

Ickenham Calling

The Newsletter of the *Ickenham Residents' Association* Summer 2010

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

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CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The theme of the last few months can probably be best summed up by the word "holes"! As with many parts of the country we have suffered an epidemic of pot holes following the bad weather earlier this year, but have also suffered an ever growing number of holes for the gas and water main works that have sprung up around the village. Therefore, as you might expect, the "holes" issue featured both in our AGM at the end of April and has been the subject of many emails to the Association. Verges have been dug up, tyres burst and we even had to call the fire brigade out to pump out part of Copthall Road West which flooded during the water works. It will not surprisingly take time for the Council to catch up with all the potholes but they are on the case. If your road is still particularly bad with pot holes that extend beyond the top layer of tarmac into the subsurface material (which is concrete in many parts of Ickenham) please do report this to the London Borough of Hillingdon Contact Centre on 01895 556000 (Environment and Street Scene) or on the main switchboard number 01895 250111. They will need to know exactly where the offending pot holes are in the road. Veolia Water will be here for a little while longer yet and now National Grid Gas Alliance are starting to replace the major gas main infrastructure. They will be working in Ickenham, Ruislip, Eastcote and into Harrow until October, which will also lead to increased traffic congestion on some of the major routes across the North of the Borough, as many of you will have recently experienced along Long Lane and the High Road. Verges are being reseeded but do let Hillingdon know if any are only showing patchy growth.

AGM

It was good to see so many of you in the Village Hall for our AGM, but if you were unable to make it, John Squiers has set out a short report later in the newsletter.

Sadly our President, Peter Howe, decided to retire after being a member of the Committee for over 20 years, during which time he served as Vice-Chairman Planning, Vice-Chairman Special Projects, as Chairman for 3 years and as our President for 12 years. His experience and knowledge of the village, its community and its history are unrivalled and he is a constant reference point and walking Encyclopaedia on all matters Ickenham. A quiet campaigner, Peter is never afraid to meet injustice head on and his letters on key issues ranging from the Warner Brothers theme park proposal for Hillingdon House Farm in 1996 to the right of way across the front of Panstar House in the village truly hit the mark. Peter has been an inspiration to us all and he will be missed on the Committee. His wife, José, is also a long standing supporter of the Association and very active behind the scenes at many of our events. As a result, I only accepted Peter standing down on the strict understanding that as far as we on the Committee are concerned, he will always be a fundamental and irreplaceable part of this Association and therefore will no doubt be regularly consulted going forward – after all, following retirement the natural progression is into consultancy!

Following in Peter Howe's footsteps is a hard task, but one clear candidate stood out, Pete Daymond. He was the Association's Chairman for 7 years, Vice-Chairman Planning for 8 years and more recently our Publicity Secretary. He wrote the Association's Constitution which stood this Association in such good stead for 10 years; and even met the Queen when she visited the Borough. Outside the Association he is "Mr Ickenham" having served on other committees such as the Festival of Ickenham, the 1st Ickenham Scout Group, Cancer Research UK, Probus

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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 Rachel Moore
118 Breakspear
Road South,
Ickenham, UB10
8HF

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

This issue
edited by
Hanne Raeder
June 2010



and possibly others that we do not know about! With a very supportive and community focused wife, Vanetta, behind him we have a worthy successor for the role of President, and we hope that he will be there to guide and advise us for many years to come.

We have also welcomed 3 new recruits onto the Committee: David Harding, a Chartered Surveyor, Neena Bedi, a retired teacher, and Brian Adams, who may be known to some of you through Wayfarers Tennis Club. I am also pleased to welcome back onto the Committee our former treasurer, David Fenton, who having passed the accounts to Jill Dalton is keen to get his hands dirty helping to resolve the traffic issues on Brackenbury.

It has been a busy year for the Association and the village and the coming year looks to be even busier, and here are just some of the reasons why:

High Speed Rail Link

Back in June 2008 Network Rail began a 12 month study into what to do about the long term requirement for their perceived need for more capacity on the railways. The answer they came up with was to build a high speed rail link from London to Birmingham and the North West. After looking at various route options they have put forward a preferred route and some less preferred alternatives, all of which go via West Ruislip (in part along the line of the existing Chiltern Railway line to the north of the village) with spurs off to Heathrow. The new Government have yet to set out what role Heathrow plays in this route and they are moving towards formal consultation in the autumn. If the proposals in whatever form are finalised, work could start on the line by 2017 with the route being operational by 2025. We will keep you updated on developments as they unfold, but as I know many of you may be unfamiliar with what has been proposed, you will find on pages 9 and 10 in this newsletter a briefing note on the proposals, together with a questionnaire on page 11 seeking your early views to help us to respond on your behalf to the expected Consultation in the Autumn and to decide whether, and if so, to what extent, we join up with the many other action groups that are springing up along the proposed route. Please take the time to read the note and return the questionnaire to us. Your views are very important to us.

