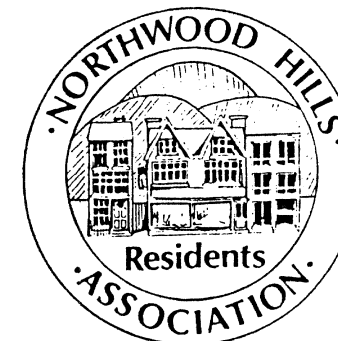


USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

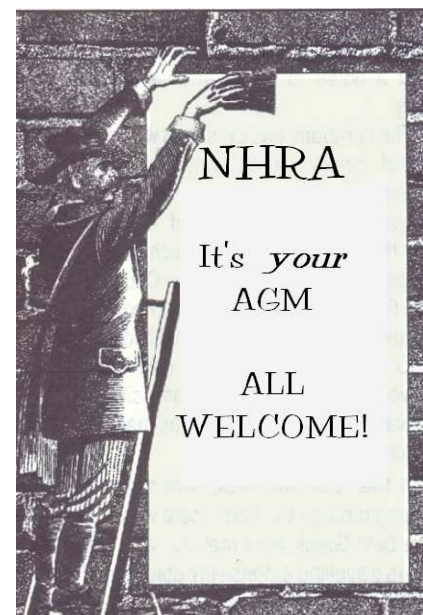
<u>Northwood Hills Library</u>	01923 824595
<u>London Borough of Hillingdon</u>	
Civic Centre (main switchboard)	01895 250111
Anti-social behavior	0800 6940240
Children's Service	01895 250200
Council Tax	01895 250000
Education	01895 250428
Environmental & Street Scene	01895 556000
Fraud Hotline (24 hours)	0800 3898313
Local & Environmental Serviv	01895 250626
Older People's Service	01895 250111
Trees and Landscapes	01895 250230
<u>Councillors</u>	
Andrew Retter	020 8426 1806
David Bishop	01923 836937
Jonathan Bianco	01923 820544
<u>Police</u>	
Non-emergency contact:	01895 251212
N H Safer Neighbourhood Team (office)	020 71619322
ditto (transferred to mobile)	020 87212546
<u>Health Centre, Acre Way, Northwood</u>	
Steven Shackman Group Practice:	
Dr.Goodman, Dr Kant,	01923 828488
Dr Hermaszewska, Dr Pugh)	fax 01923 835548
Carepoint – Dr Stern	01923 820866
Dr Haring	01923 829608
Acre Surgery – Dr Patel & Dr Thakrar	01923 820844
Community Administration Line	01923 827744
<u>Hospitals</u>	
Mount Vernon	01923 826111
M V Minor Injuries	01923 844332
Watford General	01923 244366
Northwick Park	020 8864 3232
Bishopswood	01923 835814
Northwood&Pinner Community	01923 824182
Harmony Clinic, Northwick Park	0845 8501568
Hillingdon Hospital A & E	01895 238282
<u>NHS Direct</u> - for professional medical advice	0845 4647
<u>Cruse Bereavement Care</u>	01895 811330
<u>Member of Parliament</u> – Nick Hurd	01923 822876
<u>Templeton Centre</u> , United Reformed Church, Joel Street (for Alzheimer sufferers)	01923 823999

THE HILLS ECHO

Spring 2009



Website: www.northwoodhills.co.uk



Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 20 May, 2009

FAIRFIELD

Windsor Close
Northwood Hills,
at 7.30 pm,
free coffee at 7 pm

In attendance:
Nick Hurd, MP
and your Councillors

Distributed free to Association members. Subscription is £2 per household per year
Editor: Alan Kimber, 2 Maycroft, PINNER, HA5 3UB
Tel: 020 8866 1272/ email: alan.kimber@talktalk.net

HASTE HILL NURSERIES

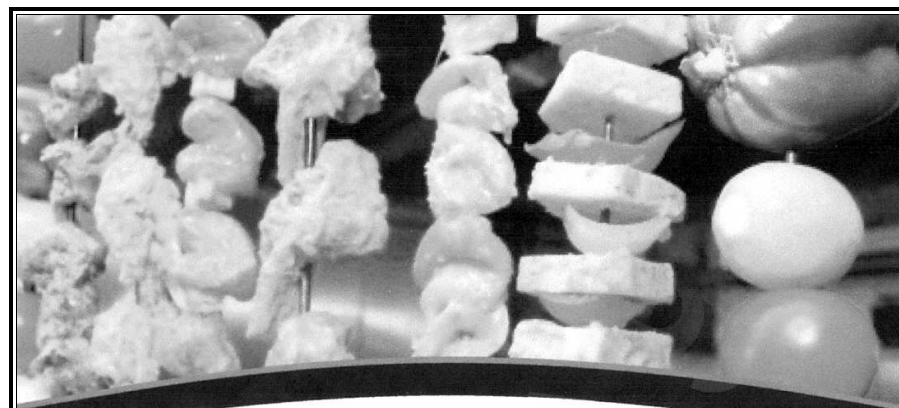
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AGE ACTIVATED ATTENTION

DEFICIT DISORDER (Known as “Triple A Double D”)

I decided to wash my car. As I start toward to the garage, I notice that there is post on the hall table. I decide to go through the post before I wash the car.

I lay my car keys down on the table, put the junk mail in the rubbish bin under the table, and notice that the rubbish bin is full. So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the rubbish first, but then I think; since I’m going to be near the mailbox – when I take out the rubbish – I may as well pay the bills first.

I take my chequebook off the table, and see that there is only one cheque left. My extra cheques are in my desk in the study, so I go to my desk where I find the can of Coke that I had been drinking. I’m going to look for my cheque, but first I need to push the Coke aside so that I don’t accidentally knock it over.

I notice that the Coke is getting warm, and I decide I should put it in the refrigerator to cool it. As I head toward the kitchen with the Coke, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye – they need to be watered.

I set the Coke down on the counter, and I discover my reading glasses that I’ve been searching for all morning. I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I’m going to water the flowers. I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water and suddenly I spot the TV remote.

Someone left it on the kitchen table. I realise that tonight when we go to watch TV, we will be looking for the remote, but nobody will remember that it is on the kitchen table. So, I decide to put it back in the lounge where it belongs, but first I’ll water the flowers.

I splash some water on the flowers, but most of it spills on the floor. So, I set the remote back down on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill. Then I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day; the car is not washed; the bills are not paid; there is a warm can of Coke sitting on the counter; the flowers are not watered; there is still only one cheque in my cheque book; I cannot find the remote; I cannot find my glasses – and I do not remember what I did with the car keys!

Then when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I’m really baffled, because I know I was busy all day long, and I’m really tired. I realise this is a serious problem, and I’ll try to get some help for it – but first I’ll go and check my e-mails!

Anon

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PLEASE NOTE

All copy for publication, including all new advertising material, must be in the hands of the Editor by Tuesday, **September 8, 2009**, in order to be included in the Autumn edition of the Echo.

BY ORDER OF THE HIGH COMMAND

Chairman's Report

Saving Green Belt for Future Generations!

In the first few months of 2009 Northwood Hills Residents Association participated in a campaign to save Haydon Hall Meadows. This was coordinated by the residents living in the roads surrounding the fields with the support of your Association, the Eastcote Residents Association and our local Councillors Jonathan Bianco and Andrew Retter. Petitions were signed by thousands of local people and letters were sent to the Council to make clear the residents' objection to the developer's plan to build houses on this Green Belt land. Hillingdon Council rejected the proposal at a public meeting in March, although we need to remain vigilant for any future proposals for this field. This campaign illustrates how much local residents working together can influence how the area develops.

