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Sudbury Court and Pebworth Estates

September
2018

The Courier

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The Courier



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Sudbury Court Residents' Association.*

Chair: chair@the-scra.co.uk

Vice-Chair:

Treasurer: Pareet Shah, treasurer@the-scra.co.uk

Secretary: Noura Abdul-Cader, secretary@the-scra.co.uk

Courier Editor: editor@the-scra.co.uk

Courier Advertising: advertising@the-scra.co.uk

SCRA Website: www.the-scra.co.uk

**If you don't have email and you would like to contact the SCRA , please call:
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**(available Mondays and Thursdays 9-5pm,
or leave a message/text and we'll get back to you)**

Dear Neighbours,

What an amazing summer we've had, and forecasts seem to point to this continuing in to October.

We've had a busy month dealing with a couple of Brent Council consultations in the Byron Court School corner of the Sudbury Court Estate (page 21), and we're that neighbours coming together has had a result.

As usual, our regular contributors have a lot of local information which will be of interest. I am particularly pleased that the Safer Neighbourhood Team (page 4-7) have highlighted dog issues in the area. I have owned dogs all my life, and have never come across so many issues as a result of dog owners and their 'boisterous' dogs. It has led to having to walk my dogs at times when I hope that no one else with dogs will be around. And when I have come across a problem, I have often been confronted by dog owners who don't accept responsibility for their own dog's behaviour, and I have actually been told on numerous occasions to not walk my dogs in the park, if they don't like being jumped on, chased or attacked! Owning a dog comes with responsibilities, and choosing the right dog for your family, lifestyle and training ability is essential.

Our WhatsApp group is proving to be really useful for residents and the Safer Neighbourhood Team, so please do consider joining us. And take a look at our suggestions for a 'good neighbour charter' and let us know what you think (page 16-17).

Until next time, with best regards,

Kaye

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Northwick Park Safer Neighbourhood Team

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Burglaries: At time of writing, (08/08/18) the frequency of burglaries seemed to have died down a little, recently though there was an afternoon burglary (rare) at an address on The Fairway, the three masked white male intruders in their 20s fled in a black AUDI A3 with first two letters starting in FP**&&, the likelihood is that this vehicle is on false plates.

If you are a retired person, or a dog walker out and about, or a resident out for a stroll and sitting on one of those benches on The Fairway – keep an eye out. Watch out for suspicious behaviour! As previously mentioned, most burglars are 'caught in the act' as a result of some eagle eyed resident or passerby.

If you see someone in the act of breaking into a house then ring 999, we may not be able to send a police vehicle straight away due to call volume but remember a **CRIME IN THE HAPPENING is 999**.

Telephone scams: A number of elderly residents have been receiving automated phone calls, claiming to be from the police, and that there has been a warrant issued by the Inland Revenue due to non-payment of tax and to ring a specific phone number. These are phishing (pronounced "fishing") phone calls with the aim of getting someone to fall for the scam and to ring the phone number and get the resident to divulge their bank details. Be very cautious if you receive any phone calls purporting to be from the Police/Inland Revenue/HMRC. Do not fall victim to the scare tactics used in these phone calls, do not be scared into ringing their phone number. The same elderly resident had three phone calls in one week, another phone call said that they were from their internet provider and that their internet was compromised. These phone calls are Fake, bogus and out to scam you! If in doubt, ring us first—0208 721 2969 or ring 101. Fraudsters can easily target the elderly:

they can use information published on the Electoral Roll to find out what age someone is and if they are listed in the telephone directory. **Please consider coming off the published Electoral Roll and going ex-directory.**

Cold callers: a persistent issue in this area. There are a number of retired people who live in the Northwick Park area, and they frequently get targeted by scam and con-men, both on the phone and in person. **DO NOT BUY ANY GOODS OR SERVICES BY SOMEONE WHO RANDOMLY PHONES YOU OR CALLS AT YOUR DOOR!!** I am astounded with otherwise sensible people giving "work" to cold callers—by doing so you are encouraging them to continue to target the area!

Remember 'cold callers' is the term given to someone you don't know who knocks at your house asking for work/or providing a service for a fee, e.g. driveway washing, gutter cleaning, laying driveways, roofing, tree work. Why on earth would you give someone you don't know, never met before, don't know their real name, where they live or anything else about them access to your property! It beggars belief, if they are on your driveway or doing your gutters do you not think that they will get to find out who lives at your address and the general layout of your address, don't be surprised if you get conned or burgled if you give someone who cold calls on you "work".

Bottom line do not, do not engage with cold callers.

The things that people get up to! On the 25/7/18 PC Hobday arrested a homeless male, on the grounds of Northwick Park hospital, in possession of a number of hand sanitisers from the hospital—you know the big dispensers that are pinned to the wall. It is believed that they were drinking the hand sanitisers, which have a high alcohol content in them! Don't be tempted to have a swig if

ever you go to the hospital as the same male was subsequently admitted to the hospital with severe alcohol related problems. The hospital have had to remove the sanitisers from the main entrance areas due to such thefts; they are now placed in the wards.

