

EASTCOTE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
84th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WILL BE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 13th MAY 2015

at

ST THOMAS MORE RC CHURCH
32 FIELD END ROAD, EASTCOTE
at 7.30pm

Guest Speaker

Hillingdon Police Borough Commander
Chief Superintendent Nick Downing

will be talking about local policing and answering your questions

ALL RESIDENTS WELCOME – WHETHER ERA MEMBERS OR NOT

Please come along to discover what the association does on your behalf
and let us know your concerns and expectations for Eastcote

Light refreshments will be served during the meeting

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Keeping you up to date with local issues: where your subscriptions go, police matters, conservation, the unveiling of the commemorative plaque at Pembroke Park, avoiding scams and rogue traders, colourful pictures of spring time in Eastcote and much more.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the spring 2015 issue of the Eastcote Residents' Association newsletter. We hope you find it a colourful, interesting and informative read and a useful source of local information. We welcome all articles of relevance to the local community here in Eastcote. If you are a club or association and would like to publicise a function or event, why not consider placing a free advertisement in the newsletter, on our notice boards or in the *Local Events* section of our website.

This is the second issue where we have included full-colour photographs with the articles and we also hope to complement these with contemporary pictures of the locality, space permitting. Another feature we would like to introduce is 'then and now', where older photographs of Eastcote are published alongside their current equivalents; if you have any old photographs and would be prepared to loan them to us for this project, please contact one of our team.

Since our last issue, redevelopment work has finished at the site of the former Initial House at 150 Field End Road and new flats (known collectively as Portman House) have been built. Also in Field End Road, the site of the former Eastcote Garden Centre opposite the station has been redeveloped into flats over a small supermarket at ground-floor level.

Our post office has been relocated inside the shop at 145-147 Field End Road and a postbox is due to be erected outside on the pavement to replace the one at the old site.

Eastcote Underground station has finally gained 'real-time' train indicators in both directions which show the destinations (line only, London-bound) and times of the next three trains.

Our Annual General Meeting this year is being held on Wednesday May 13th at 7.30pm, when the guest speaker will be the Metropolitan Police Borough Commander, Chief Superintendent Nick Downing, Hillingdon's most senior police officer. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to come along to give him a grilling about your local policing worries. This is *your* opportunity to voice opinions, pose questions or offer suggestions and to consider whether you would like to get more involved with your local community. For the ERA to survive into the future, we need your input!

David Harper, Editor

WHERE DO YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS GO?



Firstly I would like to thank you for, not only paying your subscription, but also taking time to read the newsletter.

The Eastcote Residents' Association is run by a committee of volunteers, some of whom are elected as officers to ensure the association is run in accordance with its constitution. To do this they have to hold nine monthly meetings and an AGM (all of which are open to all members to attend) and which incur hall hire charges and public liability insurance. We are very fortunate to have excellent support from our local councillors who regularly attend these meetings, so this is an opportunity for residents to voice their issues. Recently they have helped resolve the flooding in Cavendish Grounds, arranged for the path from the car park to the station to be improved and produced a clear policy on future roadside memorials.

The money raised through subscriptions is primarily used to communicate local issues to residents, by producing a twice-yearly newsletter and maintaining a website. These provide you, the resident, with much helpful information: useful telephone numbers, local events and, in this issue, what do in case of flooding. Committee members represent the ERA at other groups; some are free, such as HARA, the police SNT panel, residents' forum, conservation panel and RAF Northolt liaison, while others we subscribe to, for example, the Federation of Metropolitan Line Users' Committee, Community Voice (which covers local health issues) and the Campaign to Protect Rural England.

We also make donations on behalf of the residents, such as a wreath for Remembrance Day, and apply to the council for a grant to install festive lights in the High Street, paying the community contribution.

Over recent years we have had a high membership; consequently our income has covered our expenses with a little left over. This has been used to make donations to projects of benefit to the community, for example, the Eastcote House Gardens appeal, hedging at the war memorial, and the Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society to install a plaque commemorating the RAF Eastcote site, (formerly HMS Pembroke V), role as a codebreaking site during World War II.