On the subject of people power, the proposed parking management scheme in Northwood Hills has turned yet another corner, with the residents within a 5 minute walk of the tube station having a chance to give their opinion on the proposals. With the exception of 2 roads, the majority who returned the consultation forms have told Hillingdon Council that the residents of Northwood Hills are not happy with the suggested parking scheme in our residential roads. However, I know commuter parking causes the residents of some roads considerable problems and the Residents Association will continue to look for solutions that help with this as well as meeting the approval of the majority. Suggestions welcome!

Looking forward, the Residents Association is currently working on restoring a children's play area in Northwood Hills, providing, of course, that the residents abutting the area are happy for this to go ahead.

With all these initiatives and campaigns we need your help; there are a number of vacancies on the Association Committee, including Secretary, Minutes Secretary, Press Officer and Road Stewards Co-ordinator. If we can fill these posts, then we can help achieve even greater things as a Residents Association.

On a personal note I will be standing down as Chairman at our AGM on 20th May to pursue other commitments, although I will remain involved as much as possible. I would like to thank everyone who has taken time to communicate with me and to thank all the committee members both past and present for all the help, advice and friendship they have provided me over the years.

Finally I wish you, the residents of Northwood Hills, all the very best for the future.

John Morgan

As I pass through the town
To see the odd mixture -
A Magpie and Crown
The Whale and the Crow
The Razor and Hen
The Leg and Seven Stars
The Scissors and Pen...

Many of these odd combinations arose in a simple enough way. Two innkeepers traded long and successfully under their respective signs and eventually decided to unite their interests, perhaps through their children's marriage or whatever. Neither wished to abandon his sign, so we finish up with the Hare and Flatiron. Certain modern chains of small brewers have taken to this as a marketing gimmick - the Frog and Frothfinders which turned up in Pinner, for example.

A very common type of sign arose from the innkeeper borrowing the heraldic arms of the prominent local noble family. As the best known local sign it would attract the wayfarer to his hostelry. Hence we have the Crown, the King's Arms, the Lygon Arms, the Red Lion, the Talbot, the Eagle & Child - to Oxford students, the Bird & Baby -(Earl of Derby). Sometimes the supporters of the shield, one of its charges or its background was chosen - hence the Unicorn, the Crescent, the Checkers (heraldic *chequ e*). Sometimes these heraldic elements were corrupted. The Talbot (a heraldic dog) became the Spotted Dog (there's one in Harefield), the crusader's Crescent became the Half Moon.

Historical events, particularly military ones, explain the Lord Nelson the Admiral Rodney, the Waterloo Arms, the Royal Oak (where Charles II hid after Worcester). The Goat and Compasses, which dates from the Commonwealth period is a corruption of the Puritan motto "God encompasses us!" This is heightened by the fact that the reverent 17th and 18th century pronunciation of God was "Goad".

The Elephant and Castle is held by some to be the corruption of Eleanor of Castile; I believe it to be what it says - an Indian elephant and its fighting howdah, which even existed early as an armorial device. The Bag o' Nails started life as the Bacchanals; the Bull and Mouth was Boulogne Mouth (i.e. harbour), where Henry VIII met with some success in 1544.

Of the many classes of signs of which mention has not been made, I will feature that of the "joke". The Silent Woman, represented either decapitated, with her head under her arm or with her lips padlocked together, is one such. Another is the Honest Lawyer, represented equally decapitated. The Hat and Tun (a barrel) owed its origin to a former host called Hatton.

As you can see, there is a real wealth of social history hidden in many traditional pub signs.

Alan Kimber

building are classed by English heritage as endangered, so it is vital that funds are found soon for the restoration.

The Friends of Eastcote House Gardens have formed a Gardening Group; we meet the 3rd Thursday in each month at 9.30 until 1.00pm. The walled garden and surroundings is beginning to improve with our tender loving care. Please come and join us – it is a happy social event as well as being useful. Even if you can only stay for a short time you will be very welcome.

A Norwegian Maple was planted in Long Meadow to celebrate the decades of conservation work carried out by Sheila Liberty. Sheila chose the tree and helped with the planting. A former member of staff from Hillingdon gave Sheila the accolade of Eastcote's First Eco-Warrior.

A project to improve the look of Long Meadow is under way. The addition of wild flowers and English bluebells in the wooded areas will be a delight to the eye. Later in the year volunteer planters will be required.

Many new friends have been made this year, and I hope more will follow. Thanks to the Chairman, John Morgan, Northwood Hills RA, for inviting me to contribute to the 'ECHO'. The AGM of EVCAAP will be Wednesday 27th May 2009 7.30pm, Elsie Fischer Room, St.Lawrence Church, Bridle Road, Eastcote. All are welcome. If anyone needs more information about the conservation projects, or thinks there is an area in which we can help, please contact me.

N.B. Eastcote House Gardens suffered damage on the last weekend of March, caused by louts driving a vehicle around the grassed areas. Although this was witnessed and Reg.No. as well as photographs taken, no one called the Police or the Park Rangers. If anyone witnesses any form of destruction or unsociable behaviour in any of our Parks or Open Spaces, please call the PARK RANGERS Tel. 01895 239241. They will respond as quickly as possible. Also, if damage is being caused, please call the Police as well.

Lesley Crowcroft. 020 8866 8436. e-mail: lesley.crowcroft@tiscali.co.uk

English Pub Signs

As early as 1393 London publicans were compelled by law to display signs and other towns followed suit. The earliest English signs were linked with agriculture and brewing. Thus we have the Plough, the Wheatsheaf, the Barleycorn. With the growth of the wool trade in certain areas, we find the Woolpack, the Fleece, the Packhorse.

The strangest class of signs is probably that where two incongruous things are joined together. In 1707 fun was made of such combinations in the publication *The British Apollo*:-

I'm amused at the signs

Committee Officers at May 2009

President	Alistair Hornal
Vice President	Erika Kimber
Chairman	John Morgan (to become vacant)
Vice Chairman	Betty Walley
Secretary	Vacant
Minutes Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Fiona Morgan
Chief Road Steward	Robert Symes (to become vacant)
Planning	Anila Hashim
Environment	Vacant
Transport	Herbert Levinger
Press Officer	Vacant

Roads Without Road Stewards

Acre Way*	Neal Close*
Addison Close*	Pinner Road (from the Roundabout to the Iron Bridge)*
Addison Way*	Reid Close*
Coniston Gardens*	Ryefield Crescent*
#Cranbourne Road (Nos 41-83) - with temporary Rd Steward#	Salisbury Road*
Daymer Gardens*	Selway Close*
Egerton Close*	Tasmin Close*
Emmanuel Road*	#Tolcarne Drive (part)#
Farmlands*	Townsend Way*
Fore Street*	Waller Drive*
Haydon Drive*	Windsor Close
#Harlyn Drive (Odd Nos.only) - with temporary Rd Steward#	* = No Rd Steward in the last 10 years or more
#J oel Street - with temporary Rd Steward#	# = Priority Attention
#Lawson Gardens#	If you need more information or can offer help, please contact Robert Symes.
#Maybank#	

Northwood Hills Community Conference

To be held on Thursday 7th May 2009, 2pm - 4pm & 7pm-9pm, Fairfield, Windsor Close, Northwood Hills. Following a successful Autumn conference for people working in the community, we are holding a community conference that is **open to all** on Thursday 7 May.

The afternoon theme will be “**Across the Generations**”- and will include a special invitation to the more senior members of our community to meet together and share common concerns. We shall then be joined by young people from our local schools.

If you are ‘older’ or ‘younger’, then, or if you work with people at either end of the generational spectrum, perhaps you would like to come and join in the discussion.

In the evening, we shall celebrate “**Our Diverse Community**”. This will be a great opportunity for established residents to meet up and also welcome people who have more recently come to live in the area – some from different parts of the world. It will give local trades-people, community groups and others an opportunity to share what they have to offer.

