

Ickenham Calling



The Newsletter of the *Ickenham Residents' Association* Winter 2020

Affiliated to the Hillingdon Alliance of Residents' Associations.

Member of London, Herts. & Middx. Wildlife Trust, and London Green Belt Council.

Ickenham Residents' Association

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CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Well done everyone for keeping the "spirit of Ickenham" alive during this second lockdown.

We are saddened to learn that Ray Puddifoot is stepping down as leader of the Council next year, though he will carry on as our Ward Councillor until the next elections in 2022. He has done so much for LBH over the years and has been a great supporter of Ickenham during his tenure.

The future of the Master Brewer site at Hillingdon Circus remains in doubt at the time of writing. Earlier this year, following the Council's refusal of an application for 514 flats in blocks up to 11 stories, the Mayor of London called in the application for his own determination. The Mayor held a virtual meeting in early September and the Association spoke against the application, on behalf of our members and several other local groups. Having visited the site, the Mayor was of the view that despite the clear conflicts with both Hillingdon and London-wide planning policies restricting new tall buildings to areas where they already exist (namely Uxbridge and Hayes), the 'island' nature of the site and the length of the local social housing waiting list (thought to be around 2,000), provided sufficient justification to overlook this and other policy conflicts and grant permission.

However, on the day of the hearing, we were made aware that the Secretary of State for Housing had issued a 'holding direction' to prevent the Mayor from granting planning permission. Should the Secretary of State decide to intervene, he would step into the Mayor's shoes and take the final decision (just as the Mayor stepped into the Council's shoes). We have written to the Secretary of State asking him to do just that, as have Oak Farm and North Uxbridge RAs. The case has attracted some media attention. We have been quoted at length in the Architect's Journal and briefly in The Times, where we stated that the application was not "gentle densification" but "tower block desuburbanisation". We will keep our website updated with any news we receive.

Jill Dalton

ADVANCE NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please note that we are tentatively booking the next Annual General Meeting at Ickenham Village Hall on Friday, 16th April 2021 at 8pm.

Final confirmation of this date will be passed on to our members in early 2021 via notices in the Library, Village Hall, Dalton's Farm, Maison de Soleil.

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 26th February 2021.

Should things become more normal again in early 2021 and we will be able to hold the AGM on the above date, we would publish more details of the evening with the full Agenda (no 2020 Minutes though, since there was no AGM this year) in our next regular newsletter, due for circulation in early March 2021. However, 2019 Minutes would be available on the evening of the 16.04.21.

June Reyner

DONATIONS - THANK YOU

The Association would like to put on record our grateful thanks to those of you who sent us a donation recently to help with our costs as we are unable to collect any subscriptions this year. You are a very generous lot and it proves the point that Ickenham really is the best village.

Should anyone still wish to make a donation please send any monies to the following account

Barclays Ickenham Residents Association 20-73-53 30555886 Marking it as "2020 donation"

Thank you very much indeed in advance. If you wish a receipt please email us on ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com.

June Reyner

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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
November 2020



HS2

HS2 Phase 1 early works and their security contractors have made their mark along the route from London to Birmingham. The photos below demonstrate the destruction caused by this project, which an article worth a thousand words could not equal.



The next phase – construction – which will involve up to 550 HGV movements a day on our local roads, dumping of tunnel spoil on our fields, noise and pollution will be with us for the next 4 to 5 years.

HS2 GROUP /Ickenham Residents' Association

ICKENHAM MARSHES



It's that time of year again when I get to say that the Marshes are marshy. Annual hedge cutting has taken place recently; this stops the blackthorn and bramble from encroaching into the fields. There have been Kingfisher, Barn Owl and Hobby sightings recently, which is encouraging. Bizarrely, I spotted a Muntjac deer trotting along in the Yeading Brook! Do venture over the footbridge on the Nature Reserve - there is loads of old wood, which is good for spotting fabulous fungus at this time of year (as pictured).

Chris Mountain

ICKENHAM POND



Work is underway to restore Ickenham Pond. A Council site notice states that “many invasive species have affected the pond and it is now in need of complete restoration. The project will enhance the pond, increase biodiversity and improve the aesthetic appearance of the surrounding area .” Vegetation has been cut back regularly over the past few years, including the removal of the overhanging willows visible in the 2016 picture.

Lily, Read Mace, Iris and various grasses have thrived recently and dragon and damselflies are a common site in the summer months. But Parrot's Feather and New Zealand Pigmy Weed (likely to be the invasive species mentioned in the Council notice) have continued to spread and dominate. It is reassuring that the Council are committed to increase the biodiversity of the pond, meaning it will be retained as a nature pond, rather than as a purely ornamental feature. The clay bed has been levelled and wildflowers have been planted on the banks.

Flag Iris and Purple Loosestrife will be planted in the shallow section on the east side. The work is being carried out by AGA Group, a Thetford based Aquatic & Fluvial Engineering company.

Chris Mountain



Trevor Jaggar / Vyners Headmaster from 1959 to 1967

It is with great sadness that we have to comment on the news that Trevor Jaggar passed away on 27.09.20 at the age of 95 after a short illness, and our thoughts are with his wife, Eiry, daughter, Sian, and son, Rhys.

