

Ickenham Calling

The Newsletter of the *Ickenham Residents' Association*

Summer 2014

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

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SEPTEMBER 2014

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
May 2014

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

I am honoured to have been entrusted with the Chairmanship of the Ickenham Residents Association, and shall strive to serve the Residents and the Committee as proficiently and passionately as my predecessors to try maintain our village as we would want.

On HS2 the Association and several individual road members have submitted a petition to Parliament, via Nick Hurd, against HS2, in particular against the whole principle of the proposals, the inadequacy of the Environmental

Statement, mitigation of the adverse impact generally, specifically the proposal to dump waste from the tunnels over our green spaces, and the derisory compensation offers.

Our special thanks to Brian Adams for his fantastic work on our petition and the help he has given for other village petitions, all supported by excellent professional advice from the Council.

As you will read, our AGM was well attended by both residents, our Councillors and our MP, which made for an interesting evening. As always Ray Puddifoot was entertaining and supportive, but residents were disappointed by Nick Hurd's inability to respond favourably to questions from the floor on his plans to vote in the House on the amendments to the HS2 bill proposed by Michael Fabricant, nor on the question of the business case for the building of HS2.

Whilst Mr Hurd explained that the Government believed there would be a capacity issue on that line in



Our new chairman,
Jill Dalton

thirty years time, Humphrey Tizard noted that this issue had already been challenged with supporting facts, by the Residents' Association.

Tesco/Spennill have submitted a further planning application

following refusal of their last application, and the committee have lodged a letter of objection, largely on the grounds of traffic impact.

Lastly, the committee have been advised in the last few days that the Gala Day for Ickenham Festival, which has been held for many years in the grounds of Swakeleys House, is to be moved to Vyners School. This development is naturally disappointing given the assurances by the owner when granted planning permission for Swakeleys House, and there may be issues regarding the planned evening concert and fireworks. We are also alarmed to see planting of a dense hedge that will obscure views of the House enjoyed by residents from the perimeter path for many years. It would appear that landscaping work has started although our Committee has not had sight of the landscaping plans (part of the pre-development conditions).

Jill Dalton

ICKENHAM FESTIVAL 2014 IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Festival Week 7th to 15th June 2014.

More details please see
<http://www.ickenhamfestival.org.uk/>

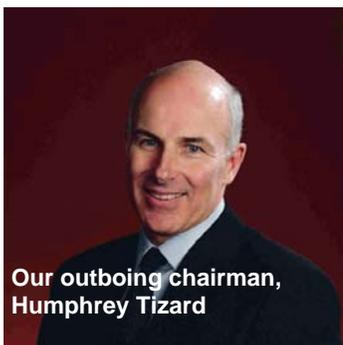
The Ickenham Festival Team announce that we are relocating this year's Festival Gala Day and Concert from the Grounds of Swakeleys House to the Grounds of Vyners School, Warren Road, Ickenham. Both will be outdoor events. The vast majority of Ickenham Festival Week (7-15th June) is totally unaffected by this late change, and on Sat 14th June only the location of the Gala and Concert changes, all other events and timings are as in our programme. We are producing an update to the Festival programme, and an updated Concert ticket. All previous tickets will be honoured at Vyners Grounds. We will be in contact with all exhibitors and performers to advise them of these changes.

We would like to thank the Head Teacher and Governors of Vyners School, who have agreed to host Gala Day on their playing fields. Doug Neilson

Visit the Ickenham Festival at website above or:
Douglas.Neilson@btinternet.com

Follow us on Twitter at: [Twitter.com/IckFest](https://twitter.com/IckFest)

Your Association will also be represented on that day and we look forward to welcoming you there.



Our outgoing chairman,
Humphrey Tizard



STOP

HS2
 (HIGH SPEED RAIL 2)

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

HS2 UPDATES

**“INSANITY: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.”
 Albert Einstein**

The initial estimate for HS1 was £1 billion, the final estimate was £4.5 billion, the final cost was actually £11 billion. The initial traffic forecast was 27 million passengers; they have never got more than 9 million. It was sold last year on a 20-year-lease to an operating company for £2 billion.

HS2 does not look any better; the current budget of £50 billion is based on 2011 prices - applying inflation and interest payments the costs could exceed £73 billion – a figure leaked by the Treasury.