Your old clothes: please be aware that there are organised criminal gangs going around London, and elsewhere, stealing clothes from recycling charity containers—the big ones that are on the street and in supermarket car parks. In early to mid-July, PC Kennedy responded to a 999 call to Sainsbury's Kenton: she came across a hapless pair who had used an electronic fob to access the Oxfam clothing recycling bins, they emptied them out into their van, but in the course of the theft had mislaid the van keys in amongst all the stolen clothing! The pair were arrested and the van seized; they were remanded in custody to attend court the following day. PC Kennedy has learnt that there are organised criminal gangs who go around in vans targeting the clothing recycling bins, so please be on the look out. Normally, staff at the venue of where the clothing bins are situated know when and who is authorised to collect them, and if you think someone suspicious is emptying them please speak to staff before ringing police.

Moped crime: not a day goes by, anywhere in London, without some sort of moped-enabled crime. If you hear or see a moped or motorbike being driven recklessly, more often than not it is stolen and probably up to no good. Be very careful if you hear one coming up close to you, look about and see that they are not trying to eye you up as a potential target. A lot of mopeds are stolen, used for drug dealing and generally used for a number of crimes. A local resident has

seen some suspicious activity involving mopeds on The Fairway, so please be aware.

Also, please be wary about using your mobiles out in public and being completely distracted whilst using it as it is a regular occurrence that someone on a moped or bicycle can quickly race up and snatch your mobile from your hand.

If you own a moped, please be aware that they are quite easy to steal, so please do consider parking it in your garage or locking it to a ground anchor.

Thefts from cars: do not leave any valuables in your car whilst unattended, cars can be broken into very quickly and some people don't even notice car alarms going off. A resident recently left a whole pile of designer merchandise in the boot of the car and it was stolen whilst the car was parked up.

Catalytic converter thefts: It would appear that **Honda Jazz** vehicles are the vehicle of choice now, in relation to catalytic converter thefts. Please, if you own one do some research online as to how best to park your car and what measures you can take in order to limit the chances of this happening to your car.

Dog Issues: Over a number of years Pc Kennedy has investigated a number of dog incidents on the ward, these have been for neglect and dangerous dog incidents – some dogs unfortunately as a result of these investigations have been seized and destroyed. Owing to a number of human deaths as a result of dog bite incidents, the police are even stricter in applying the dog legislation to non-human bite incidents i.e dog on dog attacks, as the dog might pose a risk to humans. Potentially, your dog could be

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Blockley Road - Sudbury Court Estate

considered to have committed an offence under the Dangerous Dogs Act if it is involved in an attack on another dog, there are certain aspects to these incidents that would be considered by police in the course of an investigation. So, particularly if you have a big powerful dog, please be responsible – if it is a soppy thing that will always roll over and never jump up on people then perhaps it is ok to walk him off the lead on the pavement or in the park. If your dog, big or small, has snapped or, worse still, bitten another dog, then you need to think about keeping it on the lead or taking evasive measures to direct it away from other dogs. You need to keep an eye on what your dog is doing and that you are in a position to react to it. If you have a dog that runs up to other dogs the whole time, then you can't be texting or oblivious to what it is doing, as certain dogs will not take kindly to other dogs running up to them and jumping on them. Thankfully, dog seizures in Northwick Park are rare enough but a few dog on dog incidents have been reported lately in the area of Pebworth Road and Stylecroft Gardens and so **please be aware of your responsibilities as a dog owner**. Also, it goes without saying you must pick up your dog's poop – I have absolutely zero tolerance of this.

Heating up again: apparently the hot snap is set to continue into October, or so I heard.

There are a number of issues with this. Burglars having easy access to houses when windows are left open – try to put window locks on your windows to allow them to only be opened a certain amount.

Also, some people have had fires in their gardens, barbecues etc. It is very foolish to set a barbecue in the ground in the hot weather. You have to be very careful with ground-level, non-enclosed barbecues as, if you are extremely negligent in the hot weather, a spark or ember could fall on bone dry grass and it could catch fire. And spread quickly.

Sun bathing nude: advisory don't sun bathe nude in public or in your back garden. A male was sighted doing so in a local park in the hot weather, doing this led to an arrest for indecency offence.

Overview of offences: 10th July-8th Aug
3 Robbery Person: Sudbury Court Road (low odds side, 10/07/18 at 0110hrs, male in car had stopped briefly on this road, masked men in another vehicle jumped out and threatened him and stole the car and his mobile); Churchill Avenue (kenton rd end, 18/07 1530hrs, victim threatened with a knife and two youths stole his phone and money); East Lane (near 270s odds side, 04/08 between 1915hrs and 2000hrs, hooded male threatened male and stole belongings)

3 Residential Burglaries: Norval Road (in the

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20s odds side, 1420hrs and 1815 on 22/07, entry was via the rear); Littleton Road (in the 10s odds side, between 27/07 2000hrs to 28/07 0745hrs, house under renovation, rear ground floor door forced, power tools stolen); The Fairway (in 50s evens side, 04/08 1430hrs, front window forced, jewellery stolen, three white masked men in their 20s fled in a black Audi A3 car)

