

Ickenham Calling

The Newsletter of the *Ickenham Residents' Association* Autumn 2014

Affiliated to the Hillingdon Alliance of Residents' Associations.
Member of Herts. & Middx. Wildlife Trust, and London Green Belt Council.

Ickenham Residents' Association:



E-Mail Address ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com
WebSite www.ickenhamresidents.co.uk
Twitter Acc. www.twitter.com/IckenhamRA

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Firstly, I must record my thanks to all the committee for their continuing devotion to all the matters that are currently on our agenda, on behalf of village residents. As well as the major issues such as HS2, Tesco at Hillingdon Circus and vehicle accidents by the Pump, they constantly monitor the comings and goings in the Village for crime action, property eyesores, and of course deal with the massive amount of work involved in monitoring general planning applications. They really are a great team.

Do read Brian Adams report on HS2 in this newsletter – please support the request for reply paid response cards coming to you soon. At rather short notice, the Tesco application is to be heard on Wednesday 27th August at the Major Planning Application Hearing at the Civic Centre. The Association will be presenting an objection based largely on traffic and resulting pollution grounds, but it does appear that the Council recommends approval without directions on previous refused applications being available from GLA yet.

No further news on the proposed Signature Care Home in Long Lane, that would involve the demolition of four houses, nor on the proposal for a massive development for a Morrisons store beside Hillingdon Station.

There is further disappointment for village members regarding Swakeleys House, following actions by the owner to block all views of the House from the park and perimeter path.
(See Pete Daymond's report on page 3)

ICKENHAM'S CENTURY

Saturday, 20.09.14, at the Village Hall
from 10am – 4pm

To mark the Association's 90th anniversary we are holding an exhibition of photographs etc., showing the growth and development of Ickenham from 1900 – 2000.

Barbara Buckle

Good news though on the Marsh projects, and also on crime prevention and prosecution in the area – do please keep monitoring suspicious activity in your street.

Jill Dalton

STOP PRESS: At the Major Planning Application Meeting on 27.08.14 the two latest Tesco planning applications for a supermarket + 125 residential units at the Master Brewer Site at Hillingdon Circus have been approved. The Association had objected on *unresolved traffic issues*, our Chairman, Jill Dalton, presented the petition report, but to no avail.

STOP

HS2
(HIGH SPEED RAIL 2)

**No business case.
No environmental case.
No money to pay for it.**

HS2 UPDATE

Petitions

There were almost 2000 petitions against HS2 Phase 1. This far exceeds the number of petitions submitted for other major infrastructure projects – a further demonstration that HS2 Ltd failed to engage with the communities affected by this Phase. HS2 Ltd did not challenge our residents' petitions or any others in the Borough, but they did challenge the peti-



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Any questions you may want to raise, or if you have comments on any article in the Newsletter, we would be pleased to hear your views, and you could write to our General Secretary
6 The Chase,
Ickenham, Uxbridge,
UB10 8SR

You can also send your comments to our e-mail address:
ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com

This issue edited by
Hanne Raeder
August 2014



tions from STOP HS2 and HS2 Action Alliance (HS2AA) organisations. These organisations have provided immense support to groups such as ourselves and with their legal, technical and financial expertise have destroyed all the arguments the Government have tried to use to justify this white elephant project.

Fortunately, the Select Committee (who had previously requested assistance from HS2AA) rejected HS2 Ltd's claims and these organisations will be able to submit their petitions. The Select Committee will start hearing petitions when Parliament re-sits in September. They have stated they will work from Birmingham southwards and their current schedule until mid October shows them hearing petitions from companies and groups in the Birmingham area. There is a general election in May 2015 so it is difficult to predict when the petitions from our area will be heard.

We are working closely with officers from the Council and groups in Ruislip and Harefield. The Council submitted a very comprehensive 60 page petition and they expect they will be presenting to the Select Committee before us. Nick Hurd has also submitted a petition.

STOP PRESS: A further example of HS2 Ltd. incompetence has arisen with local consequences. After reassurances, following the publication of the Environmental Statement, that HS2 construction traffic would not be using Ladygate Lane, Bury Street and Ruislip High Street, they have now written to Nick Hurd confirming that a key map was incorrectly labelled. HS2 Ltd. are now saying that these routes may be used but only under exceptional circumstances. This means that residents affected by this error have not had an opportunity to petition.

The Council along with other Councils in the 51M Group are employing experts to assist in the development of evidence for their presentations. Our area is adversely affected by both construction and operation of HS2, so the evidence we will present in our petitions will cover many topics: noise (construction and operation), air pollution, congestion, surface water, loss of footpaths and green spaces, effectiveness of codes of construction, economic impacts, ecology, movement and dumping of spoil.