As Cheryl Gillan MP pointed out on the eve of the Commons’ vote, the cost of connecting the HS2 stations to the existing infrastructure is not included. There is also no allowance for the cost of property blight, put at £12bn by some estimates. Another significant cost is the work needed at the London end of the line. Solutions such as Crossrail 2 or major underground improvements at Euston will run into billions of pounds.

HS2 Ltd. has already overshot its spending on consultants by 86% according to ‘building.co.uk’ and of the 16 ‘professional services’ contracts, every single one is over-budget, leading to criticisms that consultants are “running their own gravy train”.

You may be interested to know that Ickenham sent in 2617 responses to the Environmental Statement Consultation which ended February – together with Harefield this represented 25% of all responses. Unfortunately, the Independent Assessor’s report did not in any way reflect the content of the very comprehensive responses made by organisa-

tions like LBH and therefore MPs were not given the information you would think they would need before voting on something with such a significant environmental and economic impact.

On April 28th the second reading of the HS2-Phase-One Hybrid Bill was passed in Parliament by a large majority. There was a 3 line whip by the major parties, once again preventing any proper scrutiny of whether this project was necessary and what its actual costs might be. We were pleased to see Sir John Randall speaking in the chamber against the Bill.

We can no longer challenge the principles of HS2 but we can challenge how the project will take place. A team of Ickenham residents have created and collected signatures to street petitions. Our petitions request that the tunnel is extended beyond the Colne Valley thereby saving Ickenham from years of misery from three con-



The Ickenham STOP HS2 Team working tirelessly on our behalf—here handing over petition sheets to Nick Hurd, our MP, which were due to be delivered to Parliament on 16.05.14. (Photo Courtesy of Uxbridge Gazette)

struction sites, congestion and air pollution from HGV traffic and unacceptable levels of noise from trains every 4 minutes. We are supported by the London Borough of Hillingdon, the Greater London Assembly and the Mayor of London who will also be presenting petitions.

The petitions will be reviewed by a Parliamentary Select Committee comprising of MPs from all parties. At the moment we understand the select committee have scheduled to start hearing petitions from Birmingham and work southwards. We may therefore be in front of the select committee later this year or early next year. HS2 Ltd. will challenge any changes to their ill conceived plans and the select committee will be conscious of costs. A similar process will also take place in the House of Lords, so there is still a considerable time before the HS2 Bill will receive Royal Assent – there is also a general election next year!



In the meantime the Information Commissioner will be seeking a judicial review of the Government's veto of his decision to publish the Major Projects Authority Report on HS2. HS2 Action Alliance (HS2AA) and the London Borough of Hillingdon have come together to launch two fresh actions against the Government in respect of HS2. They have lodged a complaint against the Government for breaching its obligations under the Aarhus Convention, an international treaty designed to protect the environment, in connection with its decision making on HS2.

Permission was granted on 18 April by the High Court to hear a fresh judicial challenge on HS2, this time challenging the decision by the Secretary of State for Transport to issue safeguarding directions without undertaking a Strategic Environmental Assessment. A hearing will take place in the High Court on 9th of June and is expected to last three days.

If the complaint made to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee is successful, the Government would be required to start again on decision making about HS2. If the High Court hearing on safeguarding is successful, the current prohibition on developing land identified for the route of Phase 1 of HS2 would be lifted and could not be reinstated until the Government has completed an environmental assessment.

As you can see there is still much to fight for.

A new compensation package was announced following two consultations and although still subject to further consultation there were some improvements for those living close to the line. Ickenham status changed from 'urban' to 'rural'. There is however no recognition of construction blight and the Government has fallen far short of offering the fair and just scheme they claim.

There will be a consultation on HS2 Phase 2 and as the Heathrow spurs could be a part of Phase 2 we should be invited to respond. We will send out details when we are informed by HS2 Ltd.

Nick Hurd organised for us to meet with HS2's noise expert. It was explained that HS2, in their train and track designs, are using all the latest technology and knowledge from Asia (who are running the latest high speed trains) to reduce train noise. It was however clear that HS2 design efforts were targeted at the minimum they could get away with rather than aiming for best practice. They are not using the latest WHO guidelines in what is acceptable noise for communities. Many houses in Ickenham will be subject to 'adverse' effect from train noise day and night.

