

Ickenham Calling

The Newsletter of the *Ickenham Residents' Association* Summer 2024

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

Thanks so much to all who came along to support us at our recent AGM – we really appreciate that you all care as much about our village as we do.

LBH have now formally applied for planning permission to relocate the library to the Civic Centre and you can make your comments on line or write.

We are pleased to see that our council, despite allowing a flatted development in the Conservation Area and apparently setting a precedent, are not automatically approving similar proposed developments in the village.

We have another four years of Sadiq Khan as London mayor, so we'll see what that brings us in terms of housing targets and motoring costs, but the ULEZ will continue.

Jill Dalton

CENTENARY EXHIBITION

We are celebrating our Centenary this year and are holding an exhibition in the Village Hall on the first Saturday of Festival Week.

Saturday 8th June from 10:00 to 16:00

Come along and find out how the village has changed over the years

ALL ARE WELCOME - WE HOPE TO SEE YOU

CENTENARY BOOKLET

A special 24 page booklet is being prepared showing in pictures how Ickenham has changed. It will be available for purchase at the exhibition. If you would like to register your interest in a copy please email

ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com

PLANNING SUPPORT – can you help please?

A key aspect of the Association's work is reviewing the planning applications for Ickenham. At the moment we do not have anyone to help with this work, so we are unable to comment to the LBH Planning Department. Do you have an interest in the built environment and would like to help keep Ickenham a pleasant place to live? If you can spend an hour or two of your time for the benefit of your neighbours and community do please get in touch, your support would be much appreciated. Please email 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
Ian Phillips
May 2024



AGM REPORT

It was good to see so many of you in the village Hall on 26th April for the AGM in our centenary year. Yet again the hall was full. We were pleased to welcome our MP David Simmonds, Cllrs. Banerjee and Goddard as well as the chairs of our two neighbouring Resident Associations NURA and OFRA. The formal reports were all approved. Our issues with needing help with Planning were highlighted. Should we not get offers of help our ability to check and follow up on applications will be practically non-existent.

Your committee is :- President - Peter Daymond. Chair - Jill Dalton. General Secretary - June Reyner. Membership Secretaries - Pat Ingram and Janice Tranter. Treasurer - Ian Phillips. Minutes Secretary - Chris Mountain. Along with 10 Committee Members :- Brian Adams, Neena Bedi, David John, Maureen Pemberton, Richard Piper, Vic Silk, Chris Tarr & Humphrey Tizard and 3 Co-opted members:- Dave Grimshaw, Vivek Syal & Simon Taylor. That leaves us with room for 3 full committee members and 3 co-opted members.

David Simmonds addressed the meeting concluding by appreciating the Association's contributions over the many years of his involvement with Ickenham. Our chair Jill Dalton thanked him for all he has done for the village and wished him well as the village will not be in his constituency after the next general election. Cllr. Martin Goddard also addressed the meeting highlighting the financial issues facing all councils.

The meeting closed with light refreshments being provided by Vic Silk on drinks and Barbara Buckle and her team of helpers in the Kitchen. Next year's AGM date will be 25th April 2025.

June Reyner

HS2 UPDATE

Hopefully we are now in the last phases of construction impacting Ickenham. The remaining road closures for two weeks from 29 July to 11 August will be New Years Green lane, to remove the overhead conveyor, and Breakspear Road South.

We will however still be subject to large numbers of HGVs going through Ickenham. It is estimated that of the order of 10,000 HGV journeys will be needed to bring in the special materials to fill in the abutments of the bridges crossing the River Pinn and Breakspear Road South.

Tunneling is proceeding faster than scheduled and both machines have left the London Borough of Hillingdon and are now under the London Borough of Ealing (Northolt). This has required a constant delivery of concrete tunnel supports (segments); mostly by rail deliveries each night complemented by some HGV deliveries during the day. At the time of writing the rail deliveries have had to stop due to an incident in the sidings and there will be an increased number of HGVs carrying concrete segments coming through Ickenham 24 hours every day.

The tunnel spoil has been dumped in the fields between Breakspear Road South and Harvil Road. Three high mounds have been created; these will be covered in subsoil and then the topsoil replaced. This should be completed later this year.

Perhaps a major impact to some residents will be the planned HS2 road works in Ealing. There will be A40 lane closures between Alperton lane and Hanger Lane between June and November this year.

Following the completion of the construction phase, the next phase will be the systems phase. This involves track, gantries, signaling etc. We wait to see a plan for this phase and testing.

Brian Adams



LIBRARY SERVICES

Following the reconfiguration of Hillingdon libraries Robert Sisk was appointed to the post of Events and Promotions Officer for library services. This newly created role gives him the opportunity to put on more events across the borough, visit community groups and associations, promoting the services the borough's libraries offer.

Having met both Robert Sisk and Hollie King, Manager of Ickenham Library, I now understand how the two services will dovetail. Our local Library will carry on providing the well-established clubs, reading groups and activities in Ickenham; in addition we can now access many more events across the borough. The easiest way to find out about these events is to pop into Ickenham Library and check in the Hillingdon People magazine what's on section. The Culture and heritage brochure also contains information and events. If you are computer savvy, then log onto Hillingdon council's website, click on Libraries, or log into 'Discover Hillingdon website'. Robert suggests that we use social media to follow on Facebook@Hillingdon_libraries; or X@Hill_libraries or Instagram@Hillingdon_libraries.

