

The Community Magazine for the  
Sudbury Court and Pebworth Estates

June  
2017

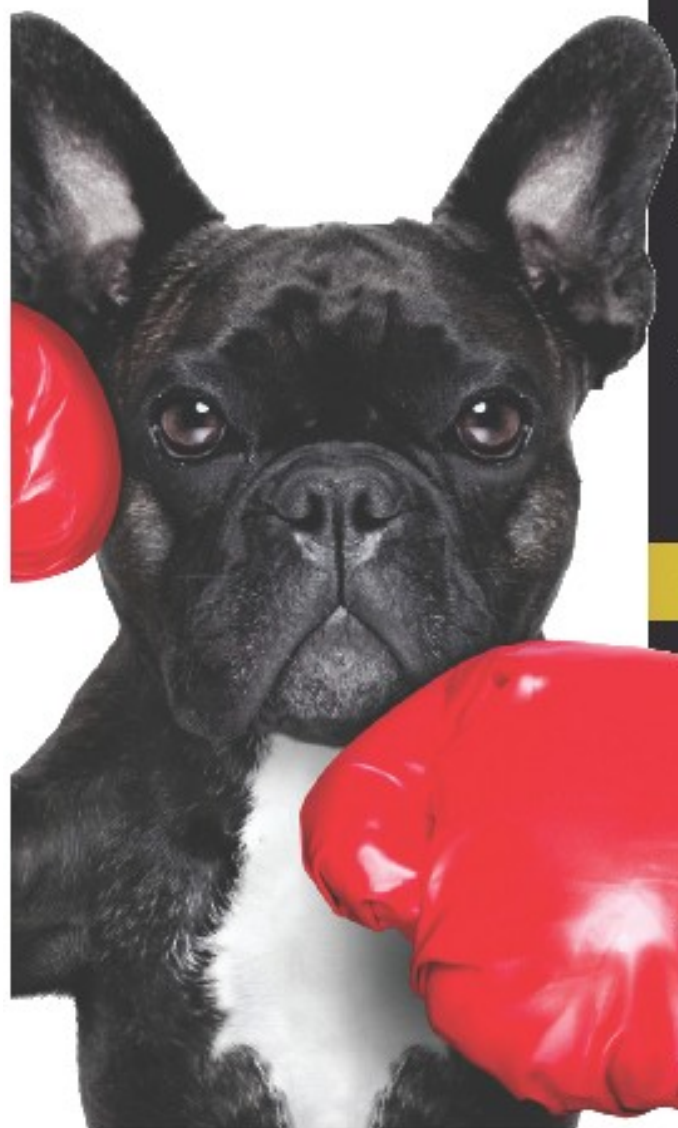
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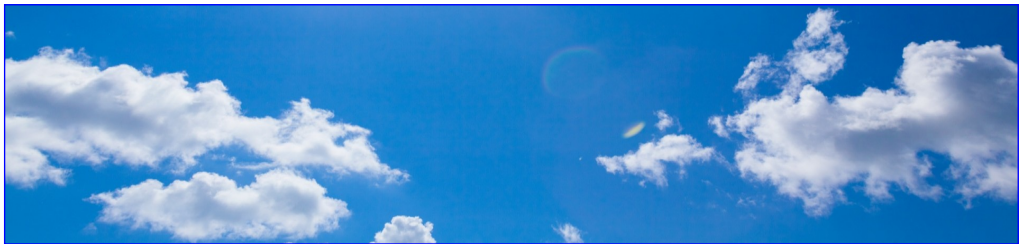
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# SCRA NEWS

Notes from the  
Association Committee



Dear Neighbours,

It's definitely getting warmer, but still a little grey out there, as I write this—hoping for more blue skies.

We had our AGM a couple of weeks ago, which was well attended, good to see so many—we'll report fully next month, and introduce our new committee members.

Our new website is up and running, please do take a look. [www.the-scra.co.uk](http://www.the-scra.co.uk) You will see that the content is basically the same as before. As our volunteers get the time—and once we've heard from you, the content will be updated. We would like to reflect what would be most useful to you—so please do let us know (see page 18)

We have the details of this year's Senior's outing on page 20. This year, it will be off to Brighton on the 2nd August—for those of you who have been on the annual day trip before, you will know how popular they are—so please do get your booking in early, to avoid disappointment.

The most up to date information we have on One Public Estate is in Cllr Perrin's Comments on page 8—those of you who came to the AGM will note that most present were against any proposals that would encroach on our Open Space—we will be keeping an eye on this. If you have any comments to add, please do get in touch.

It was heartening that Local Residents had a win against Harrow School with regards to the moving of public footpaths—see page 21. See what happens when people work together!

Until next time, *Kaye*

# Northwick Park Safer Neighbourhood Team

020 8721 2969 Mobile: 07920 233 752 (Please leave a message)

Email: Northwickpark.snt@met.police.uk

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To report a crime and for non-emergencies dial **101**.

For Crimestoppers dial **0800 555 111**.

