

# Ickenham Calling .....

The Newsletter of the *Ickenham Residents' Association* Spring 2017

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.

Ickenham Residents' Association:



E-Mail Address [ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com](mailto:ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com)  
WebSite [www.ickenhamresidents.co.uk](http://www.ickenhamresidents.co.uk)  
Twitter Acc. [www.twitter.com/lckenhamRA](https://www.twitter.com/lckenhamRA)

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Pleasingly, there are signs of spring throughout our precious green spaces, so do try to spend some of your family time out and about making the most of them. Volunteering events are organised for dates in March and June to improve the Ickenham Marshes, a great way to meet other villagers, entertain the children for an afternoon, and help to make this a great place to visit.

HS2 – with relatively little fanfare, and despite all the negativity surrounding the project as well as the fact that no agreement has been reached between LBH and HS2 Limited on traffic issues, HS2 was given Royal Assent on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Beryl Upton gives us a comprehensive update in her report. The proposal for a haul road to try to mitigate some of the lorry movements travelling through the village is on hold – motorists have suffered a taste of things to come during the last two weekends with road works closing a lane in the High Road and consequent queues the length of Long Lane, Swakeleys Road and surrounding streets. At least at weekends there have been alternative routes available, but that won't be the case on weekdays in future when HS2 begins construction work.

On planning matters, it seems that Ickenham is very much the target for developers to demolish traditional houses in favour of flatted developments, even in the Conservation Area.

As ever, we do welcome new residents to the village, and some proposals could improve what is currently an unattractive area in the High Road, if handled with sensitivity.

We understand from the Trustees of the owners of the Glebe land that the Douay Martyrs School proposal is apparently moving ahead, and we plan a meeting with them to understand how they can improve the school facilities without adversely impacting residents, and our green belt land.

We look forward to seeing as many members as possible for our AGM on 21 April.

*Jill Dalton*

## AGM of the ICKENHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Please make a note in your diary for  
Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017 at 8pm  
Ickenham Village Hall.

AGM Agenda plus Minutes of last AGM in  
April 2016 (to be approved) are attached  
to this newsletter.

Please bring along with you. Thank you.

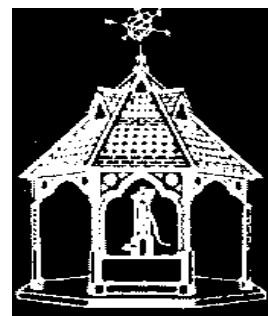
**MAJOR  
ROADWORKS  
2017 TO 2024**  
[www.stops2.org](http://www.stops2.org)

The Winter edition of 'Ickenham Calling' was published just as the House of Lords HS2 Select Committee was hearing the last of the petitioners, including those from Ickenham and the Ickenham Residents' Association.

Their Lordships' timetable meant that they had to finish the hearings before the start of the Christmas recess, which resulted in too many of the final presentations being rushed and crammed into the hours available.

There has been much praise from the Lords for the Select Committee's hard work, the process of hearing 314 petitions has been likened to a marathon and their Lordship's dedication "heroic".

The Lords have also praised the HS2 QCs and Legal Team.



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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](mailto:ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com)

This issue edited by  
Hanne Raeder  
February 2017



Following the Lords' report (1), published on the 15<sup>th</sup> December, the overall conclusion is that the Select Committee was pretty ineffective particularly as it ruled itself out from listening to any evidence requiring any Additional Provisions. Ickenham is hardly mentioned in the report which doesn't come as a surprise, as their visit to Ickenham, as part of a one day visit to Buckinghamshire and Hillingdon on 19<sup>th</sup> Oct, consisted of a few minutes in Harvil Road, a trip along Swakeleys Road via the two mini-roundabouts at Harvil Road and Breakspear Road South, then a quick look at the Greenway to see how close the properties are to the line and the tunnel portal.

(1) *The Lords' report:*

[www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201617/ldselect/ldhs2/83/8302.htm](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201617/ldselect/ldhs2/83/8302.htm)

Since their report was published the Lords have checked the wording of the HS2 Bill, line by line, and made some potentially interesting amendments which were discussed at length by the Lords' Grand Committee on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> January.

