avenue. I look forward to seeing you there!

Andrew Riley

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Northwood Hills Residents' Association Annual General Meeting will be held at Fairfield Church Hall, Windsor Close, Northwood Hills at 7:30 pm on Wednesday 23rd May 2012.

Light refreshment will be available from 7:00 pm.

Everybody Welcome.

Roz Lester - Acting Secretary



Come and join in Northwood's very own Diamond Jubilee Celebration

Northwood Hills Residents Association is joining forces with Northwood Residents' Association to stage a once-in-a-lifetime community event on the recreation ground in Chestnut Avenue on

Saturday 2nd June from 11am to 4.30pm.

There will be arena events, including a Falconer giving flying displays, and others staged by local organisations, schools, sports and performance groups as well as professional displays, and a 200 strong Rock Choir. Other local organisations will have sideshows and exhibitions. Full details will be published nearer the time – watch the websites for developments.

Put the date in your diary NOW!

In order to put on this extravaganza we will need lots of help from volunteers to take on such tasks as handing out programmes, marshalling the car park, clearing up afterwards or generally being useful. If you would like to help, contact us at

jubilee@northwoodresidents.co.uk

or call Ros Plume on 01923 827409.

There's nothing like a street party for bringing communities together. It just needs a few people to come up with a plan and the word will soon go round the neighbourhood.

If you fancy organising a street party, check out the Hillingdon council website at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/jubilee or call Lyn or Glenda in the LBH Special Events Team on 01895 556640/556072. Applications for permission to hold a street party must be submitted by 16th April.

Joel Street Allotments

Now in our 102nd year, the allotments continue to go from strength to strength. And, round about the time you are reading this, we reach another important milestone. Although the Society was founded in July 1910, the first year or so was taken up with legal negotiations, so the original plot-holders didn't actually enter the site until Lady Day, March 25th 1912. To this day, our rent to our landlords, the Trustees of Ruislip Combined Charity, is due on that day.

And so, on to the present, and the future. We now have well over 100 members, with all plots let and a small waiting list. In addition, we have half a dozen very small Starter Plots, especially to give first-time gardeners a chance to learn about allotment gardening and build up enough confidence and experience to tackle a larger plot.

Our AGM, held at the end of January in the large hall at Fairfield, had a record attendance. Those present were full of enthusiasm to continue improvements to the infrastructure of the site, and to continue to develop our links with the community. Several possible projects are being looked at, although some, of course, will be dependent on outside funding. Well, we've been successful in the past, so watch this space. We hope to be able to extend our links with the local Primary Schools.

One date is already booked in our diaries: the Jubilee Event on June 2nd. We've already booked our stand, and are busy planning how to fill it with plenty to see and plenty to buy! Come and see us and have a chat. (Gardeners enjoy talking about gardening even more than actually doing it!) Put your name down for a plot if you feel bitten by the grow-your-own bug; home-grown really does taste very different from shop-bought! And we intend to have a large range of vegetable and flower plants for you to buy, quite a few of which you won't be able to find at garden centres. See you there!

Trevor Dixon (Secretary)
joelstreetallotments@tiscali.co.uk

NHRA ANNUAL “THANK YOU” DINNER

Some eighty people attended the NHRA Dinner at Fairfield on February 28th, on the Association’s 80th anniversary, to be rewarded for their efforts on behalf of the Association. The guests included many Road Stewards, Local Councillors and Civic Centre workers, as well as U3A organisers and the local Safer Neighbourhood Team

A substantial buffet and an abundance of drink was provided by volunteers, and students from Haydon School (*below*) presented the Association with a home-made Birthday Cake, and a huge selection of cakes, flapjacks and muffins. Many thanks to everyone involved.



Northwood Hills Friendship Group Launch: We Have Fun

The Monday Friendship Group run by the Northwood Live At Home Scheme had its formal Launch party on February 27th at the Northwood Hills URC Church in Joel Street. The Group provides a day of activities for older people in the area on Mondays. The Members of the Group had their normal sessions of gentle exercise, refreshments, craft activity and quizzes with plenty of talking about times past and present and lots of laughter. And for the Launch we were joined by The Worshipful the Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr Mary O'Connor MBE, Cllr John Morgan, Andrew Riley and many other supporters and volunteers of the Scheme. The Mayor joined in the craft activity of making 'dream catchers' – a Native American custom producing a colourful web of ribbons, feathers and threads. Yvonne Long, the Scheme Assistant Manager, has master minded the Group and leads the activities, ensuring that every Member participates fully.

The Mayor congratulated all concerned, declared the Group formally launched and cut a celebration cake.

One Member's comment about the Group was "It's a lovely feeling; you forget your age and we all just have fun".

The Group has proven its effectiveness in reducing social isolation and helping people have fun. It is now time for the Group to expand, so if you would like to take part in the Group as a Member or a Volunteer contact the Scheme on 01923 842494. Or if you know of anyone else in the Northwood Hills or Northwood area who could benefit from it, do contact the Scheme.



The Mayor, Cllr Mary O'Connor MBE
and Members of the Group

BREAKING NEWS

Hillingdon Council has just announced the refurbishment of Highgrove Swimming Pool at a cost of £4.5 million

Work should start in April and will take eight months to complete. The health and fitness gym will remain open during this time

Still Looking Over My Shoulder

Just to bring you up to date about the parking arrangements in Joel Street.