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## • **FLY TIPPING AND LITTER:**

On 10/05/2017 a large fly tipping occurred in Aspen Drive, Elms Lane – part of Northwick Park patch. PC KENNEDY liaising with the council has conducted an investigation and found that the waste that was fly tipped there had been picked up earlier in the day from an address in Alperton:

A white male mid-late 30s/early 40s, 25+ stone, with an Irish accent, had called at the address in Alperton earlier in the day in a white Ford Transit, asked if the resident wanted waste collected, a price of £60 was agreed by the resident and this cold calling "waste collector" – the resident didn't ask to see any waste carriage licence, he took at face value that this male was going to deposit his waste correctly. Surprise, surprise this waste was fly tipped!

This resident may be prosecuted by Brent Council for not taking adequate steps to ensure that the waste was deposited correctly. If you wish to have a large amount of waste deposited of, you must take all possible measures to ensure disposal of the waste to the recycling centre.

Residents should dispose of all waste correctly, and keep their area clean. If I (PC KENNEDY) find anyone fly tipping or depositing litter on the pavement I will ensure that they are prosecuted.

Your team is working with the council to reduce fly tipping and litter on the patch. Byron Road and Peel Road are the areas where it is particularly bad, we are endeavouring to tackle this.

## • **COLD CALLER ALERT:**

Cold calling is the term given to a stranger who calls at your address unexpectedly, tout-ing for work. or claiming to be from a company/agency. A stranger can also cold call you on the telephone. Cold calling in person or over the telephone must always be treated with caution.

**Cold calling in person:** do not under any circumstance allow a cold caller into your home. I would urge you not to engage with cold callers. If you want your garden tended to, or your driveway jet washed, or your roof repaired, or whatever – make enquiries to get someone who lives locally to do the work. If you speak to your neighbours and make enquiries you should be able to find someone.

**Cold calling over the telephone:** likewise if someone you don't know calls you on the telephone out of the blue, saying that they are from your bank or the police or someone else (gas/electricity company) then please treat them with the utmost caution.

Take a note of the caller, their identity number, and their phone number or extension number. Then look up a number for their body or company in the directory or internet and then ring back on this number requesting to speak to the person in order to confirm identity.

If anyone is trying to scare you into giving money or divulging your bank details DO NOT! They are probably trying to obtain your bank details to scam you!

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## **RED ALERT – “GAS BOARD” COLD CALLERS!**

• In a nearby area to Northwick Park an elderly woman had men calling at her address claiming to be from the “Gas Board” stating that there was a leak and they needed urgent access to her house. Fortunately, a vigilant neighbour intervened and chased these men away before they managed to take anything from her house.

In South Brent recently, there have been men burgling elderly residents’ addresses by pretending to be from the council and demanding access to inspect their house.

Particularly, if you are elderly do not open your door to anyone you don’t know – speak to them through the window and try to confirm their details. Ring the police if you doubt the genuineness of any person claiming to be from the police, or the council or a utility company.

## **Bottom line, DO NOT ENGAGE WITH COLD CALLERS.**

Over the past year, I have met burglars, fraudsters and wanted persons who have been cold calling in the Northwick Park area. I cannot emphasise how important it is not to get them to do any work for you, or enter into any agreement or arrangement with any cold caller. Please let me know if you see cold callers in the area and any leaflets that they have given to you or information you have about cold callers including vehicles registrations if you have seen or noticed any.

## **OTHER SCAMS OCCURRING AROUND THE AREA:**

An elderly Asian woman was approached by veiled woman (dark skinned European looking, 40s) with limited English who claimed that her mother was in hospital and wanted directions to the hospital. The veiled woman who was crying and very animated put her hands on the elderly woman claiming to be in distress and then tried to remove jewellery that the Asian woman was wearing. This scam is quite common in Summer time and the targeted victims tend to be elderly Asian women wearing gold jewellery. They are approached very closely by a distressed woman with a headscarf claiming their

mother is in hospital and then begin to touch the victim pretending that they need consoling – whilst touching the victim they manage to get off necklaces and bracelets. These scammers put on a show that is Oscar winning but keep them away from you, and don’t let them approach you. If you know of any elderly persons make them aware of this scam. Elderly residents in the Northwick Park area have been victim of this in the past – one victim being approached near Oldborough Road and the other victim on the Watford Road.

## **BURGLARS IN THE AREA:**

A number of residents have reported white males in their 20s knocking at their address during the day and when the occupier answers they door they claim to be looking for work or that they have got the wrong address. It might be if someone does this that they are checking to see if someone is in the house – this is a common ploy to check to see if someone is in.

There is no hard and fast rule to know when someone is checking to see in your house is occupied. If you have had someone call at your address in the manner described above, then look out your window to see where they go or what they are doing. Ring police if you believe that they are up to no good. Ring on 101.

Some months ago, a resident in Langham Gardens, didn’t answer her doorbell but looked out the window and then saw a male looking over her gate into her back garden. He then went away when he saw her looking at him. This male was clearly up to no good. Ring us immediately if you believe that someone is checking out your house to burgle it.