Chris Grayling, the Minister of State for Transport, published the Government's response (2) to the Lords' report on the 17<sup>th</sup> January after "carefully considering the Lords' recommendations". The Commons, as the elected House, are able to accept or reject any amendments, and can decide to ignore them completely.

(2) *The Government's response to the Lords' report:*

[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/583784/government-response-to-the-select-committee\\_s-special-report-web-version.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/583784/government-response-to-the-select-committee_s-special-report-web-version.pdf)

The Bill continued through the Lords' Report Stage on the 24<sup>th</sup> January followed by the Third Reading in the Lords on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017, which resulted in a vote to pass the HS2 Hybrid Bill with a large majority – 386 for and 26 against. Finally, both Houses considered the amendments and the wording of the Bill, and Royal Assent was given by the Queen on the 23rd February 2017.

It's worth noting that HS2 Ltd.'s original target for Royal Assent was before the 2015 General Election, so HS2 is approximately two years behind that schedule already.

The latest delay is believed to have been caused by the sheer number of petitions to Parliament made by residents and businesses who will be blighted by the route!

2016 was a frustrating year, but the campaign against HS2 Ltd. continues into 2017 with a change of emphasis. Work on HS2 gathers pace and HS2 continues to roll on in defiance of the facts.

Just last September the Adam Smith Institute labelled the project 'economically irresponsible' and stated that HS2 could end up costing up to £80 billion which would equate to nine

times more per mile than comparable high-speed tracks in France.

The Lords' Economic Affairs Committee reminded the Chancellor that the case for HS2 has not been made. The Public Accounts Committee slated its volatile costs, unrealistic timescales, the lack of money for regeneration and the lack of planning for its impact on existing train services. It also accuses the Department of Transport of making decisions based "on fragile numbers, out-of-date data and assumptions which do not reflect real life". Economists have questioned almost every aspect of the Government's case.

Even now, the Chairman of the Treasury Committee is in correspondence with the Secretary of State for Transport, challenging the economic case and the business case which suggest that HS2 will "hardly be worth the candle".

There is still much questioning of HS2 and of Chris Grayling, who is ultimately responsible for HS2.

On the 12 Jan 2017, in the House of Commons, Mr Grayling was asked if he could assure the public that the already sky-high costs of this project were not going to spiral even further out of control? His answer was that the Government wants to "deliver a high-quality infrastructure that is environmentally sensitive, and that means spending money on tunnels. I want to retain a careful stewardship of Britain's green and pleasant land while delivering what we need for the future, and that is what we are doing."

**Obviously, this environmental sensitivity does not extend to Ickenham!!**

In September the Chief Executive of HS2 Ltd, Simon Kirby, resigned to take a post with Rolls Royce. After a five-month global search by HS2, which reviewed some 20 potential candidates working on projects in America, Australia and Asia as well as in the UK, Mark Thurston was appointed the new CEO on 26 Jan 2017; he used to work with HS2 Chairman David Higgins on the Olympics.

In December Sir David Higgins, who works three days a week as the Chairman of HS2, announced that he would also become Chairman of Gatwick Airport from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2017, although HS2 said the extra work would not affect or conflict with Higgins's current role at HS2; he also spends time working in Australia as a director of the Commonwealth Bank.

More top brass from HS2 (the Chief Information Officer, the Strategy Director and the Programme Delivery Director) have also jumped ship.

A Construction Commissioner, Gareth Epps, has been appointed to look into any matters arising from the construction of the railway, including any issues that have not been resolved through HS2 Ltd.'s complaints process.



He will join the Resident's Commissioner whose role is to ensure that HS2 Ltd keeps promises made in the Resident's Charter. Of particular interest is that both of these roles, despite being appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport, paid by HS2, working in HS2 offices and with HS2 email addresses, are described as being "Independent".

Meanwhile the estimated cost of building all of the HS2 line continues to rise – originally starting in 2010 at £32.7 billion, the Government currently says it will cost £55.7 billion to build. The National Audit Office stated in 2016 that HS2 was running £7bn over budget, a fact which was not contested by HS2 Ltd. This would put the official cost at £63bn and nobody will be surprised if that figure continues to rise..... and this doesn't include rolling stock, current estimated cost £2.75 billion.

