

Ickenham Calling

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

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

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CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

How beautiful autumn in Ickenham has been as the trees on our streets and open spaces turn to gold and red – there is so much to enjoy here.

Our next challenge is to submit our objections to the new application for development at the former Master Brewer site. Having reviewed the councillors' reasons for refusal on the previous application in January 2019, we can only see that the matters for concern then are multiplied in the current plans. There are additional flats proposed, in yet higher blocks, the tallest of which would be eleven storeys. The developers will be in discussion with both the Greater London Authority and LBH planning departments, and these two bodies may well have different ideas about what is best for this particular area, and encouraging the developers in differing directions!

Work has started on step-free access to Ickenham Station – we have objected to the rather bizarre and impractical proposals but work seems to be going ahead so watch this space.

Jill Dalton

- Woodland Trust call for Action
- Adam Smith Institute: Don't Rail-road HS2 Through.
- HS2 officially years behind schedule and massively over budget, while Government plough on regardless.
- Serious Fraud Office wants details on HS2 compensation practices, as possession orders escalate.
- HS2 paid £1.67M to 'gag' ex-employees.
- HS2 rail tunnel through Chilterns is risk to rare chalk streams and could damage the aquifer and disrupt household supplies.
- Affinity Water has informed HS2 that they are unable to meet HS2's water requirements of eight million litres a day for about two years.
- It's now official, Parliament has been misled over HS2 cost for THREE YEARS.

and much, much more.....

When you read this we hope that decisions will have been made about the future of HS2 and our community will know what lies ahead.

IRA HS2 Group

Ickenham Marshes
Partnership

ICKENHAM MARSHES

A part of the Marshes now has a Green Flag! The Council owned and managed Stafford Rd Open Space has been awarded Green Flag status by an independent panel, with the flag itself proudly

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CHAIRMAN'S
COMMENTS

HS2

ICKENHAM
MARSHES

COLNE VALLEY

STEVE WILLIAMS

PLANNING UPDATE

DRONES

RAF NORTHOLT

HEALTH MATTERS

POLICE MATTERS

EXCERPTS FROM MET
POLICE SECURITY

NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY

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
November 2019

HS2

At the time of writing, mid-October, the Oakervee Independent Review of HS2 is nearing its close. Headed by Doug Oakervee a civil engineer, former chair of Crossrail and HS2 Ltd and Lord Berkeley, deputy chair, Labour peer, civil engineer and ex-chair of the Rail Freight Group, the inquiry panel will be looking at all aspects of HS2. Their final report will make recommendations as to whether to continue building HS2 as planned, to reduce or to scrap the route completely.

There has been much media coverage of HS2 and so many interesting headlines, including:

- Ancient woodland safe from HS2 for now, except when it isn't...



on display opposite Ruislip Gardens Station. To get there, walk to the Yeading Brook and turn left. It's just beyond the RAF Northolt Crash Gate (yes, the gate that has been blocked by a fallen willow for about 18 months). An array of interpretation boards have been erected, which leads me to the conclusion that you can't have a Green Flag without big signs telling everyone where they are and what's going on around them.

The signage tells an important story. It explains that the area is mixture of meadow, scrub and woodland managed for wildlife. A terrifyingly wide range of insect, bird and mammal species are in sharp decline across the country, so managing land for nature and biodiversity is increasingly important. We should very much welcome this approach.

Our Council have taken this path consciously, with our encouragement, and it seems to be paying dividends. I recently saw a sparrow hawk 'predating' a sparrow there. While the sparrow in question may disagree, the presence of such predators is a good sign as it suggests that the ecosystem is functioning.

You might think that this approach saves money on management costs, but that isn't necessarily so. Annual meadow hay cuts can require costly specialist machinery. The Council also has to consider that residents might not want a meadow in their park. Seeds get in shoes, legs get wet, the area can seem 'unloved'. Some prefer a manicured appearance and are less interested in meadows eco-systems.

We are fortunate to have a variety of local parks, each with a different offer for people and increasingly an offer for wildlife.

Chris Mountain

patrolling the surface. Fish cautiously explored the bankside reeds and an old squat oak offered easy climbing for the kids.