\*\*\*\*In Summertime, residents need to be extra vigilant with leaving windows open. Do not leave a window open on the ground floor of your house unless you are awake and in the ground floor of your house. At nighttime, do not leave any windows open on the ground floor if you are asleep upstairs, even upstairs please only leave windows open with security restrictors on them i.e to prevent them from opening the window wide and gaining access. If you have an alarm ensure you set it at nighttime even if you are in the house\*\*\*\*

Overview of location of offences from period 13<sup>th</sup> April to 13<sup>th</sup> May (date of writing this article):

2 *Residential Burglaries*: Rushout Ave. (20/4 1800hrs – 21/4 – 1200hrs) rear ground floor window forced, tools stolen; Pasture Close (4/5 1200hrs – 6/5 1800hrs) rear kitchen window forced.

2 *Attempted residential Burglaries*: Sudbury Hill Close (13/4 at 0300hrs) rear window, suspect disturbed; Carlton Avenue West (17/4 – 2230hrs) white male early 20s came in via front door, suspect disturbed made off when occupier heard noises.

2 Theft from motor vehicle: Shelly Gardens (5/4 0001hrs – 06/4 0600hrs) diesel stolen from a vehicle; Carlton Avenue West (16/4 2250hrs) entry gained to car no damage, property stolen

Your team would welcome any information on anti social behaviour or criminal offences

that are occurring in the area - please feel free to contact us on 0208 721 29 69 or email: NorthwickPark.snt@met.police.uk

#### **Useful numbers:**

Dial 999 in the case of an emergency, where a crime is in progress or where life is in danger.

or non-emergencies, ring 101

To give information anonymously call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

#### **Useful websites:**

The website sites below have a whole host of useful information from crime prevention to crime statistics to Identity theft!

[www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk)

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

[www.cifas.org.uk](http://www.cifas.org.uk)

[www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

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# Councillor's Comments

**Cllr Keith Perrin - Northwick Park Ward**

Email: [cllr.keith.perrin@brent.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.keith.perrin@brent.gov.uk)

**Noise from Building Works** - Many properties have been having building work carried out during non permitted hours. **Section 60 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974** stipulates that construction and demolition works and ancillary operations which are audible at the site boundary shall only be carried out between the hours of:

**Monday to Fridays 08:00 to 18:00**

**Saturday 08:00 to 13:00**

**At no time on Sundays or Bank Holidays**

Failure to comply with the above without good reason may result in a legal notice being served upon the person/company responsible. The notice will formally impose the above restrictions. In exceptional circumstances (for example, in the case of an emergency), the person responsible should contact the Nuisance Control Team as soon as possible. Failure to comply with the terms of the notice may result in prosecution and on summary conviction; the person/company responsible will be liable to an unlimited fine.

**Telephone:** (020) 8937 5252

**Email:** [ens.noiseteam@brent.gov.uk](mailto:ens.noiseteam@brent.gov.uk)

**Cleaner Brent App** - I noticed recently that the Cleaner Brent App hasn't been working very well in that fly tips etc were not being cleared. The reason for this is that the GPS locating to addresses isn't working very well. We will update as and when this is fixed.

**Dropped Kerb Policy** - I have noticed a lot of newly paved front gardens without dropped kerbs or drainage and thought I should remind everyone of the current policy -and that crossing the pavement without a dropped kerb is not allowed and can damage the utilities below the pavements.

The forecourt area must be of permeable construction; if not, planning permission will be required for non permeable areas greater than 5 square metres.

The application must comply with the soft landscaping requirements of 50% or 30% depending on the size of the frontage.

Adequate drainage must be provided to prevent surface water from spilling from the frontage onto the highway.

A wall, fence, hedge or permanent

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landscaping must be provided along the frontage not served by the crossing to within **600mm from the edge of the crossover** (which includes the taper length).

Vehicles parked on your frontage must not overhang the footway.

#### **Parking on Pavements and Drop Kerbs -**

This practise continues and is illegal and also makes crossing our roads difficult for pedestrians due to the resultant poor visibility. It also makes life impossible for wheelchair users and parents with babies in buggies or prams. This is why we have Zig-Zags on our Pedestrian Crossings. Please do not park on the pavements; as well as being illegal and dangerous, it risks damaging the utilities below the un-strengthened pavements.

**More about One Public Estate (OPE)** - The following information below has been extracted from a Government Document published February 2017 called **OPE 2017 Unlocking the value of public sector assets**. Although I have added some emphases, the text is taken from the document, which can be found on the web.

