

Ickenham Calling

The Newsletter of the *Ickenham Residents' Association* Autumn 2019

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

Some members of the committee attended a presentation by *INLAND HOMES*, the new owners and developers for the old Master Brewer site. The developers concentrated for much of the meeting on explaining the benefits of linking two green space areas to the east and west of the site with a green corridor through the development. Needless to say we were unconvinced by their green credentials for the site as their proposals were for 500 homes – even denser than the proposals already rejected by LBH – with one ten storey block that will be visible for miles around. We asked if they had read our previous objections lodged with LBH and what they had done to address them, but they were floundering to reply, as of course they had done nothing. We felt it was worse in every way for traffic, density, pollution and appearance.

A reminder for everyone on two planning matters. Firstly, much development now in terms of home extensions, roof changes and other matters are covered by the laws of permitted development. We can write with an objection or comment on unsuitable changes to houses in Ickenham, but so long as the proposals are within the provisions, there is nothing we or LBH can do – and our letters are not even read. The matter is closed. Often sad, but true.

Secondly, if there are proposed changes outside the remit of permitted development, we will always write and object or comment – but ours is just one letter. Accepting that it can be difficult if they are your neighbours and it could create bad feeling in a road, then if you feel strongly about something that will be ugly or will impact adversely on your property, then do write your own letter and get your neighbours to do so too – multiple objections from the same area will have far more impact than one letter from the Residents Association that, of necessity, can only concentrate on legal planning grounds.

Thanks to all the area and road stewards for joining us at the fun road stewards evening and thanks for the welcome comments of appreciation for the organising team who did a great job – but it's only fun if everyone joins in which you did with gusto !!

Jill Dalton

HS2

HS2 Update

Closure of Breakspear Road South.

Although this time of year traffic is lighter, there is still much congestion in the village with the occasional congestion rage incident. The contractors will try to complete ahead of schedule but the outlook at the moment will be problems until mid-September.

On the subject of traffic, we are in discussion with HS2 regarding the building of a new bridge and straightening of Harvil Road. This was agreed as part of the HS2 Act. Although this development is welcome there is a concern that motorists will drive even faster and the junction with Skip Lane will become an accident black spot. We have suggested there should be traffic management at this junction and a roundabout would seem the preferred option. At our last meeting HS2 said that they had analysed this requirement and there would be no safety benefit. After questioning they advised that their analysis of movements out of Skip Lane was approx. 50/day.

A traffic assessment done in 2009 showed approx. 700 movements per day and traffic has increased since this time with new com-

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ADVANCE NOTICE FESTIVE COMMUNITY NIGHT

Any questions you may want to raise, or if you have comments on any article in the Newsletter, we would be pleased to hear your views, and you could write to our

General Secretary,
6 The Chase,
Ickenham,
Uxbridge,
UB10 8SR

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

This issue edited by Hanne Raeder August 2019



panies in Skip Lane. So once again we are dealing with a situation where HS2 decisions are being made without regard to the facts. (see also signalisation of Swakeleys Roundabout/ tunnels & business case etc. etc.)

The routing for the power cables, for the tunnel boring machines, from Rayners Lane to West Ruislip is being finalised. The maps can be seen on the HS2 Hillingdon website:

<https://hs2inhilligdon.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/tunnel-boring-machine-power-supply-route/details> - select A map of the route can be [found here](#).

There will be test site investigations along the route during August but the main works which will create lane closures and traffic problems will not start until the Breakspear Road closures have been completed.

We have been provided with the outlook for all HGV movements across our roads in Ickenham, Harefield and Ruislip throughout the construction periods. The peak numbers are less than previously predicted – 420 instead of 550 - but still represent one HGV, on average, every 3 minutes both ways between Swakeleys and Harvil Road roundabouts. (In reality, it will be worse as the movements will be concentrated into peak times). We are analysing the resultant emissions for a road where air pollution already exceeds EU limits. We probably want to request curfew times when Vyners children are present.

Unfortunately, we are still going to suffer large amounts of spoil dumping (373 thousand tonnes) between Harvil Road and Breakspear Road South and we have yet to receive the numbers of the muck-away-lorry movements. These vehicles are more noisy and pollutant than normal HGVs.