3 Theft of Motor Vehicle: Shelley Gardens (odds side in 10s, 11 plate Range Rover stolen on 22/07 between 2200hrs and 0700hrs on 22/07); Blockley Road (in the 70s evens side, black BMW x5, 09 plate stolen on 25/07 between 0030hrs and 0930hrs); Elms Lane (near 70s evens side, 25/07, Fiat Ducato 06 plate stolen)

5 Theft from Motor vehicle: Rushout Avenue (low evens side, on street, 12/07 between 1130-1900hrs, catalytic converter stolen from Honda Jazz); Sudbury Court Drive (in 60s odds side, 20/07, 16 plate Merc entered without causing damage, goods stolen from car); Northwick Park Hospital (1900 hours 26/07 and 0300 hours 27/07 passenger window smashed, small change from the central console and sat nav stolen); Carlton avenue West (in 180s evens side, 04/08 2200hrs – 1120hrs on 05/08, BMW entered no damage caused, wallet stolen from glove compartment); Carlton avenue West (in 180s evens side, 04/08 2200hrs – 1120hrs on 05/08, registration plate stolen from 13 plate Nissan)

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

Please consult the websites listed for crime prevention tips or, if you do not have access to the internet perhaps speak to us and we might be able to arrange that you obtain a crime prevention pamphlet.

Useful numbers:

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

For non-emergencies, ring 101

To give information anonymously call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

Useful websites:

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

www.met.police.uk

www.homeoffice.gov.uk

www.cifas.org.uk

www.direct.gov.uk

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Councillor's Comments

Cllr Robert Johnson - Northwick Park Ward

Email: cllr.robert.johnson@brent.gov.uk

I hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday and welcome back to all those

who went abroad. It was hot enough to sun bathe here and much cheaper too!!!. Even though most people were able to take a break, I can assure you that your ward Councillors continue to pick up and deal with issues that affect you all.

Ward Boundary Changes

The Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) has selected Brent to review the size of the wards within their boundaries. This is called an electoral review. Electoral reviews look at whether the boundaries of wards or divisions within a local authority need to be altered. The LGBC will conduct reviews either to ensure fairer representation at local government elections after any significant changes in the distribution of electors, or at the request of a local authority for other reasons.

The last review undertaken in Brent was in 1999. Brent Council meets the

Commission's criteria for electoral inequality with 7 wards having a variance outside 10% of the average voting population per ward total (8500). The outliers are Brondesbury Park at -16% and Tokyngton at 28%. Northwick Park is 13.44% in excess of the average total voting population (with 9820 total electorate).

The electoral review will have two distinct parts:

Council size – before LGBC re-draw ward boundaries, the Commission will come to a view on the total number of councillors to be elected to the council in future. The LGBC will come to a conclusion on council size after hearing the council's (and/or councillors') views during the preliminary phase. This could mean a reduction of Councillors at the next local elections

Ward boundaries – The LGBC will re-draw ward boundaries so that they meet the statutory criteria. You (the residents) will have an opportunity to put forward your ideas in the public consultation that will be carried out by the Commission.

The consultation with residents and the

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Council started during August 2018 and is likely to be concluded early in the New Year. Whatever the outcome of the review, the changes will come into place in time for the 2022 local elections.

Private Rented Sector Champions

The Private Rented Sector (PRS) community champions project was launched on 27 June at the Civic Centre, and had a good turn-out of nearly 50 people. The attendees were keen to take on the role of community champion in order to support tenants and landlords in their communities.

We have a PRS community champions' webpage:

www.brent.gov.uk/prscommunitychampions

This page contains resources that can be used as aides to support PRS champions assist their communities. There is also an email address for us to receive people's questions and for our follow-up communications:

prscommunitychampions@brent.gov.uk

We are encouraging more people to come forward to volunteer as PRS community champions. Members are being invited to spread the word about the project by sharing the weblink and email address among residents in the ward so that they can become PRS champions, if they wish to.

We now have approaching 8000 properties licensed, including about 1000 larger type HMOs across the Council boundary. If you

think a property is an HMO in your road, please visit our website www.brent.gov.uk/prslicensing where we have provided links to our licence property register. There is also guidance on making applications to register an HMO, how to report problems, how we enforce HMO's and also to see our answers to a range of frequently asked questions (FAQs).

Residents Attitude Survey 2018

Every four to five years, Brent Council surveys its residents to obtain their views to inform the borough's future plans and strategies. In May 2018 Brent commissioned BMG research to interview 2100 residents (100 in each ward) and the results have just been completed. I can only provide a snap shot of some of the results as the report is quite large.

The initial results for the Borough suggest that 76% of Brent Residents are satisfied with the way that the Council runs things. Residents are less satisfied with their area than they were in 2014. The report suggests that 11% were dissatisfied with the way the Council runs its services and 13% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.

The dissatisfaction may be due in part to the major budget cuts and the reduction in the delivery of some services.