If you would like to set up a small stand to promote your organisation, or to display some literature, we would be pleased to accommodate you. During the evening there will be a few short presentations. If you would like to have one of the presentation slots, please let me know as soon as possible so that the co-ordinating group can arrange a balanced programme.

The plan is that this should be an informal, interactive day when we can build up our sense of local community. There will be refreshments and during the evening we expect to have live music from the Herga Swing Band.

Alistair Hornal, Minister at Fairfield and President of Northwood Hills Residents Association telephone: 01923 827198 /e-mail: alistair@nhec.org.uk

Captain Maurice Boyd 1927 - 2008



Anyone who met Maurice socially would be instantly charmed by the lilt of his voice with its Northern Irish tones, his friendliness, and approachability. They would probably never for one moment take him for the captain of some of the greatest ships that sail international waters – the supertankers!

It was so typical of Maurice that he could assume responsibility at the highest level where only consummate professional skill and character would ensure a safe landfall and at the same time be a totally unstuffy commanding officer, family man and friend. There is a letter from a senior merchant navy officer mentioning how he as a young officer in training benefited so greatly from being on Maurice’s ships and developing his career un-

to create a newsletter on a topic of their choice. Newsletters were judged on writing, layout, use of colour and ability to target their intended audience. Extra marks were given for newsletters which judges felt possessed an ‘X-factor’.

Three school groups from each age category, 7-11, 12-14 and 15-19 (Northwood), have been singled out as exceptional and will receive (along with their teachers) the latest, high-tech HP printing kit for schools as well as goody bags.

Applicants were judged by the Sky News presenter Chris Roberts and Robin Garton, Creative Director at Publicis, the global communications and advertising agency.

Chris says, “All the entries were of a high calibre with some excellent writing, fascinating content and all well laid out.”

Rhiannon Williams, SMB Market Manager, HP UK & Ireland says, “We were really impressed by the enthusiasm pupils brought to HP’s competition and the huge effort they put in to it. We are thrilled to have been involved in a contest which encourages young people to exhibit their talent and which gives them a platform to do this.”

Tim Westrip, Headteacher at Northwood School said “We are absolutely delighted! Students and staff put a huge amount of time and effort into producing this informative and well worthwhile newsletter. It gives us great pleasure in being able to communicate the many positive achievements and activities that take place at Northwood School”.

Eastcote Village Conservation Area Advisory Panel

A very busy year has passed since I became the Chairman of EVCAAP. Many projects are in progress and DEVELOPERS have been REPULSED.

The work of EVCAAP is not just confined to the village, it embraces all of Eastcote, whichever political ward happens to be responsible for it. Eastcote is split between Eastcote & East Ruislip, Cavendish, Northwood Hills Wards and part is in the Borough of Harrow. Which means I have to be very nice to a lot of people!

Fantastic is the only word to describe the response to the threat to Haydon Hall Meadows. Everyone who helped with the protest should feel very proud of themselves, but especial thanks must go to Terry & Joan Butfield and Maxine & Bob Goswell, campaign leaders. Hopefully the developers will have received a very clear message ‘HANDS OFF OUR MEADOWS’ and will not come back.

Grants are being sought to replant the Walled garden in Eastcote House Grounds and to repair the Coach House, Dovecot and Garden Wall. These

the premises. There really is something for everyone. Keep an eye on the notice boards for what's going on.

Don't be put off if the car park is full; there is usually space in Lichfield Road where there is another entrance to the premises. We would ask you to respect the two disabled parking spaces in the car park as these are in regular use every day.

If you want to know more about the life of the Church, please contact us on 01923 822508.

Carolyn Orr

Northwood & District Community Association

I am glad to say that many people reading previous newsletters have responded and phoned me to ask for details of our activities and have become members. We have had to move our Friday Keep Fit sessions to Tuesday, so anyone who had wanted perhaps to join Ladies Keep Fit for the over 50's but could not manage Fridays, there is now another option.

Also our German/Anglo Section could do with more members - these are monthly meetings consisting of quizzes, talks, general conversation in German. So if you want to keep your German up to scratch in a non-teaching environment - here's your chance. Anyone interested - please contact 0208 421 4369 for more information.

We have had a Christmas Quiz in December where 50 or so people enjoyed a social get together for a meal and quiz and a chance to show off their knowledge!

We are holding a Ploughman's Lunch in February, and a further one in May - held in the Half Term Holidays when the hall we use is available for hire.

We have monthly Community Evenings where we have guest speakers on interesting subjects - in January on African Adventures, February on Canadian Rockies, and in March we will be informed about a Perfect Cup of Tea and in April all about Paramedics.

If you want to know more about this local and friendly association - phone the secretary on 01923 836346.

Northwood School

We are delighted to have received confirmation that Northwood School won the 2009 Hewlett Packard National School Newsletter Competition in the secondary school category. This was awarded for the outstanding writing and design skills of our school newsletter INFORM.

HP's contest, which closed in November 2008, was created to showcase the work of the nation's top aspiring reporters and designers, encouraging them

der Maurice's supervision. Anyone thinking of the merchant navy as a profession would have been proud to be Maurice's cabin boy!

There is a wonderful photograph of Maurice assuming command of a new tanker and playing at a piano, which has just been winched on deck, for the entertainment of his crew. How like Maurice to start a voyage in this way!

His widow, Barbara, writes:

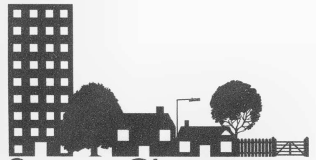
Sometime ago Maurice was asked to write something for The Hills Echo. Unfortunately, due to ill health, he never got round to doing it and I feel you might now like an insight into his career at sea over 38 years.

He came from a seafaring family, his grandfather, father and both uncles were all at sea in various types of ships. His family rather hoped he would do something else but he was determined to pursue a naval career. He went on a small collier at first, then on to various cargo ships, bulk carriers and then on to tankers. He worked very hard at his studies and in only ten years he gained his Master's Certificate. In all he served on 52 ships. The first voyages were all mostly in the North Atlantic but after a while he opted to go to warmer climes.

Does anyone really think, when they go to fill up their car at the petrol station, of the number of people involved in getting it to the pumps? There are hundreds of people who work long hours and spend time away from their families in doing this. There are good times as well as the bad, and I was very fortunate in being able to travel and share in his work and life.

In the early part of his life, the voyages lasted up to 9 months and even beyond - a long time to be away from the family but happily in later years we did not have so long to be apart. The time in port was very limited and there were always the necessary customs formalities and people coming on and off. Then he had to be at the ready when we left port and the pilots came on board. There was the time when he was sent to Japan so as to be involved in the new construction of a new supertanker in Nagasaki; it only took about 19 weeks to build a 300,000 ton ship! The vessels loaded at offshore terminals, picking up pipelines from the seabed. Voyages were mainly round the Cape to Europe. They replenished with fresh crew and provisions and picked up mail. Senior members of staff were relayed there by helicopter; it looked like the fly on the back of a dray horse when it landed on the tanker! So the vessel never stopped. Latterly, tours of duty were 4 months on, 2 months off. However when he came home on leave the time always seem to fly by with so many jobs to do.

Having retired quite early, Maurice wanted to do something for the community and he became a magistrate at Uxbridge Court. He also worked with Age Concern. He immersed himself in local affairs and helped me with the various jobs that I have done with Neighbourhood Watch and the Residents Association. I consider myself very lucky to have shared in his life, which he lived to the full, taking with him the experiences and heartfelt affections of those who knew him.



Street Champions
The eyes and ears of Hillingdon
email: contactcentre@hillingsdon.gov.uk www.hillingdon.gov.uk Tel: 01895 556000

Are you passionate about improving the area you live in?
Do you want to help make a real difference?