He was a revered headmaster with great achievements during his tenure, continued living in Ickenham and remained a great supporter of the school throughout his lifetime. Many generations of Vyners students will mourn the loss, but his name and achievements will be remembered in future after pupils had voted in 2019 for one of the two new houses recently built for Vyners to be called Jaggar House.

With deepest sympathy from the Ickenham Residents' Association Committee

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY APPEAL

Do you have some time to spare? Would you like to help your local community? We are in dire need of someone to take over as membership secretary.

The role involves attending some but not all committee meetings (2nd Wed of every month- currently conducted over Zoom) and looking after the membership team. Sorting and delivering the newsletters whenever that may be possible again and helping with any issues the Area / Road stewards may have. Should you think you could help, please contact us on ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com with a phone number so we can have a chat.

Hoping to hear from you soon. Thanks in advance.

June Reyner

PLANNING UPDATE

Between 01.08.20 and 15.11.20 we have looked at and analysed 120 Planning Applications for Ickenham, and have written 26 letters of observation or objection to the LBH.

Hanne Raeder

HEALTH MATTERS

COVID-19

There is encouraging news on the vaccination programme. Currently, results show, that the Oxford/AstraZenica Research Team's vaccine boosts immunity in older people and causes fewer side effects than for younger age groups. The US pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and Moderna have already published data that suggests that their vaccines protect people from coronavirus with a 90% success rate!

Resilience is needed with no respite in sight. Each day a new announcement is made. Each day plans could be cancelled and big life events get further away from our grasp. We are told to limit contact with others in order to limit the spread of the virus. We are cooped up in our homes without much interaction, and the real-life consequences of the pandemic, including job losses and health worries. It is understandable that people's mental health might suffer.

It is ok to have feelings. Over the last six months we have adapted and probably coped with the pandemic in a huge variety of ways; how we work, cook and socialise. With this new phase it means we have to adopt a similar plan of action, and we must remind ourselves how well we have coped so far.

In order to remain buoyant, we need to stay connected with others, and keep talking with family and friends. Look after our physical health, particularly our sleep patterns, and diet and exercise; going for a walk each day and trying to go somewhere in nature can help reduce stress levels. Try relaxation techniques, spending time on a hobby, reading, listening to music, cooking and if you are able to do some gardening. Switch off! In uncertain times checking the news is common, we're searching for answers, and we hope the news updates will provide them. But for many of us, gluing ourselves to the TV, and endlessly scrolling on social media, can only fuel our feelings of anxiety. The overload of bad news can be draining, and we may get bogged down, feeling the world will never return to how we once knew; just check one trusted news site, once in the morning and again in the evening. This way you can keep up to date with the news without being glued to a repeating cycle of doom and gloom.

Give yourself a break and take the pressure off yourself, and don't feel down, if you're not achieving big goals at the moment. Be kind to yourself, spend time in nature, and give yourself permission to recharge when you need to.

Remember your "flu jabs" and if you can, get the NHS COVID -19 App.

Wash hands; Cover Face; Make Space. Use Postcode Checker to find out the local Covid Alert Level in your area. Keep well.

David John



POLICE MATTERS

The scams come thick and fast. It is difficult to understand why the originators don't use their brainpower to think up legitimate areas of business activity. As might be expected, the current outbreak of Covid 19 has attracted the criminals. This can range from offering protective equipment that never arrives to more subtle attempts to plant malware in your computer. Be very suspicious of ads. offering cheap masks, sanitiser etc., don't click on any links to attachments or open videos on these, or something nasty could arrive in your computer.

The Government's 'Green Homes Grant' is about to be rolled out at the time of writing. As warned by Neighbourhood Watch, this is bound to attract the scammers. Be wary of doorstep callers, cold 'phone callers and e-mails on this subject. There was also a reported e-mail purporting to come from DVLA Swansea (that actually came from a Japanese address) saying that the person's records needed revising and to follow the link to complete the update. Luckily, a rat was smelt and the message promptly deleted.

There has also been a resurgence of an old scam: a phone call (automated) saying that your internet connection will be disconnected at some time today (half an hour or 3 o'clock this afternoon) unless you press 1 for details. This is a simple con, if you do, you will be connected to a very expensive premium number!

When it comes to scams by 'phone there is one simple check, if when you pick up the 'phone there is a perceptible pause before a message starts or a person starts to speak then it almost certainly a fraudulent call; just hang up, a genuine caller will try again, but even then, be suspicious.

There have been a number of thefts of high value cars in the area recently, being those fitted with keyless ignition (a daft idea). It is essential that the fob is kept in a 'Faraday cage' in the form of a metalised pouch or tin box so that it cannot be read from a distance, even when indoors.

I am very concerned that we have recently had an aggravated burglary where a team of three pushed their way into a house and threatened the occupants with violence to rob them of cash and jewellery. This occurred after dark, but people dressed as (say) workmen could well attempt it in daytime; sad to say it means that we should keep both front and back doors locked when in the house and look out of a window before opening the door. If you don't recognise the caller keep the door shut.

Finally, the dark evenings are with us so it is important to make it clear that the house is occupied by having lights on that can be seen from the street. Modern LED bulbs have come down in price (I even saw them in Poundland) and you can use them in a hall or front room at very little cost in electricity.

Vic Silk



The Officers and the Committee of the Ickenham Residents' Association take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during this last difficult pandemic year and wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and to continue to stay safe and healthy in the New Year.