We have requested through petitions and letters to MPs that the enabling works should stop until Notice to Proceed is given. The political and HS2 company response is that they will continue.

Finally we are pleased that the HS2 court case against the Harvil Road protestors was dismissed in July due to HS2 incompetence.....once again. It was admitted during the case that there is a risk to our water supplies from the work being carried out by HS2 contractors.

Brian Adams



REQUEST FOR HELP FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

We have more than 100 volunteers in Ickenham, who assist with the deliveries and subs collections in respect of over 3,200 households. Inevitably, we have to recruit as volunteers "retire" or move.

We currently have vacancies in

Long Lane (part)
Swakeleys Road (part)
Woodstock Drive
Charlbury Road
Aylsham Drive (part)
Heacham Avenue
Fincham Close

If you are able to assist in any of the above roads please contact me at ickres.memsec@gmail.com

Maureen Pemberton / Membership Secretary

Ickenham Marshes
 Partnership 

ICKENHAM MARSHES

A surprise for our cow watchers this August was as one of the Sussex cattle on the Nature Reserve gave birth. Calves weren't expected until winter, but the youngster seemed in good health and was taken with mum back to the farm.

The far side of the Marshes (Stafford Rd Open Space) is looking particularly nice at the moment. The meadow was created following extensive scrub clearance 4 years ago and some of the wilder bits have become home to a range of interesting flowers and grasses.

Frays Farm Meadows / Denham Lock Wood

The annual glow worm count took place in July and around 20 were spotted. This was up on the previous



two years, so the colony seems to be hanging in there, certainly in part due to the efforts of the London Wildlife Trust volunteers that manage the area.

Chris Mountain

REDUCE, REUSE, THEN RECYCLE

I read a recent Hillingdon People article about waste with interest. Apparently, Hillingdon has been one of the top five London Boroughs for recycling for five years running. With the help of every resident we want to do better and increase the amounts that the Borough recycles ('How your recycling efforts can protect our environment' March/April, p.16).

However, the latest Government statistics (Defra's Local Authority collected waste stats, Dec 2018) show that Hillingdon is very much mid-table amongst Boroughs in terms of the percentage of household waste recycled. Perhaps more worryingly, we were one of several Boroughs to see a fall in household recycling rates last year.

The Council have confirmed that our most recent annual figures are:

Mixed municipal waste:	60,842 tonnes
Dry mixed recycling:	19,184 tonnes
Composted mixed garden and food waste	17,824 tonnes

That is not far off a tonne for every household each year.

We know from the Hillingdon People article where our garden and food waste goes (Harefield) and that much of our recyclable waste goes to various factories around the country, but what about the rest?

The Council have confirmed that nothing goes to landfill. They also say that where there is no suitable way of recycling or reusing what is collected, it is incinerated for energy recovery. The Council have also confirmed that because of a lack of domestic capacity, some of our waste goes overseas. This seem particularly common for paper, with on average 60% sent to destinations including India, Netherlands, Germany, Indonesia, Turkey, Vietnam, Thailand and Taiwan.

You can draw your own conclusions from this information, but it is pretty simple from my point of view.

We teach "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle". In a world with increasingly limited resources, the first two are elements of this mantra and cannot be forgotten

Chris Mountain

PLANNING UPDATE Up to End of July 2019

We have looked at a total of 95 planning applications and written letters of observation or objection on 18 occasions since the end of April 2019

Hanne Raeder

DO YOU CARE ABOUT ICKENHAM?

Do you love Ickenham and would like to help oil the wheels of the Residents' Association?

We are looking for someone to take on the role of Minutes Secretary to take the minutes of the monthly meetings and the AGM.

Are you interested or do you know anyone who might be? Like all the Committee posts, it is voluntary and you can become involved in other Committee work as much or as little as you like.

The Committee is non-political and it would help if you were too, although we're not averse to having members who are passionate about local issues.

Please contact June Reyner, our General Secretary, at ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com in the first instance.

We look forward to hearing from you.

June Reyner

ROAD STEWARDS SOCIAL July 26th 2019

For once the weather was kind to us and the extreme heatwave had broken and rain brought the temperature down in time for the evening of 26th.