With Hillingdon Against HS2 and members of LBH we visited Crossrail construction sites in East London. It was reassuring to hear the Crossrail contractors managers' efforts in working with the local community and the procedures they put in place to provide a 24/7 response to any issues raised by residents.



Construction at this site will however complete in 3 years time, the spoil and incoming materials are handled by barge (so no HGV traffic) and when finished, the area will have a new Crossrail station providing many benefits to the community. A situation far removed from what we will experience in Ickenham.

Brian Adams

TESCO – PREVIOUSLY MASTER BREWER SITE, HILLINGDON CIRCUS

We received a revised application from Tesco for the old Master Brewer site at Hillingdon Circus in March this year, which followed the rejection of their previous application by the Council in December last year.

Although the design and height of the hotel has been changed and the road layout at the Master Brewer junction altered, we still feel there will be an impact of traffic using the junction and a knock-on effect on the road network that leads away from the junction.

The Association has objected to the application, as it does not contain sufficient information to substantiate Tesco's claim that there will be no impact on traffic at the junction or increased delays on the adjacent road network in the morning and evening rush hours.

We shall keep you informed of further news as they develop.

David Grimshaw

REPORT ON ICKENHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM 11.04.2014

The controversy over the HS2 project may well have been the principal reason why the attendance at our Annual General Meeting in the Village Hall on 11th April was even better than in previous years. Although much of the chairman's report was devoted to this issue, the reaction to certain contributions from the audience was restrained and civil.



In presenting his report, Chairman Humphrey Tizard, praised the researches and other work done by Brian Adams, John Donovan and Beryl Upton, who are working closely with the umbrella group Hillingdon Against HS2. The Government has continued to steam-roller this project through, despite flaws over many aspects, which have been ignored.



From left: Cllr. David Simmonds, Nick Hurd MP, Leader of the Council, Ray Puddifoot, Cllr. P. Corthorne, Cllr. J. Hensley attending the AGM (photo with kind permission of Alan Noad)

COMPENSATION INADEQUATE

Mr. Tizard told the meeting that compensation proposals recently announced meant that Ickenham had been re-classified as a rural area, and those householders most likely to receive any benefit had properties 120 metres from the railway line. As there were to be 3 major construction sites in Ickenham, which would cause environmental damage and traffic chaos over a period of more than 10 years, and, if the Heathrow spurs go ahead, one can add a further 5-7 years of misery. Despite the Government ignoring our case, the fight goes on.

MEMBERSHIP.

On other matters, the chairman said that membership of the Association currently stood at 3235 households, a slight increase on last year, which meant that some 65% of Ickenham households were members. Thanks were expressed to the Area and Road Stewards for distributing our magazine, "Ickenham Calling" and collecting the annual subscriptions. We have been able to gain new members in the new development at Ickenham Park and those living in The Drive.

PLANNING.

Very time consuming is the assessment of local planning applications. During 2013 the planning sub-committee, headed by Hanne Raeder and greatly supported by Peter Daymond, David Millen and Harmeet Minhas, looked at 236 Ickenham projects, and sent out 95 letters of objection or observation. Two major controversial projects, Tesco and Bride Hall/Morrisons at Hillingdon Circus were again refused by the LBH, and we have suggested to Tesco that they reduce the size of their proposed store in order to attract more local shoppers in the area and less transient ones coming off the A40 or from elsewhere in the Borough and beyond. We were not successful in stopping the residential development on green belt land in the Grounds of Swakeleys House.

GREEN SPACES.

Neena Bedi and Chris Mountain have championed our contribution to the preservation and conservation of Swakeleys Park and Ickenham Marsh, which brings together land owners managers and local groups. As a result of their efforts, new paths have been laid, as have barriers to stop motor bikes. Local schools are being involved in clearing pathways and reviving ponds.

In addition, the Association is well represented on the Hillingdon Community and Police Consultative Group and Neighbourhood Watch Committee, which keeps us informed on the latest crime figures and trends. For this task, we are indebted to Vic Silk.