Alison Holtorp, Treasurer

LOOKING FOR NEW ROAD STEWARDS

We are very pleased to have recruited some replacement road stewards in the past few months but are still seeking people to cover many roads where we have nobody to collect annual ERA membership subscriptions/deliver newsletters twice a year. The following are some of our “vacancies”. Please contact Alison Akerman, Senior Road Steward on **07771 846754** or email her at **alison@fsmi.uk.com** if you would like to support ERA in this way – you do not have to live in the same road. As we always say, it is a good excuse for a walk and to get to know your neighbourhood much better.

ROAD STEWARDS ARE STILL WANTED FOR:

Bridle Road 33-73, 30-92	Greencroft Avenue
Castleton Road	Maybank Gardens
Field End Road 1-86 and up to the station	Salisbury Road
Tudor Close	Southbourne Gardens
Widenham Close	Sunningdale Avenue
Wentworth Drive	

Alison Akerman, Senior Road Steward

Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society

Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society meets on the third Monday of each month, from September to April, at 8.15pm at St Martin’s Church Hall, Ruislip. Visitors are welcome (£2 donation). It also organises walks and outings, undertakes research and produces regular publications.

Lecture programme 2015

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
21 September	From Shillibeer to Borismaster: the story of the London bus	John Wagstaff
19 October	Elizabeth Rogers of Eastcote House: an 18th century lady of property	Eileen Bowlt
16 November	Richard III: the King under the car park	Mathew Morris
21 December	Members’ evening	

For further information, please contact the Membership Secretary, Annita Farrant, on **020 8841 5927**, or visit our website: **www.RNELHS.org.uk**

NOTICE BOARD

THE ALLEY WAY LEADING FROM THE SHOPS TO THE STATION CAR PARK

The council have put the alley way on the list of areas a mobile CCTV unit will visit. A yellow warning sign has been put on the lamp post outside the alley way to inform people of this. The tree will be removed and the pavement repaired. The street cleaning team are now inspecting the area more regularly and the alley will be upgraded, to better light the area.

If anybody observes any criminal or anti-social behaviour in the alley way they should inform the police using the 101 telephone number.

NEW POST BOX

A new post box is planned to be installed outside the Eastcote Post Office branch at 145-147 Field End Road. As a consequence, clearance needs to be obtained from the highway authority and the utility companies contacted to ensure that the proposed site does not interfere with existing pipes or cables, etc. This process can take a number of weeks to complete, but it is hoped that the new post box will be installed by mid-May.

EASTCOTE LIBRARY READING GROUP

A reading group meets every fourth Thursday of the month, between 5.30 and 6.30pm, at Eastcote Library. This is a fun and sociable way to get together with other book lovers and share your ideas and opinions. It is very informal and no experience is necessary – just an enthusiasm for books and reading! There is no charge. For further details please contact the library on **01895 558230** or email **eastcote-library@hillington.gov.uk**

WHO ARE FOMLUC and HPTUA?

The Federation of Metropolitan Line Users Committee (FOMLUC), of which the Eastcote Residents' Association (ERA) is a member, was formed over 25 years ago and its members are the major residents' associations and user groups on the Metropolitan Line.

The suggestion for such a federation came from the then general manager of the Metropolitan Line who kept getting suggestions from those individual associations – and the requests, etc. often conflicted with each other and he felt that such a line should have 'one voice'. A committee was therefore formed of nominated representatives from those associations. The annual subscription from each association is currently £8.

FOMLUC has six meetings a year, in January, May and September. They are held with the senior management team of the Metropolitan Line at Baker Street at 5pm. In between these meetings, in March, July and November, other meetings of the FOMLUC committee are held at a venue in Harrow. In between all these meetings, matters of immediate concern are usually raised directly with the management team by phone or by email.