Following my article in the last two ECHOs, I was invited to the Civic Centre to present our petition to the Cabinet member for transport, and his advisors.

I received a very fair hearing, but as expected, no agreement to our request. The only concession we were given was a promise that the angled parking bays will be widened by 10cm (4”).

Please continue to park safely, and take extra care when leaving the parking bay, especially if your sightlines are blocked.

Alan Lester

HILLINGDON NOMINATED FOR ‘BRITAIN IN BLOOM’ AWARD

HILLINGDON has been nominated for an award in this year’s “Britain in Bloom” awards.

Following the borough’s success in the “London in Bloom” awards last year, when it scooped the prestigious silver-gilt award for the third year running, it has now been put forward for the national competition, and will go up against Birmingham, Wigan, Sunderland and Leeds in the large city category.

Hillingdon was one of 73 finalists selected from more than 1,000 entries, and it is one of only two London boroughs invited to take part. Westminster is in the running in the city category.

The “Britain In Bloom” awards is part of a campaign organised by the Royal Horticultural Society, which promotes horticulture projects to improve public spaces.

Councillor Jonathan Bianco, cabinet member for property, said the news was a huge triumph for the borough.

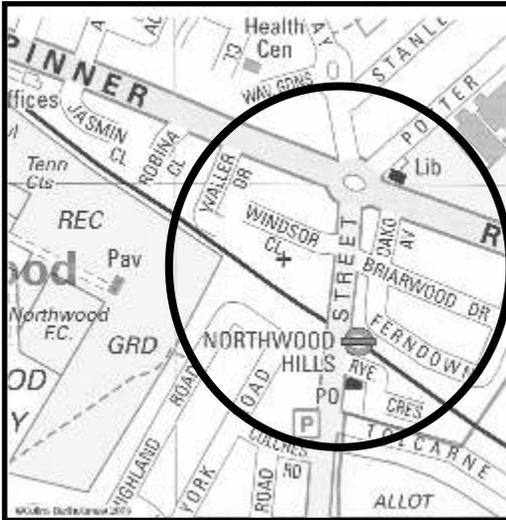
“We have done very well at “London In Bloom” over the last few years but have clearly gone that extra mile this year to reach this level. I would like to congratulate our green spaces staff and all our residents who have put in an awful lot of hard graft to make the borough so green and inviting”.

Judging will take place in the summer, and points will be awarded based on three criteria: horticultural achievement, community participation, and environmental responsibility.

The winners will be announced at a ceremony in Guernsey in October, and will be reported in a future *Hills Echo*

DISPERSAL NOTICE

15 January 2012 - 15 June 2012



To reduce antisocial behaviour (alcohol-related nuisance, drug dealing etc) the Police and Local authority have implemented a Dispersal Notice in Joel Street

In the Dispersal Area, Police and Community Support Officers have the power to disperse groups whose presence and behaviour are likely to result in a member of the public being harassed, intimidated, alarmed or distressed. The individuals can be excluded from the area for up to 24 hours.

THE GREEK BAIL OUT

It is a slow day in a little Greek Village. The rain is beating down and the streets are deserted. Times are tough, everybody is in debt, and everybody lives on credit. On this particular day a rich German tourist drives to the village, stops at the local hotel and lays a €100 note on the desk, telling the hotel owner he wants to inspect the rooms upstairs in order to pick one to spend the night.

The owner gives him some keys and, as soon as the visitor has walked upstairs, the hotelier grabs the €100 note and runs next door to pay his debt to the butcher.

The butcher takes the €100 note and runs down the street to repay his debt to the pig farmer.

The pig farmer takes the €100 note and heads off to pay his bill at the supplier of feed and fuel.

The guy at the Farmers' Co-op takes the €100 note and runs to pay his drinks bill at the taverna.

The publican passes the money along to the travelling salesman who has supplied the bar on credit.

The salesman then rushes to the hotel and pays off his room bill to the hotel owner with the €100 note.

The hotel proprietor then places the €100 note back on the counter so the rich visitor will not suspect anything. At that moment the German comes down the stairs, picks up the €100 note, states that the rooms are not satisfactory, pockets the money, and leaves town.

No one produced anything.

No one earned anything.

However, the whole village is now out of debt and looking to the future with a lot more optimism.

And that is how the bailout package works

Hillside - An Area of Special Local Character

designated by Hillingdon Council in 2008



**Character of the Hillside,
Northwood Hills**

The area comprises a triangular estate, bounded by Hillside Road to the north, Stanley Road to the south-east and Northwood Way to the south-west. Built as a single development over a short period of time, the area largely comprises modest 1930s bungalows of a similar and fairly simple design. The sweeping landform and dramatic topography of the area creates picturesque views over the undulating landscape.

