

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Meet Alison
our new chairman



Eastcote town centre
improvement



What's going on in
your local library



Grangewood School
art exhibition

**We look forward to seeing you at our
Open Forum on Tuesday 15th November,
details are on the inside cover.**

EASTCOTE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

OPEN FORUM

Improving Eastcote Together

TUESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2016

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

32 Field End Road Eastcote

7pm for 7.30pm

Do you have new ideas, solutions to existing problems or just want to know more about the proposed improvements to the High Street?

If so; then come and meet your local councillors who will be able to answer your questions on these or any other issues you may wish to raise.

ALL EASTCOTE RESIDENTS WELCOME

Light refreshments will be served during the meeting

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 2016-17

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
21 November	What shaped Pinner before the railways	Pat Clarke
19 December	Christmas meeting	RNELHS
16 January	Medieval Middlesex: the archaeological remains	Adam Corsini
20 February	The Knights Templar and their London connections	Robert Stephenson
20 March	A history of Harefield Hospital	Andrew Willis
24 April	Mr Guy's Hospital and the Caribbean	Jane Bowden-Dan

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

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the autumn 2016 issue of the Eastcote Residents' Association newsletter. As ever, we hope you find it a colourful, interesting and informative read and a useful source of local information; your comments on how the publication can be improved are always appreciated. We welcome all articles of relevance to the local community here in Eastcote. As a club or association, you might like to publicise a function or event; if so, why not consider placing an advertisement in the newsletter?

Colour photographs are included with many of our articles. Owing to lack of space, we are unable to complement these with contemporary pictures of the locality in this issue, but hope to restore this feature in the next newsletter.

Unfortunately there are still several vacant premises in the shopping area of Field End Road. The old Post Office site is still vacant, the RE Bar remains closed, and both Greggs and The Purrfect Pet Centre have closed since the last issue of the newsletter. Liqueur Market Ltd has been rebranded as Polski Sklep and a new Turkish restaurant (Yaprak) is to replace the Bosphorus restaurant. World of Flowers, having temporarily relocated across the road after their fire, have now returned to their former premises.

For those of you who use bus route **398** in North View or Southbourne Gardens, don't forget that this service now runs daily (including evenings), generally every 30 minutes. If you find the stairs at Eastcote station difficult to negotiate, step-free access on this route will make getting to and from the shops in Ruislip, Ruislip Manor, Rayners Lane or South Harrow a lot more manageable.

David Harper, Editor

**The Eastcote Chamber of Commerce are
organising a musical event for
switching on the Christmas lights in
Field End Road on
20th November**



MEET OUR NEW CHAIRMAN



Hello. This is my first article as the new chairman of ERA.

I was born in Eastcote and, apart from the ten years when I went away to study and got married, I have always lived here. Of course, whilst I have seen many changes during that time, some good and some bad, much has remained familiar. When I returned with my young family in the late 1980s, Eastcote still had lots of local shops including gents' and ladies' outfitters and hardware stores. In fact, you could buy almost anything. They are gone now, with

new traders arriving and reflecting changing consumer patterns.

One of the things that hasn't changed very much is the challenge of the daily commute. An article in volume 1 of *The Aerial* (the precursor to this newsletter), written in 1936, refers to local residents complaining about overcrowding on trains and the fact that late night trains "dumped" passengers at Rayners Lane. They also demanded that open-top carriages be abolished. This has changed, whether or not due to the demands of the ERA is another matter.

The main issue I have been involved with since I took over as chairman is the Eastcote town centre improvement scheme (see Councillor Lavery's article later in this issue). This has given me the opportunity to work with the councillors, talk to many of the shopkeepers and engage with local residents. It has been fun to find out how other people view Eastcote and how they would like to see it developed. I hope that they are also looking forward to the end result and that it will not only revitalise our shopping centre, but also enhance our sense of community. I am already aware of traders making changes in the way their shops look by improving their window displays and internal layout. Let's hope their efforts are rewarded by improved sales.

Finally I would like to welcome two new members to our committee, Deesha Chadra and Chris Hankin.