**“Case study 10 Collaborative Regeneration - London Borough of Brent, Northwick Park.**

*The challenge: To bring together four land-owning public sector organisations, and work with other stakeholders to rationalise services and resources, unlock development land, reduce running costs, create jobs,*

*homes, and revenue streams, and make Northwick Park a landmark destination.*

*The four partners, the London Borough of Brent, London North West Healthcare NHS Trust, the University of Westminster and Network Homes Ltd all own land adjacent to each other. They are very different organisations, with different aims, governance structures and priorities. However, common themes unite them: residential accommodation requirements, reduction of running costs, increased efficiencies, opportunities for shared teaching accommodation, ground maintenance and facilities management, maximising land values, improving infrastructure, dealing with parking, provision of leisure facilities, etc.*

*The site has evolved in a largely piecemeal way over the years, with little interaction between the organisations. The site has enormous potential, but is essentially landlocked, with limited road access and a series of uncoordinated unattractive footpaths, and the park is isolated.*

*The vision: The vision of the four partners is to create a ground breaking development that complements the park and outer London setting, providing new homes in a currently land locked setting.*

*The project will bring in other stakeholders, such as Transport for London, Network Rail, London Borough of Harrow, Greater London Authority, with the aim of not being*

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constrained by physical boundaries of the site.

*The vision is to:*

- bring about the anticipated delivery of over 500 new homes
- celebrate the park and integrate it with its surroundings
- develop new homes of the highest quality
- bring in increased revenue
- create employment and skills opportunities
- replace inadequate infrastructure
- maximise land values
- drive down operating costs
- make Northwick Park a destination of choice.

**The actions:** The Partnership is in its infancy and has concentrated on firming up its governance and project management arrangements. Individual and common outcomes have been agreed, property assets are being mapped out, and briefs for the main consultants are being drafted.



Northwick Park, artist's impression

**The outcomes:** Ultimate potential outcomes of the project include:

- creation of over 500 new mixed tenure, high quality homes
- generation of capital or revenue receipts
- better service delivery
- integrated services and facilities, such as parking, and joint use of teaching facilities
- new vehicular, public transport and pedestrian routes on the site
- joint sports and social facilities
- introduction of revenue generating commercial enterprises
- creation of a new energy centre serving the development, and selling surplus energy back to the grid
- step free access and enhanced entrance to two tube stations
- revenue savings
- social benefits
- stimulating economic growth by place making and an integrated master plan design
- catalyst for private sector investment in the area.

**The next steps:** There is still much work to do:

- a communications strategy is to be developed to ensure clear messages are being delivered and the vision is shared
- scoping documents are to be prepared and consultants selected to develop the feasibility work and establish a business case and develop proposals for service redesign.

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*It is anticipated that this work will be used to inform transformational improvements to other hospital sites within the borough."*

### **What do you think?**

***Below is what I have just extracted from the Brent Cabinet Papers for 25th May.***

#### **"Project overview**

*The Project is intended to deliver the outputs set out in Brent's One Public Estate Phase 4 delivery plan, July 2016, relating to Northwick Park. It demonstrates the Partners' commitment to collaboration and innovation in the delivery of public services in Northwick Park.*

#### **The Key Objectives**

*The aim of the Project in general terms is to work together to rationalise services and resources between the Partners and Associate Partners (see below), and unlock development land to facilitate hospital redevelopment, new homes and improved services for the community. Common visions for partners;*

*Place making*

*Central hub(s)*

*Improved infrastructure (road network and Highways, cycle ways etc.), and transport connections, (Underground, over-ground rail and busses), and private!!*

*Utility and boundary review.*

*Energy strategy*

*Shared facilities and services.*

***The specific aim of Project is to:***

*to generate capital receipts.*

*to reduce running costs*

*to create jobs,*

*to create homes,*

*to integrate services*

*These aims are referenced in Brent's July 2016 Phase Four OPE MOU*

***Key objectives for Brent are;***

*More affordable homes*

*More school places*

*Growth*

*Increased revenue from homes and businesses*

*Employment and skills opportunities within the Borough.*

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### **Key objectives for London Northwest Healthcare NHS Trust**

Maximise income for the Trust in order to support its deficit and sustainability plans  
Ensure accommodation requirements are met

Improve access to the hospital

Protect existing clinical services from distribution or delay (e.g. Blue light vehicles, clinical activity)

Improve civic values of the development

Address requirement to re-provide services currently on the land, whilst ensuring continuity

### **Key objectives for the University of Westminster**

Maintain and increase student satisfaction levels

Upgrade teaching spaces

Increase critical mass and create a sense of place

Create additional student accommodation

Maximise value of landholding

Create staff accommodation.

### **Key Objectives for Network Homes Ltd.**

Phased redevelopment of Northwick Park working collaboratively with other land holders to maximise the potential opportunity

Delivery of new affordable and mixed tenure housing as well as commercial uses

High quality design and place making, including the main gateway into the site from NWP tube station, serving all land holdings

Improved infrastructure and transport connections to help ensure a sustainable future

for Northwick Park residents, service providers and hospital patients

### **The Associate Partners for the Project are:**

Transport for London

London Borough of Harrow.

One Public Estate

Greater London Authority

Care and Commissioning Group

Network Rail

Other associate partners may join the project during the course of its duration if deemed mutually beneficial by the Partners."