About 70 Stewards and their partners as well as your committee members attended the function in St Giles Church Hall, which is the committee's way of saying thank you for all the hard work the stewards put in delivering the newsletters and collecting the subs. After all, without their help we would not be able to carry on representing you all.

Everyone there enjoyed a delicious buffet spread prepared by Barbara Buckle and her team of helpers in the kitchen. Vic Silk kept the drinks flowing during the evening (though - note for next time – do more Pimm's!!!)

The quizzes got everyone's brains working but also provided an ice breaker for those who had not met before. They were hopefully interesting but can't have been too challenging as the winning table scored 109 out of 120!!!

It was really good to see so many people there and judging from the feedback we have received it was enjoyed by all.

June Reyner

TO ALL BIRD LOVERS

GAZETTE 15.05.19

Having lived here in Ickenham since 1967 and being very fond of the local bird life, I clearly remember the arrival of the first *swallows*, which always used to be around the 20th April each year. I used to inscribe their annual arrival dates on the brick wall of our car port, right below their nesting place, and these dates are still legible today.

These marvellous intercontinental air travellers used to be the harbingers of each new summer season, followed by the sound of *cuckoos* and *sky larks* later in the season. Sadly, no *swifts* or *swallows* have been nesting here again for a least 10 years. Where have they all disappeared to?

The massive drop in flying insects due to excessive use of insecticides is obviously to blame! Will man ever learn?

For 50 years, from 1967 until about 2017 we had a family of *wrens* nesting in the same location near our fence ... now no more! The rare sight of *bullfinches* used to be an extra special treat.

Next, each May I used to enjoy the song of the *chaffinch*, *thrush* and *great tit* ringing out from Pinnock Wood, now called Harefield Place.

Today in Spring 2019 my regular garden visitors comprise of a lot of *magpies*, *feral pigeons*, *doves*, *crows*, *robins*, *parakeets*, *black bird*, *dunnocks* and very few *blue tits*, plus the

occasional *nuthatch*, *woodpecker* or *blue jay* at the peanut feeder.

No more grey and yellow *pied wagtails* on the pavements in Ickenham, nor any *goldfinches* or *yellowhammers* at my bird table.

Even the hedgehogs that always used to live in our back garden have not been seen again in the past 5 years.

Just some small environmental changes, or man's reckless rape of the environment?

With permission of Hans Raeder

DEAR ICKENHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION:

The Uxbridge Gazette kindly published the following letter of mine on 22 May about wildlife in **Ickenham**.

In his letter "Missing swifts and swallows" (Gazette, 15 May) Hans Raeder writes that he no longer sees swifts, swallows or wrens in **Ickenham** where he lives. He has no more goldfinches or yellowhammers at his bird table and hasn't seen a hedgehog in his garden for five years.

The national press carried an article on 14th May on "The Sad Tale of the Disappearing Dormouse" which reported that Britain is now classified as one of the most nature-depleted countries on Earth. Dormouse numbers have fallen 72% since 1995, and in 2016 they were declared extinct in 17 English counties. The recent study by Mammal Society and Natural England said one in five British mammals are at risk of dying out and a similar bleak future awaits many bird species, fish & reptiles. The use of pesticides and the destruction of the natural environment in order to build for the ever-rising human population are among the causes.

Plastic production is also harmful to creatures as they try to eat it and it

blocks their stomach. A plastic bag has even been found in the Mariana Trench which is the deepest part of the world's oceans. Up to 12.7million tons of plastic enter the seas a year. Global plastic production emits 400million tons of greenhouse gases a year - more than the UK's total carbon footprint. The report on this was written by several respected charities on the natural environment and Sir David Attenborough stated his great concern.

As this is happening to the natural world, what will eventually happen to humans?

With kind permission of A. Wills

HEALTH MATTERS

Itchy, Sneezey, Wheezy.

(ISW) Improving care for children with allergies.

ISW is a children's allergy integrated care programme. Paediatric care (the branch of medicine dealing with children and their diseases) is never a straightforward task. Looking after children who are unwell requires a whole different level of care, understanding and skill.

This is exactly what the Paediatric Asthma Team at Hillingdon Hospital have done. Asthma is the most common long term condition in children and young people and can impact on a child's everyday life. At Hillingdon Hospital 765 children were admitted with asthma and preschool wheeze in 2017-2018.