If you have any expertise in these subjects and wish to help our team, please send us an e-mail:

ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com. We will of course be requesting the tunnel to be extended beyond the Colne Valley so that all our residents, those in Harefield and HOAC will be spared this permanent blight. There is a moving article written by the adventurer, Alistair Humphreys, regarding his experience of visiting the Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre (HOAC) recently - see: <http://www.alastairhumphreys.com/hillingdon-outdoors-activities-centre/>

Compensation Consultation

The Government has launched yet another compensation consultation and we have to respond by 30 September. With the support of Hillingdon Against HS2 and local volunteers we will be delivering reply-paid response cards to you. The latest scheme announced in April redefines Ickenham and Harefield as 'rural' thereby improving previous

schemes for those households living within 120m of the line. Those living 120m-300m from the line are eligible for a Home Owner Payment (between £7500 and £22,500) - other infrastructure schemes such as the A40 redevelopment provided much greater compensation for households further from the new route. Even PWC, the experts appointed by the Department for Transport to financially justify the project, assumed in their model that property blight extends to 500m in rural areas, ie not 120m (or even 300m).

There is no recognition of construction blight which is a major issue for Ickenham - we will have 3 major construction sites for up to 10 years with 24/7 hour working. Once again the Government proclaims the compensation will be fair and generous (previously their claim was found to be so unfair, it was unlawful). We believe this latest scheme also fails to meet this claim.

Meanwhile HS2 Ltd continues its spending spree - in the two years to March 2014 HS2 Ltd has spent £384,000,000 of grant aid from taxpayers. Sir David Higgins, the new chair of HS2 Ltd has said the project will need "20 to 30 senior people to be paid more than the Prime Minister, within the next six months."

Whilst the Government is making a fanfare about jobs for Birmingham with the location of HS2 offices in Birmingham for some reason, there has been no mention whatsoever of the move to 55,000 square feet of office space in Canary Wharf, which HS2 Ltd completed on earlier this year.

New Rail 'Projects'

In this pre-election year there has been a plethora of announcements of new rail projects. It appears someone in the DfT has (at last) realised that the ten year redevelopment of Euston for HS2 will have a major impact on commuters from Hertfordshire, and now suddenly there is a suggestion that *Crossrail* should be extended to Hertfordshire. However, the existing Crossrail project is not supposed to be complete until 2019 and HS2 is supposed to start in 2017.

In June the Chancellor set out ideas for a "new high speed rail connection east-west from Manchester to Leeds based on the existing rail route, but speeded up with new tunnels and infrastructure. A third high speed railway for Britain." Given the choice it turns out, however, the Northern cities don't want something at all like HS2. Their report - *One North* - published early August, makes no mention of "High Speed 3" and references to a "east-west high speed rail link" assume the speed is very different - 125 mph compared to 250 mph. This is the current operating speed of the West Coast Main Line and is the European definition of high speed rail. HS2 is ultra high speed. This *One North* report also represents a massive shift in spin in the run-up to the General Election, as while it has been claimed that HS2 would 'rebalance the economy' for the last four years, now it is claimed that actually spending money in the North of England will create a 'Northern Power



House', with the claim that improved East-West links give the same benefits of HS2 for a fraction of the cost.

House of Lords Inquiry

The House of Lords Economic Affairs Select Committee has announced an inquiry into the economic case for the development of HS2. The Committee has published a Call for Evidence and invites written submissions to arrive no later than 15 September.

Aarhus

HS2AA and Hillingdon Council were pleased that in July their complaints concerning a failure to conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for HS2, which were made against the UK Government and European Commission, have both been found admissible by the Aarhus Compliance Committee. The next step is hearing how the UK Government justifies its position to the Compliance Committee given its duties under the international treaty known as the Aarhus Convention.

Brian Adams

METROPOLITAN & PICCADILLY LINES

Normal service has been resumed from our local stations. During the three weeks of closures London Underground and their contractors worked around the clock to replace 6.1 km of old worn out rails with new ballasted track which included 18,000 tonnes of new ballast, 10,000 new fast clip sleepers and 5,000 conductor rail pots. The work also included:

- Waterproofing three bridges.
Completion of 4 km track drainage work which started earlier this year.
The installation of a 70 metre retaining wall at Uxbridge,
6.3 km of rail grinding (this will prevent broken rails and hence delays in future).
Upgrade work on points at Uxbridge station.
Track renewal work throughout the sidings at Uxbridge, rail and sleeper replacement and improvement work to the points.