**Finally** - It should also be appreciated that OPE is only a part of a public report on potential disposals of NHS land - initially focusing on "acute sites" (hospitals, generally speaking - though the "mental health estate" is also to be looked at next). London is seen as high value generator of capital, and indeed the report has as one of its purposes to "support" some high value London property sales. This review is by Sir Robert Naylor, and is of interest to us all as it highlights the "risks" to the programme of disposals as the planning process, affordable housing and "green belt" issues may get in the way. Some people might think that NHS land should not be viewed as a "development" opportunity but preserved to serve us in the future - since repurchasing for our growing populations is never going to get more "affordable" - but I could not possibly comment!

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# The Memory Cafe

Support for those experiencing memory problems



Hi all. Memory café is buzzing. One of the things we try to do is to have the odd speaker now and then. Or should that be speakers who are odd!

One of my favourites is the fella I call Barry the Batman - or to give him his real name Keith. Keith rescues bats and nurses them back to health. Bats are his passion and they really are beautiful little creatures. Keith organises bat walks to hunt out the little critters. I am honoured to say that we have had an appearance of Keith and his bats at memory café. He gave a talk and people were really charmed by him and the bats.

One of Keith's bats is a wonderful creature who has lost a wing and an ear. It was tough and go for the bat, but with expert veterinary care and the love of Keith the bat survived

and is now a feisty little character. I think that the wounded bat somehow sums us up at Memory Café. We carry our wounds, but we are kept going by the love of others. We may not be in tip-top condition compared to some of the shiny people around us, but we are full of character and refuse to give in to the ravages of time and trouble. I think that the wounded long-eared bat should become our Memory Café mascot. I am not sure what his name is but I would like to call him Barry.

I have a feeling that there is no other Memory Café like ours - with exercise, singing, games and tea and cakes. We make a bold statement. We will make the most of life. I invite you to come and join us - you will find hospitality and new friends. We meet on Thursday 11-1pm.

You might even bump into Barry the Bat.

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I have been thinking a lot, recently, about peace and peace-makers. The world seems a very hostile place at the moment. I have a horrible feeling that, as those who went through the last war die out, we are left with a generation who have forgotten the horrors of war. My father was scarred by the things he experienced during the war and in his National Service. So I personally know something of what conflict does.

It is a great pleasure to be the priest in this multi-ethnic parish. I really treasure the friendships I have made with people from around the world. It is an honour. I also passionately believe that the parish church is for all. We are here to be a blessing and, as long as I am the priest here, that will be our emphasis. But our community here is fragile, like any community. We cherish what we have and assert boldly that we have much in common and we all work for the common good. I

am confident and encouraged by the community here, and by the way we as a church reach out to all. I could write a book on the different people I've met here and their stories.

In the days and weeks after Easter, Christians reflect on peace. The Easter story is all about peace - that peace triumphs over horror and violence. Love wins. We are called to be people of peace; looking for reconciliation and hope, and joining with others who are also people of peace. So I thank you for being part of this place and this peaceful community. And of course you are welcome to join us during the week or on a Sunday.

You are always welcome to pop by the vicarage for a cuppa and a biscuit, although if I am on a diet I might skip the snack!



Go well.

Steve

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# A good night's sleep - part III

Last month we talked about some of the things we need to do in the day to ensure a good night's sleep. Here are the rest of them!

\* I hope your life partner feels the same as you about light in the bedroom. We have very specific requirements about light, some of us need to sleep in a bedroom which is entirely blacked out, and others need the light to regulate their sleeping cycles.

\* Consider ear plugs to stop you being woken by noise, particularly if your bedroom is near a busy road, or if your partner is a snorer or tends to wake you up coming to bed at a different time. Sadly, I find many couples sleeping apart to avoid being woken by their partner, so look for some really good ear plugs now, before losing your night time companion.

\* Devices. This is probably the most important factor which affects sleep and which people don't realise keeps them

awake. Anything which requires you to make a decision, even to read a message or respond to it, is keeping your (computer) brain switched on. Avoid mobile phones, tablets and computers for at least 2 hours before going to bed. The discipline of putting your phone away, switching it off, can start the wind-down process which gets you ready for bed. Remember, as soon as you look at your phone, you are moving your brain to a different level which then has to be switched down again in order to move into sleep mode.

\* Your bedroom is for sleeping or making love. Avoid working, eating or even watching television in bed unless you use soothing television programmes to help you wind down.

\* 2 hours before going to bed, write a list of your concerns, think about the day ahead, and consider writing a 'to do' list. Leave all those worries and tasks with the list some-

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where outside the bedroom and forget about them until the morning.

\* Should I take a sleep in the day? Most sleep guides advise us to avoid napping in the day. As someone who relishes a ten-minute catnap, or a luxurious hour at the weekend, in the middle of the day, I would recommend you make your own decision on this one. If you are truly sleep depleted a nap in the day can be a great relief providing you wake refreshed and don't sleep for more than an hour. Older people are often weary after lunch and I think benefit hugely from a lie down and a little nap. Those of us who have had to do shift work and night work will have often learned how to catnap and snatch valuable short bursts of sleep. Find out what works for you: take a nap if it helps, and avoid it if it doesn't.