Street Champions are volunteers who act as the eyes and ears of the community to help get things fixed and resolved to improve their local area.

Street Champions get the satisfaction of seeing something they have reported being sorted and can help to reduce crime and the fear of crime making Hillingdon cleaner, greener and safer.

The types of issues you can report could include:

Graffiti	Fly-posting
Litter	Potholes,
Overgrown branches,	Damaged pavements
Damaged street lights	And many more...

You can do as much or as little as you like and can simply report problems as you go about your everyday life. There is no limit to the number of people living in a street who can sign up. There are more than 4500 people already signed up as Street Champions across the Borough but we would like to keep increasing this number, getting more residents involved in whatever capacity suits them.

Being a Street Champion opens up a wide range of opportunities such as:

- Invitations to local meetings and events
- Invitations to have your say on council initiatives.
- Access to free graffiti removal kits.
- Environmental volunteering activities

Everyone who signs up also receives a free welcome pack containing everything that is needed to report street scene problems quickly, easily and effectively.

Contacts:

If you are interested in signing up to be a Street Champion or would like more information:

- Visit: www.hillingdon.gov.uk/streetchampions
- Call Claire Gibson on: 01895 558342
- Email: streetchampions@hillingsdon.gov.uk

On Being a Street Champion

When Hillingdon announced the Street Champions Scheme in 2006 and invited us to attend a meeting at Winston Churchill Hall in Ruislip, my wife and I decided to enroll and we duly received our Street Champions "The Eyes and Ears of Hillingdon" pack. There were about forty people at the meeting which was to cover Ruislip, Eastcote and Northwood Hills; we were somewhat taken aback that there was only one familiar face in the audience. Northwood



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United Reformed Church

If you pass Northwood Hills URC on Joel Street, you will realise what a busy place it is. The car park is regularly full, with people coming and going throughout the day. The Church meets for worship at 10.30 on Sunday mornings, with services being led by our Minister, Liz Shaw, or visiting preachers. Other Church-led activities on the premises are table tennis (alternate Monday evenings - from 6th April) and Neighbours Contact (a social group which meets alternate Tuesday afternoons - from 7th April). New members are always welcome. If you are passing on the first Saturday morning of any month you may catch a glimpse of someone in the bushes with a pair of clippers, trying to keep the garden in order. Feel free to stop us working and have a chat. This is the time when many odd jobs are done around the buildings and grounds. The second Saturday morning of each month is a more sedate affair - coffee and a chat, all profits going to Commitment for Life, as do the profits from the monthly Sunday lunches.

Other activities held at the church range from nursery school to dog training, dancing of all kinds, scrabble, bridge and weight-watching. Several activities of the Northwood and District Community Association happen on

sion to the building had been provided on one side. The overhead balcony inside was in use as an office, where a carer could work, and at the same time keep an eye on the recreation room below. I was then taken through connecting doors to the newly positioned church. It is small but adequate, and gave an intimate and friendly feeling.

There still remained a problem on the eastern side of the St Vincent's site, which we had asked to be cleared, and returned to green belt, to compensate for the land we had lost to a housing estate. Unfortunately on this land were an Autistic Centre, and also a children's day nursery. Although once again we seemed faced with a difficult situation, to my surprise, the Autistic Centre quickly found alternative accommodation at Uxbridge, which I was told was better than their accommodation in Wiltshire Lane.

Finding accommodation for the children's nursery seemed at first impossible, and the owner told me they would have to close. This would have been very sad. I visited the nursery and was very impressed by what I saw. Just as the situation seemed hopeless, it was saved when the Head Teacher of Haydon School offered a site on the corner of Wiltshire Lane and Norwich Road. This was readily accepted, and work put in hand to construct a nursery, which was quickly completed. After it was occupied I paid it a visit, and was pleased to see it working well.

Work on the new nursing home and the housing estate went ahead, and was soon completed. The houses sold very quickly, and a sixty bed nursing home was completed and is now fully occupied. It is an ideal nursing home, and nestles in a valley, beautifully landscaped. The eastern side of Wiltshire Lane has been cleared, providing an open vista on to Haste Hill, and adjoining Ruislip Woods. It is an ideal spot for walking, and for walking one's dog. I feel sad that we did not get a hospital, but it has been a difficult time, and credit is due to the members of the St Vincent's Board, who refused to be defeated. I still keep in contact on behalf of our Association, through Jacque Scott, one of the directors.

Finally, I attended, by invitation, the official opening and blessing of the nursing home, on 19th September 2006. It was conducted by His Eminence Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, head of the Catholic Church in England. It commenced with a brief service in the chapel, after which the Cardinal led us through the ground floor, scattering holy water. This was followed by some speeches and refreshments. After this, the Cardinal shook hands and left.

So now I can conclude by saying that the hopes expressed by the Board have come to fruition, and the spirit of St Vincent seems to have been active throughout, and particularly now, in that corner of Northwood Hills.

Lishman Easby

Hills was indifferent! Nor did this change until quite recently when the scheme was re-launched. The Hillingdon Street Locality Team holds two or three evening meetings a year. At these gatherings there is usually a presentation of one of the aspects of environmental work by Hillingdon Council, e.g. road maintenance, green spaces. One also has the opportunity of raising any, hopefully relevant subject near and dear to one's heart with David Frost, the Team Manager or Claire Gibson, the Street Locality Officer. Incidentally a word of advice: if your hearing is slightly impaired, come early and get a seat in the front rows! Sitting at the back can be a somewhat frustrating exercise as there is no sound amplification. Now that one is fully operational, what does a Street Champion actually do? I found that one creates one's own "patch"; probably the street where one lives and possibly adjoining routes where one habitually walks, e.g. to post a letter, buy a newspaper, take the train. As I walk along I tend to look at the road surface for pot holes or any obstacles, the pavements for litter or dangerously loose paving slabs, the walls for graffiti. The other day one of the road signs at a junction had been turned round to face the wrong way. You make a note of the problem and location and submit your report to Hillingdon Council. There are a number of ways of communicating, I now use email but you can phone or make a written report. My emails are acknowledged by an automatically generated reply and nowadays there is usually a further message indicating the action taken. Why does one do it? Well, when I pass by a few days later and the pot hole has been filled in or the dangerous broken pavement slab has been replaced, I feel that I have made some, very small contribution to the community in which I live and that gives me a lift in these difficult times. Why not try it yourself?

Herbert Levinger

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Sailing in the Pacific – a Nurse’s Story

[Jacquie Scott is a director at St Vincent’s. Her participation in this race was supported by sponsorship, the money being collected to purchase a bus for the hospital.]

Sir Robin Knox Johnston, the man who has, single handed, circumnavigated the world twice in a lifetime, is quoted to have said that ‘more people have climbed Mount Everest than have sailed in a yacht around the world’. However, while most people can understand the ascent of a single mountain, it is far harder to comprehend the crossing of many oceans and months of hard physical work.

Every journey begins with the first step. After years of focussing on work as a nurse in the NHS I felt I needed a small change of direction and a ‘different’ kind of challenge from the life I was leading.

The journey began February 2007 when I attended an ‘open day’ for sailing in Gosport. The sun was shining, the sea and sky were a wonderful blue and the yachts we were taken out on were spectacular. Having no idea of how luxurious or otherwise a yacht could be – the day was a great success and seemed to me to be the ‘adventure’ I was looking for – I was interviewed and accepted as a crew member for the *Round the World Yacht Race 2007-2008* provided I successfully completed the 3 week compulsory training and gained my *Competent Crew Certificate*.

The investment in physical fitness and personal time along with the financial commitment to participate in the race were challenges in themselves. The preparation was extremely important and it is only now that one realizes how significant the work up to the race was to being a competent and reliable team crew member.