Additionally, several weekend closures that took place during that three week period (which saw closures extend to other parts of the Metropolitan line), meant the team were able to install two sets of points at Harrow-on-the-Hill.

LU believes they saved £3 million by the complete closure of the line rather than constantly closing the line at weekends. We now look forward to uninterrupted service on these lines and, when the new signalling systems come into operation (2016/2017) more frequent and faster trains on the Metropolitan line.

Brian Adams

ACCIDENTS AT THE JUNCTION BY THE PUMP – UPDATE

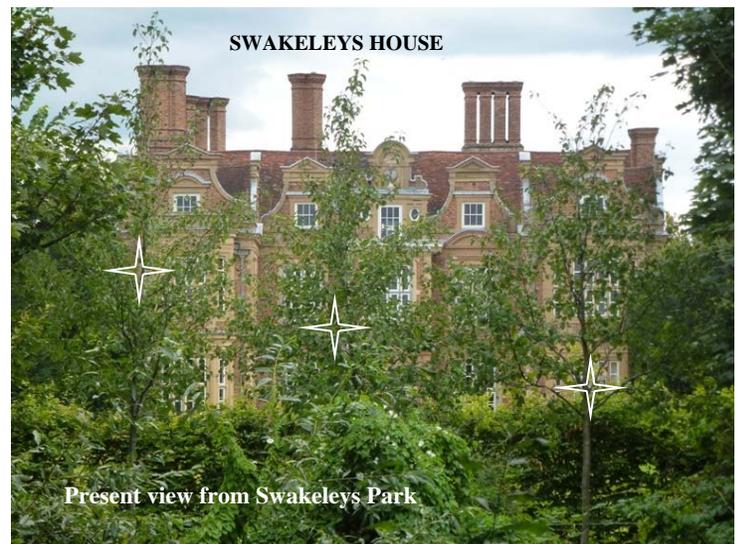
Unfortunately, there has been another spate of car accidents as cars travelling northwards towards Ruislip wish to turn right into the Coach & Horses and hit cars in the inside lane travelling southwards. Drivers are unable to see each other when the junction is congested.

We have provided the Council with evidence of the accidents and we know that the police have been called on several occasions. We believe that the changes to the area around the Pump, whereby the entrance to the Coach & Horses from Long Lane was removed, have created this hazard. Also we continue to be concerned with the potential dangers on the pedestrian crossing between the shops and St Giles. We continue to push the Council for solutions and we know that they are investigating. Hopefully there will be proposals for consultation before the next edition. Meanwhile, please be alert to the dangers at this junction.

Brian Adams

SWAKELEYS HOUSE

At the time of the Planning Hearing for the proposed development of Swakeleys House, the Association made strenuous attempts to ensure that the perimeter path around the House would remain open and passable, and that views of the House from that path would be maintained. You will know that the owner has since planted a 6-foot beech hedge inside the perimeter path and added additional barbed wire to the existing fencing, thereby obscuring all views from that path.



As part of the Planning Application discussions it was suggested to leave a gap in the trees and foliage on the public side of the lake, so that the House could be viewed from the footpath in Swakeleys Park. The Council arranged for this to be done. However, the owner has now planted three semi-mature trees on his property, that are perfectly aligned to, in time, obscure all views of the House from that footpath as well. The picture above shows the newly planted Birch trees, marked by white crosses. It is clearly the intention of the

owner to obscure any views of the House from any surrounding point. We are concerned that this may not be the last of our disappointments concerning the developments at this important historic property in Ickenham.

Pete Daymond

FESTIVAL GALA DAY

Despite the traumas experienced by the Ickenham Festival Committee, i.e. having to find an alternative venue at literally the last minute, and despite the downpour on the Saturday morning, the day turned out to be a great success. By the time of the fly-past which gave us tremendous views of the aircraft and the bonus of the World War II aircraft coming over twice, the clouds were starting to clear. From two o'clock onwards we all enjoyed a glorious summer afternoon.



Committee members manning the exhibition stand

Relocating to Vyners playing field seemed to make the atmosphere more intimate and everyone appeared to be having a really good time.

Your committee manned our stands all afternoon recruiting a few new members but mainly answering questions about issues facing the village. The most pressing were, as ever, the development at Hillingdon Circus and the proposals for HS2. We were also made aware of the concerns of the residents in Court Road and Long Lane of the proposals by *Signature* to build a care home. At this juncture we had very little information and were grateful for what was provided to us on the day. Subsequently, of course, there has been a display over 2 days in the village and we have had a meeting with *Signature's* representatives. Everything is still in the outline stage, but as soon as a formal application is made, we will let you know our response.