We reached the Wood and were grateful for its cooling embrace. Helpful information leaflets suggested an anti-clockwise circuit and tipped us off on where to find the most veteran oaks and elms. Various bird species made their presence known and we explored the trails and I couldn't help but wonder how dry everything was; in such stark contrast to the wet woodland at Denham Lock just half a mile south. On the far side of the reserve we scrambled up onto the abandoned railway, that linked Uxbridge to the Chiltern Line until the 1960s. We liked the sinister metal gate across the line that marks the back entrance to the infamous Skip Lane concrete crushing facility. The kids found the 'Notice to Parents' sign particularly amusing. Heading south the railway offers good views over the lakes and before I knew it we had arrived at the crossroads where the track from the golf course car park crosses the old railway on its way towards the canal tow path and Denham. I suspect the Wood is more of a spectacle in spring, but we were pleased to have visited, and you don't get dragonflies in spring!

Elsewhere in our part of the Colne Valley, Frays Farm meadows has again benefitted from conservation grazing, and working parties have replaced several sections of boardwalk in Denham Lock Wood.

Elsewhere in the Colne Valley, the environmental impacts of HS2 and increasingly Heathrow expansion are beginning to sink in. Regardless of your views on the merits of these projects, it is unarguable that they will both have profound and irreversible impacts.

Chris Mountain

STEVE WILLIAMS

Steve and his wife Lynne are leaving their Butcher's shop in Ickenham this month after 25 years. They have been central to the Ickenham community for all of that time and not just as the providers of "Ickenham Royal Sausages" and Christmas feasts. They have always helped this Association whenever needed, publicising events, collecting survey forms and in many other ways.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for everything they have done (especially finding another butcher to take over the shop) and to wish them well in their future endeavours.

June Reyner



COLNE VALLEY

As promised last quarter, I have now visited Ickenham's most northerly Nature Reserve: the North Wood. The Wood is nestled between the Uxbridge Golf Course and the abandoned railway and, as with all of our western wilderness, forms part of the Colne Valley Regional Park.

We followed the footpath that plunges from the golf club car park down to the valley floor. Once the path flattens, we turned right and skirted the lake, which was teeming with life on that warm mid-September afternoon. At least three different sorts of dragonfly were boisterously



PLANNING UPDATE

Up to End of October 2019

We have looked at a total of 68 planning applications and written letters of observation or objection on 17 occasions since the end of July 2019

Hanne Raeder

MEMBERSHIP APPEAL

Just like Santa our Association needs its "little helpers" to make sure deliveries reach our 3000+ member households.

At the moment we need help in the following areas;

<i>Charlbury Road</i>	<i>Woodstock Drive (part)</i>
<i>Thornhill Road (part)</i>	<i>Swakeleys Drive (part)</i>
<i>Turnstone Close</i>	<i>Long Lane (part)</i>
<i>Edinburgh Drive (part)</i>	<i>Milverton Avenue</i>
<i>Cophall Road west (part)</i>	<i>Hoylake Crescent (part)</i>

If you can assist with quarterly newsletter deliveries and summer annual subscription collection please contact me by email ickres.memsec@gmail.com

Maureen Pemberton / Membership Secretary

DRONES NEW LEGISLATION

Children and adults wanting to fly the gadgets from **November 30, 2019**, will have to take a test to show they can do so "safely and legally". Those who fail or do not register as a **drone** operator by that date will face a fine of up to £1,000 under **new regulations** from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). More information can be found here:

<https://www.caa.co.uk/Consumers/Unmanned-aircraft/Our-role/Updates-about-drones/>

June Reyner

FROM RAF NORTHOLT

Flight Safety

Directed Light – Lasers. Aircraft have on occasion been targeted by individuals shining lasers into aircraft on approach or take-off. **Please report all occurrences to the Police as this is a criminal offense.**

Balloons and 'Chinese Lanterns'. These can cause serious damage to aircraft through air intakes. Groups of 10+ lanterns or 1000+ balloons **must be notified to the airfield** before use. If a new event venue (weddings...etc) opens in the local area, please notify the airbase.

UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles)/Drones. The London Borough of Hillingdon have produced a general policy statement which highlights the innovation in drones and SUA's (Small Unmanned Aircraft) for personal,

recreational and commercial use. This can be viewed on the following link:
<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/2316/Drone-policy>
 and the national rules can be found at
<https://dronesafe.uk/drone-code/>

If an organisation wishes to use Drones outside the airfield perimeter they must apply to Sqn Ldr Edgecombe. **Failure to comply with these regulations on drones and UAVs can be a criminal offence and the operator of the drone has responsibility for their use.**

Fireworks. The use of fireworks during the coming months can still be deemed hazardous close to the RAF Northolt fence line. If residents have any prior knowledge of any large event taking place, all information is welcomed.

Runway update

This project was completed ahead of schedule and under budget.

The runway has now been handed back to the base and as from w/c 7th Oct test flights had been taking place. There were night time calibration flights from 14th to 18th Oct and the runway has been fully operational from November 1st.