In the first six months of this year, Robert has organised over 20 authors and speakers to visit our library spaces, giving talks on Crime, General and Historical fiction. Here are some of the authors appearing in the next quarter, Crime authors Andrea Mara, Will Dean and Shari Lapena, Historians Alison Weir & Dr Nicola Tallis, Historical fiction with Amy Jeffs and Nonfiction with journalist Tomiwa Owolade.

In the next few months, Libraries will be running awareness events around dementia, visual impairment and hearing loss. This is in addition to the regularly run visually impaired and dementia activities held in local branches. Uxbridge, Ruislip Manor, and Botwell Green libraries now offer the opportunity to borrow a blood pressure monitor for a two-week loan.

I explored the website and was impressed by the volume of information and learning opportunities. You can read newspapers for free. The Hillingdon Libraries Academy has many courses to choose from. If you do not know how to use a computer, then pop into the library and they will help you to get started.

We are very fortunate to have these services and should try to use them. If we want to maintain the services of Ickenham Library, then we should be seen to use it. Footfall, numbers of books, tapes, CDs borrowed, all get counted and are used as statistics in decision making. So, don't forget to borrow a book from Ickenham Library.

Neena Bedi

ICKENHAM NATURE RESERVES

Frays Valley - Uncertainty remains over public access routes to the Harefield Place, Frays Farm Valley and Denham Lock Wood Nature Reserves, in the wake of the Council's decision to sell the golf course. We will continue to liaise with LBH and others to argue for paths from the clubhouse and Swakeleys Roundabout to be designated as rights of way.

Ickenham Marshes - Yes, the cows will be back on the northern compound of the nature reserve this year, as well as at several other nature reserves around the area. Look out for the signs!

BALSAM BASHING - SATURDAY 8 JUNE, 10.30 - 13.00

During the Ickenham Festival why not join the London Wildlife Trust and local volunteers to whack and uproot the invasive weed Himalayan Balsam along the banks of the Yeading Brook, where it is preventing native species from growing. Please wear sturdy footwear, trousers and long sleeves. Meet at the Ickenham Marsh Nature Reserve, just down the track from the junction of Glebe Avenue & Austin's Lane.
There will be signage if you are a first time visitor!



HEALTH MATTERS

The NHS has decided to declare that sex is a biological fact. This is a welcome outbreak of common sense about the blindingly obvious about sex. Campaigners for women's rights welcomed the move as long overdue. The government is also insisting that the NHS should finally provide hospital wards solely for women, i.e. the right to accommodation that is only shared by those of their biological sex. This follows pledges from ministers to stop NHS Trusts using such terms as "chest feeding" and "people who give birth." Perhaps the tide of gender militancy is being pushed back.

The NHS constitution is updated every 10 years, and aims to set out the principles and values of the NHS, and the legal rights for patients and staff. The updates to the constitution will include a duty of care to help patients get back to work and to embed "Martha's Rule" into the framework of the health service. This gives families the right to access a rapid review from an outside team, if a patient is deteriorating without intervention from medical services. The pledge is named after 13 year old Martha Mills. She died after signs of sepsis were missed by medics and they failed to heed warnings from her parents that their daughter's condition was getting worse.

Dr Hilary Cass, a pediatrician, has recently submitted a report and recommendations to NHS England in her role as Chair of the Independent Review of Gender Identity Services. She found there is remarkably weak evidence to support gender treatments for children. With this evidence, NHS England will seek to pause first appointments at adult clinics for teenagers under 18, and intends to carry out a major review of its adult's gender treatments for children.

David John

POLICE MATTERS



The main effort by the scamming community and other criminal groups of late has been aimed at car drivers. Theft of high-value cars is a major problem, sometimes to break up for spares. Extra precautions need to be taken, such as a steering lock or a tracking device hidden in the bodywork. At the time of writing a stolen vehicle was recovered because the owner had left a switched-on mobile phone in the boot, whose signal was tracked to the location where it was parked. Best of all put the vehicle away in a locked garage overnight as most thefts occur between midnight and 3 a.m.

Be suspicious in car parks. If you pay by smart phone, look carefully at the QR Code. Instances have occurred where a fake code has been stuck over the genuine one, which would direct any payment into the crook's account. If it looks doubtful, use a different payment method. A really cheeky scam, recently reported, involved two men, in a hospital car park, wearing authentic-looking security guard uniforms, saying that the machine was broken and they were there to collect payments. Cash went straight into their pockets and what seemed to be a portable card reader actually collected the full card details that they could use later to raid the accounts.

Very recently, a disabled lady, with a blue badge, parked on a single yellow line in Yiewsley was approached by two men in uniform and told she had committed a crime and would be fined. They produced a card reader and asked for her PIN. Several fake entries were found on her account soon after. If this pair should pop up in a car park that you use, I suggest that you say to them "this is unusual, you won't mind if I just call the police to verify, will you?" The response should be interesting!

If you wish to consult the police, on a non-urgent matter of concern, our local team is holding a 'surgery' in Ickenham library, between 12 noon and 1 p.m. each Tuesday. However, this is subject to them not being called away to an emergency.

Finally, by the time you read this, warmer weather will have arrived. If you are going out please make sure all casement windows are secured; even upstairs ones are vulnerable to fake workmen or those pretending to be window cleaners.

Vic. Silk