Alison Holtorp, Chairman

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.

Contact Chris Groom on **020 8866 0985** for details.

WHAT IS THE EASTCOTE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION?

Well it's exactly what it says on the tin – it is an association of local residents working together to keep Eastcote a safe and pleasant place to live. It has been in continuous existence and “your voice in local affairs” since 1930 so it inherently has years of experience behind it.

How does it work?

First there are the road stewards, ideally one in every road, volunteers who distribute the newsletter and collect subscriptions. They are divided into three groups with one in each group acting as area road steward. They assist the senior road steward, who is an elected officer, with recording membership and banking subscriptions. The committee consists of four more elected officers taking on the usual roles of chairman, vice chairman, secretary and treasurer, and 12 more elected committee members who volunteer to take on specific portfolios representing your views to the council and other local organisations. All are volunteers.

When do we meet?

The committee holds nine meetings a year, at which all residents are welcome. The committee members present their reports, engage with new issues raised by residents and liaise with our councillors. There is also an AGM in May, to organise the affairs of the association, at which there is a guest speaker, and an open forum in the autumn expressly organised for residents to give their views, ask questions and raise issues of concern. Recently, socials have been organised for the road stewards, both as a thank you for all their hard work and as an opportunity for them to liaise and discuss their role.

What do we do?

We act as go-betweens. We attend various committees such as the Federation of Metropolitan Line Users Committee, Green Belt, Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Hillingdon Alliance of Residents' Associations, Eastcote Conservation Panel and the Community Voice. We also review planning applications and create and edit the newsletter.

How can you help?

The committee members are all volunteers and yes, you've guessed it, you can never have too many volunteers! Modern life seems ever more time-starved so, the more volunteers we have, the less arduous the task. The aim is to have groups of two or three people covering each portfolio; if you have a particular organisational skill you feel may be useful, or a particular area of interest, even if you think it is already covered by someone else, then why not volunteer, and increase our voice.

Alison Holtorp, Chairman

EASTCOTE TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENT

At the recent AGM of the Eastcote Residents' Association, Councillor Nick Denys and I spoke about the plans to improve Eastcote town centre.

The scheme includes grants to enable local shops to improve their shop fronts. There will be advice on marketing and promotion for shops and in particular how to improve their window displays.

The council will be undertaking works to improve the high street including the flower beds, new seating areas and rubbish bins. A review is being undertaken to see what measures can be undertaken to reduce the flooding that occurs in parts of the high street after heavy rain. We will be providing new information signs throughout the high street to aid those looking for one of our many local landmarks and the car park. The possibility of wall signs is being reviewed.

The pavements have been reviewed and a full replacement has been agreed for the area from Morford Way to The Ascott public house, with repair works to be undertaken in other parts of the high street.

The final scheme details are still being agreed, but the first shops are now applying for their grants.

It is hoped to conclude the scheme by the end of 2017.

Councillor Eddie Lavery, Cavendish Ward

EASTCOTE'S SHOPPING PARADES

Many of you may not be aware that, when the shops in Field End Road were being built, most blocks were given individual parade names. The first of these was Field End Parade, built in the mid-1920s, and extending from what is now the Micromax Repair Centre to Changers Bar on the west side of the road. Others followed suit, including Deane Parade, Devon Parade, Queens Parade, Telcote Parade and Orchard Parade. Evidence of their existence has virtually disappeared now but, if you look above Robert Cooper estate agents premises on the corner of Elm Avenue, you can still see a plaque bearing the name Queens Parade.

It is hoped to explore the history of the individual parades more fully in future issues of the newsletter. Perhaps their names can be reinstated to give shopkeepers a sense of belonging?

David Harper, Editor

EASTCOTE FESTIVE MARKET TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

Eastcote will hold a traditional Christmas market on Saturday 3rd December between 10am and 4.30pm to promote shopping locally in the town centre.

The council-organised event will be held in the The Ascott car park (144 Field End Road) on Small Business Saturday, a national initiative which supports and advertises small enterprises and encourages consumers to shop within their local community and high streets.