Swakeleys House

As many of you will recall, the owner of Swakeleys House has for some time been trying to vary the 1984 agreement that the company has with LBH (s52 agreement) whereby Swakeleys House has to permit public access to parts of the House and allow a right of access along a footpath around the

perimeter of the grounds. After extensive representations by this Association and a number of other organisations and councillors, a compromise was reached with the owner and approved by the Council's North Planning Committee, whereby they will keep the perimeter path open and will allow public access on 1 day per year to coincide with Open House weekend, which is usually in September. The owner will also produce an illustrated leaflet providing a brief architectural description and history of the House and a website with a virtual tour. The Bowls Club, whose lease has expired, are renegotiating a new lease and, as before, we support their desire to keep the bowls club in that location. Importantly, given the timing of this newsletter, access for the Ickenham Festival remains unchanged.

Parking

The Stop 'n Shop scheme for the village centre should shortly be with us, so keep an eye out for the parking meters being installed and the parking bays being marked out. The same principle will apply here as with other parts of the Borough: the first 30 minutes parking will be free...provided you obtain a ticket from the machine. Thereafter the rate will be 20p per half hour. Some bays will be specifically for loading or disabled parking.

From the start we have always maintained that stop 'n shop on its own is insufficient to turn our village centre into a centre that truly reflects the needs of residents, traders and visitors alike. Following our lobbying, the Council included Ickenham's village parking scheme in their submission to TFL for additional funding. We are now waiting to hear what level of funds will be allocated to Ickenham before meeting with the Council to discuss how these funds can be put to best use within the village.

Photographic Competition

Ickenham Park is a big development for the village and your committee thought it only right and proper that we use this opportunity to record the current history of Ickenham at this time of great change. A good and appropriate way of achieving this is through the creation of a village pictorial archive. We will be taking some photographs ourselves and Cala have also agreed to share some of their construction photos. However we would like you to also contribute.

Whilst old pictures of the village are always welcome, current photographs, showing Ickenham in 2010, are of particular interest and will be entered into the photographic competition that is being organised to coincide with the Ickenham Festival. We would like photographs that, in your opinion, illustrate the special character of Ickenham. Whether you have a passion for photography or are a casual amateur with a camera or mobile phone, we invite you to submit a photograph. A selection of the entries will become part of the Icken-



ham archive. Photographs should have been taken between 1 May and 30 June 2010 and the closing date is 3 July 2010. Full details and an application form can be found on our website.

Metropolitan Line

For those of you familiar with that sinking feeling as you arrive at the tube station to a sign saying the Metropolitan Line has Severe Delays or is Suspended, there is a small chink of light at the end of the tunnel. Many of the problems faced by the Met Line stem from track or train failure. Due to its age spare parts are hard to come by and are having to be specifically manufactured. The failure of Metronet delayed the signalling upgrade which is now due for implementation around 2015. New trains (with air conditioning but with fewer seats) are being assembled and tested and will start to come into service later this year but they will need the new track to be effective before we see the true benefit. In the meantime, through the Federation of Met Line Users Committee, we are encouraging the Metropolitan Line management to improve communication between the station staff, controllers, drivers and the travelling public so that you can make considered choices on your route or mode of travel. Finally, whilst we have been assured of a constant staff presence when the station is open, the threat of significantly reduced opening hours for the ticket office at Ickenham Station is also a current concern, which the Association is challenging.

RAF Northolt

Along with Councillors and other local residents' associations we are represented at the RAF Northolt Community Liaison Meeting. I attended the last meeting on 15 April and had the pleasure of witnessing a peaceful RAF Northolt, with all flights grounded due to volcanic ash. It was an excellent opportunity to see how the money raised from the sale of the land at RAF West Ruislip has been used to create many new facilities which are sorely needed now that most of the regional bases and the Forces Post Office have moved there; the most recent being those from RAF Uxbridge at the beginning of April. It was also good to see the base opening up some of their facilities such as the state of the art gym and tennis courts for occasional use by local community groups. They have not forgotten their history and are establishing a museum on site for the many artefacts being found during their redevelopment.

Ickenham Park

As you can see, development is well under way and the sales office in Heacham Avenue is now open. CALA expect to see new residents moving in to parts of the development towards the end of this year. The junction and signalisation changes to the High Road, particularly the signalisation of the crossing outside the Coach and Horses pub and at the Aylsham Drive junction, will start

later this summer. Work continues on the moving in pack for new residents on the development and we hope you will make them feel welcome and part of our unique community.