All in all a very successful afternoon for everyone including this Association. Thank you to everyone for their support.

June Reyner

MEMBERSHIP

A very big thank you to all our area and road stewards for their efforts in collecting the subscriptions this year.

Sadly, we have heard that we will be losing several road and one area steward for various reasons. The area steward leaving us is Mrs Patricia Peyton, who has been area steward for North West Area longer than I have been involved with the Association. She was always extremely efficient (usually the first to have all her returns back) and totally reliable. We wish her all the best in her move to Buckinghamshire. This does mean we are looking for replacements both for her and for the road stewards we are losing.

If you feel you could help please contact our Membership Secretary John Squiers on 01895 638367 or email ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com. Many thanks in advance

June Reyner



ICKENHAM MARSHES

If you have visited the Marshes recently, you will have noticed that the new paths are holding up well, and that the flora and fauna are thriving. The bughunt and treasure hunt events were well attended, as was the Balsam Bash. The website has had more than 2,500 views since being launched in February and visitor numbers to the Marshes are well up on previous years.

Buzzards seem to be visiting more regularly too, especially over the rejuvenated Stafford Rd Open Space towards Ruislip Gardens. They circle gracefully at a tremendous height, much higher than the Red Kites that cruise the A40 corridor.

Local volunteers have recently completed an annual summer plant survey, and monthly water quality tests have been underway since May.

You may or may not know that the Yeading Brook flows in the Crane Valley (while the mighty Pinn resides in the Colne). The Brook rises in Harrow and becomes the Crane at Southall before joining the

Thames after passing Twickenham. Ickenham is one of 12 water quality monitoring spots on the river, and the data from the first three months of 'kick-sampling' has indicated that the local water isn't great, although it is better than in any of the other spots north of the A40. The kick-sampling method allows volunteers to gather samples of the rivers buglife, and in a nutshell, the more mayfly larvae there are, the better.

There is still no movement on the re-introduction of cattle grazing, but the pollarding of the mighty willows along the Brook is due to take place soon.

Kite flying has been popular on the Marshes this summer (well away from the resident model helicopter club) as has bicycle riding.

There is an opportunity to hear more about the Marshes on Friday 14 Nov, when the local Horticultural Society have invited me to the URC Church Parlour to give a talk and get a good grilling on the past, present and future of the Marshes. More information about the event can be found in the Dates for your Diary section on page 6.

Chris Mountain

Talk by Chris Mountain at the
URC Church Parlour
Friday, 14th November 2014, 2pm

Chris lives in Ickenham and for the last few years has been working with local groups to improve the Ickenham Marshes. He will be speaking as part of the Horticultural Society's regular lecture series about the aims of the partnership, progress so far and future opportunities for the Marshes; the village's wild corner.

Come along and bring questions – Chris loves a challenge! He will cover all angles from kingfishers and eels to coppicing, grazing and motorbikes.

Hillingdon has 64 care homes with 1200 beds, plus nine supported living units with 318 beds. The CCG (Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group) proposes to recruit two Community Specialist Nurses to support care homes in caring for residents, to avoid admission to hospital. Dementia refers to disorders of cognition, including a decline of memory and orientation of time & space, as well as difficulties with planning, organisation, problem solving, and language. Dementia is not a normal part of ageing, - the World Health Organisation describes it as a "syndrome usually of a chronic or progressive nature, caused by a variety of brain illnesses that affect memory, thinking, behaviour and the ability to perform everyday activities." We are all at risk.

Dementia does not respect wealth or poverty, or good or bad behaviour. It does not always respect age.

Dementia is very common and is experienced by 5% of those over 65 years and by 20% of people over 80 years. There are 812,000 cases in the UK, with several sub types:

Alzheimer's Disease - 62%;

Vascular Dementia - 18%;

Mixed Dementia - 10%;

Dementia with Lewy Bodies - 5%;

(discovery by Dr. Frederick Lewy)

Other dementia including fronto-

temporal dementia - 5%. The total figure is expected to rise to one million by 2021, and at least 17,000 of these are under 65.

Currently only 44% of dementia sufferers are diagnosed, but diagnosis is important for patients, their families and carers, because it facilitates better understanding, improves access to medication, information and support, and allows better planning for future care. In February Jeremy Hunt (Minister for Health) promised that by March those with suspected dementia should receive a diagnosis within 6 weeks, rather six months. In the UK there are 670,000 carers of people with dementia. Families provide the majority of care which is tiring and stressful, physically, emotionally and financially.