For my part, I have also chaired the Harrow Public Transport Users' Association (HPTUA) since 1977 (it was incorporated in 1963) and which holds five public meetings (and nine committee meetings) in Harrow each year. I also act as honorary advisor to Harrow Council on public transport.

If you have any questions, please contact me through the ERA.

Anthony Wood, Chairman of FOMLUC and HPTUA

EASTCOTE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Assisting local gardeners for over 70 years

Pop in and see us on Sundays at the trading hut next door to Eastcote Community Centre, Southbourne Gardens. For opening times see our website www.succulent-plant.com/eastcote, telephone

Alan Thomas on **020 8429 0901** or email eastcotehorticultural@yahoo.co.uk

EASTCOTE ART SOCIETY

The society again had success in last year's combined art exhibition in the Great Barn, Ruislip, with one of our members' painting winning "best in show". The exhibition will be held again this year between 23rd and 29th May during London Borough of Hillingdon Art Week. This year there will be several arts and crafts demonstrations during the week and the inclusion of more sculpture and ceramic exhibits. Put this date in your diary.

The annual outdoor exhibition will again be held on the railings of the Ascott public house in Eastcote on 13th June. The general public always tell us they love to see the exhibition and like the venue. Normally we are able to display around 100 paintings widely varying in media and style, and it gives us the chance to discuss our passion with passing members of the public. Let us hope for good weather!

The normal society activities continue apace, with professional demonstrations, life drawing and hands-on working evenings. Full programme details can be viewed on our website www.eastcoteartsociety.co.uk – we would love to see you at one of our demonstration evenings or other events.

For further details contact Graham Pellow, Chairman, on **020 8582 1522** or email grahampellow08@gmail.com



Painting of piglets by Graham Pellow, winning best show in last year's exhibition in the Great Barn, Ruislip



AVOIDING SCAMS AND ROGUE TRADERS

Generally, Hillingdon is a safe and pleasant borough to live in; unfortunately several residents have recently had encounters with a variety of scams and rogue traders. Some people have ended up losing thousands of pounds and have either had substandard work done or have nothing to show for it. Encounters with conmen can be extremely stressful and humiliating and it isn't just the old and vulnerable who have been taken in, although bungalows seem to be targeted frequently.

Although many people may feel they know what to avoid, it is as well to remember that conmen can work quickly and professionally at causing householders alarm, pressuring them into making quick decisions and seeming to be experts in their field. Many appear pleasant, helpful and willing to offer a good deal, especially if householders are parting with cash there and then. You should *always* get comparison quotes before any work is undertaken; *never* divulge your bank details to anyone over the phone or by email.

Elderly neighbours can be particularly trusting and gullible; we have been made aware of traders 'escorting' them to banks to withdraw cash for unnecessary work until their accounts have been drained.

You can report a fake company to Trading Standards through the Citizens Advice consumer service on **0845 404 0506**, or find online advice at **www.adviceguide.org.uk**

You can also report scams to Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040**.

A resident of Eastcote

PLANNING APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SINGLE-STOREY REAR EXTENSIONS

The Article 4 Directive, enacted in September 2014 throughout the London Borough of Hillingdon, stated that single-storey rear extensions that extend beyond the rear wall of the original dwelling by more than four metres will once again require full planning applications (see our autumn newsletter).

Longstanding permitted development rights state that full plans are not required for such extensions that are up to three metres.

Therefore there is a ‘planning process gap’ for single-storey rear extensions of between three to four metres. These are dealt with as follows:

- As the owner, you do still have to notify the council, who will then only contact immediate neighbours
- As a neighbour, you have 21 days to object to the application – late objections cannot be considered
- If the council does not receive any objections within 21 days, the proposal will be approved as a permitted development
- If objections are received, the council has 20 days to assess the impact of the application and to determine it

BOROUGH COMMANDER FOR HILLINGDON



*Nick Downing,
Chief Superintendent*

I am delighted to have received an invite to the Eastcote Residents’ Association AGM in May.

I have a very simple vision which is ‘to make Hillingdon the safest borough in London’.