David John monitors health issues, which keeps us up to date with the latest NHS management changes. We are also well represented on HARA (Hillingdon Association of Residents Associations), The London Green Belt Council and RAF Northolt Community Liaison. Richard Piper, in addition to his contributions on Tesco and Bride Hall/Morrisons, has been making efforts on behalf of local sports clubs in finding facilities for them.

Mr. Tizard also thanked those other committee members who had contributed so much to the Association functioning. He has decided to relinquish the chairmanship but remains on the committee. He then presented David Millen, who has retired from the committee, with a gift and a card signed by all of the committee. David has been engaged in planning matters and is also actively engaged in village affairs, particularly St. Giles Church.

Earlier, the Chairman introduced several other people who were in attendance, namely our Member of Parliament, Nick Hurd, our Ward Councillors, Ray Puddifoot, who is also Leader of the Council, John Hensley, Philip Corthorne and David Simmonds, in addition to our GLA representative, Dr. Onkar Sahota.

Ray Puddifoot praised the Association for its work, and said that in his opinion, it was the best organised Residents' Association in the Borough. He also spoke out strongly against the HS2 project as did Dr. Sahota. Most of the comments and questions from the floor were addressed to Nick Hurd about HS2, to which he replied that he took our objections seriously, and was working on various ideas to alleviate our worries.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Treasurer, Jill Dalton, reported that financially we were continuing to hold our heads above water, bearing in mind we were making contributions to various organizations of benefit to us. The biggest single item of expenditure was the publication of the newsletter.



OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE ELECTED:

President: Peter Daymond
 Chairman: Jill Dalton
 Planning Officer: Hanne Raeder
 General Secretary: June Reyner
 Publicity Officer: Brian Adams
 Membership Secretary: John Squiers
 Minutes Secretary: Sian Vanderplank

Committee Members:

Neena Bedi,
 Barbara Buckle,
 David Grimshaw
 David John
 Harmeet Minhas
 Chris Mountain
 Richard Piper
 Vic Silk
 Humphrey Tizard.

Co-opted members:

Dimitrios Giannouloupolos and Simon Taylor.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a signed card and gift were also presented to Humphrey Tizard by our President, Pete Daymond.

Refreshments were then served, which gave those present a chance to mix socially and discuss the contents of the meeting.

John Squiers

GROWING TREE NURSERY

The Association has recently learnt that Ickenham's only full-time nursery provider, **Growing Tree Nursery**, is under threat. It comes from **Eden Academy**, wishing to use the site for a free school, having recently changed their tendered bid from *joint usage of the site with the nursery* to *usage as sole occupants*. The Association understands that Eden has not submitted an application in line with the original bid, which has resulted in the application being currently on hold.

The nursery has been providing full time childcare for the last 7 years at the site of the former American School on the new Ickenham Park Estate, launching Ickenham's children successfully into school education. The nursery's current location at the heart of the village makes it an ideal destination for local families.

The nursery was rated as "Good" for a 7th consecutive year as recently as this March and is currently over-subscribed, maintaining a waiting list of approximately 15 children all year round. Possible closure or relocation would result in serious disruption over the daily lives of many working parents, and is likely to cause distress to the dozens of young children who are currently settled there. The Nursery management, staff and parents are pursuing all avenues to ensure that the nursery is not forced to close or re-locate, but they need the

local residents' help to protect Ickenham's children from a degrading of their pre-school education and a removal of valued support to over 100 local working families.

Residents can support the nursery by signing their e-petition, which can be found at the 1 web address below:
<http://modgov.hillingdon.gov.uk/mgePetitionListDisplay.aspx>

Residents not able to sign the e-petition, who wish to support Growing Tree's campaign, could e-mail them at protectickenhamsnursery@gmail.com

Dr. Dimitrios Giannouloupolos

NEWS FROM RAF NORTHOLT



Open Day - 14 June

Tickets were completely sold out at the time of this newsletter going to press.