These elements, combined with the curving street pattern, contribute to the appearance and setting of the area, and define its special character. One of the major features is the Hogs Back Open Space, which forms an almost central green space within the area. To the west, along Northwood Way, are a group of architecturally varied, yet well-mannered and good quality, two storey buildings. To the south of the area, on Stanley Road and Northwood Way, a few distinctive properties stand out. These are a group of white rendered Moderne houses by Morgan and Edwards. Built in 1934, they have flat roofs finished with an unusual glazed tile decorative detail. The original Crittal type windows, following the curved line of the two-storey bays, also create an attractive feature.

Areas of Special Local Character are a local designation, and include areas that possess sufficient architectural, townscape and environmental quality to make them of considerable Local value.

Currently, Hillingdon has thirteen Areas of Special Local Character



Keep your head down this summer



The Secretary of State for Defence has announced plans for military support to the Olympic Games in London in London this summer.

A small number of Typhoon fighter jets are to be based at RAF Northolt, and aircraft crew may need flight path training prior to the Olympics taking place, so inevitably there will be some increased noise caused by the presence of the fast jets.

Christmas Carol Singing In Windsor Close



On December 10th Northwood Hills Residents Association joined again with Fairfield church to bring some festive spirit to the community. In previous years we had done this on the green behind Salisbury Road, but this year we relocated into Windsor Close .

About one hundred people came out of their homes and joined us for carol singing, mulled wine, mince pies and to just mingle with their neighbours under the twinkling lights and luminous balloons.

The beautiful singing carried as far as the high street, and neighbours commented how nice it was to step out of their homes and feel a warm festive glow coming from the street outside.

Our hope is that we will continue to encourage genuine community spirit in Northwood Hills through events like this one.

What's next ?.....

The Diamond Jubilee event on 2nd June will be the next opportunity – why not invite your neighbours to come with you?

And then....An **Olympic themed Big Lunch** on Salisbury field in early July. This is a great opportunity to bring and share food with your neighbours whilst enjoying live music, entertainment and crazy games whilst sipping Pimms and enjoying the sunshine!! And its all FREE !! Watch out for the adverts nearer the time.

If you would like to enter a team (representing your road / workplace / school) for the Big Lunch Olympic games please contact me for more details!

*Chris Bushell (NHRA & Fairfield Church)
email Christine.bushell@mail.com*



CHRISTMAS TREE, LIGHTS & CAROLS in JOEL STREET



CONGRATULATIONS TO NORTHWOOD SCHOOL - ONE OF THE 100 TOP PERFORMING SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND

Northwood School staff and students celebrated yet more accolades this week when they received a letter from Mr Nick Gibb, Minister of State for Schools, congratulating them on the 'excellent achievement' of pupils at the school.

In the recently published Key Stage 4 Performance Tables, Northwood's results show that it is amongst the 100 top performing schools in England based on sustained improvement in each year from 2008 to 2011.

In his letter, Mr Gibb thanked the staff, governors and pupils for their hard work and success. He also praised Headteacher, Mr Atkins, for his "leadership in continuing the drive towards the highest standards of educational achievement."

Chair of Governors at Northwood, Mrs Joan Greening, commented: "I am delighted that the hard work of the staff and students has been recognised in this way. Northwood is such a wonderful school and I am so proud to be associated with it."

Mr Atkins added: "The high standards of student achievement at Northwood is testament to the fact that we genuinely see each child as an individual, and can support and stretch according to individual needs. As a relatively small secondary school we are uniquely placed to personalise the provision, and this is enabling each student to fulfil his or her potential."

Prospective parents who may be interested in applying for a place at Northwood School for their child can contact Mrs Julie Cooper on 01923 836363.



Hello, Hello, Hello and Goodbye, Goodbye, Goodbye

In January we were advised by Metropolitan Police that a number of changes were being made that would impact the Northwood Hills Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Sgt David Wright has moved to a new posting in Hayes; PC Tim Hall successfully applied for a position at Heathrow Airport and PC Kerry Taylor has moved over to Transport. This means we have a number of new faces around Northwood Hills.

The New Team

Sergeant Richard Charlesworth
PC Max Christmas
PC John O'Brien
PCSO Ann Marie Chapman-Bennett

Our thanks and appreciation go to Ann Marie for holding the area together single handed during all these transfers.

So how well is our Police Team doing?

Compared to the rest of Hillingdon, Northwood Hills has one of the lowest crime rates in the borough but obviously, we would all like to see it much lower! Anti-social behaviour is by far the most reported crime and we are advised by the Ward Panel that they have agreed with the Safer Neighbour Policing Team that tackling this is to be the number one priority in 2012. See the Dispersal Notice details on page 16.

Northwood Hills has a panel made up of members of the community who live or work within the ward. This panel meets regularly to discuss the concerns facing the local community around crime and anti-social behaviour, and sets the priorities the local police team will tackle. They also get involved in working with the police team and local partner agencies such as the council to find lasting solutions to these priorities. If you would like to be involved contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team on 020 8721 2546.

Don't forget if you want to report a non urgent crime when the Safer Neighbourhood Team office is not open you now need to dial 101 (textphone 18001 101). For emergencies dial 999 (textphone 18000)

PATIENT CARE IN OUR LOCAL HOSPITALS

I am writing this article beside my bed in Northwick Park Hospital. I entered Watford Hospital in November when I found I couldn't stand. After 2 weeks I was transferred to Mount Vernon. I was there over Christmas, except for Christmas day when I was out 'on parole' for a few hours, which I enjoyed with Audrey, my wife, and most of our family. A few weeks later I was discharged from hospital. I enjoyed a visit from Richard, our son in America, but after a few days had a TIA (mini stroke) so I am now in Northwick Park Hospital.