We will achieve this by providing the highest level of service to you, our public, reducing crime, and disrupting, deterring and prosecuting those who blight our community by committing crime.

Throughout my career I have been passionate about preventing crime, often seeking new ways to do so. We have set up a new system where we can now send crime prevention advice direct to you through your ‘virtual’ post box and into your homes via your computer. Please register your details with us by emailing **XHMailbox.partnership@met.pnn.police.uk**

I look forward to meeting you in May to discuss policing in the borough and any concerns and ideas on how we can improve.

POLICE MATTERS



*Rob Bryan,
Inspector for North Hillingdon*

Safer Neighbourhoods teams

The local Safer Neighbourhoods teams in the north of Hillingdon are different in size from how they were a few years ago so I want to take this opportunity to explain their current format. Each ward has a dedicated PC and PCSO. These two officers work a variety of shift and are dedicated to their ward. They are not abstracted from that ward unless there is a real emergency. Their primary role is to build rapport with the local community, attend events as well as identify crime prevention opportunities such as visiting all burglaries in their area and speaking to neighbours. Their names and faces are posted on our website www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods

A local sergeant has responsibility for managing two wards. Eleanor Charlston is the sergeant for Eastcote and East Ruislip (as well as for West Ruislip) and I encourage you to contact her, or me, if you have an issue that we can help to address. Each sergeant also has two to four further police constables, who are posted to report daily crimes and provide visibility across the whole of the north.

High visibility team

Our new roving high visibility team has had a real impact in the north. Sergeant Liam Moore and his team have used a variety of tactics to catch those criminals who seem to think the north of Hillingdon is a soft touch. Tactics have included mobile patrols in uniform and plain clothes, foot and cycle patrols, and speed camera and number plate reading operations. Results so far have been very impressive: arrests for possessions with intent to supply drugs including cannabis and cocaine, seizures of mopeds and uninsured cars, and fixed penalty notices for speeding. This is just a snapshot of their work which is focused at those committing offences highlighted as being important to you, the local community.

Burglary

Finally, I would like to emphasise the following piece of crime prevention advice: if you have multi-locking door handles on UPVC doors, lift the handle, lock it with the key and remove it. Remember: LIFT - LOCK - REMOVE. Put the key in a safe place out of sight in case of fire. The number of front door break-ins due to the door not being double-locked is astounding and is so easily preventable.

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD



*Ian Brooks, Chairman,
Hillingdon Safer Neighbourhood Board*

Safer Neighbourhood Boards (SNB) have been introduced across London in 2014 following a decision by the Mayor of London to hold Borough Police Command Units to account for performance and to give Londoners a greater voice in setting local policing priorities.

The board provides independent scrutiny, challenge, and strategic vision to ensure that the police collaborate and work together with other agencies successfully to co-ordinate and promote crime reduction in Hillingdon. Currently, the board membership consists of ten local individuals, including three lay members, two councillors and representatives from Neighbourhood Watch, Youth Council, Victim Support and Age UK.

The Hillingdon SNB is one element of a community-police engagement model that includes the 22 ward panels within the borough. These panels are intended to be representative of the local community and provide an opportunity to prioritise police response to address local problems.

A recent review by Scotland Yard into Safer Neighbourhood (local) policing is encouraging and illustrates the Met's commitment to the importance of local policing. Two of the recommendations, reducing abstractions and reinforcing the role of dedicated ward officers plus adjustments in neighbourhood officer shift patterns to increase policing visibility, will I am sure be welcomed in Eastcote. The SNB will be monitoring progress on the implementation of the above review to ensure that local policing meets the needs of local communities.

Hillingdon's SNB terms of reference and meeting minutes can be found at <http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/snb>

ERA NOTICE BOARD

If your community organisation has an event they wish to publicise, you may wish to use one of the five notice boards spread around Eastcote. There is no charge but please give us a little time before the event as we only refresh the boards every few weeks. For further information telephone **020 8866 0985**.