14.06.14 QUEEN'S FLYPAST at 13.05 hrs.

13.09.14 POLISH WAR MEMORIAL SERVICE AND SPITFIRE FLYPAST.

Future Dates—Centenary Celebrations:

22.06.2015 FREEDOM PARADE
 04.09.2015 ANNUAL RECEPTION
 05.09.2015 POLISH WAR MEMORIAL SERVICE
 06.09.2015 SPITFIRE/HURRICANE MEET

Contact Person:

Sqn Ldr Richard Willis, MCO, RAF Northolt, West End Road, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 6NG

METROPOLITAN AND PICCADILLY LINE CLOSURES – SUMMER 2014

Between 19 July and 10 August London Transport will be replacing 6km of track, points and track drainage. The work to be carried out under this block closure marks the culmination of a major programme of improvements that have been carried out in recent years to replace life-expired track and drainage, and modernise other infrastructure on this part of the network.

During the week the line will be suspended on the Metropolitan Line between Uxbridge and Ruislip and on the Piccadilly Line between Uxbridge to Rayners Lane. On two weekends the closures will be extended on the Metropolitan Line between Uxbridge to Wembley Park and Northwood and on the other two weekends between Uxbridge and Rayners Lane.



Throughout the closure, ticket acceptance will be granted on local buses in the area and a rail replacement bus service will be in operation connecting with the Central Line at West Ruislip and Metropolitan Line at Ruislip.

According to the London Transport manager – “Carrying out a block closure of this section of the network will enable us to complete the work in just over three weeks as opposed to fourteen weekend closures. This approach means that there will be no time lost due to set-up and hand-back of works, which minimises working time and helps to significantly reduce the cost - saving around £3 million of tax and fare payers' money- and ultimately keeping disruption to customers to an absolute minimum.”

Brian Adams

Ickenham Marshes Partnership



ICKENHAM MARSH UPDATE

The Worshipful Mayor of Hillingdon, *Councillor Allan Kauffman*, visited the Marshes in April to unveil the new information board. The ceremony marked the end of a very enjoyable three mile walk along the Hillingdon Trail from Hayes to Ickenham.

The wildflower meadows are at their best at this time of year, as the buttercups, daisies, cornflowers, vetch and sealhead brighten up the fields.

A reminder that the following events have been arranged, all of which will start at the meeting point at the gate at the junction of Glebe Avenue and Austins Lane in Ickenham:

Path clearing / Litter picking - Saturday 31 May, 10.30am – 12.30pm

The Marshes have about four miles of footpath, which need annual maintenance. Tasks include weeding and cutting back overhanging vegetation. All you'll need are gloves and sensible footwear. Please also bring cutting tools, if you've got them.

Yeading Brook Balsam Bash - Sunday 8 June, 10.30am – 12.30pm (During the Ickenham Festival)

The annual Himalayan Balsam bash aims to halt the spread of this damaging alien species. The Balsam spreads like wild-fire and sucks the life out of rivers by blocking sunlight and dam-

aging banks. All you'll need is sensible footwear and gloves. Trousers and sleeves are recommended, as Balsam sometimes grows next to nettles.

The Big Bug Count - Friday 13 June, 3.45pm – 5.00pm (During the Ickenham Festival)

The bug count is an important part of monitoring the health of the Marshes. Volunteers will record insect and flower species on the Marshes. All you'll need is sensible footwear.

Marshes Treasure Hunt - Friday 25 July, 10am – 12.00pm

Start the Summer Holidays with a kids' treasure hunt on the Marshes. The event will be great fun, and will hopefully inspire local families to visit the Marshes throughout the summer. All you'll need is sensible footwear.

Pond Clearing - Sunday 24 August, 3.00pm – 5.00pm

Old maps show 12 ponds on the Marshes, but several have disappeared because of a lack of maintenance. Overhanging branches need trimming, and dead leaves can be removed to slow the decline of these important wildlife havens. All you'll need are gloves and sensible footwear. Please also bring cutting tools, if you've got them.

Path clearing / Litter picking - Saturday 13 Sept, 10.30am – 12.30pm

The Marshes have about four miles of footpath, which need annual maintenance. Tasks include weeding and cutting back overhanging vegetation. All you'll need are gloves, sensible footwear. Please also bring cutting tools, if you've got them.

