

Ickenham Calling

The Newsletter of the *Ickenham Residents' Association* Summer 2026

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

Ickenham Residents' Association:

E-Mail Address
WebSite

ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com
www.ickenhamresidents.co.uk



CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

I can see in my February Comments that we were hoping for the rain to desist and for some warmer weather – and now we've broken the May record for heat and we're all praying for some rain to halt the disaster that our gardens are fast becoming! Last year we beekeepers thought that the blackberry flowers were peaking so early in July – and now they're just about out before then end of May. The bees will be happy but it is a concern.

I think everyone is aware of the dire financial predicament that our Local Council have found themselves in, to the extent of having to borrow £150 million in Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from Central Government – to be repaid over several years. This emergency loan and bailout was authorized to avoid bankruptcy and balance the council's budget, supplementing routine, historic external borrowing that sat around £231 million in prior years.

Hillingdon says its new Audit, Finance and Performance Committee strengthens scrutiny. However residents are concerned that fewer councillors, fewer opposition voices and fewer committees will now be able to challenge the numbers. A petition has been raised by the Hillingdon Alliance of Residents Associations to try to ensure that there will be proper scrutiny of Council finances in future.

Our HS2 article sets out the latest on the blighted disaster that is HS2, with the Transport Secretary telling us that the much-reduced line just from London to Birmingham could cost up to £102.7bn and may not open until 2039. Contrast this with the rail line from London to York - the original continuous train line from London King's Cross to York was assembled by the Great Northern Railway over a period of about **three years**, officially opening to passengers in **1849!**

Jill Dalton



END OF AN ERA

At our AGM on 24th April Pete Daymond stood down from his post as President of the Association and from his membership of our committee. Pete had been a member of the committee for over 30 years seeing the Association through many campaigns and changes. These range from the likes of Warners Bros, Tesco and the proposed developments at Hillingdon Circus to going from a paper and phone based system to online communication and documentation. Pete was unstinting in his support in keeping Ickenham a special place to live.

We were pleased to welcome our current mayor (and one of our former Councillors) Phillip Corthorne to the AGM who gave a personal tribute to Pete. We also received a tribute, which was read out by Humphrey Tizard, from Sir Ray Puddifoot who sadly was unable to attend. As a token of our appreciation, Pete was presented with a rose bush by our incoming president Humphrey Tizard and Councillor Corthorne presented a bouquet of flowers to Pete's wife Vanetta. Pete then addressed the meeting detailing how he got involved in the association's affairs and some of the issues he had been involved in. He said it had been his pleasure to serve on the committee in his various capacities.

We wish them both good health and a slightly more relaxing time in the years ahead.

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 2026



AGM REPORT

The AGM took place on Friday 24th April 2026 in the Village Hall. There was, as usual, a very good turnout – not many empty seats! As reported elsewhere in this edition the meeting saw Pete Daymond stand down as president and from the committee. We were pleased to welcome our MP Danny Beales and our mayor Philip Corthorne. Jill Dalton paid tribute to Richard Piper who sadly passed away not long before the meeting. He will be greatly missed.

All matters put to the attendees were approved and the following were elected to serve on the committee for another year. President - Humphrey Tizard. Chair - Jill Dalton. Treasurer - Ian Philips. General Secretary - June Reyner. Minutes Secretary - Chris Mountain. Membership Secretary - Janice Tranter. (Pat Ingram is moving away and we need to find a replacement urgently). Committee members: Brian Adams, Neena Bedi, Thomas Diamantis, Lucia Jarrett, David John, Maureen Pemberton, Chris Tarr, Vic Silk. Co-opted Dave Grimshaw & Vivek Syal. Our chair pointed out that we have space for new members to join the committee and invited anyone interested to speak to a committee member after the formal meeting closed.

Danny Beale addressed the meeting covering several topics of interest including HS2, HOAC and Colne Valley Regional Park as well as highlighting the changes to NHS provision with the planned new Hillingdon Hospital and the moving of cancer services from Mount Vernon to Watford General.

The meeting closed with light refreshments being served, These were organized by Barbara Buckle and her Team in the kitchen with Vic Silk and David John dispensing the drinks.

June Reyner



HS2 RESET

In 2013 the Association as part of the Hillingdon Stop HS2 group responded to a government consultation with 60 pages of the impact on our area....the message waswrong route, wrong business case and wrong project.

You may have seen that the Government has recently announced HS2's updated cost and revised timings as to when trains will be running. Briefly put the railway will take longer to build and cost more than was expected, well there's a surprise!

The intention is to reduce the maximum line speed from 360 kph to 320 kph and use the European Train Control System (ETCS), instead of inventing a new system, thereby bringing HS2 in line with European high-speed operating standards. As of March 2026, £44.2bn has been spent on the programme. The new cost range is from £87.7 to £102.7 billion at 2025 prices, which is about double the price range set previously and of courses does not serve Manchester and Leeds as originally announced. Initial services between Old Oak Common, in west London, and Birmingham will start between May 2036 and October 2039, up to 6 years later than the most recent official target of 2033. The scheme as it stands, including south into Euston and north onto Handsacre Junction, is expected to open between May 2040 and December 2043.

It is now accepted there has been a "litany of failure" in managing HS2. The new cost range, delayed start and lower train speed were announced as a "reset" of the delayed, over-budget and vastly scaled-back project. As a further complication the original trains ordered have to be changed as they will now need to operate on both the new high speed tracks and existing tracks.

As far as our area is concerned most of the civil works i.e. tunnels, viaducts etc has finished. The focus now is on the mechanical, electrical and plumbing work, which is expected to continue over the next three to four years. The rail systems contractors are planned to start on-site in 2030.