Photographs of Eastcote taken by David Harper



*New Cottages from
Pretty Corner*

*The River Pinn
in Long Meadow*



*A fine display of
crocuses in
Haydon Hall
Grounds*



The pond in Highgrove Wood

A magnificent oak tree in Long Meadow



Eastcote House Gardens

UNVEILING OF THE COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE FOR PEMBROKE PARK

After many years, the development of nearly 400 properties on the old RAF Eastcote site (formerly HMS Pembroke V), now renamed Pembroke Park, is finally complete. The unveiling of the commemorative plaque by the Mayor of Hillingdon, Catherine Dann, took place on 20th November 2014. The mayor was accompanied by the Mayoress, Mrs Rita Kilroy, and the ceremony was conducted by ERA President Chris Groom with Susan Toms from the local history society. Suzy Killip from the Pembroke Park Residents' Association, guests from GCHQ, RAF Northolt and The Royal British Legion were joined by a crowd of local residents.



Members from RAF Northolt and the Royal British Legion attended the unveiling



From left, Susan Toms, Suzy Killip, Mayoress Mrs Rita Kilroy, Mayor Catherine Dann and Chris Groom

MICHAEL SOBELL HOUSE

Saturday 9th May – plant sale from 10am to 12.30pm at Michael Sobell Hospice, Gate 3, Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood

This annual horticultural event is once again being organised by our award-winning gardening team. Come and buy your spring and summer bedding plants, flowers and fruit and vegetables. Entry and parking are free. Refreshments will be available.

Sunday 17th May – ‘On Your Bike’, registration at 7.30am, ride starting at 8am at Michael Sobell Hospice, Gate 3, Mount Vernon Hospital

Put your fitness levels to the test and take on our 33-mile sponsored bike ride challenge. The route will start and finish at the hospice and takes riders through Amersham, Bovington and Hemel Hempstead. Pre-registration costs £15 or £20 on the day.

Friday 12th June – ‘Ladies in the Night’ walk, registration at 8.30pm, walk at 10pm at Michael Sobell Hospice, Gate 3, Mount Vernon Hospital

Join us for our fifth annual sponsored stroll through the night this summer. This is the biggest event in our fundraising calendar when hundreds of our supporters dress up in pink and join in the party atmosphere. The event is open to ladies, gents and pooches. You can choose to walk either 5½ or 9 miles and the route starts and ends at the hospice. Registration costs £20 before 5th June or £25 afterwards or on the night and includes a T-shirt, fundraising pack and breakfast.

Sunday 12th July – vintage event, 10am to 5pm at Michael Sobell Hospice Gate 3, Mount Vernon Hospital

Step back in time and join us for all things vintage at our vintage event. There will be live music, vintage stalls, classic cars and afternoon tea. Entry costs £1.

Friday 2nd October – talent show, 7.30pm at the Watersmeet Theatre, Rickmansworth

We are looking for talented individuals or groups to take part in our talent show at the Watersmeet Theatre. Singers, dancers, comedians, magicians or any act which will impress our judges are welcome. If you are interested in taking part, please email Carol Weston at c.weston519@hotmail.co.uk Tickets for the event cost £12 for adults and £6 for children.

To register or book for any of our events, please visit our website www.michaelsobellhospice.co.uk or call 01923 844730.

CONSERVATION

Royal British Legion Eastcote Branch Poppy Appeal (1st October 2014 to 30th September 2015)

At the end of January 2015 the total collected was £47,700.58, which is a record amount and more than was collected for the whole of the 12-month 2013/14 Eastcote Poppy Appeal. The Eastcote Poppy Appeal Organiser, Jeff Duley, wishes to thank all the volunteer collectors and the public for the wonderful giving of their time and donations that has made this massive total possible.

National Life Membership



Jeff Duley with Councillor Catherine Dann

Jeff Duley, Eastcote Royal British Legion (RBL) Branch Chairman, has raised the profile of the legion, forging links with the RAF at Northolt and with local council and community groups to promote projects and incentives which further the RBL's aims and objectives. After the well attended (circa 1,000), Eastcote Remembrance Parade and Service on Sunday 9th November 2014, Jeff received his National Life Membership, one of the highest awards within the RBL.