This, however, is simply an introduction to my reason for writing. Whilst in Mount Vernon, I read a report in the Press about a survey which claimed that hospital nurses lacked caring abilities in dealing with patients. I was surprised at this criticism and am certain it does not apply to our hospitals. In all three hospitals where I have resided ie Watford, Mount Vernon, Northwick Park, and I can add Harefield from previous experience, I found the nurses most efficient, kind and caring. I could not have wished for better. Many of our nurses are from other countries and are most interesting to talk to, but whether they are male or female, from Africa, the Philippines, Pakistan, Ireland, Northwood Hills or elsewhere, they were all kind, caring and helpful to patients, many of whom probably felt depressed and anxious about their illness.

I have no idea which hospitals the survey visited, but surely not those I have experienced. Considering the number of nurses we have from overseas, I often wonder how we would manage without them. However, wherever a nurse comes from is not important. I found them all excellent.

I also found the food excellent in each hospital. No one wants to be sent to hospital, but it is comforting to know that should that happen, we receive the best of treatment and first class care and attention.

Lishman Y. Easby

WILTSHIRE LANE PLAYGROUND - Progress Report

The equipment for the new playground will arrive around 19th March with installation following shortly after that, and it is expected that the installation should be completed no later than the end of April. Residents will be informed when work is to commence.

A zip wire will be installed to promote more adventurous play. The Playground will be officially opened by The Mayor at 12:00 on Saturday 28 April.

NORTHWOOD HILLS -THE WAY IT USED TO BE

Let's take a trip down Memory Lane. The year is 1954, just two years after the Queen's Coronation, and Joel Street is now 22 years old. We are standing just north of the Joel Street roundabout, on an open space where there will one day be a Library.

Across the road to the left is a Lex garage, with petrol being sold on the forecourt. Next door is Gilbert Luck, Estate Agent. Then there is a Barbers shop, then Mr. Nichols the Furrier. Rounding the corner into Joel Street there is the Northwood Hills Furnishing Stores and Hyde's which sells wool, buttons and bows, at the start of a busy and bustling thoroughfare. Moving on, we pass Neave the Ladies Hairdresser; W.H.Smith; Maynards sweet shop, with Maison Frederick, another ladies hairdresser, upstairs. Chas Gage, ladies and children's wear; a Fishmonger; Maurice the Fish and Chip shop and a Toys and Sports shop.

Allen Bros, Gent's and School outfitters (still going strong); Reliance Hardware, and at the end of this block, an Insurance Company.

Crossing Briarwood Drive, on the opposite corner, Barclays Bank; Mr Case, the shoe repairer; Featherstone Greengrocer and Fruiterer; Mr. Christie, watch repairs and jewellers. Then a pet shop and a lighting shop and next door Ronald Montague, Gentleman's outfitter.

Paterson, the Butcher (still open); The Swiss Chalet Bakery, baking all night, and serving morning coffee, light lunches and afternoon tea, scones and cakes. Northwood Hills Metropolitan Line Station, complete with newspaper kiosk, proper booking office, ticket collector, porters on the platform giving help to older people and mothers with prams.

Approaching Ryefield Crescent and parade of shops we find a sweet shop, together with the offices of Belton Estates, where tenants paid their rents.

Frances Osborn, shoe retailer, a Florist, and Gosdens, newsagent and sub-Post Office. A cycle shop, also selling sporting guns. Mr. C.T.Taylor, suppliers of all electrical good and Mario's original cafe, designers of patisserie and baker, (changed to Elizabeth's cake shop at the end of 1950's and now Wenzels) We then come to Harrold, Optician (still trading) and a motor showroom, Austin & Morris cars. The upper floors of many of these buildings are occupied by various other businesses; Accountants, Solicitors etc.

Crossing Tolcarne Drive, there is George Ball's Petrol Station, (now Tesco and Esso petrol station.)

Cross over Joel Street to open ground. The only building on this side of the road is The Northwood Hills Hotel by the bridge. Walking over the bridge we find a further collection of useful shops - the first one sells birthday and greeting cards, stationery crafts and gifts. Next door is George Raymond, linens, textiles, etc. (now run by John Terry, son of the previous owner).

Then comes the Library; Jarvis the Chemist, with displays of cosmetics, toiletries and perfumes in the window; Joan Chesney, Estate Agent; Eugene Mack, quality ladies wear, and Rosslyn for ladies underwear, blouses, skirts and casual clothes; Davison, the wine merchant; another greengrocer, then Dewhurst the Butcher; a travel agent and Seth Electrics.

Cross the road at Windsor Close to a Bata shoe shop; Hodge & Parvin, builders merchants; Boots the Chemist ; another greengrocer; White the butcher, and Sainsburys (Mr. Merrick the manager resplendent in his striped apron welcomes us, frowning at the prams and reminding us "the floor has just been cleaned"); Bradford & Bingley Building society; Mac Fisheries; another newsagent; Collins the chemist, and Mulholland the shoe retailer.