In the meantime, if you experience any problems that arise out of the construction works, do let us know as we can feed those back to CALA directly. Alternatively, please speak to the Site Manager who is pleased to assist on any more immediate concerns or issues.

I hope that by the time you read this I will have had an opportunity to meet you during Festival Week or at our stand on Gala Day. If not, and if you have any ideas on how we can help to improve the village then please do get in touch. *Rachel Moore*

AGM REPORT: THE ICKENHAM COMMUNITY SPIRIT IS STILL THRIVING

The attendance at the Association's annual general meeting on 23 April 2010 was a clear indication that the community spirit in Ickenham is still thriving, said the Chairman, Rachel Moore, in presenting her annual report. Although there was almost a full house at the meeting, there was a noticeable absence of guests on the platform. These were mainly our Councillors and the local Member of Parliament, who were canvassing the electorate with view to the General Election on 6 May 2010. Being a non-political Association it would have been most inappropriate to formally invite them to attend the AGM this year.

The Chairman said that, as usual, planning matters were prominent in our activities, particularly the new housing development on the former RAF site at West Ruislip, now marketing under *Ickenham Park* and the Uxbridge Golf Club landfill development. The Chairman also gave a presentation on the proposed *High Speed Rail Link* from London to Birmingham past West Ruislip. Outside of planning, the Association has continued to have close relationships with other local organisations, such as Neighbourhood Watch and the Police, other residents' associations, Health Authorities, Conservation Groups and many others borough-wide. Without this mutual co-operation, life would be very different. Concluding her report, the Chairman also thanked the officers and committee for their support. Sadly, our President and former chairman, Peter Howe, has decided to step down from office. He has been a tower of strength to the Association, especially over planning matters. He was presented with a flowering tree for his garden and his wife received a bouquet of flowers.



Planning

In the absence of Hanne Raeder, Vice-Chairman for planning, who was stranded abroad due to volcanic ash flight restrictions, Rachel Moore gave the report. In all, the Association looked at 217 applications for Ickenham during 2009, of which 124 were approved, 50 refused and 43 either withdrawn or have not been decided. As well as Ickenham Park and the Golf Club, the planning team had considered applications relating to Swakeleys House and a proposal to convert the Grade 2 listed Harefield Place in The Drive, currently occupied by Blockbusters, into a 108-unit care home.

Membership

The Vice-Chairman for Development, June Reyner, stated that our current membership stood at 3,291, an increase of 34 on last year. This means that more than 66% of the Ickenham population are subscribing members. We are most grateful to the area and road stewards who collect the annual subscriptions, our main source of income, and distribute the quarterly newsletter, thus keeping people informed as to what is going on in and around Ickenham. By having such a high and active membership means that our voice can be heard more effectively on controversial matters. Our website and email address are now well used facilities, and especially the latter is being used more frequently on a variety of topics.

Special projects

The Association is anxious to have a photographic record, showing the changing face of Ickenham, especially in 2010, reported Christopher Moore, Vice-Chairman Special Projects. To coincide with the Ickenham Festival in June, the photographic competition was launched. Christopher's report also covered the parking scheme for the village centre and commuter parking generally.

Financial Satisfaction

The Treasurer, Jill Dalton, was able to report another financially satisfactory year, and we have managed to generate a small surplus of income over expenses. As expected, our bank interest has fallen significantly due to lower interest rates. The committee has been diligent in keeping costs down. One of our independent examiners, John Gowers retires this year and the treasurer thanked him and his co-independent examiner, Don Gwilt, for their valued services.

Changes to Constitution

To streamline the running of the Association, the meeting agreed to certain changes to the officer positions and to allow for formal sub-committees. In future, there will be fewer officers, but more committee members with special responsibilities to update the Constitution to reflect how the Committee actually works i.e. as a true Commit-

tee – everyone on the Committee plays a vital role in the Association and the village.

Officers and Committee Elected

- President: Peter Daymond
- Chairman: Rachel Moore
- Secretary: June Reyner
- Treasurer: Jill Dalton
- Planning Officer: Hanne Raeder
- Membership Secretary: John Squiers
- Publicity Officer: Christopher Moore
- Committee Members:
- Brian Adams
- Neena Bedi
- Barbara Buckle
- David Fenton
- David Harding
- David John
- Victor Silk
- Humphrey Tizard
- Jenny Wakerley
- Simon Taylor (co-opted)

We wish to thank our members for their continued support. *John Squiers*



Chairman Rachel Moore and committee at AGM



Full House at AGM



UXBRIDGE GOLF COURSE UPDATE

Readers will recall that an application to dump 380,000 m³ of landfill on Uxbridge Golf Course was to be determined after the last issue of the newsletter. Fortunately the Council planning officers recommended refusal and the planning committee duly turned it down.