The race was to take 10 months (7 Legs) and there were 10 yachts with up to 400 crew members such as myself participating. There were many *Round the World* crew like myself; I was a ‘Legger’. I chose to do one leg of the race and joined the fleet in Santa Cruz off the north coast of America near San Francisco as part of Leg 6 and we sailed south through the Californian currents towards Panama and finishing in Jamaica some 5,300 nautical miles later.

I was on the Liverpool 08 yacht and as a crew we decided as part of the tactics to win the race we would not risk the in-shore winds and end up caught in the doldrums so we sailed 300 nautical miles more than the rest of the fleet and enjoyed the solitude of the sea, sun, dolphins, flying fish and squid jumping on board to eventually cross the finish line last! The tactics didn’t quite work out but the crossing was wonderful. Spinnaker sailing is second to none and the exhilaration of flying along the surface of the ocean at 20 knots is breathtaking.

The 51 mile transit through the Panama Canal took 12 hours and was an experience of a lifetime in its own right – the Panamanian hospitality was

We decided, however, that the sacrifice of green belt in these circumstances was well worth the reward of a first class hospital. The land sold was situated on the right side of Wiltshire Lane, and just behind the Central Middlesex Skills Centre, and is now a housing estate. Everything now seemed to be going well, and I frequently visited the hospital, where Dr Gordon Griffith showed me the plans, and discussed them.

It was an interesting and exciting time, as I saw the proposals unfold, and we all looked forward to what would possibly be the finest Orthopaedic Hospital in the country. Suddenly, however, misfortune struck a heavy blow, when the Government decided to stop National Health patients being treated at private hospitals, and although St Vincent’s was a charity, it was not excluded. Consequently the money gained to keep the hospital going was soon used, and eventually it had to close down.

This caused some distress, but the Board of St Vincent’s refused to be completely defeated, and decided that, if a new hospital was impossible, they would instead erect either a forty or sixty bed nursing home. Enthusiasm returned, and one of the Board members, who I believe was John Davern, the chairman, declared that the spirit of St Vincent would once again be active in Northwood Hills.

The construction of a nursing home would, however, entail the sale of more land, in order to raise the required capital. This alarmed us once again but, as the land to be sold was land on which derelict hospital buildings stood, it could be regarded as “brown land” rather than green belt. So we did not oppose it, but at the same time we asked for a condition that it would not be developed until work on the proposed nursing home had started. We also asked that land on the eastern side of Wiltshire Lane be completely cleared, and returned to green belt. This was agreed and included as a condition of approval.

All now seemed to be plain sailing, but further problems arose, which gave me considerable concern. On the site were three occupied buildings, one on the west side being a Day Centre for Alzheimer’s sufferers, run very successfully by Mrs Templeton. It would have to be demolished to facilitate the sale of the land. To have to close the Centre would be very sad, but they were in a temporary occupation, and knew they could be asked to leave at any time.

There seemed no alternative until, to my surprise and relief, the United Reformed Church in Joel Street offered accommodation. I was told by a church official that, as their congregation was now very small, a room at the rear would suffice. This offer was accepted, and work on the alterations was quickly started and completed. I visited the Centre when it was in use, and was very impressed.

What was once the main church was in use for recreation, and the Alzheimer’s visitors were enjoying table tennis and other activities. An exten-

The campaign against Heathrow expansion continues, this is one battle we can win. Keep up to date on www.notrag.org as we move forward into the next stage of this fight to save our communities and maintain our quality of life.

St Edmund the King: Women's Guild

We are a group of women who meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month, at 2.30 pm in the lounge of the church. We have speakers on various topics, we have two lunches a year, we cater for ladies of all ages and it is certainly not a religious group. Many lasting friendships come from the group.

If you would like to know more about us, or see a programme of events, please feel free to contact us.

Rachel Windsor, tel. 01923 822 752

The Spirit of St Vincent in Northwood Hills

Many readers will remember the splendid Orthopaedic Hospital run by the Roman Catholic Charity of St. Vincent. It was situated on the hillside, at the top of Wiltshire Lane, next to Ruislip Woods, in Northwood Hills.

It first came into being in 1907, in Clapham, set up by Archbishop Bourne, and run by the Sisters of Charity as "St Vincent's Cripples Home for Boys". In 1912 it was relocated to a house at the top of Wiltshire Lane, Northwood Hills, named "Ruislip Holt", which was built in 1893.

During World War I war casualties were treated at the hospital. In 1923 its name was changed to "St Vincent's Orthopaedic Hospital", and in 1925 it opened its wards to girls as well as boys. After World War II ten beds were made available for private patients, and the remainder was contracted for use by the National Health Service. The hospital was now open to adults.

My first contact with the hospital was about forty years ago, when our son Richard received some treatment there, as an outpatient. Later our daughter Gillian served there for a while, as an auxiliary nurse. Also Audrey, my wife, and Rena, our next-door neighbour, did some voluntary work in the hospital shop, and they pushed a cumbersome trolley around the wards, with small items for patients to buy.

My main contact, however, came much later, as Planning Officer for our Association, when the Board of St Vincent's decided to improve the hospital, and at the same time extend it and bring it up to date. This, however, required the sale of land in order to provide the necessary capital. This was a problem for our Association, as the land to be sold was green belt, which we had pledged to protect.

great and the excitement of making our way to Jamaica through the Caribbean Sea using helming and regular sail changes was a prospect we were all keen to employ in order to win.

Port Antonio in Jamaica is like a picture postcard and the Jamaican party atmosphere was brilliant.

Sailing has a romantic appeal, ocean yacht racing is not quite like the image one might imagine, however, as time passes since I have come home and back to *terra firma* – you can begin to romanticise about the experience. During the weeks that I was on the yacht there are many facets of yourself and others that you explore. Not being able to communicate with family and friends was difficult at times and I missed the freedom to just talk to them. The growing friendships amongst fellow crew members who come from all walks of life, which include engineers, IT project managers, taxi drivers, teachers, bankers, students, and surveyors all with special reasons for competing is an opportunity not to miss. Many elements will remain with me forever; the Southern Cross and the magnificent Milky Way, the spectacular sunrise and sunset after a day of sailing across crystal blue seas in the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea and the challenges that the roar of the Atlantic Ocean can bring when we were beating into the wind to try and make ground towards Jamaica.

Exploring new ports and cultures including Costa Rica for an unscheduled stopover to refuel (yes even though we were sailing!) and testing yourself with the many new skills and roles within the team as a crew member on a racing yacht have all added to the experience.

The 70' yachts are stripped of all luxury and provide the basic needs such as a bunk and a limited area to store your personal kit. There is limited personal privacy and only 2 heads (toilets to you and me) for 18 crew members and during our 3 weeks race to Panama there were no proper shower facilities!! All duties are shared and this includes cleaning the heads, ensuring the yacht is clean generally to avoid infections, engineering, pumping out the bilges, sorting the sails, repairing the sails, being on 'mother duty' cooking for 18 people, just generally caring for each other and many more tasks. Life on board also makes you appreciate the simple things in life – such as access to drinking water, being able to wash, the food you eat. I have learnt a whole new language and a new way of life and certainly a far greater respect for the sea – from mill pond to an angry battle in moments! Hoisting the main sail, sweating the 'sheets' and clipping the halyards to the yankee sailor staysail, flying the kite(spinnaker) are all impregnated in my brain.

As a nurse I was very glad of my past clinical experiences both in practical terms as an orthopaedic nurse but also as a manager. With so many people on board I was kept busy with diagnosis and treatment of a number of ailments and eventually ran a dressing clinic twice a day. The skippers across the fleet are all trained to provide the medical care on each of their vessels however,

they were naturally keen to hand this responsibility to someone qualified to respond - such as I was.