Next month we will be talking about what to do when you find you can't sleep and exploring some of the treatment options.

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# Cellulite Reducing Machine Now At FCC

We are always looking to improve the range of services we offer our clients,

Recently we invested £20,000 in a state of the art machine which has a specific application for treating long standing chronic musculoskeletal conditions which have not responded to other therapies.

The machine can also provide extremely effective treatment for cellulite. And given that we have a qualified Beauty Therapist within our team at FCC we are launching a Cellulite Reduction and Body Contouring Service.

The service is called Lipotripsy and here's a little more about it.

## What is it?

Lipotripsy offers a pain-free, fast, effective, safe and clinically proven solution for dramatic inch loss results and cellulite reduction in just four weeks.

Unlike other fat busting and cellulite treatments, the advanced Lipotripsy does not 'destroy' the fat cells but instead, it causes the fat cells to become permeable, so fat leaves the body naturally through the lymphatic system.

Lipotripsy can treat the bottom, saddle bags, thighs and the back of the arms.

## How does it work?

Lipotripsy works by stimulating fat break down, collagen synthesis and lymphatic drainage. Lipotripsy

is delivered by placing a probe up against the areas of cellulite, as it passes over the area it emits radial waves through the skin.

As the radial waves pass through the skin, it activates the fat cells and increases blood flow. This in turn reduces the cellulite appearance and increases skin elasticity.

The excess, unwanted fatty acids within your fat cells then naturally passes through your lymphatic system.

## When will you see results?

Following the Lipotripsy treatment programme for the areas you wish to redefine, improvements are seen within 2-3 weeks.

## What next?

If you are interested in finding out more or booking an appointment please contact the centre.

Thanks for reading,

*Firoz*

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## Join 1300 women as they glow at St Luke's Midnight Walk

St Luke's biggest ladies night out is back with a luminous theme. Every walker will get a free light up gift to wear on the night and will be encouraged to make themselves 'glow' for the hospice's 30th birthday with UV paint and plenty of pink! For the first time, walkers will also be able to choose between a 5-mile or 9-mile route option.


Light up the streets of Harrow on Friday 30 June. The event starts with a fun warm up and entertainment from 10:30pm at Harrow Leisure Centre. Registration is £20 until 31 May and £25 thereafter. It is £35 to register on the night.

**Book your place by calling 020 8382 8112**  
or visit [www.stlukes-hospice.org/midnightwalk](http://www.stlukes-hospice.org/midnightwalk)



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# SUDBURY COURT BIRD WATCH

By Rod Lake, 24 Amery Road, Harrow HA1 3UQ

Email: lake510@btinternet.com



For those of you lucky enough to have **house sparrows** in your garden, they should be busy at their nests by now. They tend to be a little later getting started than many of our garden birds, but usually go on much later into September, sometimes having as many as four broods, each of 5 or more chicks! Gluttons for punishment!

Their chicks are more heavily dependent on juicy caterpillars and larger insects than the chicks of other garden birds. Unhappily, such food is in very short supply in the summer months due to the insecticides we humans use to keep our gardens insect free and looking good. Many nests fail because the chicks cannot survive and die of hunger.

The RSPB report, below, still records the house sparrow as the top national bird, but it is in greatly reduced numbers compared to earlier years.

Gone are the days when I had over forty sparrows in the garden at fledging time. I have seen only one in the garden this year! Depressing, isn't it?

The photo is by courtesy of *Animal Photos*.

## More tasty than worms

I sometimes put meat scraps out for the crows, who pounce on them with relish. But recently I put just a single scrap out on the grass. On this occasion I was very interested to see that a male blackbird was pulling strips off the meat and feeding it to his hungry fledgling.

I have never seen a blackbird taking meat before. But then I thought, "Why not? After all, cooked meat must be just as tasty as raw worms!"



## RSPB Garden Birdwatch

You may have seen the results of this annual national count, which are very similar to previous years regarding the most populous species.

Nationally, the top three species were **house sparrow: starling: blackbird**. Each has slightly increased in number since last

year, which is encouraging. But compared to 1979, when the RSPB Garden Birdwatch started, their numbers are down by **57%: 79%: 27%**, respectively. As I said above: depressing, isn't it?

As a matter of interest, in the Greater London results, the **woodpigeon** (not ferals) was top of the list, with a **1060%** increase since 1979. So I suppose that it's not all bad news.

## Swifts' return

Well, we are still waiting for them to return! And I have to submit my copy for *Birdwatch* today 10<sup>th</sup> May, and they are still not here!

Apart from one hearing and one sighting, both recorded by Francis, that's the lot.

We must assume that the very cold start to May has delayed the **swifts** return and hope that the weather hasn't put them off entirely.

## Recent sighting

You may remember, last month, we reported that Margaret had secured an Estate 'tick' when seeing a pair of **cormorants** flying across. I was hoping that that might get us one up over Francis for our bird watching challenge with him.