June Reyner

HEALTH MATTERS

Hillingdon Hospital

Plans to build a new hospital for Hillingdon got a major boost recently, with the news that it is to share in a £100m fund to make a hope a reality. The news was warmly welcomed by the CEO of the Hillingdon Hospitals Foundation Trust, Sarah Tedford.

The "seed funding" cash, announced at the Conservative Party in Manchester, will enable The Trust to move ahead at pace with its plans for a replacement for Hillingdon Hospital in Pield Heath Road. The Trust, which has one of the worst backlogs in England for urgent maintenance, has previously secured funding for urgent maintenance. This injection of cash will enable the hospital to do research and work up options so we can bring forward plans for a brand new, state-of-the-art facility.

Preparing plans for such a major investment needs to happen speedily, as the current estate is not fit for purpose. The CEO says "she is looking forward to leading the vital work, working in partnership to ensure we have the best possible facilities for our community and for our staff to deliver the right care at the right time".

The Michael Sobell Hospice in Hillingdon is to re-open after a period of refurbishment, with the Harlington Hospice appointed to run the service. The refurbishments have begun and are anticipated to be completed around the end of November. It is scheduled

to open on Saturday, 14.12.19. The Board of Trustees have also announced a further update from Hillingdon CCG (Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group) on the progress towards the transfer of services and re-opening of this important hospice. Funding for this exciting development has been provided by Michael Sobell Hospice Charity. Dr Ian Goodman, chairman of Hillingdon CCG, said "We are thrilled by the news that we are bringing hospice services back to Michael Sobell Hospice, and look forward to having a fruitful relationship with Harlington Hospice".

Children's flu vaccination programme

has been rolled out in stages, with the youngest first. It will protect them against what can be an unpleasant illness, as well as stopping them spreading flu to vulnerable friends and relatives. (Children are said to be super spreaders). This year it's routinely being offered to all children between 2 & 3, plus all children in primary school.

All children with a health condition that puts them at greater risk from flu should have flu vaccine every year from the age of six months onwards. Most children will have the nasal spray flu vaccine, it's more effective than injected as flu vaccine, so it's the preferred option for the delivery of the vaccine.

David John

POLICE MATTERS

Do you, like me, invest on the Stock Market? Scams are increasingly moving online, as people are learning to be suspicious of cold calls on the phone 'offering investment opportunities'. The number of reported cases of investment fraud has doubled in the last year and only 1% of the perpetrators are caught. Smaller investors are more likely to be targeted and the police are reluctant to get involved as these cases tend to be complex and time-consuming. What can one do to protect oneself? Firstly, genuine investment companies do not cold-call people and, if what they are offering is such a good bet, why are they offering it to a stranger instead of keeping it for themselves and their friends? Secondly, don't assume that a website or online advert is genuine. Criminals can use the name of a genuine company or individual to make their scams appear genuine. Make the right checks; firms providing regulated financial services must be author-

ised by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). You can check whether they are authorised on the Financial Services Register. Use the contact details on the register, not the details the firm gives you, to avoid 'clones'. There are no guaranteed get-rich-quick schemes. A few other precautions: Before recycling post or other documents remove name and address panels. Old bank or credit card statements should be shredded or burnt. Contact your bank immediately, if you think you might have been a victim of fraud and report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040, or online at actionfraud.police.uk.

Finally, when making any investment, research it first, read any documents carefully and refuse to be pressured into a quick decision.

By the time you read this, Christmas will be nearly upon us. This time of year tends to show a peak of burglaries, when a combination of long dark nights and households having gifts stored up, presents an opportunity for the villains. There was an old tradition of piling up parcels under the Christmas tree, which is a bad idea; anyone looking through the window, before you have got round to drawing the curtains, can see that there is something probably worth stealing there. Hide the parcels away until the festive day.

Vic. Silk

EXCERPTS FROM MET POLICE SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS via OWL

General advice

Fit theft resistant number plate fittings – stolen number plates are commonly used to hide the identity of stolen vehicles. Use one way clutch head screws and adhesive to secure the plate.

When out and about - try to park your vehicle in a Park Mark approved car park which has an approved security standard, or if not, park in an area that is overlooked and well lit. Thieves are using sophisticated methods to steal vehicles with electronic keys – a scanner is used to locate the signal from the key. To prevent this, always keep the electronic key in a security pouch when not in use. Fitting locking

wheel nuts will reduce the likelihood of wheels and tyres being stolen.