This trend is reflected nationally. Some interesting points to note were:

People aged between 16-34 were more

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People who had resided in the local area (across the age grouping) for less than one year were also positive about their local area. People who tended to be less satisfied with the local area were within the 55 to 64 age group and had lived in the area for over four years.

Looking at the results from a ward perspective:

72% of Northwick Park Residents are satisfied with the Council

7% of Northwick Park Residents are dissatisfied with the Council

21% are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the Council

The full report can be obtained from Peter Gadsdon (Strategic Director of Policy, Performance and Partnership) email:

peter.gadsdon@brent.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Managers Illegal Rubbish Dumping Projects

The new Neighbourhood Managers are starting to have real effect in their areas with the commencement of four projects

specifically targeting known hotspots of illegally dumped rubbish. They are utilising targeted communications material which is designed for the specific issue in each area. The projects which are commencing in the Wembley area this month are as follows:

Wembley

Byron Road/Peel Road alley – Northwick Park; Chaplin Road - Sudbury

The projects will run for 6 weeks and then summaries of the different communications methods used will be evaluated and shared to see whether the methods and targeted communication used in each area could be used on other hotspots across the borough. For more information on each project, please contact Tony Martin (Neighbourhood Manager) directly: tony.martin@brent.gov.uk

Residents' Surgery

Remember our surgeries are held on the 1st Saturday of the month, excluding January, August and any election months, at St Cuthbert's Church Community Room, 214 Carlton Ave W, Harrow, Wembley HA0 3QY

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5 truths of the female American football player



American football is a fairly niche sport in this country. Despite that, it's growing - especially in the female game, but with it being relatively unknown the thought of joining a team can be intimidating. However, if you are considering it, here are some truths about the sport from a female perspective.

No one looks good in spandex

There's a phrase in football – Look good, play well. Whilst I appreciate the sentiment, if helmets and shoulder pads weren't bad enough, team it with stretchy, and often shiny, spandex leggings and blocks of polystyrene over your thighs and hips. Despite that, this complete lack of importance for appearance is what's refreshing about the sport. The only thing you need to do is turn up and give your all.

The first five minutes are the worst

After working all week, the idea of waking up early on a Saturday to run around a field isn't very appealing. However, after a few minutes those feelings begin to fade away. You look around and realise that you're playing a sport that is truly awesome and that so few people in the U.K. get to experience. Whilst finding the effort to go to training may be difficult, it's always worth it in the end.

Losing is painful

No one likes to lose. It goes against our very nature of survival to come in second place. When you have spent the last hour pushing your body to the limit, it hurts more than ever when the result doesn't go your way. The Wembley Stallions Women's team won a divisional title in their first year. It made up for all the early mornings spent practicing. It made up for the bruises and exhaustion. While you may have to harbour the pain of a loss from time to time, there is no reward greater than winning.

More WhatsApp groups

Offence, defence, coaches, captains... these are a few of the WhatsApp groups. You'll need to brace yourself for the ongoing notifications for the foreseeable future. Though it's quite nice knowing there's always someone on the end of the phone, or to help go through the playbook with you. It's a support system as much as it is a team.

Sport brings people together

Joining a new team can be nerve wracking, but you'll start to realise just how much your team mates begin to mean to you. You understand what each other is going through, be it good or bad. Being on a team means you always have each other's back, even when things are their rockiest.

It takes a lot of effort to play and you have to be committed, but it rewards you like you wouldn't believe. Be it fitness, friendship or competition, this is a sport that has it all.

The Wembley Stallions Women's team is holding an open session on Saturday 8th September from 10am – 1pm. If you are interested, please contact:

teammanager@wembleystallions.com or
www.wembleystallions.co.uk

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When you start something up there is always that worry that it will fizzle out. We begin so many things with high hopes, but how many of our ventures last? It is humbling really. But the key is that if you have something good to keep going and to remember why you set it up in the first place.

We began memory café nearly three years ago. There were three of us who had the initial idea and plan. We wanted to do something that was easy to start and would have a big impact. We wanted for our church to connect with the community.

Above all we had a strong sense that there was a need that the community was crying out to be met. Our friends and neighbours were being struck down with dementia. And

then there was dementia's evil cousin – the scourge of loneliness. The scale of the problem looked daunting – what could we do in the face of such a challenge?

What we did was that we started something and decided to dedicate ourselves to it and to keep going every week. On that first week we welcomed people who have gone on to be stalwarts – people who have been with the café from the beginning. And we watched our baby grow.

So, friends, if you are feeling a bit stuck or a bit lonely, or would just like a couple of hours of joy, come and join us every Thursday 11-1. The café is for everyone – with memory problems or without them.

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I don't know what it was like for you, but I was so looking forward to summer. It seemed like winter had dragged on and we still had memories of the Beast from the East. But summer offered the prospect of a break and a holiday. It is amazing how we find ourselves hanging on by our fingertips and waiting for a holiday.

So as we get to September it is a time of fresh starts. The seasons turn and we can do nothing about that – it is one of the wonders of the creation. Summer hols are over and we get back to the business of the here-and-now. Each new season is a fresh start and as summer begins to be behind us I wonder if it is time for a spiritual fresh start?