However no action has since been taken to re-instate the course after the pipeline works. Instead a further planning application has been submitted. Although it involves less infill, some 135,000 m³, it will still result in years of delay in re-opening the full course. Your association is discussing this proposal with Harefield Place Golf Club, residents in The Drive and other interested parties before responding.

It has now been over a year since the pipeline works were completed. Despite our protestations, nothing has been done to secure the re-instatement of the course. In this regard we believe that the Council has not acted reasonably in the interests of the golfing public and local residents, and we have lodged a formal complaint.

Humphrey Tizard

APPEAL TO ROAD STEWARDS

Thanks to your past efforts we have seen our paid up membership grow, and now we would like to try, if we can, do even better this year. Subscription rates have not increased, and if some of our members care to offer a donation in addition to their annual £2 or £1, then this is always very welcome.

Just one request: If any road steward is going away for a long period between June and September (and some occasionally do), please would you notify your area steward, so that alternative arrangements can be made to collect the subscriptions. We have had situations where road stewards have gone away, even left the district, or were ill in hospital and unable to collect the subs and their area stewards were completely unaware of this.

As mentioned before on many occasions, we are always on the look-out for additional road stewards to ease the burden of the existing ones, or replace those who had to either give up the commitment or left the district. If you are willing to give us some of your time, please contact me on 01895 638367.

I would be delighted to hear from you.

John Squiers

HEALTH MATTERS

The NHS is facing upheaval and cutbacks as a decade of budget increases comes to an end and £20 billion of savings must be found over the next five years. It is therefore reasonable to expect that the introduction shortly, of a national programme for a centrally stored data base of patients records, costing in excess of £12 billion, may be very controversial and open to some doubt to its full implementation.

We should have all received a letter from our NHS trust telling us of this proposal to create an electronic record containing information about our health. The NHS are introducing summary care records (SCRs), as part of our NHS Care Records Service. It is hoped that this will improve the safety and quality of patient care. This can be achieved by firstly providing information about any allergies we might have, also bad reactions to medicines and medicines that we are taking. Over time, other details may be added, including any health problems, and summaries of our care by clinicians to our summary care record. We will be able to view this summary care record online using a secure website called HealthSpace (www.healthspace.nhs.uk). We will be able to make sure it is accurate, and in time add things to it. The summary care record will be available only to authorised healthcare staff providing our NHS care, which means, if we have an accident or become ill, the medical staff treating us will have immediate access to important information about us. When the new system is fully up and running, anyone who has access to our records, must be directly involved in our care; must have an NHS Smartcard with a chip and passcode; will only see the information they need to do their job; will have their details recorded (who they are and if they have added or changed any of our information); our permission will be needed every time they need to look at our SCR. If we are unconscious, it will be on a "need to know" basis. It is a major concern that SCRs may not be secure from unauthorised access. Government departments do not have a good record in keeping our personal details secure and confidential. Data are still not being encrypted on laptops and mobile devices, and some employees have been cavalier and irresponsible in safe guarding sensitive information from loss and possible theft.

Some opinions within the BMA (British Medical Association) have voiced concerns that the programme is moving forward too speedily and has lacked full public consultation, and consequently, is not taking our concerns into account. There are feelings that SCRs are being rolled out too quickly, meaning patients are unaware of what they are being automatically enrolled into. Perhaps as patients, we should be given the opportunity to opt into this initiative rather than having to take the step of opting out!

If you are happy to have an SCR (Summary Care Record) you do not need to do anything, and one will be automatically be created for you, over the next 12 to 18 months.



If you do not want to be involved, you must contact your GP or our Primary Care Trust (Hillingdon NHS), or go to www.nhscarerecords.nhs.uk. This must be done before 2nd July 2010. For more information about SCRs, phone the NHS Care Records Service information Line on 0845 603 8510.

David John

POLICE MATTERS

Until recently Ickenham could boast the lowest overall crime figures within the London Borough of Hillingdon. Whilst there have been some increases in residential burglary, we have been assured that Ickenham is still one of the safest wards in the Borough with very low crime rates in relative terms. There has been a reduction in thefts from motor vehicles compared to last year, but this cannot include the spate of wheel thefts (with newer BMWs being a favourite target) reported over the Winter, which may come in another category.

Recently, there have been a number of thefts of number plates, stolen to disguise cars taking part in various criminal activities, sometimes simply to allow the perpetrators to avoid paying the congestion charge. Remember, it is possible to buy screws from motor accessories shops that burr when used and are thus difficult to remove.