If you have any questions, you can contact the contractor (SCS) at communities@scsrailways.co.uk, or the HS2 helpdesk on 08081 434 434 or via email at HS2Enquiries@hs2.org.uk.

Brian Adams



HAVE YOUR SAY ON ICKENHAM'S ROADS & PAVEMENTS!

As residents of Ickenham, we all want our local streets, footpaths, and public spaces to be safe, accessible, and well-maintained. While local authorities manage our public infrastructure, our Ickenham Residents' Association plays a vital role in collating community concerns and advocating for the necessary repairs and improvements.

To help us represent you effectively, we want to hear from you! We are asking all members to share their queries, questions, or suggestions regarding our local highway maintainable assets.

What Counts as a Highway Asset?

When you are out and about in the neighbourhood, let us know if you spot issues regarding:

Roads and Pavements: Potholes, uneven footways, cracking, or trip hazards.

Street Lighting: Timers out of sync, broken lamps, or areas that feel unsafely dim.

Traffic Signs and Markings: Faded road markings (like zebra crossings or give-way lines), obscured speed limit signs, or damaged street name plates.

Drainage and Gullies: Blocked drains that cause localized flooding or ponding water when it rains.

Street Furniture: Damaged public benches, leaning bollards, or pedestrian guardrails.

How to Share Your Feedback

Please drop us an email at ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com with the subject line "*Highway Maintenance Feedback.*" Please try to include: the exact location (street name and nearby house number or landmark) with a brief description of the issue or your suggestion. A photo, if safe and practical to take one, would be helpful too. Thank you for helping us keep Ickenham a safe and beautiful place to live!

Thomas Diamantis



CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

We are looking for a Membership Secretary and need an Area Steward for Swakeleys Road as well as Road Stewards in the area around Hoylake Crescent and south of Swakeleys Road. Without more volunteers we will really struggle to deliver everyone's newsletter.

We are always glad to have volunteers join our Steward Teams, so if you are able to help anywhere in the village and would like to know more of what is involved, please get in touch at ickenhamresidents@hotmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you!

June Reyner

LOCAL ELECTIONS UPDATE

Such goings on with our local Council, both before and since the elections. The Council Leader stood down immediately before the elections, to be replaced by Steve Tuckwell, who was MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip 2023-2024.

Our three Councillors for Ickenham and South Harefield, elected earlier in May, are Kaushik Banerjee, Eddie Lavery and Jane Palmer. Within a few days of the elections, Councillor Banerjee resigned the Conservative whip, left the Conservative Group and now stands as an Independent Councillor. He has released a statement to residents explaining his actions.

Councillor Jane Palmer has advised that she will hold surgeries in Ickenham Library. These started on 30 May 10 am to noon – her future dates will be shared when available.

Jill Dalton



HEALTH MATTERS

I have long been a supporter of the NHS App; I have found it especially useful in ordering repeat prescriptions and gaining access to the latest test results. The NHS App is undergoing a significant overhaul through 2026 to act as a “front door” to healthcare, offering improved navigation, a new home screen, and enhanced access to records.

The Key 2026 overhaul features and changes are:

1. New design and navigation; A redesigned home screen consolidates services into clearer categories, including prescriptions, appointments, test results, and vaccinations.
2. Single patient records; Aiming to bring together health & social care.
3. Enhanced bookings; Users can book specific appointment times, and new “ask about health” problems.
4. Improving logging in: Using finger/face for easier access.
5. Specialist referrals by 2027; The App will support bookings, treating, and managing referrals through a virtual “NHS Online hospital”.

The overhaul is intended to make healthcare management as straightforward as online shopping, while helping to reduce health inequalities. However, concerns remain about digital inclusion for older people and disadvantaged groups. Some problems have occurred where it has been reported the NHS is telling patients that they have serious conditions via its App or over the phone. Patients are discovering they have chronic and life-limiting conditions, including cancer and Parkinson's disease, online or by video and phone calls. This is unacceptable; where is the empathy, compassion and constructive disclosure that patients can get by a face-to-face consultation, with a health care professional!

David John



POLICE MATTERS

Richard Mascarenhas who has been our local Police Community Support Officer is to become a Constable within the Met. Police and will be leaving us soon; so we wish him the very best on his new appointment, which was well deserved. We will update you with news on a replacement once we know.

Our residential burglary crime figures for the first 3 months of this year have been remarkably good, with hardly any reported crimes. I will not say zero crimes because the crime figures do vary for reasons that are unclear but regardless they do show a very healthy situation. Adjoining wards do not have such good figures: so well done to everyone involved in keeping burglary crime low, including our own Neighbourhood Watch and the Police.

The statistics on car crime are not so healthy. Please do not leave anything of value in your car to prevent it being stolen. One of the simplest and most effective ways to improve your car's security is to fit a steering wheel lock. In addition conceal your car keys to prevent their theft or their signal being traced. Use a Faraday pouch to block the car key signals from being accessible to thieves. In addition, car crime is far too high throughout the Borough, so please do what you can to stop the theft of your car or of its contents.

Chris Tarr

ICKENHAM FARMS & MILTON COURT

In the last edition, I asked for information and memories about old local farms. The following information comes from the Association's archive. Milton farm was situated on the site now occupied by Milton Court and Milton Road. William Crozier purchased the farm from John Carwithain in 1685 and it became part of the Swakeleys Estate in 1816. The Milton family were tenants of the farm for many years in Victorian times. The tenant farmer bought the farm when the Swakeleys Estate was sold in 1923 and continued to operate for some years, with depleted amounts of land. By 1937, Ralph Pots Guy had acquired it together with Tipper Farm and Ickenham Hall. The farm, with its pond and listed barn, was demolished in 1939 during the development of Ickenham Garden City: the promoters name for Milton Court. Most of the houses in Milton court were built after World War 2.

Chris Mountain