

# Ickenham Calling .....

The Newsletter of the *Ickenham Residents' Association* Summer 2016

Affiliated to the Hillingdon Alliance of Residents' Associations.  
Member of Herts. & Middx. Wildlife Trust, and London Green Belt Council.  
The Community Voice—monitoring the NHS in NW London and SW Herts.

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

ICKENHAM – it's just the best village, to quote the Facebook account. The cherry blossom along Long Lane has been beautiful and much enjoyed by all. This week we attended a HARA meeting (Hillingdon Alliance of Residents Associations) and as well as hearing news and updates from around the Associations in LBH, we enjoyed a talk from John Bartlett of the LBH Green Spaces team. Pete Daymond asked about their plans for replacing some of the missing trees in Long Lane, and he explained that some had already been replaced, but sadly some had been vandalised. There are plans to replace other "gaps" but perhaps with a better variety of tree.

We enjoyed another lively and well attended AGM in April, with interest in current issues from villagers. Best of all, we recruited two brave souls, who we hope will join our planning team, and they (and I) have attended our first lesson from Pete Daymond on how the planning process works, and how the Planning sub-committee assess the suitability of the weekly list of planning applications so that we can comment or raise objections, as appropriate. One particular concern recently has been the proliferation of applications to convert houses into large blocks of flats, filling the available plot space and thereby adversely affecting neighbours, as well as adding to traffic.

This will be the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ickenham Festival, and the festival booklet provides details of the many activities taking place in Festival week, culminating in what we hope will once again be a grand Gala Day, to be held at Vyners School.

Brian Adams and Beryl Upton from our Committee as well as many others in the village continue to work tirelessly on challenges to HS2, and their latest report tells us of our petition to the House of Lords, and of the work that Zac Goldsmith, Boris Johnson, Nick Hurd and Ray Puddifoot have done in setting up a meeting with the Secretary of State for Transport, requesting reassessment of the possibility of a tunnel extension past West Ruislip and on as far as the M25.

*Jill Dalton*



**STOP**  
**HS2**  
(HIGH SPEED RAIL 2)  
**No business case.**  
**No environmental case.**  
**No money to pay for it.**

## HS2 UPDATE

The fight goes on to avoid or reduce the blight HS2 Ltd plans to impose on Ickenham and our surrounding areas.

A group comprising of HS2, London Borough of Hillingdon (LBH) and Transport for London (TfL) is analysing options to reduce peak HGV traffic numbers and the dumping of spoil in our fields. The group will be reporting on their recommendations to the Secretary of State next month. HS2 have met with us informally to give us feedback on the study; we await the final report, but feel at this stage that the options do not achieve enough and will be subject to caveats. We know that our roads are already too congested and any additional traffic is unacceptable.

Zac Goldsmith, Boris Johnson, Nick Hurd and Ray Puddifoot met recently with the Secretary of State to request that there should be a re-evaluation of extending the tunnel beyond West Ruislip and the Colne Valley. We believe that when the arguments were presented before the House of Commons Select Committee last June there was not a fair comparison of the costs and benefits. There is now for example more information on the costs of moving HOAC and installing a haul road between Harvil Road and



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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  
May 2016



the A40. We are pleased that our politicians were able to convince the Secretary of State to setup a working group to carry out this re-evaluation. The Secretary has asked for the report to be produced within 2 months.

Meanwhile the Cabinet Office has appointed a senior civil servant to look at the costs of HS2. We know that the costs are increasing substantially and HS2 Phase 2 has yet to be formally announced. The newspapers are full of rumours that the scope will be reduced thereby making the business case, which has never been justified, even less convincing.

We have submitted the Association's petition to the House of Lords and are waiting to hear when we will present. The likelihood is September. The House of Lords has formed its Select Committee and will start its hearings in June. There were 820 petitions in total from residents and groups along the Phase One route but HS2 have challenged 414 of these. HS2 has argued that those challenged are not specially affected by HS2 plans – however those challenged can present to the Select Committee why they are affected. A number of Ickenham residents have been challenged and we and the London Borough of Hillingdon will be supporting them should they wish to present their arguments to the Committee.