There will be a variety of stalls with products such as gifts, food, clothing and accessories from a range of craftspeople and independent retailers. Family entertainment will also be on offer throughout the day at several locations on the high street.

The Mayor of Hillingdon, Councillor John Hensley, will announce the winner of a best-dressed Christmas shop window competition.

The festive market is part of a two-year programme of town centre improvements for Eastcote.

Councillor Douglas Mills, Hillingdon Council's cabinet member for community, commerce and regeneration said: "This market will be fun for all of the family and you'll be able to buy some gifts just in time for Christmas. The council is proud to support local businesses and continue to improve Hillingdon's town centres to make them more attractive for residents and visitors."



EASTCOTE FESTIVE MARKET



3rd December 2016

10am to 4.30pm

We are inviting crafters, artists, sculptors and independent businesses to come along and take a stall. The cost for a three-square-metre pitch is £30; stallholders are to provide their own tables, gazebos, etc. Set up is from 8am, stalls must be ready to trade by 10am and all stalls must be cleared by 5.30pm. For more information or to book your pitch contact Getthriftys UK Craft Fairs by email at **thriftyfairs@yahoo.co.uk** or telephone Paris Oxley on **07875 400429**.

ROAD STEWARDS' SOCIAL EVENTS

Members of the ERA committee organised an afternoon social event on 15th July for road stewards at the stables in Eastcote House Gardens, to say thank you for all the work they do collecting subscriptions and delivering our newsletters (see an appreciation of the event by Rosemary Bucksey, below).

A second, evening, social event was held at the stables on 14th September, when Fiona Brewer, project officer from Groundwork South, gave an excellent presentation on her Heritage Lottery-funded project into the Colne Valley's industrial past.

We hope to organise more social events in the future for people to come together and meet other volunteers.



Karen Spink, Pamela Bailey, Jane Anderson, Chris Groom, Rosemary Bucksey and Pat Ayres enjoying tea, cake and a social chat.



An appreciation

Thank you to the ERA committee for organising the road stewards' afternoon tea and cake social event in July, which was held in the newly refurbished stables in Eastcote House Gardens. This was a very pleasant afternoon and provided us all with the opportunity to meet the committee and fellow road stewards in a relaxed and informal setting, to share experiences and to discuss ideas. I look forward to the next one!

Rosemary Bucksey

CAN YOU HELP?

We are still seeking road stewards for some roads that do not have one and are therefore unable to receive newsletters. If you can help please contact Alison Akerman, Senior Road Steward on **07771 846754** or **Alison@fsml.uk.com**

POLICE MATTERS

It's been all change at management level this month. We have a new temporary Chief Superintendent, Colin Wingrove, and Claire Smart continues as temporary Superintendent. Alongside me at Chief Inspector level are Detective Chief Inspector Clare Murray and another new face, Richard Watkinson, in the operations role. Don't worry though about musical chairs at the top table – the real hard work is done (and is still getting done) by our hard-working officers who patrol our streets day in, day out, and who investigate crimes and bring offenders to justice.

Police stopped and searched 3,500 people in Hillingdon last year; only nine resulted in a complaint against the officer. In the last four years burglary in Hillingdon has been reduced by 44 per cent, from 3,850 to 2,130 offences. One burglary is one too many, but that reduction should be celebrated. There are 65 special constables working in Hillingdon and in the last 12 months they worked 17,800 hours between them. There are always four officers deployed in Hillingdon round the clock in possession of a taser. Last year they only had to be fired four times.

Please keep in touch with your local police team and if you do need help, don't be afraid to call. Always call 999 in an emergency. If you have information that your local police team could take action on, but wish to remain anonymous, you can call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**.



EWE-NITED STITCHES

Why not come along and join a team of fellow knitters and crocheters and have a knit and a natter?

We make handmade items for those in need, supporting local neonatal units and the British Red Cross.

We get together on the first and third Wednesday evenings of each month at H.C. Grimstead, funeral directors, 164 Field End Road.