### Where does that leave us?

At a local level, ground investigation surveys will start soon and more properties have been sold to HS2 Ltd. Nobody really knows what to expect, when construction sites will start taking over Ickenham land, and construction vehicles will start causing congestion on our roads.

The timeline of HS2 shows the first works, early in 2017, beginning at the Harvil Road compound and Copthall cutting, followed by works on the bridges in Harvil Road and Breakspear Road South, and the West Ruislip Portal.

We will be monitoring local activities and developments as they happen and keeping in contact with Nick Hurd, our Councillors and those Council staff who have been so supportive and continue to work with us to get the best outcome for Hillingdon.

**Beryl Upton**



## LINKS WITH SCHOOLS

Establishing links with local schools is important to Ickenham Residents' Association. In this connection I meet Head Teachers to establish a channel of communication and to understand the vision and direction Head Teachers have for their school.

I recently met Mr. A. J. Corish, Head Teacher of Douay Martyrs, who took up his post in September of 2015. I was impressed with his determination to make Douay Martyrs a more desirable school for both students and parents.

Mr. A. J. Corish left Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School in Basingstoke, an outstanding, highly oversubscribed and high achieving school to take the reins of Douay Martyrs Catholic Secondary School. Coming from a high achieving school he is determined to raise standards of achievement.

Mr. Corish's ambition is firmly focused on celebrating the unique ethos of the school, an ethos based firmly on Gospel values. This is communicated via "The Douay Way", a consistent insistence on achieving outstanding outcomes in all endeavours.

He is supported by an outstanding Pastoral Team. The Support offered by the school is summarised in the phrase "Walk with Me" and gives a sense of a school not only supporting students but challenging their aspiration and facilitating their journey as they pave their path to move into the world.

Mr. Corish values links with the community and the school is now involved in outreach with many local primary schools, delivering a wide range of curriculum opportunities.

The fruits of all of this work are evident in all aspects of the school life. The main indicators are: exam results in 2016 were significantly above the National and Local results, improvements made to the site and infrastructure, overwhelming interest from parents seeking a place for their child in a Catholic School with traditional values.

Douay Martyrs in Ickenham is in a unique position to draw Catholic students from all parts of Hillingdon Borough. Thus the majority of the students in the school are not from Ickenham, and the admissions policy ensures that this situation will continue. The school realises the problems this could cause and makes a concerted effort to keep the young students on site during the school day.

At the end of the day the students are transported out of Ickenham by a fleet of buses, usually seen parked on Long Lane.

More details of the school's Policies, Curriculum and Admission policy is available on their website [www.douaymartyrs.co.uk](http://www.douaymartyrs.co.uk)

We wish Mr Corish best of luck in realising his vision.

**Neena Bedi**

## Ickenham Marshes Partnership



### NATURE RESERVE UPDATES

#### The Marshes

Two dates have now been set for Marshes volunteering events so far...they are Saturday, 11 March, 3pm (path clearing and litter picking) and Sunday, 11 June, 3pm (Balsam Bashing).



These volunteering events are good fun and are a really important way to demonstrate how much we care about our local green spaces, so do stick the dates in your diary. As always, the meeting point for these sessions is the Austins/Glebe gate and more information is available on the Ickenham Marshes website, i.e. [ickenhammarshes@hotmail.com](mailto:ickenhammarshes@hotmail.com)

#### Frays Farm Meadow/Denham Lock Wood

As well as being in Ickenham, these nature reserves are also situated in the Colne Valley Regional Park. As such, they have been provisionally earmarked for improvement projects, funded by the HS2 "additional mitigation" fund.

The £3m fund will be managed by the Colne Valley Park (based in Denham). More information about the fund and the proposed improvement projects can be found online: [http://www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/sites/default/files/AMP%20Exhibition%20Banners\\_0.pdf](http://www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/sites/default/files/AMP%20Exhibition%20Banners_0.pdf)

The fund is not universally supported, with some local environmental groups calling for the money to be spent on monitoring HS2 environmental impacts, and using that data to better hold Government to account, if or when future infrastructure projects have such wide-reaching environmental impacts.