This was presented to him at Eastcote RBL premises by local MP Nick Hurd, in the presence of Branch President Councillor Catherine Dann, the current Mayor of Hillingdon, along with local dignitaries, RBL members, family members and friends. Jeff found it very emotional and, surprisingly for him, was nearly rendered speechless. Jeff felt that the time he has spent fundraising/recruiting, etc. is nothing to what the HM Forces and families have given so that we, in this country, can enjoy the freedoms and lifestyles we do today.

Anyone 16 years and older can become a member of the Royal British Legion – you do not have to be a serving or ex-service member of HM Forces.

RBL national rules covering branch and club membership require an applicant first to join an RBL branch before they can become a member of an RBL club.

For further information about this active branch and club, please contact the Branch Chairman and Joint Membership Secretary, Jeff Duley, on **07808 739434** or visit the website at <http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/eastcote>

War Memorial

Local groups, Friends of Eastcote House Gardens (FEHG), Eastcote Residents' Association, Royal British Legion and 6th Eastcote Scouts are still meeting two to three times a year to give the War Memorial garden a tidy up.

Warrender Park

The work on the tennis courts is almost complete. The area will be divided into two, one part having a tennis court that will be available to the public at all times, the second part a multi-use games area to be used by Bishop Ramsey School during school times, but open to the public at all other times.

The urban meadows that looked so lovely planted with poppies to commemorate World War I will this year be planted with a mix of golden flowers to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the formation of Hillingdon Borough.

Missouri Court

The FEHG have been helping the residents of Missouri Court transform a neglected flower bed; the area that was once an old pond will be full of horticultural delights by the summer. Funding has come from the ward budget and thanks are due to our ward councillors for making this possible.

EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDENS



Summer Picnic



Saturday 6th June 2015 11am - 4pm

Stalls, events, classic cars, dog show, exhibitions and refreshments; a great day out for all the family. Bring your own picnic and enjoy Eastcote's greatest treasure.

EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDENS CALENDAR

The 2016 Eastcote House Gardens calendar will be available from 6th June 2015 and can be purchased at the summer picnic or, to place your order, contact Lesley Crowcroft lesley.crowcroft@gmail.com or telephone **020 8866 8436**



Price £5

Hillingdon Local Plan Part 2

This draft document will be on the agenda for the March Hillingdon Cabinet meeting. There will then follow another consultation on any changes made to the original draft. Going forward, the document will be examined by the Planning Inspectorate in December 2015/January 2016.

Eastcote Conservation Panel has suggested that Warrender Park/Highgrove Woods and Cavendish/Bessingby/Pine Gardens parks should become Metropolitan Open Land (MOL). These two areas are vital to Eastcote, giving residents a much welcome break in the urban area. These parks must be protected from any form of development. To have MOL designation gives the parks the protection of a presumption against development (see article from Friends of Pinn Meadows for more information on dual designation for the river Pinn corridor).



FRIENDS OF EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDENS

Volunteer gardeners meet on the 1st and 2nd Fridays and the 3rd and 4th Thursdays of each month. Tools and good company are provided. Once the builders have left, we will be able to supply refreshments again but until then please bring your own.

For more details contact
lesley.crowcroft@gmail.com

The Hinman Shield

The reinstatement of the Hinman Shield (sponsored by *Forget Me Not*, Eastcote) has proved to have been very successful. It had become very difficult to choose a recipient from all the excellent groups. In 2014 a new award, the FEHG Community Award, was instituted, sponsored by Joan and Terry Butfield. This was presented to the 6th Eastcote Beavers and Cubs on Monday 6th October by Councillor Catherine Dann, Mayor of Hillingdon. The 6th Eastcote Beavers and Cubs group have maintained the display behind Boots the Chemist, Eastcote, provided lots of Tender loving care to the flower bed that was once the paddling pool in Warrender Park, provided planting displays at the Royal British Legion, Eastcote, and the Acorn Club. They have also raised funds for Macmillan nurses.