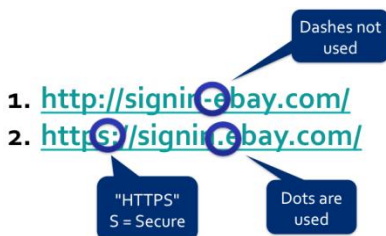
Check the window of the shop for details of our next gathering.

Donations of wool or handmade items are greatly appreciated

CYBER CRIME

The Metropolitan Volunteer Police Cadets are a youth organisation aimed at 13- to 19-year-olds who volunteer their time to help their local community. It was clear a few years ago that cyber crime was on the rise, so a group of cadets from Hillingdon decided to create an initiative to highlight and educate people in the community about online scams. Over the past two years the cadets have been delivering the Cyber Crime Community Initiative (CCCI) to members of the public across the whole of Hillingdon. Their presentations have been so successful that the initiative is being rolled out to local communities, not just in London, but across the UK.

Recently the cadets delivered the initiative at the Eastcote Residents' Association's Annual General Meeting. The presentation included discussion of a variety of online scams, information on how the scammer would carry out the scam and tips on how to prevent this from happening. They focused on a number of common scams which are often targeted at the general public: phishing – usually delivered by email with malware embedded in attachments; mass-market scam mail – either by email or normal post, suggesting that the receiver has won a prize; deceitful shopping scams – predominantly through online auction sites where bogus sellers fraudulently extract payment for goods they don't have; website-based attacks – where a website is infected with malware or possibly a fake website is used to deceive the unwary user; the danger of using software from non-reputable vendors; romance scams – or more generally the dangers associated with giving details to “friends” who have only been met through the internet; and mobile phone scams – which are often like the mass market scam. The cadets delivered an amusing and informative lecture with many examples and good audience interaction.



An example of a website address that is not authentic and one that is.

The objective of many of these scams is identity theft. Identity theft is not a new crime; in the past it might have entailed thieves rifling through refuse, but it has become much easier because of the internet and unwary users. The cadets emphasised the need to protect all devices with some form of anti-virus software and gave advice about the choice of passwords. In addition to the material provided by the cadets, a wealth of very good advice on the Get Safe Online website can be found at **www.getsafeonline.org**

At the end of their presentation, they listed ten golden rules:

1. There are no guaranteed get-rich-quick schemes – do they sound too good to be true?
2. Never send money or give out your details when you do not know/trust the person or company you are giving them to
3. Destroy personal information, shred documents, credit cards, etc.
4. Log directly onto a website rather than clicking on the link provided
5. Never reply to spam emails, even when you're trying to stop them
6. Remember always that scammers are cunning and clever – they know how to manipulate you to produce the response they want
7. Legitimate banks and companies will not ask for your details via email or phone
8. Just because a company has a well-designed website it doesn't mean it is legitimate
9. Be suspicious – if you are unsure about anything, seek advice from family or the police
10. Never get embarrassed by reporting a scam – if you spot one, or have been scammed, contact Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040** or visit their website at **www.actionfraud.org.uk**

The cadets are always thinking of new ways to help the community and ensure they feel safe in their own area. The CCCI has really helped people become more confident in the battle to reduce cyber crime across London.

CONSERVATION

Warrender Park

The 6th Eastcote Beavers and Cubs are still maintaining the 'old paddling pool' bed, as well as keeping the excellent flower displays behind Boots the Chemist and other places.

Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society have requested that the locally listed gates (Lime Grove entrance) be painted and the dreadful pink paint removed from the surrounding brickwork. This work is in hand with the council.

The Friends of Warrender Park have recently lost two of their stalwarts: Ed Fuller has stepped down due to ill health. Everyone sends a big thank you to him for all the wonderful spring bulbs he organised us all to plant. Also moving on is Steve Pearham, Chairman. Our thanks go to Steve and also to Barbara Pearham for all the minutes.