Rounding the corner opposite the roundabout we find a Bookmaker, a small jeweller's shop and Kingham - Grocer and Purveyor of Fine Foods (as displayed over their window); then the Express Dairy, and Sowdons fancy glass ware, china and ceramics; then comes the Bluebird sweet shop, and finally, the Rex Cinema.

Our walk ends here, and we reluctantly return to today's selection of takeaways and beauty parlours. We used to be able to shop locally for all our everyday needs, but everything changes, and today's more mobile society apparently has less need for local shops.

But don't we miss them when they're gone ?

From the EDITOR

My thanks to the authors of the above article and all the many other contributors who have helped to make this Anniversary Edition the biggest Hills Echo we have ever had.

Also my thanks to proofreaders, Andrew Riley and Lucy Hall, for a huge job, done well.

Please continue to keep me inundated with interesting articles, but remember

A BIRTHDAY PRESENT FROM BORIS



Coinciding with NHRA's 80th anniversary, Boris Johnson, The Mayor of London, announced a £2.7m regeneration boost to drive economic growth in Northwood Hills and Ruislip Manor

Hillingdon Council will use this significant investment to deliver vital improvements in Northwood Hills town centre to help it become more viable, prosperous and competitive.

The funding will help to improve public areas to make the town centre more attractive to both visit and invest in. This will include installing new signage, street furniture, better street lighting and planting new trees. Careful thought has also gone into making the centre easier to get around, with enhanced provision for cyclists and redesigned road layouts to ensure better traffic flow and access for buses. (See an artist's impression of this work on page 35)

Projects agreed between the Mayor and the Council will also deliver real economic and social benefits to Northwood Hills, with provision for new markets, cultural and community events, retail and business support, and the promotion of apprenticeships within local firms.

This additional funding from Boris Johnson, on top of the £400k already allocated by Hillingdon Council will give traders a helping hand to maximise their potential and promote Northwood Hills as a great place to live in, work or visit.

Grants like this don't just happen - they have to be applied for, and our application was the outcome of many months of hard work by the Bid Team.

A group of stakeholders - made up of the Residents' Association, Chamber of Commerce, Ward Councillors and Hillingdon Council Planning Department - worked in collaboration to produce a first class bid for the cash. Boris Johnson met with NHRA's Chairman, Andrew Riley on the 14th February when he announced the bid had been successful and also commended the team for a job well done!



Boris Johnson and Andrew Riley competing for the worst haircut

In 80 Years, we have gone from
This to This



Now we plan to go from This to This →



An Artist's Impression of Joel Street in 2015



Robert Symes 1936 - 2011

Robert passed away on 29th September 2011 following a battle with cancer. He was a great stalwart of the Residents' Association and in later years was our much respected Road Steward Coordinator. He was also a great supporter of St Marylebone Parish Church, in central London where he was a Crown Sidesman and edited the Church magazine. He also acted as Treasurer of the Friends of St Marylebone Church for some 25 years.

Robert grew up in Northwood with his sister Dorothy. Life in his early years was not easy as his father was away serving in North Africa and Italy. During this time he was brought up by his mother, assisted by grandparents and various aunts and uncles.

He enjoyed a happy and close family life and, after his father's return from the war the family was able to enjoy lots of family holidays in France, Italy and Switzerland as well as nearer home.

His secondary education took place at the Merchant Taylors public school. This was followed by National Service in the Army, which beckoned Robert to Austria and Cyprus after which he attended Durham University where he read economics. Some years later he undertook studies at Birkbeck College and Durham University where he obtained a degree in history.

After completing his studies he took part in a student exchange scheme and worked in a bank in Bologna and was able to visit all the renaissance splendours of which he was very fond.



Back in the UK he took a number of jobs before accepting a post as a teacher in Hull. After that he moved to Bradford and worked as a personnel officer. This was followed by a teaching post at the Swiss Mercantile College in London from which he was fortunate enough to be able to take a number of short career breaks that allowed him to travel and also teach in countries such as Saudi Arabia.

In 1989 Robert married Erika who he had previously worked with, but they had never been romantically involved. The marriage proposal was one of those spur of the moment things. Erika had been offered a job in Zurich and Robert was about to work in India. They agreed to meet before going their separate ways. Robert took Erika to a village in Oxfordshire, and after a pleasant evening they stopped in Henley for a drink and a walk along the banks of the Thames where Robert asked Erika to marry him.

They were married for one day short of 22 years and during this time they were blessed with a daughter Katie who Robert adored. Sadly though, at the age of 2, Katie was diagnosed with Rett Syndrome which has left her with various disabilities.

In latter years Robert, Erika and Katie spent many happy times in Switzerland which Robert loved and to where he had planned to emigrate before being diagnosed with his illness.

**Robert is greatly missed by us all.
Rest In Peace**

Remembering Robert

It is some months since Robert Symes died, but memories are still alive. Prominent in my thoughts are the nights when I could no longer walk and Robert took me to Committee meetings. Eventually, I retired, but Robert continued to call on me. He spoke very little about his illness and was not in contact for some time, but I left messages on his answer machine and eventually he sent me a dictated letter. All he said about his condition was "I can no longer get out of bed." Most of his letter was in praise of me, calling me a hero, relating to my flights with Bomber Command. This was completely unwarranted- I only did what thousands of others did, and I only quote it to show Robert's completely unselfish nature, even in his final days. He died ten days later. In all our conversations, I never heard him speak ill of, or even criticise another person.