This saves the UK over £8 billion a year. Carers should have early access to community based assessments, information and support groups and access to respite care to reduce the carer's burden and distress.

The Alzheimer's Society five year strategy includes a key ambition to work with people affected by dementia, and key

HEALTH MATTERS

I have been prompted to review the local situation with regards to dementia care in our community. This has happened because of the interest taken by *Signature*, a major company in the care sector, in developing a site in Long Lane Ickenham, providing nursing and dementia care for the elderly. At the moment,



partners to define and develop dementia friendly communities.

The Prime Minister's challenge on dementia included an ambition to have at least 20 communities involved in the dementia friendly communities programme by 2015. But the number of communities signed up so far has already exceeded that by three times.
www.alzheimers.org.uk

In conclusion, "**Tomorrows World?**" :

Tooth care that spells the end for the dentist's drill! Scientists have developed a technique to rebuild teeth by using tiny electrical pulses. This tiny electric current is used to push minerals into the tooth structure. The damaged tooth is repaired without the need for drilling, injections or filling!!

David John

POLICE MATTERS

There have been a number of incidents of attempted burglary during the months of June/July. In most cases the keen eyes of residents and the co-ordination of the private CCTV images have seen off the suspects before any crime has taken place. It is to be hoped that the word will soon spread in the criminal communities that Ickenham is bad news.

There have been a number of cases in recent months where images passed to the police have enabled them to pick up the vehicles involved elsewhere and contributed to some successful prosecutions. There are some tell-tale signs to watch out for. A slow moving vehicle, at any time of the day or night, containing two or three men looking at houses and often going up a road and then returning. These suspicious vehicles should be reported to 101. If two or more men are spotted changing the number-plates on a car or van (as was seen recently in Copthall Rd. West) it is a matter for dialling 999, as it is unlikely to be an innocent occupation.

By the time you read this, two things will have happened. The Autumn planting season for shrubs will have started and the evenings will have become darker. If your house backs onto open ground, a footpath or quiet lane, the rear of the garden is a possible entry point for intruders. The best defence against this is a hedge of nasty, prickly shrubs. I would suggest berberis, holly or pyracantha. A trellis with rambling roses will provide a quick-growing alternative while the other bushes grow up. A back gate can be defended by a close row of headless (flat) nails on the top of the frame.

As I write every year, no house should be left dark of an evening. If you will not be returning before sunset, fit one or more simple timers, from B&Q etc. to a couple of table lamps. A dark house is saying 'I'm out – burgle me'.

Vic. Silk

ICKENHAM POST OFFICE

By the time you will have received this *Ickenham Calling* newsletter, the Ickenham Post Office should have undergone modernisation and refurbishment.

The Post Office forecasts

- A newly refurbished branch providing a modern open plan environment for customers.
- The same products and services.
- Longer opening hours.
- Selected Post Office services will also be available at the retail counter during shop opening hours.

The Post Office was scheduled to be shut from Monday, 1st Sept., to Wednesday, 10th Sept. 2014.

The new-look Post Office to be opened at the current location on **Thursday, 11th September 2014, at 1pm.**

Hanne Raeder

OPEN HOUSE LONDON 2014

SWAKELEYS HOUSE will be open on
Saturday, 20.09.14,
from 10am to 4pm



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

SAT 13.09.14	RAF Polish War Memorial Services and Spitfire flypast. Starts at 12 noon
SAT 20.09.14	Ickenham's Century (also see page 1) Village Hall 10am – 4pm
SAT 20.09.14	LONDON OPEN HOUSE – Swakeleys House 10am – 4pm
SAT 18.10.14	Ickenham Festival Jumble Sale Village Hall 10am – 1pm (Jumble may also be left FRI 17.10. 6-8pm)
FRI 07.11.14	Charity Quiz at Ickenham Library 7pm for a 7.30pm start - For more information and bookings please contact the Library direct.
FRI 14.11.14	Horticultural Society Lecture URC Church Parlour 2pm Ickenham Marshes Speaker: Chris Mountain / Ickenham Residents' Association £2.00 (incl. refreshments) for Ickenham & Swakeleys Horticultural Society members £3.00 for non-members
FRI 14.11.14	Ickenham Festival Quiz Evening Village Hall 7pm – 10.30pm
FRI 12.12.14	Ickenham Festive Evening Village Hall 6pm – 9pm and all over Ickenham Centre