Pinn Meadows

Congratulations go to the Friends of Pinn Meadows (FoPM) for gaining a Green Flag award this year. FoPM have a monthly tidy up and keep the river clear of rubbish. Why do people decide to dump supermarket trolleys, fridges, cycles, paddling pools and other rubbish in the river? There is a free waste disposal centre at New Years Green Lane in Harefield: please use it instead of the River Pinn.



FoPM held their annual scything festival and picnic, attended by the Mayor of Hillingdon, earlier this year.

To volunteer with FoPM please contact Rob Cousins at RobCousins@sky.com

Planning

The proposal to redevelop the doctors' surgery at the junction of Deane Croft Road with Field End Road was refused at appeal.

The Government is constantly making changes to the National Planning Policy Framework; this is making it far harder for our local planning authority to refuse some absolutely dreadful planning applications.

Flood risk

Many places in Eastcote, Ruislip and Northwood Hills were hit by flash floods in mid-July. Reports were sent to Hillingdon's flood risk officer so that a picture could be built up of areas affected.

Reproduced below is the advice given in the last newsletter regarding reporting flooding.

There are three agencies involved in flood risk avoidance: the Environment Agency, Thames Water and Hillingdon Council. This also affects residents whose boundary is set in the middle of a river. Who is responsible therefore takes some sorting out.

To deal with road flooding, if the gullies are blocked, this is the responsibility of Hillingdon Council and should be reported to them at **contactcentre1@hillington.gov.uk**

However, if the problem is deeper than about 50 centimetres (18 inches) in the surface water pipe, then it is the responsibility of Thames Water on **0800 316 9800** (select option 1, then 3).

Start, therefore, with Hillingdon Council and if the problem is not resolved then contact Thames Water.

Please note that Thames Water will not accept information from Hillingdon Council concerning problems; they have to come from residents. Please don't ask me why they are so awkward.

EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDENS

FRIENDS OF EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDENS

Volunteer gardeners meet on the first and second Fridays and the third Thursday of each month, the fourth Thursday is Countryside Conservation as well as gardening. Meet at 9.30am. Tools and good company are provided. For more details contact lesley.crowcroft@gmail.com

This year has been an excellent one so far for the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens (FEHG), the high spot being the recipients of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in June. This is the highest accolade any voluntary group can achieve. In May, the Chairman, Lesley Crowcroft, and her husband were invited to represent the Friends at a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. In June, Chris and Irene Groom represented the Friends at the Patron's Lunch on the Mall for the Queen's 90th birthday.

In August, the results of the International Green Apple Awards were made public. The restoration project at Eastcote House Gardens won a Gold Award for an architecture and heritage project.

Success was gained in both horticultural and photographic entries in the Eastcote Horticultural Society spring and summer shows. The autumn show took place on 10th September.

The results of the London in Bloom categories were made known on 21st September.

Summer picnic

The summer picnic was a great success. The weather stayed dry, if cool. Visitors were able to visit the stables and dovecote and enjoy the wares on offer at many stalls.

The dog show was very well supported, with over £50 being donated to the Harefield Dogs Trust.

Check out our website
www.eastcotehousegardens.weebly.com



The Mayor of Hillingdon, Councillor John Hensley, formally opened the Queen Elizabeth herb beds, and presented the Hinman Shield to members of the 6th Eastcote Scouts.

High Note Entertainers and the Hill's Community Gospel Choir entertained the many visitors.



The FEHG community archive publications are selling well, with the first three books, *Eastcote House & Gardens*, *the People and the Place*, *Secret Eastcote & The Black Horse Story* almost sold out. Just published are *The Forgotten History of Haydon Hall* and the Eastcote House Gardens 2017 calendar, both at £5. All publications can be obtained from lesley.crowcroft@gmail.com, Andy_weller@hotmail.co.uk or from the gardens' café.

The next planned publication from the archive will be *Eastcote Connections*. Over 30 prominent people who have a connection with Eastcote are featured; this will be available in the autumn.