Robert - I shall never forget you.

Lishman Y. Easby

Northwood & District Community Association

We are holding our 63rd AGM at the Kingsland Hall in the United Reform Church, Joel Street, Northwood on Wednesday April 18th at 8.00 p.m. and anyone wishing to come along would be very welcome.

You never know, you may be so astounded at all we have to offer, that you will come and join some of our sections!

There are many local events being held in June to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee; we will be holding a Ploughman's Lunch on the 8th June which we hope will have a jubilee feeling.

My road is one that can be easily closed so there is to be a street party, the fourth that this road has held. The last one was magnificent.

What with the Olympics in July, it surely is a busy year for the country, and as a Community Association, we hope that these events will bring communities closer together.

Wherever you are on that weekend, do have a good time and enjoy the friendship of your locality.

Pat Dunhill
01923 836346

News from St Edmund the King, Pinner Road

The early spring brings with it the season of Lent. In fact, the word 'Lent' comes from an Old-English word that means 'lengthen', because one of the things we notice at this time of year is the days getting longer (and, hopefully, warmer). So for Christian people Lent is a kind of 'spring-time for the soul' – a chance for our souls to do a bit of growing (and for the weeds to get rooted out!) So this is a busy time for us at St. Edmund's, with lots of extra things going on to mark this time of year. On Thursday evenings in March we're having a 'Big Issues' course – thinking about some of the 'big' challenges to faith today, and on April 1st Holy Week begins, the most important week in our year as we journey towards Good Friday and Easter Day. There's lots of publicity about what's going on over this time at the church, or just give us a call if you want to know more.

Speaking of things growing, one of the events that has developed here over the past few years is our Spring Plant Sale. This year it's taking place on May 19th, starting at 10.30am, and there will be loads of perennials as well as bedding plants at bargain prices. There'll also be some interesting and unusual plants to restock your borders, so do come along and see what's on sale.

Our other big fundraising event is on June 23rd, when we'll be holding the Summer Fair in the church grounds. There's a range of games, stalls and activities suitable for all the family, and it's a lovely way to spend an hour or so on a summer Saturday.

For our nation, one of the highlights of this year will be our celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of our Queen.

St. Edmund's are getting ready to join the festivities, and we'd love you to join in some of the things that will be going on here. We'll be hosting a Diamond Jubilee Banquet on the evening of Saturday 2nd June, and starting at 2pm on Monday 4th a fun afternoon for families, with a barbeque and games in our grounds. Also that afternoon, at 4.30pm, there'll be a Jubilee Thanksgiving Service in church, as we give thanks to God for the selfless dedication which her Majesty has shown to our nation over 60 years. Do make a note of that in your diaries, and join us for a truly special occasion.

A continuing priority for us is the care and nurture of our children and young people. Several uniformed organisations are based here, as well as our own thriving Youth Group and Sunday morning activities for children. All are welcome to join in, and if you know a child who may be interested, do give us a call.

The St Edmund's Drama Group 'Arrow Players' goes from strength to strength. In the New Year their production of 'Babes in the Wood' was very well received, and brought great joy and laughter to those who came to see it. Their next production is 'Spy Me to the Moon', and judging by the laughter emanating from the Hall on practice night it should be a lot of fun. Performances will be on 10th – 12th May and the box office number is 020 8868 7785.

As always, there's lots happening here, come and join in – it'll be good to see you!

*With all good wishes,
Fr Philip Barnes*

Squatters - Is the Law on the Wrong Side ?

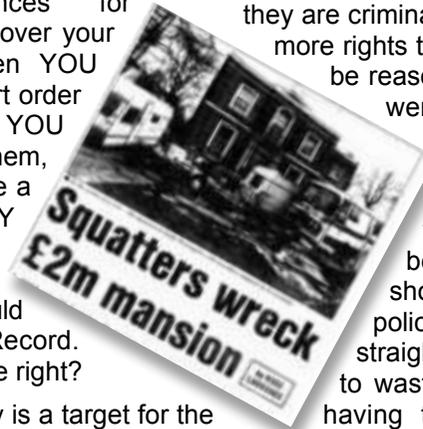
Every time this subject comes up, it just get me fuming, just short of frothing at the mouth.

How can it possibly be right, under any circumstances for someone to take over your property and then YOU have to get a court order to remove them. YOU cannot threaten them, YOU have to have a witness so THEY don't accuse you of threatening them and YOU could get a Criminal Record. How can all this be right?

An empty property is a target for the squatters but even properties which haven't been empty for long, like having builders in to do some work or waiting for work to start, can be targets.

It isn't just opportunists, there are serial squatters who move from one property to another.

If someone breaks into your house, they are criminals who seem to have more rights than you. You have to be reasonable to people who weren't reasonable and actually broke into your home. These laws giving rights to the criminals have to be outlawed. The law should give power to the police to remove squatters straightaway and not have to waste the court's time in having to issue possession orders. There are some laws in this country that infringe on the rights of honest, hard working, law abiding citizens and this one we should certainly change.