Ben Galloway the skipper on Liverpool 08 is the youngest in the fleet (28 years) and all I can say was that he was excellent. He knew what was happening all the time – got involved and took an interest in ‘people’ and ensured that the atmosphere on the yacht maintained the ‘teamwork’ approach. None of the crew knew each other apart from those who met on some of the training weeks - so to be thrown together in a small confined space for so long and to get on so well was a remarkable feat in itself – the Liverpool 08 was considered by the other crews as a *happy* boat.

Whilst Liverpool 08 did not win a pennant in the Leg that I took part in - the yacht has done quite well in the overall race.

As for me it was never about winning but about being challenged personally and ensuring that I could still rise to the occasion with something I know little about. I have never sailed before apart from on the cross channel ferry or a cruise liner – so this was a challenge.

I have lived through some dramatic moments when we went into a ‘death roll’ and on another occasion when the yacht was struck by lightning while I was helming knocking out all the navigation instruments. I have also swum in the Pacific Ocean and watched the yacht drift away from us leaving one of my fellow swimmers getting very panicky about what was happening to us. Of course afterwards I consider the fact that we did not know if we might meet some sharks while we were swimming so, it became even more exciting when we started to consider what might have been!!

I’ve learnt that wind is never to be trusted and that a ‘squall’ is not to be ignored and that the sea is as unpredictable as the wind.

Following the race I had a week resting, sleeping and adjusting to being back ashore and finding that alcohol does not seem very appealing after not having a drink for so long.

As I reflect now upon the experience I am beginning to realise what I have achieved – most people think what I have done is fantastic and I suppose it is but actually I am only just beginning to realise this. I will be the first to *admit* that having signed up to do it I did have many doubts about achieving the goal – and one or two occasions I almost didn’t start because of cold feet. However, part of the challenge was to do what seemed an impossible feat for someone who was more inclined to pen and paper and feet firmly on the ground.

Time will make the experience seem almost impossible and will most likely feel like a dream – but I have the memories and the photos to prove the epic journey was real.

Would I do it again? Not likely, but I would fervently recommend the experience.

Jacquie Scott

farce by Richard Coleman centred round the possibility of buried treasure at a village cricket ground. Performances will be on Thursday 7th, Friday 8th and Saturday 9th May and the box office number is 020 8868 7785.

Like most churches, fundraising is an essential part of life, and two big events are coming up. On Saturday 16th May we’re holding a mammoth Plant Sale in the Church Grounds. Hundreds of plants will be available at very reasonable prices, so do come along and pick up some bargain price bedding and vegetable plants. Then on Saturday 20th June the Summer Fair takes place, again in the Church Grounds. There’ll be a children’s entertainer, art-work on display from Pinner Wood School, and lots of stalls and games.

Music is another important part of our life here. Our own choir sing each week, and always welcome new members, so if you enjoy singing why not come along and give them a try. Occasional Sunday afternoon classical concerts bring to Northwood the finest music-making, in a professional chamber music series. The next concert takes place on Sunday 7th June and all are very welcome.

There’s always lots happening here, come and join in –and as I settle into the parish here do introduce yourself, it’ll be good to meet you!

Fr Philip Barnes

Heathrow Update

After months of delay, the decision on Heathrow expansion was made on 15th January 2009. In his speech to Parliament, the Secretary of State for Transport, Rt. Hon. Geoff Hoon MP, gave approval to a third runway and sixth terminal but did not give approval to end runway alternation.

The decision was, by all accounts, cobbled together at the last minute to appease the Labour Cabinet and head off rebel Labour MPs. It has many so-called environmental safeguards and has been dubbed a “Green Runway”, however, this is a “Brown Runway” and we are now more determined than ever that this expansion will never see the light of day.

The final decision on Heathrow expansion will come after the next General Election and opposition parties have all said that, if they win the next General Election, they will scrap the proposals.

The economic argument put forward by the Government is not robust. The environmental concerns still exist and cannot, in our opinion, be mitigated in any way. The social consequences are devastating and will have an immense impact on our borough through increased demand on our transport, housing, healthcare and education services.

The coalition against Heathrow expansion is now bigger than ever with 23 local councils, including the London Borough of Hillingdon, now part of the 2M Group which now represents over 5 million people.

emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have stored as 'ICE'.

For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc.

A great idea that will make a difference! Let's spread the concept of ICE by storing an ICE number in our mobile phones - today!

Please publicise this idea. It won't take too many 'forwards' before everybody will know about this. It really could save your life, or put a loved one's mind at rest. **ICE will speak for you when you are not able to.**

St Edmund the King, Pinner Road

The passage of time is a fascinating aspect of our lives -sometimes it seems to move very slowly and the passing of hours and days may seem sedate even. At other times it just flies by and we wonder where all the time can have gone. I must admit, that for me at least the last few months have flown by, and it's hard to realise that already six months have gone since I arrived as the vicar of St Edmund's, and I have to think twice before introducing myself as the 'new' vicar!

My Service at which I formally took charge of the parish took place on October 13th, and it's been a great joy to get to know the area since then, and meet new people and groups as I've settled in. Of course, one of the reasons why time seems to pass so quickly in church is that as we keep the feasts and festivals of the Christian year there's a rhythm for our life that keeps us moving on. Since my arrival we've already kept Christmas, with large numbers of people joining us for our worship, we've kept Lent through our special study groups, and by the time you get to read this will have held our Easter services and will be looking forward to Whitsun.

But the rhythm of the year provides the background for a rich and busy daily life here. First and foremost we are a group of people who gather together for worship, and at the heart of all we do is our Sunday and weekday Eucharists, when we come together to meet Jesus in word and sacrament.

One of our priorities is providing nurture for our children; as well as a group for young people on Sunday mornings, a lively group of children and parents and helpers meets every other Tuesday after school. After drinks and biscuits there's a short talk followed by a craft activity that explores a theme from the Bible or Christian year, and we end with a prayer together. All are welcome, and if you'd like more details just give me a call.

The St Edmund's Drama Group 'Arrow Players' goes from strength to strength. In the New Year their production of 'Ali Baba' was very well received and brought great joy and laughter to those who came to see it. Their next production is 'The Capers at Cricketers' Copse', an unusual and very funny

Green Belt Land Under Threat

Gladsdale Drive backs onto Haydon Hall Meadows part of Eastcote Village Conservation Area. This includes a small wooded area with lovely mature trees, Oak Ash and Hornbeam which in turn support a varied array of wildlife including bats, numerous species of birds, insects and small mammals. There is also a small stream running along the back of all the properties on the North side which is home to water voles that live in the bank. These are sites of importance for Nature Conservation, and must be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

The last house on the North side of Gladsdale Drive, number 12, is directly adjacent to this green belt Conservation land, and has recently been sold to an alleged property developer, who has let number 12 and has been proposing to build a 4 bed roomed house on the garden of number 12, formerly green belt land. This land has been gradually incorporated into the garden of number 12 by the previous owners over many years, how this came about is still unclear. The present owner has already cut down all vegetation on this site, which had previously included an ancient hedgerow, small trees and bushes which had been home to the very varied wildlife abundant on this special Conservation Area. He has destroyed and burnt down everything on the site.

Should the proposed new house have been allowed to go ahead it would have had its outside wall and foundations on the boundary immediately next to the large Oak, Ash, and Hornbeam trees. This would surely endanger or even kill these lovely old trees. The residents of Gladsdale Drive and people in the surrounding area are totally opposed to this development and have been trying to get as many people as possible to sign a petition to stop this misuse of green belt land. Once the greenbelt land has gone it is gone for good. Luckily for all concerned we had the backing of Eastcote and Northwood Hills Residents Associations and local councillors. We also had backing from Nick Hurd, M.P. and from R Barnes, deputy Mayor of London. We managed to collect 200 signatures on our petition against the proposal to build on GREEN BELT LAND and I am very happy to say the application to build was withdrawn on 9 March, 2009. This is great news for all who helped us and supported us in our endeavours to preserve this Conservation Area. We are also very much aware that this application to build can be resubmitted at a later date, but we will be ready to fight it should it occur.