HS2 Ltd has been criticised for the way they have treated communities; we submitted a detailed report to the Public Affairs Committee on the many issues we encountered. HS2 Ltd has therefore embarked on a campaign to improve its communication and engagement. We met with the HS2 Ltd Senior Engagement Manager, Community Relations who was anxious to organise events to meet with our community. A Compensation 'drop in' will be held in June for anyone who has questions about the schemes and wishes to discuss their circumstances. We are looking at other opportunities when the working groups publish their reports. We will keep you informed.

You can keep up to date on all the local activities at <https://ruislip-against-hs2.co.uk/> and <https://ickenhamresidents.co.uk/>

*Brian Adams*

## **AGM OF THE ICKENHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

Our AGM took place in the Village Hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and despite the dreadful weather was very well attended. Thank you to all those who took the time and effort to attend. We had approx. 140 members as well as our committee, our local MP Nick Hurd, Inspector Rob Bryan and 4 of our local Councillors (who now include the Council Leader, Deputy Leader and Mayor for this year). The meeting approved our request for approval to petition the House of Lords re: HS2.

HS2 was the main topic of discussion under AOB though questions were also raised about Swakeleys House and the "hole in the wall" on the Charles Curran House site. The formal meeting closed with refreshments and a chance to chat to our guests as well as the committee. The meeting closed at 22:00.

*June Reyner*

## **METROPOLITAN LINE UPDATE**

At a recent meeting with the Metropolitan Line Management they were pleased to report that their main performance targets were met last year; this was due to increasing reliability of the trains and fewer problems with the antiquated signalling system.

They continue with their major improvement projects and in spite of significant engineering challenges they hope to maintain high levels of service.

The next phase is to replace the track and track-bed in the tunnels between Baker Street and Finchley Road; this infrastructure dates back to Victorian times and is the cause of many problems when there are high levels of rainfall. The track replacement work will take place overnight, necessitating the service between Wembley Park and Aldgate being unavailable Monday to Wednesday after 10 pm. This starts mid May 2016 and will continue for 2 years. The Jubilee Line can be used between Wembley Park and Baker Street or the Chiltern Line from Marylebone to/from Harrow-on-the-Hill.

The new signalling system, which will increase service reliability and allow more trains to run, will be installed on the Circle, District and Metropolitan Lines. The rollout on the Metropolitan Line will start in 2022. The work on the new line to Watford Junction has started and the new stations should be operational by 2020.

*Brian Adams*



## **ICKENHAM MARSHES**

London Wildlife Trust have found a grazier for the Marshes nature reserve site. There is a bit more preparatory work to be done first, but it seems likely that some Sussex cattle (pictured on page 3) will be arriving this summer. Reserve Manager, Tom Hayward, says that the breed are noted for being good with dogs and people, and are quite light, so good for wet sites like the Marshes.

We will be arranging a few working parties this summer, some involving the cows, so do keep an eye on the events page [www.ickenhammarshes.wordpress.com](http://www.ickenhammarshes.wordpress.com) for more info and details of how to get involved - the more the merrier.



**Possible preview of some of the Sussex cattle, which may be arriving this summer on the Marshes Nature Reserve site. See article on page 2.**

There are also two Marshes events in the Ickenham Festival programme -

**Balsam Bashing** on Saturday 11th June from 11-12.30 and a **Bughunt** on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June from 3.45 - 5.00.

In other news, the bats are back in force this year, swooping along Hill Farm Road at dusk most evenings.

And an application for an amendment to the Council's definitive map of public rights of way is being compiled. Please get in touch, if you have any information or evidence about any of the paths on the Marshes over the years. We need to gather as much evidence as we can before submitting the formal application requesting that paths on the Marshes are designated as formal public rights of way. Given the law change that means that all historic public rights of way must be established by 2018, and the devastating impacts that it seems that HS2 will have on our local footpaths, the proper recording of our paths is especially important.