During last Winter the pattern of burglaries seemed to indicate that we were being targeted by professional housebreakers, but recently the reports suggest that once again more amateurish criminals are at work. Small lorries or vans, with two or more men in them, have been spotted in the vicinity of break-ins and the methods of entry have often been crude. In a couple of cases, houses were ransacked with their alarms sounding. The lesson here is that, if you hear an alarm going off, check the vicinity of the house from your window for any unfamiliar vehicle, perhaps with a getaway driver sitting in it. Try to see the registration and ring the police. Do not approach the house or the individuals yourself. If an actual crime is being committed or you strongly suspect a crime is or has been committed dial 999. If a vehicle or someone is acting very suspiciously but you cannot see an actual crime being committed, for example suspects seen in a car watching a neighbour's house, and you know that the owners are away on holiday or out at work, then telephone the police on the non-emergency number 03001231212 giving as much detail as possible. Any small van, pickup truck or old car, seen to be cruising slowly around or parked in the street with two or more people in it for more than a short period of time for no obvious valid reason, must be treated with suspicion. It is worth calling the Safer Neighbourhood Team (0208 721 2543) with a description. Sometimes vehicles behaving suspiciously will return to the same area at similar times.

If the vehicle is subsequently proven to have been involved in a crime, such reports can help the police to piece together their movements.

Once again I must turn to the subject of scams and distraction burglaries. That old favourite the 'you have won a big prize on a foreign lottery' phone call or letter has popped up again. The aim is either to get your bank details or to get you to send a large 'fee' to 'release the funds', either way you will lose not win. In some cases the caller will try to get you involved by pretending to be conducting a survey. These are not necessarily criminals, they are often trying to find out your interests so that they can sell your details to a junk mail company. Either way, why waste your time to no advantage? As always, the most deadly species are the 'boiler room' crooks, who get details of people who invest in shares on the Stock Market from the companies' records and ring up with a tale of a 'hot prospect', more likely an over-priced or non-existent share, that they will obtain for you. Surprisingly, the victims of this type of scam are typically middle-aged, experienced investors, but ask yourself, if the prospect was that good, would you be ringing a complete stranger to involve him or her? Incidentally, the latest ploy of these pests, is to ring up and say 'hello, you were talking to a colleague of mine a while back'. To which I reply 'yes, I told him to clear off, which is what I'm saying to you'. Do not worry about seeming to be rude, these people are ruthless and ready to exploit any sign of weakness. Unfortunately, although they usually quote a company name which sounds as if they are London based, most are ringing from abroad and thus are out of the reach of the Telephone Preference Service.

Finally, there have been occasional 'distraction burglaries' in the Borough again. People pretending to be Council officials, or gas, water or electricity inspectors ask to come in and one will keep you talking while the other 'inspects' and pockets any cash or valuables. These people are just as likely to be female as well as male and will present an initially friendly face, and if refused they may pretend to have the right of entry. If you have the slightest doubt, shut the door and ring the company concerned (numbers on bills). A genuine company or department will write to you in advance to arrange an appointment. A genuine representative from a utility company who has come to read your meter will not mind waiting whilst you check that they are who they say they are.

Vic Silk



HILLINGDON OPEN AIR SWIMMING POOL

Press Release on 24th May 2010

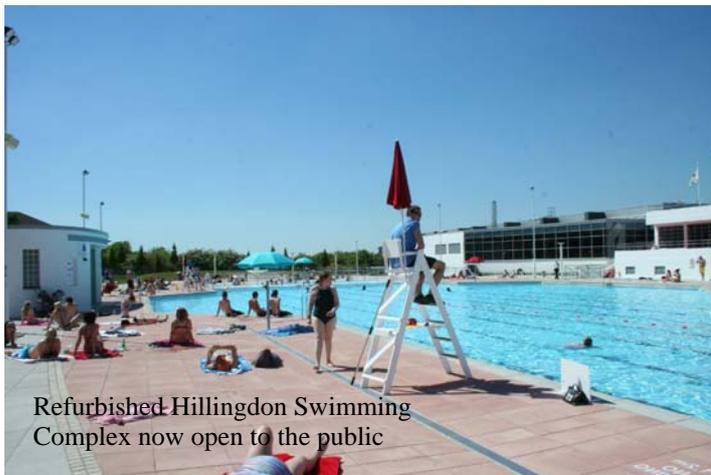
Hillingdon Outdoor Pool reopens for the Summer of 2010

The refurbished Lido at Hillingdon Sports and Leisure Complex opens today (24 May) in time for the Bank Holiday weekend.



Entrance to refurbished
Open Air Swimming Pool

The 1930's open-air swimming pool, grandstand, cascades and entrance building have been completely restored and mark the final stage of the rede-



Refurbished Hillingdon Swimming
Complex now open to the public

velopment of the site. The expansive 50m pool, which is Grade II listed, is the only remaining example of a 12-sided 'star' swimming pool in the country and also features a children's splash pool. Please also go to website link www.hillingdon.gov.uk to find out more about the Hillingdon Sports and Leisure Complex.