For children, taking time out of school to attend hospital appointments can be disruptive and affect school work, so the team at Hillingdon Hospital have taken their care out to the community with the launch of a Schools Asthma Programme. The team en-

ures schools meet the London Asthma Standards, with rigorous staff training and adherence to guidelines, before the schools can be awarded Asthma Friendly Status.

There are a set of standards that schools should meet to be asthma friendly.

- All schools should have an Asthma Policy.
- All children with asthma should have a Care Plan.
- All school staff must be trained in the care of children with asthma.
- All schools can now hold an emergency inhaler, in addition to the children's own inhaler.
- All schools should be able to easily identify students with asthma by maintaining a register.

Since the launch of the programme in September 2017, St Helens School in Hillingdon has been awarded Asthma Friendly Status, with many schools working towards this. The schools programme helps to identify children with poorly controlled asthma, reduces absence from school and improves results - as better asthma control helps children to sleep well and enables them to take part in more activities. It also helps to reduce the stigma associated with asthma.

The valuable work of the team doesn't stop there. As part of reducing the numbers of children coming into hospital for asthma related care, the team are also helping to improve knowledge of asthma care in the community. As part of this they have created an animation video for use in Primary Care for both clinical staff and patients. This looks at asthma reviews, pinpoints triggers, and highlights treatment and control measures. Alison Summerfield, Senior Paediatric Respiratory & Allergy Clinical Nurse Specialist, expects the animation will be rolled out in the community with an aim to cascade this nationally. The animation video can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7V8oB4zhks&feature=youtu.be>

David John



POLICE MATTERS

Two new scams to report this time. The first is in the form of a recorded 'phone call purporting to be from 'Visa and Mastercard anti-fraud department' saying that 'there has been a withdrawal from your account of £600 fifteen minutes ago, to deny or authorise this payment press 1'. I'm not sure what would happen if you pressed 1, maybe a transfer to a very expensive premium-rate line, or perhaps, a 'phishing' attempt to get your card details. I have had this identical message twice. What was wrong with it? 1: The message was recorded; in the event of a genuine occurrence I would expect to be contacted by a live person and even then would be suspicious. 2: Both Visa and Mastercard are very large organisations and it is very unlikely that they would have a combined anti-fraud department.

The other nasty fraud takes the form of being approached by a person in a car park pretending to be a police officer or a parking attendant, accusing you of either a speeding or a parking offence, saying that photographs had been taken and you would be fined, but offering a 'reduced' fine if paid on the spot. If you have sufficient cash with you, they will just make off with this, if not you will be escorted to a cash machine, probably one which has been fitted with a 'Lebanese loop'. The crook will watch you put the PIN in and retrieve the card after you have gone off to report the loss. With a modern contactless card they can have quite a spending spree before the card is cancelled. If you are targeted by this scam just say 'OK take me to court' and refuse to give name, address etc. Get in the car and drive away.

By the time you read this, the evenings will be getting darker and in spite of our excellent coverage of CCTV and 'Ring' doorbells in Ickenham we are still being regularly targeted by roaming burglars. Do make the house look occupied, using time switches to turn on lights and maybe a radio if you are going to be late home and making sure no casement windows are left open.

Autumn is also the ideal time to plant trees and shrubs, the soil is warm and the sun not too hot. Many houses in Ickenham back onto open land or lanes and footpaths. Make it difficult to gain access to your property by planting thorny shrubs, such as roses, berberis or pyracantha behind the fence. If a would-be intruder encounters these, he is likely to go away and look for an easier target.

Vic Silk



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SWAKELEYS HOUSE AND GROUNDS

Open SAT 21.09.19 10am – 4pm

Swakeleys Road, Ickenham
(access from Milton Road)
UB10 8LD

Nearest tube: Ickenham or Hillingdon

Please go to <https://openhouselondon.open-city.org.uk/listings>

ADVANCE NOTICE FOR YOUR DIARY:

FESTIVE COMMUNITY NIGHT

organised by Ickenham Festival Committee
on **FRI 06.12.19**

**in the Ickenham Village Hall and
other village venues.**