*Christopher Mountain*

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Neighbourhood Plan Meeting arranged by the Association in March was well attended and about 100 local people have now signed up to support the development of a neighbourhood plan for the village. The village meeting represented the delivery of the Association's commitment to start a local conversation about a neighbourhood plan. The plan is now being taken forward by a separate formally constituted group called the Ickenham Neighbourhood Forum. More details can be found online: [www.ickenhamplan.wordpress.com](http://www.ickenhamplan.wordpress.com).

*Christopher Mountain*

Excerpts from **ISSUE 3**  
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 with kind permission of the  
**ROYAL AIRFORCE NORTHOLT**

*We are delighted to have been invited by Hillingdon Council to write an article about who we are, what we do and how we go about keeping operations safe at RAF Northolt. I hope the following information is both interesting and useful, highlighting the key areas where we can work together to ensure the safety of our operating aircrew and the people that live in the vicinity of the airfield.*

*Flight Lieutenant Chris Morton, Station Flight Safety Officer, RAF Northolt*

**RAF Northolt Station Safety Team**

RAF Northolt is an active military airfield with lots of diverse aviation activity taking place on a daily basis. Operational for over 100 years, our location as the only RAF flying station within the M25 means we are a strategically important establishment to both the Military and the Government.

Safety is at the heart of everything we do in the Military and each RAF station has a safety department to support the Station Commander. At Northolt we are a team of four who work within the Operations Wing here. There are four key subjects that everyone can support the effort to maintain flight safety, not just at RAF Northolt, but more generally in the airspace over and around Hillingdon - drones, lasers, cranes and fireworks.

Remember – if you have any safety concerns, please get in touch – we are always happy to chat.

### Drones

You will no doubt have the news stories about drones and the hazard they present when operated in close proximity to aircraft. In April, it was widely reported that a British Airways aircraft hit a drone being operated somewhere near Richmond Park.

Drones, when flown irresponsibly, present a danger to aircraft. As technology progresses, the cost of drones is decreasing which has made them more accessible to people. The Civilian Aviation Authority (CAA) has produced a handy guide called “The Dronecode” on the safety rules that apply when flying unmanned and model aircraft.

In summary:

When you fly a drone in the UK it is your responsibility to be aware of the rules that are in place to keep everyone safe.

- *Make sure you can see your drone at all times and don't fly higher than 400 feet*
- *Always keep your drone away from aircraft, helicopters, airports and airfields*
- *Use your common sense and fly safely; you could be prosecuted if you don't*

It is a criminal offence to endanger the safety of an aircraft in flight, so failure to comply could lead to a criminal prosecution. If you think a drone is being flown dangerously then call the local police on 101.

### Lasers

This is another widely publicised threat to aviation similar to drones. As the cost of laser pens has decreased, we have seen an increase in the ‘illumination’ of aircraft around the world. In February, it was reported that a Virgin Atlantic flight was targeted climbing out of Heathrow. The aircraft was forced to turn back after the co-pilot suffered vision loss following the attack.

We have received many reports of laser illumination from crews operating from RAF Northolt. Fortunately, the consequence is often minor distraction, but if targeted at a critical stage of flight, the results could be more serious. As with drones it is a criminal offence to endanger the safety of an aircraft in flight which means persons shining laser-pens at aircraft can be open to criminal prosecution.

Once again, if you see someone targeting aircraft with lasers, please call the local police on 101.

### Cranes

Cranes in the vicinity of any airfield must be carefully managed so that they do not present an unmitigated risk to aircraft operations. Fortunately, major construction is well planned and through the local authority planning system, we are alerted to major upcoming projects that will require construction equipment.

Occasionally, smaller projects such as installation of garden sheds or air conditioning units into premises require cranes, which some times have been placed in the vicinity of the airfield without prior notice. This has the potential to endanger the safety of aircraft Companies and contractors who require to operate cranes and lifting equipment within 6 kilometres of an aerodrome boundary and at heights of more than 10 metres must receive prior permission from the aerodrome operator.