Friends of Eastcote House Gardens

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 29th October 2016

The Stables, Eastcote House Gardens

7.30pm to 10pm



No refreshments are provided but you are welcome to bring your own drinks, nibbles, glasses and plates. For more information, or to book, contact Antony Bucksey on **020 8866 9704** or email aabucksey@aol.com Only pre-booked car parking is available. Tickets are £6 per person which includes five free raffle tickets.



ANNUAL TREE DRESSING

Saturday 26th November 2016 at 1.30pm
Eastcote House Gardens



The FEHG craft group meets three times a month. This is a very informal group working on projects or individual work. The next project is aimed at the 100th anniversary of the end of the first World War, in November 2018. We hope to encourage other groups or individuals to join us in making poppy displays for the stables and walled garden and involve schools and uniformed groups as well. Any proceeds will be donated to the Eastcote Royal British Legion. If you or your group would like to join in please contact **lesley.crowcroft@gmail.com**

EASTCOTE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Branch fundraising has already topped last year's total. As at 24th June 2016 the 2015/16 total stood at £52,073.92, the highest ever.

Poppy fortnight fast approaches and collectors are needed if the 2016/17 total is to be surpassed this year. If you can help, even for just a couple of hours, please contact Jeff Duley at **jeff.duley@btinternet.com**

Prior to the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens, members of the Eastcote British Legion and Hillingdon's ground maintenance scheme tidied the memorial garden in readiness for the candlelight vigil. This memorial service was well attended.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

PARADE AND SERVICE
EASTCOTE

Sunday 13th November 2016

Eastcote War Memorial, Field End Road 10.40am to 11.20am
All are welcome to attend

DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL BUS ROUTES IN EASTCOTE

It was not until late during the Second World War that the shopping area through Eastcote gained a bus service. Route **225** was introduced in January 1944, running on Mondays to Saturdays between Northwood Hills (Circus?) via Joel Street, Eastcote High Road and Field End Road to Eastcote (Woodlands Avenue) only, operated by just one one-man-operated single-decker bus; in May this soon became crew-operated. In April 1946, buses were double-decked, introduced on Sundays, and the route extended at both ends, down Field End Road to Eastcote Lane (*Eastcote Arms*) and along Pinner Road, Northwood High Street, Church Road and Green Lane to Northwood Station. A period of stability followed and it was not until November 1957 that the route was further extended, on Sunday afternoons only, to Mount Vernon Hospital.

Route 225 was withdrawn in May 1963, being replaced by an extension of double-deck route **232** (which started at Hounslow Bus Station) from Greenford (*Civil Engineer*), opening up a direct link from there to Northolt, Eastcote Lane and beyond. In February 1968, daily journeys were introduced to Mount Vernon Hospital.

The northern end of the route was replaced by new one-man-operated single-deck route **282** from November 1968, shortened at the southern end and diverted to terminate at Greenford (*Red Lion*). In July 1974 the route was converted to double-deck, additional journeys to Mount Vernon Hospital were introduced in March 1975 and all journeys from March 1979 when it was also extended from Greenford to Southall Garage. In August 1986 it was further extended to Hanwell Broadway and in September 1987 diverted to run via Ealing Hospital. From March 1990 midibuses were introduced to the route (apart from schoolday-only journeys); the service was also generally withdrawn between Ealing Hospital and Hanwell Broadway, finally disappearing in March 1993. Larger single-decker buses were introduced in March 1998 and double-deckers returned from April 2003. A period of stability has followed and we may yet see 50 years of route 282 at the end of November 2018!

I am grateful to Ian Armstrong from his *London Bus Routes* website for allowing me to use this information.

David Harper, Editor

GETTING CREATIVE AT GRANGEWOOD SCHOOL

Recently Grangewood School in Eastcote enjoyed a colourful and musical African-themed expressive week.

Grangewood School is a special primary school (one of the family of schools at the Eden Academy) for children with severe learning difficulties and physical and complex needs including autism spectrum disorder. Teaching at Grangewood is done in a fun, creative way, so that children develop a love of learning. Art and music play a very important part in the school's curriculum and every year they organise a whole week's activities around expression.