We believe that this was just a money-making project, the owner wanted to come into this lovely area, destroy the trees, decimate the wildlife habitat, make as much money as he could and go on to the next project. We have stopped him in this instance, for the time being at least.

Mavis Docherty

New Permitted Developments

Here are a few main points but since the process is changing it is best to get advice from the council before proceeding with any work. Hillingdon council have a planner available to talk to without appointment at Uxbridge civic centre during office hours.

All of these guidelines are for houses that have not been extended already.

1. Side Extensions:

The side extensions can go up to the boundary wall. Side extension within 2m of the boundary cannot have eaves higher than 3m and the ridge higher than 4m. The width of the extension can't be more than half that of the original house.

2. Rear Extensions:

Maximum depth of single storey rear extension no more than 3m in an attached house and 4m in a detached house. While I was in the planning information meeting I got the impression that rear two-storey extensions could be 3m for attached houses and 4m for detached houses but it doesn't seem to be the case on the planning portal website. So please check with the council before proceeding.

Two storey extensions no closer than 7m from the rear boundary.

Maximum eaves and ridge height of extension no higher than existing house.

All new material to be similar in appearance to the existing house.

No balconies are allowed except for juliet balcony.

Upper-floor, side-facing windows to be obscure-glazed; any opening to be 1.7m above the floor.

Houses at the corner or fronting a highway, please take advice from the council before proceeding with any work as there are greater restrictions on permissible development.

3. Roof extensions:

Roof lights don't require planning permission. Dormer windows or hip to gable extensions allowed providing they don't exceed 40 cubic metres for terraced houses and 50 cubic metres for semi and detached houses.

No balconies, verandas or raised platforms are allowed.

The dormer ridge shouldn't be higher than the existing roof ridge. The lower edge of the dormer to be set back at least 20cm from the existing eaves or as far away as possible.

4. Solar Panels:

Panels should not be installed above the ridgeline and should project no more than 200mm from the roof or wall surface.

In conservation areas solar panels can't be fitted to the front or side elevations of the property and if they are fitted to an out building it shouldn't be visible from the highway. Listed buildings would require listed building consent even if planning consent is not needed.

that would not normally be accessible to them by wheelchair or other means of transport.

Many walkers and cyclists also take advantage of the bridleways. With the borough installing more and more cycle lanes on the roads we are now seeing more cyclists as they are also able to use the bridleways giving them a welcome relief from cycling in traffic.

With 3,000 horses in Hillingdon and the annual upkeep of a horse being considerable, the economic importance of the contribution of the horse to the local businesses in the area must not be overlooked. With riding schools, blacksmiths, vets, livery yards, riding equipment suppliers and many others, the employment generated is considerable but sadly overlooked by many who are simply not aware of the importance of the horse to Hillingdon.

For anybody who would like to take up horse riding or just have a quiet stroll around Ruislip Woods on a horse, Jack's Riding Stables in Fore Street offer lessons, hacks, pony days and birthday parties; on the other side of the borough there is Goulds Green Riding Stables in Hillingdon where there is also a shop catering for anything that may be needed by horse and rider.

Andrew and Marion Riley

Emergency Contacts

Have you ever thought how your family might be contacted in the event of an accident or emergency?

Apparently this is a standard procedure all paramedics follow at the scene of an accident when they come across your cell phone.

ICE - 'In Case of Emergency'

We all carry our mobile phones with lots of names and numbers stored in its memory but no-one, other than ourselves, knows which of these numbers belong to our closest family or friends.

If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending to us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency? **Hence the 'ICE' (In Case of Emergency) Campaign.**

The concept of 'ICE' is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As mobile phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name 'ICE' (In Case of Emergency).

The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose. In an

any old photographs which I could borrow for copying purposes, I should be very pleased to hear from them. I can be reached at 24 Middleton Drive, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 2PG, or by telephone on 0208 866 3343.

Alan Carter

Hillingdon – Not a One Horse Town

Did you know there are over 3,000 horses in Hillingdon?

It's true – a Council survey puts the number of horses in the borough at 3,000 with many more in the surrounding authorities. The number of riders would be considerably more than that.

It may sound a lot but less than 100 years ago when the horse was still used for normal daily transport and travel the number would have been substantially higher. While wheeled vehicles used the improved hard surfaced roads, those on foot, both two and four, continued to travel by the old direct ways of cross country tracks, a well established network used since time immemorial throughout the country. A lot of these tracks have over time been tarmaced and absorbed into the modern road system or have had housing built over them. However, we are fortunate in this borough that we still have around 40 miles of bridleways surviving, some of which can be found in Ruislip Woods which are easily accessible to the residents of Northwood Hills.

Riding as a leisure pastime is increasing annually. In 1967 it was estimated that around 100,000 people in Britain rode each week. In 1974 it had risen to 500,000 and in 1995 to 3.5 million (source Peat Marwick).

Riders come from the widest range of age, occupation, ability and disability, as well as background. It is not a hobby for the privileged or moneyed classes but to own a horse is a 365 days a year commitment. Many are first time riders enjoying early retirement or parents who wish to join their children and enjoy a new challenge. Most have no horse transport and as such need to ride locally.

Understandably, most parents are reluctant to want their children to ride on the road, which means that often in winter months, when the bridleways can become impassable owing to lack of funding for maintenance, or adverse weather conditions, they are either in a position of not riding or taking a chance with the traffic. The Council does make a small amount of funding available for bridleway maintenance but this does not go far and as a result some of the bridleways continue to badly deteriorate.

Access for the handicapped or disabled rider is now promoted as an essential part of the Health of the Nation Policy. Riding is recognised as an important contribution, providing, as it does, not only therapeutic benefits but also a challenge and experience to be enjoyed on equal terms with able-bodied companions. Disabled riders are able to discover and enjoy areas on horseback

The panels should be sited as far away as possible to minimise the effect on the appearance of the building and the amenities.

5. Certificate of Lawfulness:

I can't stress enough the importance of getting a certificate of lawfulness before starting any works. If there are any issues they could be sorted out at this stage rather than when you have built it all and in the unfortunate event of the council asking people to take their buildings down.

Also the certificate of Lawfulness would be required when/if you come to sell your house so it is better to get it in the beginning.

Building regulations:

Even if planning permission is not necessary, it is imperative still to apply for building control and have them approve the works. It is for homeowner's own safety and again building approval is required when you come to sell the house. Building regulations approval are required to convert loft into habitable space.

Conservation area:

Conservation areas as usual have stricter rules applied to them. Please check with the council before proceeding with any work.

On any designated land two storey rear extensions are not allowed neither are any side extensions. Only single storey rear extensions are allowed.

Roof extensions are not permitted in designated areas.

Designated land includes national parks and the Broads, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, conservation areas and World Heritage Sites.

Detailed information available on the governments planning portal website at:

www.planningportal.gov.uk

Anila Hashim (Planning Officer)

Fundraising Events at Michael Sobell House

MAY • Saturday 9th Annual Plant Sale

While supporting Michael Sobell House, the hospice at Mount Vernon Hospital, come and buy your bedding & exotic plants, vegetable & fruit patch favourites at very reasonable prices. 10.00am 12.30pm.

MAY • Sunday 31st 'On Your Bike For Care' Start @ Mount Vernon Site 8.00am. 12 & 23 mile bike ride around the locality. Contact Ophelia for an entry & sponsorship form.