Cars and vans

Leaving items on show is an invitation : power leads, SatNavs and mounts, stereo front panels, coins, sunglasses, tools, clothing and bags should be removed from the vehicle or placed out of sight. Keys and ignition fobs should be kept safe and out of sight and reach – the most common ways to steal a car or van is to take the keys or ignition fob, either when left in the vehicle or from your home through burglary. Try not to keep your keys in an obvious place such as the hallway or kitchen.

Always lock and close the windows of your vehicle when unattended – on the drive, the petrol station forecourt or when parking an unlocked vehicle is the easiest to steal or steal from. Fit an alarm or immobiliser if your vehicle does not have one. Set the steering wheel lock if your vehicle is fitted with one. If not, use a bar type steering lock each time you leave your vehicle. Also consider using a gear stick lock.

Motorcycles and mopeds

Keep your motorcycle or moped in a garage, shed or designated bike store at home – storing it out of view is one of the best ways to prevent opportunist theft. Consider fitting a garage or shed alarm. Fit an alarm, immobiliser, preferably with tracking capability and properly mark any panels – alarms act as a deterrent. Tracking devices and properly marking assist in recovery should your motorcycle or moped be stolen.

Lock the rear wheel to an immovable object or ground anchor and use a disk lock on the front wheel – making the vehicle less of any easy option will reduce the chances of it being targeted. Combine the use of a disk lock on the front wheel and a chain lock to a ground anchor. Don't rely on the steering lock – standard steering locks are easily defeated and your bike can always be lifted into a van if not secured. Use a bike cover – covers are another hassle for an opportunist thief, if they cannot see what moped or motorcycle it is they are less likely to target it.

Caravans and trailers

Fit physical security and a caravan cover - fit a combination of hitch lock anti-theft device, wheel clamp and ground anchor, a physical barrier to theft is always a clear deterrent. Using a caravan cover and installing an alarm makes any theft more difficult and your caravan less attractive to thieves.

Register, record and property mark all parts of the caravan or trailer – register your caravan or trailer with the Central Registration & Identification Scheme (CRIS) and use overt and covert chips to mark it. If stolen, it may have its number plates, chassis, frame or CRIS numbers removed. Take photos, including specific fittings, marks or damage as these can help to identify your caravan or trailer. Install an alarm and tracking system, including roof marking – if stolen, being able to track and identify your caravan or trailer is vital. Add clear roof markings, giving the year of manufacture and CRIS number, to assist police identifying your caravan. (2014 – CRIS SGBS000BYA1234567).

Goods vehicles and lorries

Lock it, remove it, alarm it – when leaving your vehicle unattended, first remove valuable items and cash from view, lock it and take the keys with you or leave in a secure drawer or office at work.

Overnight, remove tools from vans or if parking up with an empty trailer, leave the doors open. Always set the vehicle alarm and keep fuel tanks locked.

Plan journeys, have an itinerary, no hitch hikers – have a route planned, including layovers, so someone else knows where you are due to be. Where possible use safe lorry parks or park where visible to passing traffic. Avoid insecure locations like remote laybys and quiet industrial estates. Do not pick up strangers as you have no idea what their intentions are. Lock your vehicle and check it – even when on the move, making deliveries or refuelling, keep your vehicle locked and the keys with you. Before you start off again, visually inspect your vehicle, has anything changed, if so why. If you would like to see the original go to

<https://www.owl.co.uk/a/?id=d4996097e49347b596021ded13e294bd>

Vivek Syal



ICKENHAM FESTIVE COMMUNITY NIGHT, FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2019.

Shops, schools, churches, local groups and businesses come together for a great night out!

Again, this year, Ickenham will have its own special Christmas celebration night.

The Ickenham Festive Community Night, on Friday 6th December, from 6pm to 9pm, will feature a wide range of music, activities, fun and shopping.

Many **local shops and businesses** will be planning to open late with hospitality and special features.

<http://www.ickenhamfestival.org.uk/feature.IFCN.htm>

June Reyner

ADVANCE NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please note that the next Annual General Meeting will be held at Ickenham Village Hall on

Friday, 17th April 2020 at 8pm

In accordance with Rule 15 of the constitution, members are reminded that any item which they wish to be considered for inclusion in the Agenda, should be submitted in writing, with the names and addresses of the proposer and seconder to the General Secretary, Mrs. June Reyner, 6 The Chase, Ickenham, Uxbridge UB10 8SR, by Friday 21st February 2020.

More details of the evening, the full Agenda and Minutes of the 2019 AGM will be included in our next regular newsletter, due for circulation in early March 2020.



The Officers and the Committee of the Ickenham Residents' Association would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the last year and wish you and your families a

Happy Christmas and a healthy, safe and peaceful New Year.