The Association will continue to push for the best mitigation while still opposing the HS2 proposals. **Chris Mountain**

### LOCAL WASTE COLLECTIONS

We recently asked LBH to confirm the arrangements for litter bin and dog waste collections in Ickenham, after some overflowing bins were spotted locally.

LBH confirmed that street cleansing remains a priority and that they constantly strive for a cleaner environment. Litter bins are emptied daily in the village centre, and at least weekly elsewhere. Dog waste bins are also emptied weekly.

LBH also confirmed that additional collections can be arranged in response to reports of overflowing bins. These can be reported over the phone on 250111 or online 24/7 via the Council's website.

**Chris Mountain**

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Association is often contacted by residents concerned about speeding through residential roads and "rat runs" during rush hours. (The latest contact being from residents in Copthall Road West and surrounding roads).

Unfortunately, the Association does not have the resources to follow up all these issues individually, but we are happy to point residents in the right direction for help and advice in how to pursue matters.

In the first instance, residents concerned about these issues should contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team for Ickenham

online : <http://content.met.police.uk/Team/Hillingdon/Ickenham/Team>

There is also some useful advice to be found on the following link - <http://www.20splenty.org/>

**Maureen Pemberton**

## APPEAL TO MEMBERSHIP

Your quarterly newsletter reaches you by courtesy of the small army of volunteers who act as area and road stewards. We regularly need to recruit to replace those volunteers, who can no longer help, in order to ensure that our newsletter reaches all Ickenham Residents' Association members. We are particularly short of help on the

Glebe Estate,  
Swakeleys Road and  
Swakeleys Drive areas,

but would welcome any offers of help to deliver newsletters quarterly and to collect the subscriptions later in the year. If you are able to help, please contact me by e-mail

[ickres.memsec@gmail.com](mailto:ickres.memsec@gmail.com)

**Maureen Pemberton**

## HEALTH MATTERS

### "Laughing Gas"(Nitrous Oxide) and Dentistry.

The American dentist, Horace Wells, pioneered in 1845 the clinical use of nitrous oxide for modern surgical and dental anaesthesia, successfully performing painless dental extractions. From that moment on many dental surgeries in America and Europe, equipped themselves with a "gas machine" to administer anaesthetics for the removal of teeth and other surgical procedures.

Eventually with the advent of local anaesthesia, the use of nitrous oxide became less common. However, there is

still a need for this useful technique with children, and very nervous adult patients.

This can be used in the form of sedation using gas and air (nitrous oxide and oxygen) or a more profound anaesthetic. Most general anaesthetics for dental extractions are usually for young children, and are now performed in a hospital environment at tremendous cost.

New data indicates that in the UK there were 40,800 hospital operations to extract teeth in the period 2015-2016. The equivalent of 160 procedures for each working day of the year. Public health officials described the figures as symptomatic of "our nations addiction to sugar". High-Sugar diets have fuelled a 10 per cent rise in the number of operations to remove teeth from children, over just three years! It is now known that children are consuming half their recommended daily sugar intake before school each morning!

There is particular concern about dental health locally. The level of dental decay in 5 year old children, is a useful indicator of the success of a range of programmes and services, that can improve the general health and well being of young children.

A recent study uses the measurement of the average number of decayed, missing (due to decay) or filled teeth in 5 year old children. This report provides details of this age group of children in the area covered by Hillingdon Local Authority.

Its findings show higher levels of tooth decay in Hillingdon than the average for England. In the Greater London Area, Enfield has the worst record, with Hillingdon slightly better 10 places below, comparable with Brent and Islington.

The best performing, with reduced rates of dental decay, were Richmond on Thames, Bromley and Kingston. Prevalence of tooth decay is related to long term bottle use in infancy and the popularity of giving drinks containing sugar!

The British Dental Association has said it is unsustainable for money to be spent on avoidable surgery, when insufficient progress was being made to prevent tooth decay. "Sugar Tax" ?