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The Editor

CONTACTING OUR MEMBERSHIP

At the AGM we brought the attendees up to date with our plans to improve our communications to our membership and to other village residents. We are compiling a list of email addresses in order to speed up this process. The sort of information sent out by

email will be on planned road works, RAF Northolt night flights, Planning Hearings etc. All emails will be sent from our ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com email account and to comply with Data Protection all recipients will be blind copied so that email addresses are not displayed. To date we have over 50 email contacts. If you are interested in having this information, could you please send an email to our residents' hotmail account confirming this and we will gratefully add you to the list. Many thanks in advance.

June Reyner

RAF NORTHOLT

As we reported in our WINTER 2009 edition of the newsletter an application has been made by RAF Northolt to English Heritage to gain listed status for Building 27 (the old Sector Ops building). This is one of the last WWII buildings still in existence and the RAF would like to keep it as a museum to the efforts during the war.

We are reiterating on this occasion their appeal for any relevant artefacts you may have and wish to loan / donate to them. They are looking for photographs or any other relevant items.

Should you have anything of relevance, please contact any member of the committee whose number is listed on your membership card and we will then contact the relevant personnel at RAF Northolt.

Thank you in advance.

June Reyner

THE FRIENDS OF ICKENHAM HALL

Ickenham Hall is an eighteenth century Georgian mansion in Glebe Avenue. Many people may know it as the building which fronts the Compass Theatre without realising just what it is. Built in 1740 it was the home of the Crosier family who had lived and farmed on the site since at least the thirteenth century. Up until that date the family had been known as yeoman farmers and their home was known as 'Sherwyns'. On acquiring the status of 'gentlemen farmers' they considered 'Sherwyns' to be too modest as a home and pulled it down to build the Hall on the exact site. All that now remains of 'Sherwyns' is one or two timbers incorporated into the Hall and a short stretch of front garden wall. It remained in the family possession until about 1900. Prior to this they had been selling off their lands in a piecemeal fashion. In 1900 the last of their extensive farm lands was sold off to the Uxbridge and Harrow Railway. Most of the land surrounding the Hall was re-sold in 1904 back to a private resident and it remained in private hands until 1947 when, on the death of the last resident, the then Middlesex County Council bought it. Since then it has been put to a variety of uses including youth centre, arts centre, theatre and council offices.



In 1968 the Compass Theatre was opened. It stood a few metres apart from the Hall and in 1982 the central unit, known as the Bistro was opened. This joined the Hall to the Theatre and to achieve this much of the Hall's back wall was knocked down. Since that date the Hall itself has been used as offices for youth and music services, rehearsal rooms and meeting rooms. Sadly, the Hall is now in need of restoration and conservation work, in particular the original front door and windows. Essential maintenance has, of course, been carried out but funds do not stretch to restoration work on the Grade Two listed building. This is where the Friends of Ickenham Hall enter the picture. The Compass Theatre is staffed mainly by dedicated volunteers and several of these decided to form a small team for the express purpose of raising funds and exerting pressure for the essential conservation of the Hall and its walled garden. To this end the FoH work closely with the LBH. Actual restoration (that is to its original condition) is very difficult because of the Hall's use as Council Offices and of course the prohibitive cost. Nevertheless, some work has already been done with the restoration of two fireplaces, one of which is tiled with beautiful Delft tiles, which exactly match the existing originals.



Front view of ICKENHAM HALL

Currently, work is being done in the walled gardens. Research was carried out at the Royal Horticultural Society headquarters at Wisley. Plans have been drawn up to replant entirely with plants the Georgians would have known and used. By the time you read this, the work will have been completed. It was made possible by a grant from the BAA in conjunction with Heathrow Community and Environment Awards and Groundwork Thames Valley. The total cost is in the region of £1900 of which the Friends of Ickenham Hall have contributed 10%. FoH have also now been given a grant of £7000 by Hillingdon Borough Council to begin essential work on the front door and windows. These grants are, of course, extremely valuable to the Friends, but regular fund raising has also to be

carried out. An on-going book sale in the Theatre foyer raises a steady income in the region of £500 a year. Murder Mystery evenings are held in the



Side view of ICKENHAM HALL

theatre. A recent one was staged partly in the Hall itself (the scene of the crime) and partly in the theatre auditorium. It raised over £500.

On June 13th, as part of the Ickenham Festival, there will be an Open Day. A short talk on the history of the Hall will be given in the Bistro. This will be followed by a tour of the house with a guide who will explain the building and what it was probably like when first built. The idea is to raise awareness and interest in this Georgian treasure.