For more information and the latest news, including the possibility of an organised Bat Walk in August, have a look at the Marshes website:
www.ickenhammarshes.wordpress.com or
email ickenhammarshes@hotmail.com

Chris Mountain

HEALTH MATTERS

The star quality of our local specialist hospitals is well known. I am referring in particular to the Mount Vernon Cancer Unit and Harefield Hospital, a world renowned Cardiac Centre. We must also include the Hyper Acute Stroke Unit at Northwick Park Hospital. At a recent meeting of Community Voice, the guest speaker was Dr Raj Bathula, Stroke Consultant at the unit. A summary of his main points are as follows:

He explained that strokes are of two types, Ischaemic, produced by a blockage or clot, and Haemorrhagic, caused by a bursting blood vessel. They are the third largest cause of death in the UK, after heart disease



and cancer. Ischaemic attacks are more common, being 85% of all strokes. A "minor" stroke lasting less than 24 hours is known as a Transient Ischaemic Attack or TIA. This can be a precursor of a major problem and as many as one in five people who have a "mini stroke" will go on and have a major episode within a month, and therefore should be seen within 24 hours. This minor form of stroke must not be seen by us, as just a "funny turn". It should be investigated promptly.

Stroke symptoms can range from numbness down all or part of one side of the body, to loss or slurring of speech, dizziness or weakness in limbs, or a combination of these. To help in the diagnosis, we can use the FAST test (Face, Arm, Speech and Time) to call 999. To be more specific we can diagnose a stroke by looking for 3 neurological signs; facial weakness, arm weakness and speech disturbance. 110,000 people a year have their first stroke and 7% of those risk further attack. Strokes are a leading cause of disability.

In 2010 a complete overhaul of stroke strategy in London, resulted in eight Hyper Acute Stroke Units (HASUs) being established. This enabled the concentration of specialist staff and equipment essential to the early expert treatment needed for the first 72 hours. Northwick Park has the largest and busiest of London's HASUs with 16 monitored beds, with admissions averaging 6-8 daily.

Thrombolysis ("clot busting") is a vital early onset treatment for many strokes and a speed of application is essential. The time between arrival at hospital ("door") and start of thrombolysis ("needle") is a key measurement. At the moment Northwick Park achieves an average of "door" to "needle" time of 29 minutes.

Dr Bathula encourages the close involvement of patients and families in the Unit, including the presence of patient representatives on the Stroke Board. The Stroke Association is the only UK wide charity solely concerned with stroke, and funding research into its prevention and treatment, and better rehabilitation for those affected. Predicting and preventing stroke is as easy as ABCD. Patients' risk of stroke is quantified using their Age, Blood Pressure, their Clinical features, and their Duration of TIA symptoms.

The "ABCD score" is used in routine clinical practice to identify high risk individuals who require emergency investigation and treatment. www.stroke.org.uk **David John**

POLICE MATTERS

The final meeting of the Hillingdon Community & Police Advisory Group was held on the 19th of March 2014. The abolition of these groups and their replacement by 'Safer Neighbourhood Boards' will, inevitably, lead to less interaction between the Police and the community. Perhaps this will become evident at a later stage and lead to reinstatement

of something similar. At least the Police Report at this last meeting enabled us to go out on a high note. Crime was sharply down over the past year in nearly all categories. The total number of offences was reduced by an almost unbelievable 24.4%, with domestic burglary down by 12.7%. The largest reduction was in various categories of robbery, around 40%. This was mostly youth on youth. Perhaps the market for stolen telephones has collapsed. Pleasingly, Hillingdon has recorded the largest fall in recorded crime in London over the past year, so we must be doing something right.

Heathrow police have also had some success in reducing crime, with a decreasing trend over the last three years. However, there were still 482 offences reported between 09/12/13 and 02/03/14, so keep an eye on your bags when travelling!

Another 'Operation Cubo' ran on the 4th March. Over 600 vehicles were stopped and five seized for no insurance. You will probably have read that paper tax discs are to be phased out, as number-plate recognition cameras are now so effective that the computer will know instantly, if our tax, insurance and MOT are up to date. Data from the Ickenham network of CCTV cameras is showing a pattern of professional burglars using stolen cars with false number-plates. It would be interesting to know if the recognition cameras can cope with this.

On burglary, patio doors seem to be a favoured point of entry. It might be worthwhile investigating whether more modern security can be added to these.

In Hillingdon, 200 arrests for burglary were made between February 2013 and February 2014; some of these were due to images captured by the Ickenham CCTV system, run by Brian Walters.