JUNE • Saturday 20th Jazz on the Lawn & Afternoon Tea

Join us for a lovely summer afternoon tea on the lawn listening to the 'St Johns Jazz Band'. Tickets will include entertainment and tea for £12.00.

JUNE • Thursday 25th Annual Golf Day @ Sandy Lodge Golf Club

Contact Stephen Lee 01923 825 173 for further information and an entry form.

JULY • Sunday 12th The British London 10K Run 12 Places available

SEPTEMBER • Sunday 20th Annual Sponsored Walk

3, 7 and 12 mile scenic walk.

OCTOBER • Saturday 10th Clash of the Choirs Musical Event


An event which celebrates and raises awareness of cancer care

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Haste Hill Nurseries - Gorgeous Local History

Arthur Puddefoot was born in Wiltshire Lane just over a hundred years ago. He remembered Northwood Hills when it was a rural area. He had boyhood memories of the 'village school' in Rickmansworth Road and the cottage hospital being opened by the then Princess Royal. After World War Two, Arthur worked as a bus driver. To earn some extra income he also delivered fresh vegetables to local residents two days a week.

At this time Arthur built a small greenhouse in his garden and worked on his allotment in Joel Street. For most, this would have been work enough, but

additional houses in Chamberlain Lane were built on the waste ground in the mid 1960s.

This is a transcription of the report which appeared in the 1st June 1945 edition of the "Middlesex Advertiser & Gazette":

'On 19th May Middleton Drive was the scene of a happy and successful VE celebrations party, arranged for the children of Middleton Drive and that part of Joel Street falling within the Fire Guard area F.133. The drive was artistically decorated with flags and bunting, and the surface shelter was draped to form a back stage. The proceedings commenced with an open air tea, after which games and sports followed, in which both children and adults took part. Then followed a concert given by the children, the performance being arranged and presented by Patricia Batley, Maidie Andrews and Sheila Janes. Mrs Ephie Hill accompanied at the piano. After this there was the traditional bonfire, with fireworks. To wind up the entertainment for the children each child was presented with a victory emblem as a memento, and a toy. The elder children and the adults continued the party late into the night, with dancing, singing and games. A highlight of this part of the proceedings was a snake dance, in which every dancer carried a torch. During the party music was supplied by a capable and harmonic combination composed of Mrs Ephie Hill, piano, Mr Harry Sumner, drums, Mr Leslie Parrish, accordion, Mr Harold Curtois and Mr Chris Stuchbury, fiddles, and Mr Jim King, bass. The organisation of the party was by Mr Edwin Carter, who was given a great ovation at the conclusion, and he in return thanked all those who had worked so hard to make the event a success. The organiser was indebted to the management of "The Ship", Joel Street, for the loan of tables, forms etc.'

If anyone has memories of similar street parties which they would like to share with me, I should be happy to hear from them at any time, either by contacting me at 24 Middleton Drive, Pinner, Middlesex HAS 2PG, or by telephone on 0208 866 3343.

Alan Carter

Myrtle Farm

A few years ago I wrote an article for "The Hills Echo", outlining how Middleton Drive and, subsequently, Chamberlain Lane arose from building on land formerly occupied by Myrtle Farm. Most of the houses in Middleton Drive were completed by 1938, with the first eight in Chamberlain Lane being built around 1945, the remainder following in the mid 1960s. The area which both roads now occupy is exactly the same as was used for farming until the 1930s, when the land was sold for development.

I am particularly interested in the history of Myrtle Farm, so if anyone reading this has any personal memories of it as a working farm or, better still,

A number of these celebrations were well reported in the local press. No doubt many older residents reading this article will recall attending one of these parties. I was born in October 1943, at 24 Middleton Drive, which is still my home address, and my very first memory is of being at the VE street party held in that road on Saturday 19th May 1945, which was organised by my father. I was then only nineteen months old, so my recollection of the day is understandably quite vague, but I can recall being there, no doubt very much excited by the large number of people in attendance, both adults and children, more than I had ever seen in my short life to date.

As well as those living in Middleton Drive, children living in part of Joel Street were included in the party. In those days, of course, very few residents owned cars, so there was no problem about holding such an event in the street. The party was held primarily for the children, whose formative years had been so much interrupted by the events of the preceding six years, and my father obtained generous contributions from the various households towards the cost of organising the event, which enabled all of those youngsters to enjoy a really special day.

To start with, a full tea was served, by several of the ladies living in the road, to around forty children, who were seated at a long table in the street, in the lower, flat part of Middleton Drive, and fortunately for proceedings the weather remained fine throughout the day. A stage had been erected in the street, and was used for the continuation of entertainment, with a concert given by the children, with much singing and dancing, in which even some of the smallest children participated, and a Punch and Judy show. The children then all appeared in fancy dress, including myself as a chef, my elder brother John as a cowboy, and the little girl living almost opposite us as Little Bo-Peep.

Most of the adult residents also turned out for the occasion, so the total number attending probably approached a hundred, although a number of the male residents had not yet returned home from war service. The party continued until the very late evening for the adults and the older children, and the success of the day provided a wonderful celebration of peace after so many years of war.

A large number of photographs were taken on the day, and most of these are in my possession. Unfortunately the quality of quite a number of them is rather poor, and there is no photographic process available to significantly improve their quality. However there are some excellent pictures, some of a number of the children enjoying their tea, others showing them performing their various party pieces on, or in front of, the stage, and a couple of photographs of the large group of children in their fancy dress costumes.

Middleton Drive today looks much as it did then, except that in 1945 it had an open aspect at the end, leading to waste ground, behind which was a field. The Haydon Drive Estate was built on this field in the early 1950s, and twelve

in 1957 his old pal and lifelong friend Mr Roy Clarke offered him an acre field in Fore Street. Having secured a £250 bank loan, Arthur built a greenhouse from second hand materials on the site, gave up the buses 6 months later, and opened what has today become Haste Hill Nurseries.

In 1965, Mr Clarke offered him an adjoining one and a half acre field which enabled the business to expand to ten poly tunnels. The last one, a spectacular construction over 100 feet long and 70 feet wide was installed in 1988. These developments meant that the nursery were able to offer a comprehensive range of vegetables, bedding plants, shrubs, roses, general gardening supplies and cut flowers in season.

When Arthur retired, he handed Haste Hill Nurseries over to his daughter Gwen Puddefoot. With her husband Bob, she went on to run the nursery for another 15 years. Arthur continued to lend a hand most days long into his retirement. Up until his late eighties he still maintained a healthy complexion and disposition as a result of spending his life out in the country air.

The trail runs dry from here and we know that unfortunately Arthur is no longer with us. We feel sure that he would be proud to know that Haste Hill Nurseries has been re-started by Giles Hayward. Giles is an ex- Royal Parks and fully qualified RHS Gardener. Despite having limited commercial nursery experience, he took on the challenge of reviving Haste Hill Nurseries in the Autumn of 2007.

Giles and his team at 'Hayward's Mowing' embarked upon the massive task of clearing the land to ensure that he could open for business in May 2008. This was 4 months after the birth of his baby daughter Millie and three months before he married his wife, Jane. What a year 2008 was ...new baby, new wife and new business!!

It is Giles's hope that he will be able to maintain the high standard of horticulture started by Arthur Puddefoot all those years ago. Having recently re-opened the poly tunnels at the Nursery, he hopes to grow a range of plants, give free public demonstrations and advice to help local gardeners develop their own skills. Giles is hoping that Haste Hill Nurseries becomes known for good quality and good value produce, serving the local community now and for many years to come.

Jane Hayward

Middleton Drive VE Celebration Party

(a trip down memory lane)

When World War II was finally over in 1945, after nearly six years of fighting, many street parties were organised to celebrate the peace, some soon after VE Day and others soon after VJ Day. **(continued on P.20)**

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