The hope is that we can continue to carry out the essential work of conservation and, where this is possible, to restore some areas to their original state.

Detailed listings for events at the Compass Theatre can be found at <http://www.compass theatre.co.uk/>.

**Maurice Ray /Treasurer (and acting Secretary)
of Friends of Ickenham Hall**

Photos with kind permission of Maurice Ray

PLEA FROM HAREFIELD TENANTS AND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION:

Harefield wish to apply for Village Green status for the Medi Parc Site in Hill End Road, Harefield. They need to hear from anyone who might have previously lived in Harefield and walked their dog, jogged or been involved in sports or pastimes on the Medi Parc site over the last 20 years.

If you can help, please get in touch with us - Rachel Moore, Chairman, on 01895 613534, or email ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com, or with the Harefield Association directly, i.e. Tina Wane on 01895 823551.



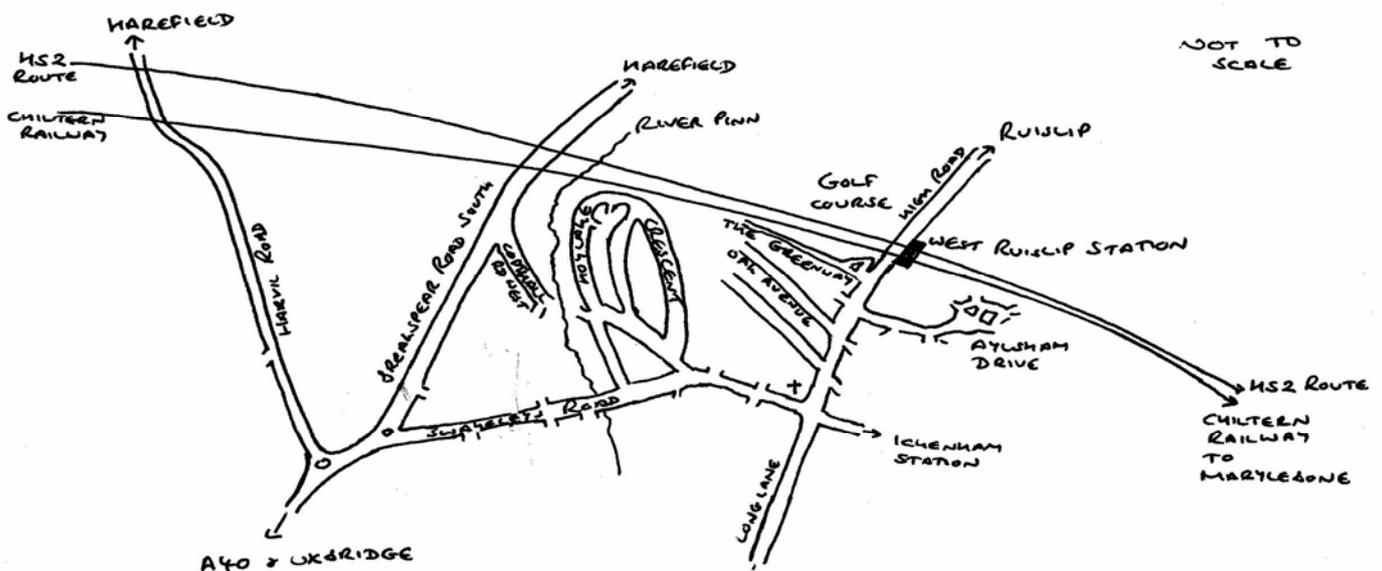
Briefing Note on the Proposed High Speed Rail Link "HS2"

What is HS2?

- The proposal by HS2 Limited (a company set up by the Government in January 2009) for a high speed rail link from London to Birmingham and the North West, and ultimately to Scotland.
- After looking at various route options, HS2 have put forward a preferred route and some less preferred alternatives, all of which go via **West Ruislip**. None of the alternatives stop at West Ruislip and it is expected that trains will start to speed up as they leave West Ruislip station, reaching up to 186mph as they cross the Colne Valley Regional Park.
- After passing through West Ruislip, the route recommended by HS2 will bypass Amersham via a tunnel and then continue towards Aylesbury, past Wendover and up towards Birmingham.
- HS2 also proposes an interchange with Crossrail west of Paddington with a link to Heathrow.
- The proposal is to construct a new twin track railway, with overhead gantries and wires, to allow trains to travel up to more than 200 miles per hour.
- It is proposed that some 14 trains an hour will pass in each direction. Each train would be in excess of 400 yards long (nearly three times the length of a typical Chiltern Line train), and be allowed to travel up to 155 Miles per hour as they leave London and approach West Ruislip. The engines will then open up at West Ruislip and accelerate to 186mph (three times the current speed of trains on Chiltern Line). Speeds of 248mph are expected after Amersham.