The 6th Eastcote Beavers and Cubs working in Warrender Park in November

If you have any one person or group in mind who works for the community in a voluntary capacity – unsung heroes – then they can be considered for the award in 2015. Please send information to lesley.crowcroft@gmail.com

LONDON OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND

*Eastcote House Gardens, stables, dovecote and walled garden
will be open to the public on*

Sunday 20th September 2015

between 10am to 4pm

Come along and have a guided tour.

Eastcote House Gardens



Repairs to the stable roof



Repairs to the inside of the stable

The works at Eastcote House Gardens (EHG) are overrunning; any events planned for May 2015 will not now take place. The Mayor of Hillingdon, Councillor Catherine Dann, will officially open the restored buildings on May 12th.

Although the FEHG events schedule has been on hold during the works, gardening has continued. Because of the delays to the buildings works, the walled garden will not be back to its full glory in time for the summer season. Behind the scenes work has been taken forward researching the history of EHG. A book, *Eastcote House & Gardens, the People and the Place*, by local author Andy P Weller, will be published in time for the summer picnic. Andy is now working on *Secret Eastcote*, looking in detail at the important part Eastcote played in World War II. If anyone has any memories of RAF Eastcote or other war time activities in Eastcote, please email andy_weller@hotmail.co.uk

FEHG are in the process of setting up an EHG archive, to be located in the gallery in the stables; more details will follow later.

AOC archaeology will be working at EHG again this year. The community dig will take place in June/July. Details of how to take part will be available soon.

The restoration fund at the end of January 2015 stood at £23,500, which means just £1,500 to go. A big thank you goes to all who have supported this venture – please help us to achieve this last mile.

FRIENDS OF PINN MEADOWS

During the Local Plan Part 2 public consultation in September, objections to the proposed removal from Hillingdon's Green Chain of Pinn Meadows, Eastcote House Gardens and Manor Farm were submitted by the Friends of Pinn Meadows (FoPM), Eastcote Conservation Panel and Ruislip Residents' Association. Council officers will now be reporting back to the Hillingdon Cabinet in March with their proposed updates. The council had planned to change the designation of these Green Chain sites to Metropolitan Open Land (MOL); however, removing them completely from the Green Chain will weaken their protection, especially against any impact on the biodiversity and the natural habitats in and around the sites. Given that there are no adverse consequences of retaining the Green Chain designation, it is hoped that Hillingdon will follow the lead of other Councils such as Lewisham whose recently adopted Local Plan contained multiple sites with dual Green Chain *and* MOL designation.

Objections were also submitted by FoPM and residents' groups against the proposed weakening of the Green Chain policy. It is hoped that the council will retain the existing Green Chain policy wording which was adopted in Local Plan Part 1 in November 2012 and has been used effectively since then to protect our green spaces.

In other news, the work to restore the Kings College running track continues to progress and will provide an excellent amenity to the site to complement the recently installed outdoor fitness equipment. Work will also commence in the spring on a new project to build ditches and a network of ponds to alleviate the flood problems and increase the biodiversity around the meadows.



Kings College running track and fitness equipment

FoPM are also helping the Green Spaces team to prepare a Green Flag application for Pinn Meadows and, as part of this process, a new management plan for the site is being designed.

For more details on all of our activities, please visit our website at www.fopm.org.uk

THE HOSPITAL ON THE HILL A CENTURY OF CARING

A new and very interesting book with over 600 extraordinary pictures and stories recording 100 years of the orthopaedic hospital in Wiltshire Lane, Eastcote, has been published.

Jacquie was the final matron of the hospital which commands its place in medical history as the second orthopaedic hospital in the country, starting life under the auspices of nuns in Clapham in 1907.