Long before I was a person of faith I always wondered about what the spiritual life looked like. I think that I hankered after a sense of there being more to life than the things we can touch and feel. And like many people who have no discernible faith I did have a sense of the wonder of the world in which I lived. I was what I would call a "seeker".

I wonder if this season is a time to open up some of the spiritual yearnings we have had. As summer draws to a close perhaps it's time to ask some big questions and to spend time taking stock. We are here if that journey is calling out to you.

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Health on your travels—part VI

I hope that you have had a great summer. This is my last article on travel vaccination, and it is all about rabies! In the UK we do not have a problem with rabies but, in many parts of the world, any animal may well be rabid. If you are bitten by a monkey or stray dog whilst abroad, you must consider that you are at risk of rabies. Rabies is a serious brain infection (encephalitis) which is always fatal. The rabies virus moves in from the bite area up into the central nervous system over a week to ten days and causes fatal encephalitis.

In April I was fortunate enough to travel to Sri Lanka with a school cricket tour and I was really keen that all the boys should be vaccinated against rabies. Rabies vaccination is a course of three injections which confers lifelong immunity. If you have been vaccinated against rabies but are unfortunate enough to be bitten, you will simply require a further rabies vaccination to boost your levels of protection but if you have never had a rabies vaccine, you will need intensive treatment which includes provision of human

immunoglobulin within 24 hours, as well as a course of rabies injections, and a speedy return to the UK. Unfortunately, availability of human immunoglobulin is limited and may not be available in remote areas. The last person to die in the UK from rabies was bitten by a puppy on a beach in the Dominican Republic. If someone gets an animal bite, you must immediately wash the wound for 15 minutes with soap and water. This should be followed by an application either of iodine or alcohol. You must seek medical advice. If you have youngsters who are planning to backpack in their year off, please ensure they have had a course of three rabies vaccinations and that they carry documentation demonstrating that they have been vaccinated. Otherwise their trip may be ruined if they get an animal bite and need intensive rabies treatment. The injections are well tolerated, I know as I have had them myself, and are highly recommended if you want a stress-free trip.

DR JANE WOYKA
MA MB BChir MRCGP DFSRH

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Local Residents



“Neighbours,
Everybody needs good neighbours,
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You can find the perfect blend”

(do you recognise where those words come from?)



NOISE

The most common issue that causes tension between neighbours seems to be noise; and the statistics are quite startling—more than a third of UK homeowners say that their lives are made more stressful by noise nuisance.

During the summer months, when windows are open, the impact of noise can be felt more keenly than when the climate encourages us to ‘batten down the hatches’. The noise associated with building works, in particular, with a lot of properties having extension works, can be very disruptive to neighbours, as they tend to go on for a long time. But also, entertaining al fresco, children playing in gardens and dogs barking, can be the cause of disruption to people’s peace and quiet at home.

Obviously, with ‘a little understanding,’ we can all live happily as part of a community. Here are some guidelines, which I hope all residents can agree to (and if anyone would like to suggest any others, please do get in touch):

- * To show mutual consideration and respect for neighbours;
- * To discuss with neighbours in advance if any activity is likely to cause a nuisance or disturbance to them such as DIY, celebrations etc.;
- * To be amenable to polite requests;
- * To take responsibility for your household’s behaviour, including children and dogs;
- * To be tolerant of children playing reasonably;
- * To attempt personal resolution of any issues rising before reporting them;
- * To think of others by keeping communal areas clean and clear
- * To make sure that all your household waste is discarded in the appropriate manner;
- * To take responsibility to report any problems/issues to the SCRA/Council/appropriate authority.

Building works

If you are intending to have any building works please ensure to inform all your neighbours who may be affected by noise. Give them advance warning and inform them of the duration and type of works that you intend to have carried out.

Environmental Protection legislation covers

Permitted Hours of Work:

Mon – Fri: 8am – 6pm

Sat: 8am – 1pm

Sun (inc bank holidays): No Noisy works

How to report a nuisance:

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/firmstep/forms/noise-complaint-form/>

Noise Team: ens.noiseteam@brent.gov.uk

The **normal operational hours** for noise, light, smoke and smell nuisance are:

Monday to Friday, 11am to 5pm, including Bank holidays (check bank holiday opening times). If you wish to report a matter urgently during these times, please call **020 8937 5252**.

The **out of hours emergency service** operates:

Monday to Friday, 5pm until 2am and Saturday/Sunday, 6pm until 2am. If you have an emergency matter to report, please call **020 8937 1234** and press option **3** for emergencies.

If you are a member of the SCRA (paid your subscription) you could also report to us, if you didn't want to make an official complaint to the Council in the first instance.