This year Grangewood pupils heard African storytelling, saw a performance of 'Handa's Surprise', visited the fantastic Colourscape at Waddesdon Manor, listened to African drumming groups and got to paint their own masks. The week's activities culminated with a visit from the Lions of Zululand (a traditional Zulu music and dance group from KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa) and a colourful, celebratory carnival in the playground.

As part of the celebrations, Grangewood hosted an art exhibition showcasing the wonderful creativity of the children, including some fantastic examples of African prints. As well as parents and friends attending, the school opened its doors to the community, and the Deputy Mayor of Hillingdon, Councillor Carol Melvin, local residents, schools and businesses attended.

Grangewood is always happy to welcome local residents and the community to the school, so please look out for future events!



Pupils enjoying the display of colourful artwork in the school's art exhibition.

TWO ACCOUNTS RELATING TO NORTHWOOD COTTAGE HOSPITAL



The first incident occurred early in the outbreak of World War II when rovers and senior scouts volunteered to become bicycle messengers to go between all local hospitals, in the event of other means of communication being out of commission. I was one of those given the cottage hospital as a base.

On my first night of reporting in the blackout, I reached the hospital and endeavoured to find an entrance, only to be faced, in the dark, with what seemed to be a continuous wall of sandbags. I made several circuits of the building before finding the zigzag opening to the hospital.

The entrance was even darker when reaching the door and I fumbled around until I felt a very large brass plate, in the middle of which I could feel a push button. This I pressed, hearing a strident ringing somewhere within. After a brief pause, the door was opened by a sister or a matron holding a shielded torch, which shone up and down my entire scout uniform. After which, bearing in mind I was then five foot eleven and sixteen years old, a stern voice said “come in, you stupid boy, waking up the whole hospital”. Shades of Dad’s Army! I was then sent off to Mount Vernon with a written message – no worries there I’m pleased to say.

The second incident occurred after the war when I was digging over a vegetable patch and using an eight-foot dirty scaffold plank to walk on. When throwing this down, a large wedge-shaped splinter some 3/16” wide at the base and three inches long was driven into the forefinger of my right hand, from the palm joint to the tip of the finger. This necessitated a trip by bike up to the cottage hospital. It was Sunday morning and they called in a doctor. A person much like Margaret Rutherford who pulled out the splinter with tweezers and then said “drop your trousers”, produced a syringe and jabbed my right buttock, leaving the nurse to tidy up. The doctor then said “I must get back to my lunch”.

Dennis Self, Eastcote resident

MICHAEL SOBELL HOSPICE

Gate 3, Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, HA6 2RN

Wednesday 19th October – Brainbox Quiz Night, 7.30pm

Show off your general knowledge skills at our hugely popular quiz night. Tickets sell out fast, so book your place now! Barclays Bank match funds all ticket sales so your donation goes a long way. Tickets cost £16 per person including a fish and chip supper (a vegetarian option is available).

Sunday 30th October – Halloween Monster Colourdash

Children's event starts at 11am, adults' at 12 noon. Join in this fun and messy five-kilometre run (or shorter two-kilometre event for children) where you will get covered in hideous Halloween-coloured powder along the route. There will be a pumpkin-carving competition, tombola and raffle. Come in Halloween fancy dress. The event is open to all ages and abilities. Registration costs £20 for adults, £10 for children and £50 for families (two adults and two children).

Saturday 5th November – Festive Gift Fair, 10am to 2pm

Join us for some festive fun with gift stalls, home-made goodies, live music, kids corner and delicious seasonal refreshments. Entry is free and there is onsite parking.

Christmas cards

We have a lovely range of traditional and contemporary Christmas cards that will be available to buy in our charity shops and fundraising office over the festive period.

Can you help?

We are looking for volunteer gift-wrappers to help us at the Intu Uxbridge shopping centre during December. If you can spare a few hours of your time, please call Ophelia on **020 3826 2362**. We are also looking for walking and static marshals to help at our fundraising events. Please get in touch if you are interested in helping us out with these volunteer opportunities.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN EASTCOTE LIBRARY?