But no! He has seen one flying overhead as well! Bah!

Keep watching, folks!

Rod Lake

**This year's outing for Senior Citizens is going to BRIGHTON on 2nd August!**



**The Pavilion**

For those people who have not been to Brighton, there is a lot to see. The Royal Pavilion, which was the creation of the then Prince Regent, who later became George IV; "The Lanes", which were narrow streets of fishermen's cottages, and are now antiques, clothes and jewellery shops; a museum and art gallery housed in the former stables of the Royal Pavilion; the beach; the Palace Pier; the Volks Electric Railway; the Sea Life Centre and the Fishing Museum. More than enough to keep us occupied for a day trip!

The coach will leave Tesco's at 9.00 am. sharp, Bishops Court at 9.05 am. sharp and St Cuthbert's Church at 9.15 am. sharp, arriving back about 9.00 pm.

**COST:** Senior Citizens who are members of SCRA - £15, will be given priority.

A number of seats may be available to other adults at the full cost of £20.

Sorry! No refunds available for cancellations after 24th July.

The price includes travel by coach, entry into the raffle and gratuity to the driver. There will be a maximum of only 53 places available, so book early.

If you make a booking and you do not hear from us to the contrary, you should assume that your reservation has been accepted. If you wish to receive a confirmation of your booking, please tick the relevant box and enclose a SAE. □

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Please return this slip **WITH PAYMENT** to Mrs S. Friend, 98 Abbots Drive, HA0 3SQ,

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A sheet of paper with all the relevant details may be used if you don't wish to cut your Courier.

(\* State number or \*\* tick as appropriate) □

# Local Residents



## A WIN for Local Residents

A press release from the Open Spaces Society:

Local residents, backed by the Open Spaces Society, the Ramblers and the Harrow Hill Trust, have defeated plans by Harrow School to move two public footpaths across its sports pitches and tennis courts. The objectors fought the plans at a six-day public inquiry earlier this year. The government inspector, Ms Alison Lea, has now rejected the proposals.

The School wanted to move two public footpaths, officially known as numbers 57 and 58 which have for centuries run in direct lines across the land now forming part of its

grounds. Footpath 57 follows a north-south route between Football Lane and Pebworth Road. The School obstructed the footpath with sports pitches surrounded by fencing in 2003. For nine years, the School padlocked the gates across the path but reopened them following pressure from the objectors. The objectors had argued that Harrow Council should make the School reopen the path, as required by law, but instead the council agreed with the School to move the path around the obstructions. Footpath 58 runs in a direct line between the bottom of Football Lane and Watford Road, and the School applied to move it to a zigzag route to avoid the current configuration of its sports pitches.

Alison Lea refused the proposals principally because of the impact of the changes on public enjoyment, in particular the loss of views which the Harrow West MP, Gareth Thomas, called '**spectacular**' in his evidence to the inquiry. The paths provide direct walking routes to Harrow-on-the-Hill with its impressive church-spire, whereas the views from the diverted routes were, the inspector said, 'unexceptional'. She also considered that the School had exaggerated the benefits of the proposed diversions.

At the public inquiry, the School was represented by a QC, assisted by a junior barrister; the Council was also legally represented, but the objectors represented themselves.

Appearing as objectors at the inquiry were Kate Ashbrook of the Open Spaces Society and Ramblers, Gareth Thomas MP, Harrow Councillor Sue Anderson, Paul Catherall of the Harrow Hill Trust, Brent Councillor Keith Perrin, and local residents including Gaynor Lloyd, Christopher Eley, and John Parker.

Others submitted written objections.

Says Kate Ashbrook, general secretary of the Open Spaces Society: 'It has taken local people 14 years of strenuous campaigning against the might of Harrow School to save these footpaths, with their splendid views and sense of purpose. 'Now we shall press the Council again to ensure that Harrow School reopens the blocked footpath 57. We shall be fortified by the inspector's decision—the Council can no longer avoid taking action to resolve this mess.'

One of the objectors said: 'As long-standing residents we can testify that the footpaths pre-date much of the local built environment. They have been actively used by local people to reach St Mary's church or the many hostelryes and other interesting buildings that make up the village on the hill. It is natural to set one's eye on a destination and walk straight towards it. The proposed diversions are inconvenient and considerably longer.'

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# CALLING ALL GARDENERS

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Your local gardening club

Gardeners depend very much on the weather. The first half of 2017 has certainly given us some surprises. Whatever happened to those April showers? Instead of seasonal rain, April has delivered an enjoyable burst of warm summer sunshine – an encouragement to dust off the garden furniture.