RAF Northolt Air Traffic Control is always happy to deliver advice on the matter – do not hesitate to contact [NOR-OPSCRANEPERMITTS@mod.uk](mailto:NOR-OPSCRANEPERMITTS@mod.uk). The CAA publishes additional useful information on it's website which can be accessed through the QR code below.

## Other Activities – Sky Lanterns/ Fireworks

The use of lasers, searchlights, fireworks, helium-filled toy balloons and sky lanterns is now widespread throughout the UK, and their use has the potential to impact upon aviation activity. Unexpected fireworks could distract and confuse pilots and cause damage to aircraft in flight. Helium-filled toy balloons and sky lanterns have the potential of causing damage to engines through ingestion.

Additionally, debris from sky lanterns dropping to the ground could produce Foreign Object Debris, which could cause damage to aircraft should any remnants land on the manoeuvring areas of the airfield. If you are planning an event in the vicinity of RAF Northolt that involves the use of sky lanterns, fireworks or balloons, pre-event analysis and discussion with Air Traffic Control should safely deconflict flying and these activities.

For further advice, please get in touch with the Flight Safety Team.

**Station Flight Safety Officer Email: [NOR-OPSSFSO@mod.uk](mailto:NOR-OPSSFSO@mod.uk)**  
**For Crane Permits -**  
**Email: [NOR-OPSCRANEPERMIT@mod.uk](mailto:NOR-OPSCRANEPERMIT@mod.uk)**

## HEALTH MATTERS

What do we mean by "Quality of Life"? One definition could be "the general well-being of a person or societies in terms of health and happiness rather than wealth". We can also include a much longer list which features: Wholesome food and clean air; enjoyment of unfettered open spaces; security from crime; a good transport system; local provision of excellent health and public services. These benefits will probably enable us to enjoy life and prevail over life's challenges, irrespective of the handicaps we may have.

Our village of Ickenham is lucky to have most of the benefits just listed.

Unfortunately, it does not have "clean air", and this is a major problem for us as residents in our urban environment, on the outer fringes of London.

The London Borough of Hillingdon has recently commissioned Air Quality Consultants, to prepare and report a

sixth Updating and Screening Assessment of air quality within the Borough. Results from monitoring by the Council are presented and sources of air pollution are identified. The document is titled "AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN". It determines the changes since the last assessment which could lead to the risk of an air quality objective being exceeded. The results from the updating and screening assessment highlight a number of confirmed exceedances within the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). Concentrations outside of the AQMA remain below this objective.

In Hillingdon there is only one designated Air Quality Management Area, encompassing all the potential areas where the pollutant objectives would not be met. The order was made specifically for the pollutant nitrogen dioxide. The AQMA stretches from the southern Borough boundary to the A40 corridor. This corridor extends from the western boundary along and including Northolt Aerodrome up to the Chiltern mainline railway line, then following the line to the eastern boundary of the Borough.

Swakeleys Roundabout is on the western edge of this corridor, and impacts directly on the A40, as well as on Swakeleys Road and Park Road, and of course indirectly on other Borough roads.

Road traffic is the main contributor to air pollution in the area. Air pollutants disperse widely in the atmosphere, and current knowledge concludes that public health effects are to be expected. Petrol and diesel engines emit a variety of pollutants including Nitrogen Dioxide, Sulphur Dioxide, Carbon Dioxide, Carbon Monoxide, Particulates P2'5 P5 and P10.

The public health effects are well known and documented, these include respiratory and cardiovascular problems, heart disease and asthma. According to Public Health England figures show that Hillingdon has suffered a big rise in deaths due to air pollution. This coincides with the worsening mortality rates in 15 of 33 London Boroughs.