**David John**



## POLICE MATTERS

At a recent meeting of the Neighbourhood Watch coordinators a presentation was given by Brian Walters and Dave Ludlow on the results of the Ickenham CCTV network, which now consists of no less than 170 cameras, including 40 with number-plate recognition capability.

Attendees were shown picture and videos that led to the arrest of the three-man team that carried out a particularly nasty 'aggravated burglary' in Breakspear Rd. South last year. Searches revealed not only the criminals arriving at the scene of the crime and departing afterwards, but also conducting a reconnaissance the day before to locate drop-off and pick up points. When confronted with photographic evidence at Isleworth Crown Court, the defendants changed their plea to 'guilty', thereby saving a good deal of time and legal cost.

A camera in Silver Birch Close spotted the gang that have been roaming around blowing open ATMs with acetylene gas. They were filmed transferring gas cylinders to the boot of a car, which they left parked there. When they returned, probably to go onto another theft, the police were waiting. Once again the culprits pleaded 'guilty' when shown the pictures. In both the above cases the crooks were given sentences of between nine and eleven years.

A camera in Swakeleys Rd. videoed a deliberate 'crash for cash' incident at the junction with Breakspear Rd South on the mini-roundabout. The bandit car was filmed waiting at the side of the road and then ramming their victim. Our evidence has been passed to the insurance company's fraud investigators.

However, these were people caught after the event. It is worth noting that in the last quarter of 2016 there were 14 burglaries in Ickenham, even though we have an alert population with 78% of the Ickenham streets covered by Neighbourhood Watch schemes (the highest percentage in Hillingdon Borough). Keep eyes open and don't hesitate to report any suspicious activity to 101, or even 999, if it looks like a crime in progress.

I have reported previously on various scams involving bank accounts. The latest variants on these concerns a call about 'suspicious activity', that asks a number of 'security questions' and uses the information to perpetrate identity theft.

In a recent case a local lady received such a call and only became suspicious after having given some details. She contacted her bank (on another 'phone) and found that a large sum had arrived in her account, doubtless a loan had been taken out in her name. Luckily, the staff at the bank were suspicious and had prevented this cash from being transferred to the crook's account.

The other variant is for a genuine-looking letter to arrive on a near perfect copy of the bank's letterhead, also advising of 'suspicious activity' and inviting the recipient to ring a number to discuss the matter. Of course, the number supplied is not that of the bank, so in that case either ignore it or call your bank on a number that you know to be genuine and tell them that you have been targeted, so they can keep an eye on your account.

Where do you keep your valuables? In a safe? Safes are not that safe, they are usually quite easily found and a team of burglars, perhaps in a van and disguised as workmen, have been known to make off with the safe to open at their leisure. The latest advice is to keep valuables in the loft, as burglars are reluctant to go up there as they would be trapped if disturbed. Or how about a decoy safe, full of rubbish, for them to waste their time on?

Finally, some 'phone numbers. Sergeant David Peaks – 0208 246 1816. Our local team, PC Dewayne Hamilton – 07912 045 163 and PCSO Jo Legg – 07909 534 633. In addition, if you should be a victim of burglary or a theft outside your property, after you've called the police give Brian Walters a call on 01895 673281, so he can arrange a camera search for evidence to help catch the perpetrators.  
**Vic Silk**

## ICKENHAM FESTIVE EVENING

This was held on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The weather was mild, and the village centre looked very festive with Christmas decorations and lights, especially on the large tree by the pond.

Technology came to our tables in the Village Hall in the form of a 6 ½ minute video of photographs (compiled by David Tebbutt) taken by residents; this attracted a lot of attention. We also had panels of photos of local interest, including Ickenham Marsh, under the heading 'Feel proud to live in Ickenham' and our usual 'Guess the Number of Sweets in the Jar' competition – very low tech!

Several more members signed up to our mailing list to keep up-to-date between newsletters. If you are interested, please e-mail: ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com with your name and address, and we will add you to our list.

We would like to thank the Ickenham Festival Team for all their hard work in organising this event, which is always enjoyed by our community.

**Barbara Buckle**