Those balmy days have brought the roses into bloom well before their time. I do not remember roses blooming in April in earlier years. By contrast, May is proving remarkably chilly, with clouds and cold winds, but still no rain. Since all our

gardens are now gasping for a drink, plant growth has slowed and kept many buds from opening. Let us hope there will be some good specimen blooms for our **Early Summer Show on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June** when roses are especially featured. We hope to see many of you between 11am and 1pm with your entries, roses, of course, but there will be room for all kinds of other flowers and pot plants: vegetables too, summer berries, beans, potatoes, tomatoes and salad crops. There are prizes to be won! The domestic section looks especially tempting, with homemade chocolate cake, brandy snaps, biscuits, vegetable samosas, jam tarts, lemon curd or any kind of jam.

As always, we want to encourage young people. A flower arrangement for a birthday, a photograph of 'school friends', a painting or drawing of 'my home', or, for those who are welded to their computers, a computer-generated drawing or design of your own

choice. These are the youthful challenges this time. Everyone is welcome from 3.30pm to view the show, consider the judge's comments, meet with friends and enjoy tea and cakes.

Plants and flowers have universal appeal.



As tokens of celebration or sympathy we all turn to flowers for appropriate gifts. Supermarkets know how tempting flowers can be so they offer an attractive floral display at the entrance to the shop. Yet there are other ways of sharing flowers. They make wonderful subjects for

photographers, so it has become a happy habit to attach a flower picture to emails to friends. I had special pleasure receiving from a friend this picture of clematis, 'Guernsey Creams' blooming in the third week of April. They celebrate success in a shared endeavour which we hope will benefit our whole community.

Many of us are looking forward to the SCHS coach outing to **Beth Chatto's garden near Colchester on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June**. The garden is likely to be busy that day. There are facilities for eating picnics in the car park area but I am advised that it would be helpful to know how many visitors wish to have lunch and tea there. If you have not yet paid for your seat, it is time to let me have your £25 fare. As gardeners cope with drought in early May the dry garden that Beth created will surely be an inspiration to us all.

Margaret Roake



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- \* Stalls for four legged and two legged visitors
- \* The chance to win some amazing prizes in our raffle



This summer we are bring you a dog show with a difference! Not only is there an exciting mix of stalls, activities and entertainment, but all funds raised go towards helping cats and dogs in need. It is the perfect event for dog owners and dog lovers alike! This year, we are in partnership with Hampstead Heath's Give It A Go festival so it is sure to be the biggest one yet!

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## TITUS BARHAM TEA PARTY CELEBRATIONS—Your chance to WIN



Titus Barham's Tea Rooms were very fashionable in the early 1900s.

To celebrate his legacy, one of the events that we'll be holding over the coming months will be a very special Tea Party on Saturday 8th July at 3pm. There will be a place for 37 lucky guests.

To give everyone a fair chance to enjoy this Celebration Event the lucky 37 will be drawn out of a hat. To be in with a chance you just need to purchase a £1 raffle ticket.

Tickets are available from the Barham Community Library or Paul Lorber on 07917094239. You can 'improve' your luck by buying as many tickets as you like.

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Current opening hours:

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We are planning to expand opening hours  
and start new activities soon.

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# Kids' Page



Hello Kids -  
How are you all?  
Please email me your best jokes and riddles  
- [preeyaathecourier@hotmail.com](mailto:preeyaathecourier@hotmail.com)

## Jokes

What do you get when you cross a snowman  
with a vampire?  
Frostbite.

What is the best day to go to the beach?  
Sunday, of course!

What bow can't be tied?  
A rainbow!

What season is it when you are on a trampo-  
line?  
Spring time.

Where did the computer go to dance?  
To a disc-o.

What has one head, one foot and four legs?  
A Bed

What is the difference between a school  
teacher and a train?  
The teacher says spit your gum out and the  
train says "chew chew chew".

Did you hear the joke about the roof?  
Never mind, it's over your head!

What is brown and has a head and a tail but  
no legs?  
A penny.

Why didn't the skeleton go to the dance?  
Because he had no-body to go with.

## Riddles

What 5-letter word becomes shorter when  
you add two letters to it?  
Short

Imagine you're in a room that is filling with  
water. There are no windows or doors. How  
do you get out?  
Stop imagining.

The more you take, the more you leave be-  
hind. What are they?  
Footprints.

What two keys can't open any door?  
A munkey and a donkey.

Did you spot the deliberate spelling mistake?  
'munkey' should be monkey





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**SUDBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE**—will be holding the annual Garden Party on Saturday 1st July from 12 noon until 4.00pm. All are welcome, there will be live music, food, stalls, and the opportunity to enjoy meeting up with friends. on Tuesday 18th July there will be a tea party at the Centre from 2.00pm, more details next month.

**HARROW PHILHARMONIC CHOIR**—'Music for a Summer Evening' Concert. 17th June at 7.30. Wealdstone Methodist Church, HA3 7ND.  
To book tickets/for more info—020 8863 7009

**BADMINTON** – every Thursday 8 – 10pm in a local school, Sudbury Court Badminton Club welcomes League level/good club players. Contact Arvin 07748 642706, Alkesh 07956 453734 or Trevor 07771 998729

South Kenton & Preston Park Residents Association (SKPPRA )  
invite you to their

## Annual Summer Garden Party

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