In conclusion, the "Updating and Screening Assessment" document reports that it "has not identified any significant changes in emissions sources within the Hillingdon Area"! The response from the Borough to the report is as follows "No locations have



been identified where it is required to proceed to a detailed assessment".

The non-automatic monitoring site at the top of Warren Road (Site ID HD53) provided readings of a mean annual concentration for nitrogen dioxide of 47.8 micro grams per cubic metre. This mean annual concentration of nitrogen dioxide does not meet the objective of the "Air Quality Strategy". It is well above the objective of 40 micro grams per cubic metre! It is a gloomy picture, with the prospect of HS2 and the third runway at Heathrow, with even more pressure on our local roads. Our Borough must be vigilant and not be complacent about the importance of our air quality over the next few years.

*David John*

## POLICE MATTERS

First the good news. At the April meeting of local Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators it was reported that crime in London has fallen by a surprising 44% over the last four years. On local matters, our PCSO, Jo Legg, has returned from her detachment and her local knowledge is invaluable.

By the time you read this our dedicated PC, Dwayne Hamilton, will have settled in to his local duties. He is the PC, who saved a girl from jumping off a bridge over the A40, at some risk to himself.

Brian Walters and his team are still working tirelessly coordinating the output from our local CCTVs. There were 14 reported crimes in Ickenham this year up to the end of April; 12 of these were caught on our cameras and some arrests have been made. If you would like to add to our coverage, Brian will be happy to advise on costs, reliable sources and siting. His contact 'phone number is 07504 299460.

The 'Windows Helpdesk' scam has re-emerged. I had a call a week ago from someone trying to gain access to my computer – some hopes! I have just been advised of a variant of this. The caller to one of our residents purported to be from TalkTalk, again trying to gain access, apparently very persuasive, but she wasn't taken in.

Another new scam involved a man pretending to be from BT saying that £30 was outstanding on a bill and that this must be paid immediately by debit card, or the phone will be cut off. To 'prove' that the call was from BT the recipient was invited to ring off and then try to dial out. The 'phone then appeared to be dead. This was achieved by the caller leaving the line open with the 'mute' button depressed. Luckily, our resident was not taken in and when he rang back told him to clear off. The purpose here was not to get £30, but the details of the card, which would have been used to purchase a much more expensive item.

In short, all incoming calls from persons not previously known to you must be treated with suspicion. For myself, as soon as I realise that I don't recognise the caller, I just snarl 'I don't take cold calls – don't call again' and ring off.

Finally, as Summer will be here when you read this, please don't leave any ground floor windows, or upper casements open when you go out. A high proportion of the burglaries that occur in Ickenham can be traced to 2 or 3-man teams who cruise around looking for opportunities. They see a window open ring the doorbell and if there is no reply they're in.

*Vic. Silk*

## AGM OF THE VILLAGE HALL ASSOCIATION

This took place on 21<sup>st</sup> April in the Village Hall. The hall is currently run by a committee of only 10 volunteers, without whose dedication and hard work we would not have this valuable village and community asset to use. We owe them all a very big thank you.

There is always the opportunity to join the membership of the Hall at the vast expense of £1 life membership.

If you are interested, please contact either Ruth Higgins on email [cavnstruth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cavnstruth@yahoo.co.uk) or phone 01895 639992, or contact us on [ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com](mailto:ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com) and we will forward your request.

*June Reyner*

## NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY:



- Ickenham Festival 11<sup>th</sup> to 19.06.16 – Gala Day on 18.06.16 to be held in the Grounds of Vyners School
- Ickenham Festival Ruby Ball on Saturday, 16.07.16, at Vyners School from 7pm with dinner at 7.30pm. Commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Ickenham Festival in 1976. Tickets available via their website [ickenhamfestival.org.uk](http://ickenhamfestival.org.uk) – or e-mail [ickenhamrubyball@gmail.com](mailto:ickenhamrubyball@gmail.com)
- **Polish War Memorial** commemoration will take place on 3 September, at the Polish War Memorial. This event is open to all to attend.

*June Reyner*