Jacquie Scott

The Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul Order developed a new site on Haste Hill in 1912, with the healthy countryside providing the original 12 ‘crippled boys’ with ‘fresh air, good food and rest’ and care by the sisters.

Jacquie has plotted the changes at *The Hospital on the Hill* from the needy children with deformed bones and joints – resulting from TB, rickets, polio and osteomyelitis – to the recent years as a renowned hospital for adult orthopaedic surgery. The potted memories from ex-patients and staff, together with emotive pictures, tell a tale of yesteryear healthcare and compassion, the struggles for children growing up with disability, and the fun they managed to have.



A photograph taken from the book

Some boys given occupational training went on to become entrepreneurs in their field, like Bill Bowley, with local shoe shops in Northwood and Stanmore, and Terry Eager, a prominent bootmaker in the north. The annual fete days are well remembered, with notable supporters such as Dame Vera Lynn, Tommy Steele, Jimmy Edwards, Jessie Matthews and Bob Holness.

Many pioneering events occurred at St Vincent's, including one of the first mobile X-ray machines during World War 1 and injured soldiers during 1945 treated in penicillin trials. A nurse training school ran for nearly 50 years, boasting a 100 per cent pass rate under tutors Sister Clare and Irene Heywood Jones. Many of those orthopaedic nurses continue to practise in hospitals within the locality.

At the end of the hospital era, Jacquie fought for the site to become a beautiful purpose-built nursing home, which continues the St Vincent's tradition of loving professional care to a new group of Eastcote residents.

The Hospital on the Hill, A Century of Caring (Pitkin History Press) is available in hardback for £20. To order a copy, email hospitalonthehill@gmail.com or ring reception at St Vincent's Nursing Home Eastcote, Pinner, on **020 8872 4900** or Jacquie Scott on **07710 880419**.

BESSINGBY PARK BOWLS CLUB

Why not join us by becoming a member? You won't regret it! Bessingby is a friendly, vibrant club situated in the heart of Bessingby Park in Ruislip Manor. We offer you a warm welcome.

We have a brand new pavilion and patio area to enjoy for an afternoon or evening of bowls and a drink afterwards. Our friendly roll-up days are Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, starting at 2pm, and Wednesday evenings, starting at 7pm.

We play matches against other clubs, chiefly at the weekends; we also have competitions and social events throughout the year

For more information email the chairman at ianandanne@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone **020 8582 1801**



ERA COMMITTEE

President: Chris Groom – 020 8866 0985

Secretary: Irene Groom – 020 8866 0985

Senior Road Steward: Alison Akerman – 07771 846754

Treasurer: Alison Holtorp – 020 8866 8186

Planning: Jackie Redrup – 020 8868 6080

Transport: Ian Murray – 020 8866 4133

Health & Community Voice: Elizabeth Beggs – 020 8429 4713

Newsletter Editor: David Harper – 020 8868 8583

Designer: Linda Laurie – 020 8866 9058

ERA Website: Gawain Cox – 07545 009087

Committee: Karen Spink – 020 8866 7279

Carolyn Derecki – 020 8866 5495

Keith Barnard – 020 8868 1755

David Payne – 020 8866 2986

LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Eastcote & East Ruislip Ward

Cllr Catherine Dann – 020 8868 9144

Cllr Becky Haggart – 07769 323142

Cllr Nick Denys – 07915 066021

Northwood Hills Ward

Cllr Jonathan Bianco – 01923 820544

Cllr John Morgan – 01923 821552

Cllr Duncan Flynn – 07769 653052

Cavendish Ward

Cllr Eddie Lavery – 020 8866 1367

Cllr Michael White – 01895 637863

Cllr Teji Barnes – 07475 093593

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Nick Hurd – 01923 822876

John Randall – 020 7219 6885

GLA Member for Ealing and Hillingdon

Dr Onkar Sahota – 020 7983 6558

See our website for information about what's going on in Eastcote
www.eastcotera.co.uk

If you would like to feature a local event on our website or in our
newsletter, email the details to ERA@eastcotera.co.uk