Of course, reporting a nuisance won't be necessary if all residents take note of the suggested guidelines and permitted hours of work. Getting to know each other helps (I think I may have mentioned that before!). 😊



WhatsApp SCRA Residents' Watch

The Group has now been set up for over a month—following in the footsteps of the Pebwatch group. At time of writing, we have 63 residents from the following streets:

Campden Cres
Carlton Ave West
Dean Court
East Court
East Lane
Fairway
Langham Gdns
Nathans Road
Norval Road
Paxford Road
Pebworth Road
Peel Road
Shelley Gdns
Spencer Road
Stapenhill Road
The Crescent
West Court
plus the Safer Neighbourhood Team

Even if your street is mentioned, you are still welcome to join—especially some of the longer streets, for example, we only have one resident from Carlton Ave West at the moment. And we would especially encourage those who are interested from streets not currently covered to join. It's proving extremely useful.

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SUDBURY COURT BIRD WATCH

By Rod Lake, 24 Amery Road, Harrow HA1 3UQ
Email: lake510@btinternet.com



I am sure that you have all noticed the white butterflies fluttering around the gardens during this recent hot summer weather. Not just the occasional sighting, but several, together, many times during the day.

"You can't write about butterflies," my wife said, "You are the birdman! What do you know about butterflies anyway?"

I must confess that I don't know very much. What we have been seeing are, I think, called **Large White** butterflies. In common with all other butterflies, they fly much faster than they used to do when we were young! I can't keep up with them now as they flutter along, five or six feet ahead of my best efforts to get close enough for positive identification!

My wife and I used to call them **Cabbage White** butterflies.

She recalls that one of her jobs on the allotment in the war-time years, was to pick the green caterpillars off the cabbages and other green vegetables growing there. A job she hated, and from which she often played truant! She would climb into a nearby tree and enjoy a good read instead!

My own recollection is of taking turns, with a pal of mine, manning a stirrup-pump and pumping furiously, whilst the other would do the squirting at all the passing butterflies! Good clean fun, but with a minimal success rate!

There are normally two generations of the Large White butterfly in a year, but in summers such as we have had this year, there could be three. A generation consists of Eggs/Larvae/Pupa/Butterfly. It is

a total mystery to me how the pupa changes itself from a caterpillar into a butterfly. It is one of the great wonders of nature.

The Large White is our most common butterfly, frequenting both town and country, but I am quoting from my butterfly book of 1948. With man's destruction of so much wildlife in the last fifty years, I wonder what the situation is today? Can anyone fill us in with some up to date information?

Swifts return

Several of our regular competitors did not see any of the returning **swifts** which arrived back in our skies at the beginning of May, but did see quite a few arriving a month later. This was much later than usual.

One correspondent emailed to ask whether they would have time to raise a clutch of chicks successfully in the consequently shorter time they would have before they had to leave and return to Africa.

I wasn't sure, but in view of the incredibly long hot summer we have had this year, I am beginning to think that the swifts knew all along that there was no rush to get here early to breed. Those who arrived early would have had a difficult and cold start, looking for food. Those arriving later in such good breeding weather would have found plentiful supplies. I think the later arrivals knew best when to come.

Perhaps we should take more notice of them in our future weather forecasting!

Rod Lake



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Byron Court Consultation

Residents in the Byron Court corner of the estate had two consultations in July - one was on proposed Highways changes in the area, to attempt to cope with the traffic issues around the school, and in preparation for the 'new' school opening at the end of the year. The second was a so-called 'minor amendment' to the planning application of the expansion, to include a 3G pitch.

We called a very last-minute residents' meeting, inviting Brent Highways and Infrastructure officers to attend, in order to answer concerns of affected residents. More than 70 residents attended, as the proposed changes stirred up some strong emotions.

Proposed Highways changes included:

- * No waiting/loading restriction extending outside properties on Norval road, from the junction with the Fairway all the way to Spencer Road from 8-9.30am and 2.30-5pm Mon-Fri. (no parking for residents);

- * Narrowing the entrance to Spencer Road by extending the pavement on both sides, and introducing large concrete cubes;

A permanent (24/7) one-way system for Spencer Road;

- * 'At any time' waiting restrictions on the turning circle on Abbots Drive;

- * 2 speed tables and school keep clear markings on Nathans Road near the new school entrance;

- * Waiting and loading restrictions Mon-Fri 8-9.30am and 2.30-5pm by the entrance to the Park;

- * 2m wide footpath from the entrance to the park up to a new pedestrian shelter by the pavilion car park.

Officers presented their thinking behind the proposed changes and residents asked questions and strongly objected to most of them.

By the time you read this, the decisions will have been made. At time of writing, I have been told that "there was a substantial response. The results are being analysed by the Council and all responses and comments received in relation to each of the proposals will be fully considered. Residents in the consultation area will be informed by letter of the outcome."

What I would say is that, although only 255 properties around the school were consulted, the impact of these changes, should they go ahead, will have an impact outside of this small area.

The second consultation may, in some respects, be even more controversial—the 3G pitch. In a statement issued by council officer Jas Yembra (Capital Projects Team), the application for the 3G is described as a 'minor amendment' to the original planning application.