Anila Hashim

Stand Clear of the Doors!

While it is very pleasing to see the new trains being introduced on the Metropolitan line it is disappointing to learn that TFL have again suspended the roll out as there are still issues with the sliding doors.

Coupled with this, the signalling upgrade work which originally was to be completed by 2013 probably will not now be completed until 2018! This delay is due to the collapse of the public private partnership with engineering contractors Metronet, which failed in 2008.

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS from AUSTRALIA

We have had an email from **Keith Suter**, who left Northwood Hills for Australia in 1973.

Keith was born in Pinner in 1948, and lived with his parents and grandparents at 35 Townsend Way until they moved to 3 Salisbury Road.

His Father (now in his late 80s) lives in Ickenham.

Keith initially attended the small school attached to Emmanuel Church, Northwood, and later attended Fore Street School. At 11, he attended Pinner Road School (now demolished), and then Potter Street School.

He graduated from the University of Sussex in 1972 and then headed to Australia, where he now appears on television and radio dealing mainly with foreign policy.

He says that his education in Northwood Hills, in retrospect, gave him a great springboard for life.

Keith says "You can take a person out of Northwood Hills, but you can't take Northwood Hills out of a person."

If anyone remembers Keith, and wants to get in touch, his contact details are:

Keith Suter

www.global-directions.com

keith.suter@bigpond.com

Probably the Biggest and Best Jumble Sale in the World

Every year the 1st Northwood Scout Group takes on the massive challenge of staging their Jumble Sale. But this is not just any jumble sale. The statistics are mind-boggling: over 25 “departments” some with up to six stalls or tables, piled high with items that have been collected, sorted, sometimes repaired, and priced over six or seven weeks; more than 200 volunteers manning the stalls; and over 1200 customers through the gates.

Each year the announcement of the date is eagerly awaited and the collection days can't come soon enough for some of the veteran jumlbers. Well, this year the great event is on **Saturday 12th May**, starting at 2.00 pm at the Scout Hut on Northwood Way. The first collection is planned for Saturday 14th April. From that date until the week before the Jumble Sale, donated goods can be brought to the Scout Hut any weekday evening except Friday, between 7.00 pm and 8.30 pm, and on Saturday afternoons between 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm. We cannot accept any white kitchen goods, beds or analogue TVs.

We are always looking for new volunteers, both for the Jumble Sale and for the activities of the Group throughout the year; the parents, leaders and loyal supporters provide most of the help, but if you are willing to help with this venture, please contact the Group on 01923 835770 or visit during the times listed above.

*Roxana Peters
Group Secretary*

Northwood Hills Library

Tel. 01895 556460 Email: northwoodhills-library@hillington.gov.uk

Opening hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	9.00 am – 6.00 pm
Thursday	9.00 am – 7.00 pm
Friday	9.00 am – 5.30 pm
Saturday	9.00 am – 4.00 pm

Coffee mornings - held monthly, on the 3rd Thursday of the month, for our older readers. These are mainly social events but from time to time we have activities tying in with topical or themed events.

A representative from Age UK is also there for help and advice.

Last October and this January the focus was on reminiscing, the first about the local area, the second about the 1920-1950's era. Both attracted a lot of interest and discussion.

In February we had poetry reading, which was enjoyed by the few who took part.

We welcome any suggestions for future occasions.

Dates of forthcoming coffee mornings:

March 22, April 19 (Charles Dickens bi-centenary), May 24,
June 21 (Queen's Diamond Jubilee), July 19, August 23, September 20

For children -

During termtime we have a weekly story and rhymetime for under 5 year olds on Tuesdays at 10.30 am, and a Homework support club on Tuesday afternoons 3.30 - 5.00 pm for 7-12 year olds.

During the school holidays we have craft activities for 5-10 year olds –
Thursday 12th April Easter crafts (10.30-11.30am)
Thursday 7th June Royal Jubilee crafts (10.30-11.30am)

Summer Reading Challenge - end of June to beginning of September.
This is a scheme to encourage children to improve their reading skills by visiting the library 6 times over the summer period, receiving small gifts on each visit, and a certificate and medal on completion of the Challenge.

MORE MEMORIES OF NORTHWOOD HILLS

I could hardly believe it when I was told that Northwood Hills would be 80 years old this year, but being realistic I had to admit that it must be so. I was born here at the beginning of the second World War in the bungalow that my parents purchased in 1934 having seen an advertisement on the train for properties being built in Metroland and I am still living in that same home.

My first memories of Northwood Hills started when I attended Pinner Road School during the war (the site of the school is now occupied by flats), and the other school was, and still is, Potter Street School where my brother who was older than me attended. When he was much younger he had gone to a little private school in Briarwood Drive - I suppose the Pinner Road school had not been built back in 1934.