There have been reports of Lloyds Bank customers being targeted by 'phishers' trying to get account holders to divulge account details on various pretexts. No bank will ever ask for your PIN numbers over the telephone. Contact will almost always be by letter. Don't get caught.

I'm sure I'm not the only one to be the frequent target of scamsters, in my case at least one a week. The latest purported to be a Knightsbridge art gallery, presumably trying to get me to 'invest' in artworks. As usual, I snapped that 'I don't take cold calls, ask them to go away and not to call again'. The rules are simple: Stop listening to cold callers, and don't employ any tradesmen knocking at the door. Good tradesmen are usually in demand and do not have to tout for business.

If you receive letters offering a 'free' report on any financial matter, it is almost certainly only an attempt to establish a relationship to try to sell you some service. Finally, do not buy anything at the door. You will have no comeback, if it turns out to be overpriced or rubbish.



By the time you read this, hopefully warmer weather will be with us; so don't make life easy for burglars by leaving downstairs windows and upper casements open when you go out. Even upstairs is vulnerable to crooks pretending to be workmen or window-cleaners.

Vic. Silk

DO YOU KNOW WHO YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COORDINATOR IS?

It is important that you do, so if not, please contact the Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch office at all@hillingdonnhw.co.uk or phone 0208 246 1869.

Richard Piper

YOUR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU

We are currently looking for help in two areas. Neither of which will necessarily mean attending committee meetings though we would welcome your presence should you wish to attend.

As our new Chair was previously our Treasurer we are looking for someone to help with the accounts. You will need to have a good working knowledge of Excel and will need to prepare the report for each committee meeting. Jill Dalton will give any assistance necessary.

We are also looking for help with running the Membership. We need assistance in two areas:-

- a. The upkeep of the membership records, all associated documents and our membership statistics. Our area stewards update their records annually once the subscriptions have been collected and then email the records. A good working knowledge of Microsoft word and Excel are the main requirements. Again, help will be provided if necessary.
- b. Help with counting and delivering the newsletters on a quarterly basis to Area Stewards.

This could be one or two people. Anyone interested in helping in any of these roles, please contact us via our email account ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com giving your contact details, including a telephone number. Thank you in advance.

June Reyner

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE

Regrettably I am obliged to write the usual annual request concerning the collection of subscriptions. By the time this current newsletter is published, it will be time again for the subscription payment. May we ask our members to cooperate by making the following requests:

Your subscription to the Association is due as from June, and it will still be the very reasonable sum of £2 per household. When your Road Steward delivers this issue of "Ickenham Calling", he or she will follow this up with a personal call to collect the money. It would be greatly appreciated, if you could have your money readily to hand.

If you are on holiday between the end of June and August, could you possibly leave your money (all of £2) with a near neighbour, who is also a member, and the Road Steward can collect it when calling for the neighbour's subscription. Failing this, you can call on or phone your Road Steward and deposit the money prior to going away.

You would be surprised at the number of people the Stewards call on, who haven't any change, and are asked if they could call again. All households are given warnings in the newsletter and it would help if they could have the money ready when the Steward calls.

When the road steward fails to get an answer and leaves a note to the effect the money is due and gives a name, address and contact telephone number, it would be appreciated, if you could respond promptly. Many members either lose or ignore the reminder, and the Road Steward has to return several times before getting satisfaction. During the summer months, people are often out in their back gardens and do not hear the door bell or knocker.

I have been dismayed when I have stood in for absent Road Stewards of the householders who claim they would like to join, but nobody has called on them. They get the magazine, which they inherit from the previous occupier/member, but a few Stewards do not follow up new enquiries. People move to other districts, and new people move in, so it is essential that all road stewards call at every house in their area, and even if people don't want to join, they are aware of our existence.

If a Road Steward is likely to be away during subscription collecting times, please inform your Area Steward.

Road stewards should ask all members or potential ones, if they have any problems concerning local services or facilities, and if they have, these should be passed on to the Area Steward or a member of the committee who will investigate.

John Squiers

ICKENHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION 90TH ANNIVERSARY

Please make a note in your diary that the Association will be celebrating its 90th anniversary with an exhibition showing photos of Ickenham's past at the Village Hall on 19./20.09.2014.

More details will be made available nearer the time.

Barbara Buckle