There are many reasons why this is more than a 'minor' amendment:

Environmental issues: removal of grassed area means loss of habitat. The original planning application pointed to keeping the grassed area for this very reason. The loss of the grassed area means less insects and worms, etc, which has a knock-on effect to wildlife feeding, so loss of birds, bats, hedgehogs, etc. And the 3G surface needs to be regularly treated with chemicals to safeguard the health of users, but what is the effect on wildlife?

We have already lost mature trees, which offer some protection against air pollution, as a result of the expansion, and this proposal means losing the grassed areas. How does this all fit in with Brent's policies on the Environment and Climate Change?

The School grounds are within a Flood Zone—how much consideration has this been given?

The increase in traffic to the area for people attending events as part of their proposed Community Action Plan, which points to a minimum of 15 hours usage outside of school hours, is not only detrimental to the air quality, but it will mean extra disruption in terms of noise, traffic and parking on our streets—and not just for neighbours of the school—the impact will be felt in other parts of the estate.

We will obviously update in next month's issue on the outcome of both of these consultations.

The only positive thing to come out of it so far has been neighbours coming together and talking to each other.

Seniors Outing



On August 1st, like many of the days before and since, we were greeted by a near cloudless sky. Around and about the estate 48 sets of creaking bones were preparing to set off on the Senior Citizens Outing.

At approximately 9.15 the coach, provided by Bessway Travel, left the third and final departure point, The Green, and headed in the general direction of Hastings. Hampered as expected by the M25, progress was fairly slow and many were looking forward to the so called "comfort stop" at Clacket Lane Services. This also turned out to be a shopping opportunity for some, which could not be passed up! In all, this stop added at least 45 minutes to the journey time.

We arrived in Hastings at about 12.30, and the dropping off point was adjacent to the

pier which has been constructed on the site of the old pier (destroyed by storm and fire). Unlike the last outing to Hastings in 2009, the pier is now open to visitors and provided some early leg stretching and a breath of sea air.

At least two couples were met by former residents of Sudbury Court Estate who are now happily retired to the Sussex coast.

The visiting 48 dispersed, under instruction to be back and ready to leave at 5 pm.

Lunch was the main aim for the majority and several opted for the restaurant on the pier but one group of four ladies were disappointed to learn that their food had been served to the wrong table and consumed by others! This was after a lengthy delay and they were advised no further food could be served. However all monies were refunded and the ladies eventually lunched at the hotel opposite the pier.

All passengers accounted for, the return journey commenced on time and a raffle en route resulted in the distribution of several prizes. Everyone endorsed the thank-you to the driver and to Susan and David for the smooth organisation of a very enjoyable day.

(Report with thanks to one of the creaking bones)

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Horticultural Society
Your local gardening club

This year's scorching summer has taken its toll on our gardens ... lawns and verges have nearly expired and every growing thing is gasping for a drink. Only the weeds are flourishing!

Recently, trying to identify a wild plant that

had appeared in a friend's garden, I turned to my *Pocket Guide to Wild Flowers*. I could not find the plant in question but was interested to ponder on the common names of many wild flowers. Their name often compares some part of the plant to an animal feature. Sometimes the name describes the shape of the leaf as with Mouse-ear Chickweed and Cat's-ear, Dandelion, Mare's tail, Goosefoot and Coltsfoot, while the flower shape gives the ox-eye daisy or the foxglove its name. For Cranesbill and Bird's foot Trefoil the name is in the seed-shape. Can you add to the list? These names go back into history, to a rural way of life. It is good that we keep past generations in mind by using these old country names. I do wonder though how the wild roses that grace the hedgerows of Northwick Park with flowers in June have earned the name of the dog-rose!

Which reminds me, we have in mind a walk in **Northwick Park** for young people and their parents on the Wednesday of the **Autumn half-term holiday**, that is **Wednesday 24th October**. We hope to enjoy studying the trees in the park and may take a look at the hedgerows too, where the fruits of the dog rose and many other plants may be ripe

and ready. As well as this, we shall be entertaining young people from 4.30pm on **Friday 14th September**, the evening preceding our Autumn Show. We shall be making pictures with seeds, glue and crayons, taking photographs and arranging flowers. These workshop sessions are very informal and friendly.

For both these events please book your places with me as soon as possible (see below). We hope that young people will take part in the show the next day, bringing a photograph you have taken of Autumn fruits and berries, a vegetable or fruit that you have grown or perhaps flowers that you have arranged in a



glass jar.

Our **Autumn Show on Saturday 15th September** crowns the gardening year, bringing in the harvest to be shared and enjoyed among our community. There will be lots of flowers, with a special place for dahlias and chrysanthemums, fruit and vegetables of all kinds, produce from our gardens and allotments. We hope for a record number of entries. If you have not joined in before, you will be given a special welcome and lots of help in showing your produce to the best advantage. So come, it's a chance for a local get-together to chat about matters of concern to us all – and to enjoy the show. Staging, that is arranging your exhibits, happens from 11am to 1pm, while public viewing from 3.30 -5pm comes with tea and cakes and a raffle. We hope to see you there!