Where is the proposed route in relation to the village?

HS2 proposes that the new railway will be built on the north (Ruislip) side of the existing Chiltern Line, where it will pass under the High Road at West Ruislip, alongside Ruislip Golf Course. As it approaches Breakspere Road South the new railway will turn away from the Chiltern Line eventually crossing Harvil Road near to the Dogs Trust, before it crosses a 2.23 mile viaduct over the Colne Valley. There are no proposals for any station stops (before Birmingham) after the new Crossrail interchange in West London.





So what would this mean for the Ickenham area?

- **West Ruislip Station and car park** would have to be re-built, which will also have an effect on the Blenheim Care Centre and track side offices. Services from West Ruislip are likely to be affected during the construction works.
- **Ruislip Golf Course:** the new railway would use land taken from the first and second holes of the golf course; the club house patio would then overlook the railway.
- The **bridge over the railway on the High Road** would need to be re-built to include the extra tracks and accommodate the overhead gantries, leading to likely traffic congestion during the construction phase.
- The **footpath** that links Breakspear Road South and the Golf Course would need to be re-routed.
- **New bridges would need to be built over Breakspear Road South and Harvil Road.** Building bridges over existing roads usually increases traffic congestion and journey times and in this case is an important consideration given existing rush hour levels through the village.
- Part of the pharmaceutical company buildings in Breakspear Road South would need to be demolished.
- The proposed 2 mile long Colne Valley viaduct would pass directly overhead of the **Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre (HOAC)** in Harvil Road.

What if I live near to the railway?

- It has been said that Ickenham residents who live close to the Chiltern Line are likely to be affected by the construction works and later by the noise and vibration coming from the trains, unless appropriate mitigation measures are put in place. As an Association we will be looking at the potential effect of noise and vibration on properties near to the line very carefully.
- If you want to sell your property you might find that some prospective purchasers may be put off by the proposal for a high speed rail line nearby.
- HS2 are considering providing an Exceptional Hardship Scheme to enable those who for a variety of reasons need to sell and move away. The application process and criteria to be satisfied by those applying for help have yet to be agreed by Government and put in place. If the route is confirmed, then statutory blight provisions are likely to replace any such hardship scheme.

What happens next?

- Please complete and return the attached questionnaire to us so that we can represent your views when we respond to HS2's formal consultation on the proposals in the Autumn.
- If the route is confirmed (and this is by no means a certainty), construction is likely to begin in 2017 with a running service coming into operation by 2023.

For further information

- www.hs2.org.uk
- The detailed plans and report, including details of the Exceptional Hardship Scheme, can be viewed on the Department of Transport website <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail>
- Or ask to speak to any member of the Ickenham Residents' Association HS2 Sub-Committee by contacting us at ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com or by contacting the Association Chairman Rachel Moore on 01895 613534 (weekends) or 07710 209272.



ICKENHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION RESIDENTS' SURVEY – HS2 HIGH SPEED RAIL LINK

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO: S J WILLIAMS BUTCHERS ON SWAKELEYS ROAD
OR THE ASSOCIATION SECRETARY: J REYNER, 6 THE CHASE, ICKENHAM UB10 8SR
OR SCAN AND EMAIL TO: ICKENHAMRESIDENTS@HOTMAIL.COM
BY 30 JULY 2010 : THANK YOU!

1. Before you read the Association's briefing note on HS2, were you

a) aware of the HS2 proposals? Yes No

b) aware that other alternatives had been considered? Yes No

2. Do you currently travel by train to Birmingham and the North West? Yes No

3. If HS2 went ahead, would you use the new high speed rail link? Yes No

If no, why not?.....

4. If the proposals go ahead, do you think you will be affected by the HS2 proposals?

a) during construction? Yes No

b) once HS2 is operational? Yes No

If yes, in what way?.....

5. Have you contacted your MP about HS2? Yes No

If you have any Other Comments please set these out overleaf.

Name:.....

Address:.....

Email Address:.....

Would you like to be kept informed of developments relating to HS2 and other village matters by email? Yes No

Are you a Member of the Ickenham Residents' Association? Yes No

If no, would you like further information? Yes No

Your personal data contained within this form will be used by the Association for the purposes of developing and producing a response to the HS2 proposals as may be amended from time to time and will be destroyed within a reasonable period and at the latest following implementation of any such high speed rail scheme or any decision not to proceed with the current or any similar scheme. It will not be passed to Third Parties. However, the collective data with all personal identifiers removed may be retained for a longer period for research purposes and / or passed to Third Parties within the UK. If you have any queries as to how your personal information may be stored and / or used by the Association please contact the Association Secretary at ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com or at 6 The Chase, Ickenham, UB10 8SR.