When my parents first moved to the bungalow there was open space (fields) at the end of the back garden and my father would walk across the fields to the station and in the evenings my mother would go to the top of the garden to see if she could see my father coming home for tea. Happy days - hardly any cars around and travel on the trains was comfortable and definitely not overcrowded. When I left Pinner Road school after the war ended I had to travel to Harrow for my new school and of course it was by the great "brown" trains. I can't work out to this day how I ever managed to open the doors with their large brass handles and my small seven year old hands. Sometimes at Harrow a "brown" train came in with a steam engine on the front. This train went directly to Moor Park without stopping at North Harrow, Pinner and of course Northwood Hills.

Other memories I have as a small child were when the lamplighter came to put on the gas lamp outside my bedroom window. It was always fascinating to see him climb up on his ladder to pull the "string" to ignite the gas.

My mother used to shop at a lovely grocery store in Joel Street during and after the War called the UK Tea Company, and further along was the BATA Shoe Shop (where the double glazing shop now is). There was also a sweet shop across the road where I remember queuing for ages after sweet rationing came to an end. When I got to the front there were hardly any sweets left to choose from.

As I became older I used to play tennis with a friend at the Recreation Ground where the courts were always in great demand and there was also a lovely bowling green which again was always busy. I have not been down there for years - I do hope it is still the same.

Before I finish with my memories of the place that I have lived in for so many years I must mention the lovely Rex Cinema we had (where the new flats have been built after a series of supermarkets were on the site). We would go every Friday evening for a few pence to see whatever was on. Of course, in those days the films were very people friendly so children were allowed in to see most of them. I remember my sister and I saw the film "Bambi" through twice, and the Betty Grable film "Mother Wore Tights" was a real favourite.

I know that my dear friend, Robert Symes, would have written this article much better than I have tried to do and his memories would have been different but I hope I have added some nostalgia to the 80 years of Northwood Hills.

Maureen Passmore

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2011

As in previous years, NHRA member Gordon Gentry represented the Residents Association at the Remembrance Day Service at the Northwood War Memorial, and laid a wreath there on our behalf.



Northwood and District U3A

Where else in the area can those not in full time employment or with full childcare responsibilities have the chance to play table tennis, do maths for fun, learn bead needle weaving, play board games, learn and listen to opera, play bridge, go to the theatre, join walks around London and much, much more?

Most activities take place once a month during the day, often in members homes if appropriate, or in a hall. As well as over 40 interest groups we now have a social committee to arrange the occasional social event. In March there will be a ploughman's supper giving a chance to socialise with fellow members. A quiz with fish and chip supper is planned for May.

Most activities take place at the Fairfield Church in Windsor Close, including our monthly meeting, which is held at 10.30am on the first Wednesday of the month, with a speaker. You are welcome to attend one meeting as a non-member at no charge.

Membership fee for the remainder of the year (expires June 30th) is £18.

(Note: the April meeting will be at the Synagogue in Oaklands Gate Northwood.)

The University of the Third Age is a shared learning organisation. No awards or certificates are given or exams taken. The emphasis is on 'shared' which means that we depend on as much involvement as possible from members either to run or facilitate a group, or help in some other way; for instance, to prepare and serve refreshments, help move chairs etc.

What has made our launch such a success is the help and enthusiasm received so far, and we are so grateful for all those who have taken part.

BUT WE WELCOME MORE OF YOU AND MORE HELPERS.

More details are on the website www.u3asites.org.uk/northwood,
Telephone enquiries to 01923 450808

Jill Besant Chair of Steering Committee

TAKING TOO MANY PILLS?

Pills for all ills or ills with pills?



Hardly a day seems to go by without contradictory news headlines- one declaring a new wonder drug and another announcing that an established drug is a killer!

So if you are taking lots of medicines and want to reduce dosage or stop some of them (only under the supervision of health professionals) then here is a logical approach....

- When you next see your GP or pharmacist, take a list of all the regular medicines you take. Include those that your GP or pharmacist may not be aware of (e.g. herbal, vitamins, Ayurvedic, Chinese and others bought over the counter). For each medicine find out exactly what condition you are taking it for.
- Ask your pharmacist or GP which medicines are absolutely essential to take. These you cannot stop as without them your underlying condition could get worse and threaten your health. You need to continue taking these.
- Next ask which of your medicines are for prevention only. These can be considered as your health 'investment' medicines. These you take, not to feel better, but to prevent future conditions. As their benefit can change over time, your GP or pharmacist should regularly review your need for these as sometimes they can be reduced in dosage or stopped.
- Then ask which of your medicines are purely to treat symptoms, and have no impact on your underlying medical conditions. These medicines you only need to take if they are improving your quality of life. If you can find an alternative solution to improving your symptoms - through relaxation, exercise, nutrition, etc.- then it is medicines in this group that you can most likely reduce or stop under the advice of your GP or pharmacist. Do not stop them on your own accord without expert help as some of these medicines may require dose-tapering before stopping.

Worried that you may be having side effects?

Side effects can cause a lot of distress and some can even be harmful. Although almost all medicines come with a frighteningly large list of possible side effects it is important to remember that most don't get any side effects, as these medicines are actually designed to give minimal side effects. The risks of side effects tend to increase with the use of higher doses and also if you are taking lots of different medicines including those bought over the counter. So the best thing to do is to take your full list of medicines and seek advice from your local pharmacist or GP.

*Dr Sabby Kant GP
Mountwood Surgery, Northwood*