Margaret Roake
0208 904 2531

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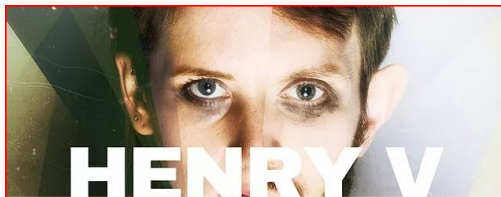
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As there are only 35 tickets for each performance, please book early.

BOOK CLUB

The next meeting is at 3:15pm on **Mon 24 Sept.** Just come along if you want to join or email for more info about the books being read over the next few months.

CHESS CLUB ON SATURDAYS

Come to Barham Community Library to play or to learn on Saturdays from 12 to 2pm. Suitable for children and adults.

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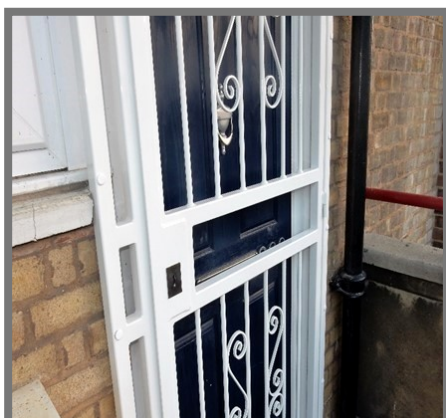
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Kids' Page



(Have you got a favourite joke or riddle? If you email it to me we'll print it on this page—see if you can make our neighbours laugh!)
preeyaatthecourier@hotmail.com



How did the telephones get married?

In a double ring ceremony!

Why did the child study in the aeroplane ?

He wanted a higher education!

Why was the broom late?

It over swept!

Do you know the time?

No, we haven't met yet!

What kind of hair do oceans have?

Wavy!

What runs but never wakes?

Water!

How do you make milk shake?

Give it a good scare!

What's red and flies and wobbles at the same time?

A jelly copter!

Waiter, this soup tastes funny.

Then why aren't you laughing?

Why did the clock get sick ?

It was run down

Riddles

What is the difference between a jeweller and a jailer?

A jeweller sells watches. A jailer watches cells.

What ship has two mates, but no captain?

A relationship

Bobby throws a ball as hard as he can. It comes back to him, even though nothing and nobody touches it. How?

He throws it straight up.

Did you spot the deliberate mistake?

Answer 'wakes' should be walk.






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HARROW PHILHARMONIC CHOIR— will be resuming rehearsals on Monday 3rd Sept, 7:45pm, at a new venue - **Harrow High School, Gayton Road, Harrow HA2 1GJ**. (There is ample free parking in the school playground!) This Autumn's programme is 'A Concert for Peace', commemorating the centenary of the end of WW1. Choral music will be performed from Britain, France and Germany. There will be an open rehearsal for prospective new members on Monday 17th Sept

SUDBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE— invite you to join in the following fund raising events. Tues 4th Sept, 1.30pm, a Tea Party, cost £7 per person. Thurs 27th Sept, 7.15pm, Friends' Quiz Evening, £6 per person. Weds 3rd Oct, 1.30pm a Tea Party, cost £7 per person and matched with thanks, by TESCO Ltd. Please book with Katia on 020 8908 1220.

HARROW CHORAL SOCIETY— new season begins 3rd Sept. Take a look at the website for more information. www.harrowchoral.org.uk

CUTH'S TODDLER'S GROUP—Fun. Play. Stories. Support. **Every Friday** 10-11.30 (except school holidays) £1.50 per family. St Cuthbert's, 214 Carlton Ave West, HA0 3QY 020 8904 1457 www.stcuth.org

SPIRE CAFE - 3rd Saturday of every month 10am-3pm - Pop-Up Cafe. Climb Harrow's landmark hill for home cooked brunches, snacks and treats. In aid of St Mary's roof appeal. Check out the menu at www.tinyurl/spirecafe. Nick 07771 595 883

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

HIP HOP—with Elan Arts. Saturdays at the Yellow Pavilion, Wembley Retail Park, Engineers Way, HA9 0EG. 5.30pm for under 13s; 6.45pm for over 13s; 8pm for over 17s. One hour dance sessions—FREE of charge

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	Page		Page
Accounting, Tax & Audit	18	Furniture repair	18
Air Conditioning	24	Garden	22,29
Appliance Service/Repair	3	Graphic Design	9
Architectural Services	18	Hairdressing	6,12,24
Boilers/Heating, Plumbing	5,17	Hall Hire	29
Building Services	11,24,29	Health & Beauty	12,24
Car Sales, Servicing, Repair	13,25	Home Carers	20
Cleaning Services	8,27,28	Home improvement	6,29
Conservatories, Porches	31	Nursery, Pre-School	18
Dentist (private)	10, 15	PC/Laptop Repair	3
Doctor (Private)	14	PC/technology	17
Education/Tuition	29	Property Maintenance	8,28
Estate Agents	2,32	Roofing, Gutters	29
Electrical Services	7,12	Security Gates	26
Foot Care	29	Soft furnishings	7
		Window Cleaners	8,28
		Windows, Double-Glazing	31

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