There's lots to do at Eastcote Library – it's not just a place to borrow books. We have many regular events held here every month.

Reading groups

There are two established reading groups. They meet on different dates and times. Book selections are varied and suit all tastes – ranging from Hilary Mantel's *Bring Up The Bodies* to Ben Elton's *Time After Time*, Tony Parsons' *Men From The Boys* to Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*, and Cecelia Ahern's *The Gift* to Robert Galbraith's *The Cuckoo's Calling* – it's a great way to experience books that you would not normally read.

Knit and natter

This is a very lively group that meets fortnightly on Thursday evenings. Lots of lively discussion is had whilst enjoying refreshments. Members of all abilities are welcome, including beginners – help and advice is given.

Adult colouring

Colouring isn't just for children. It's a great way to unwind and discover your creative side and meet other people. The group meets fortnightly on Wednesday mornings.

Coffee morning

We have a very popular coffee morning on the second Friday of the month, with talks given by local authors and groups. Previous talks have included *Secret Eastcote* by local author Andy Weller, the RSPB, the Hillingdon Ramblers' Association, the National Women's Register and the Women's Institute. To find out what talks are coming up please give us a call here at Eastcote Library.

Play-reading group

Calling all amateur thespians. The group meets in the morning on the fourth Tuesday of the month. It's a very informal group and no acting experience is needed. It's a great way of rediscovering favourite plays, as well as discovering new ones.

Eastcote Library can be contacted on **01895 558230** or by email at **eastcote-library@hillingdon.gov.uk**

EASTCOTE ART SOCIETY

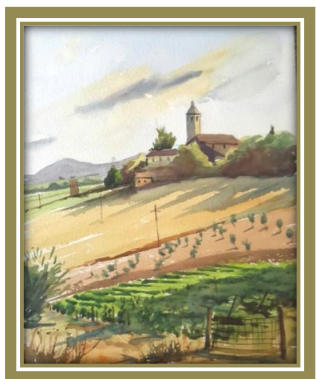
When you read this article you will probably have taken a summer holiday, perhaps somewhere interesting or beautiful. For me it is very natural to record these interesting places in paintings, or in sketchbooks. I have often been asked, why do I need to paint when I have a very good camera, able to record the scene very accurately. It can take only seconds to press the shutter and get your photograph. A sketch or painting can take anything from ten minutes to a couple of hours depending on size, medium and complexity of the scene.

In order to be able to complete a painting you need to observe very accurately, often finding little elements which you can focus upon in your painting. During the process the light can change and give you sudden improvement in the scene, or a figure might appear in the scene, which you might incorporate into your work. The photographer having taken 30 seconds at the scene will probably miss these changes, unless he is a professional.

When looking at a painting or sketch, even many years after it was done, I can remember the sights, sounds, and even smells of the scene. It all floods back. I don't get the same from a photograph.

The luxury of time, whilst on holiday, can lead many people to try to record scenes, or try a sketch.

Take my advice and give it a try. You only need a pencil and a pad/book. You don't have to show anyone if you don't want to, but I'll bet that you will appreciate much more of what is in front of you and see things you would have not noticed before.



Here is a sketch completed on holiday in Tuscany – I can feel the sun on my back as I look at it.

We continue to attract new members but would love to invite anyone interested in visiting us or becoming a member to contact Graham Pellow, Chairman, by emailing **grahampellow08@gmail.com** or going to our website **www.eastcoteartsociety.co.uk**

4TH EASTCOTE SCOUTS WILLING TO HELP



On Friday evening 15th July, the 4th Eastcote Scouts visited Eastcote House Gardens with the goal of helping the community with a litter pick around the premises. We were met by Lesley Crowcroft, Chairman of the Friends of Eastcote House Garden (FEHG). All the scouts were eager to put on hi-visibility jackets and collect their litter sticks. We managed a couple of quick photos before we split

into two groups of about ten each and went to different areas to start the litter pick. Sticking to the fence line, walking slowly around, we picked up many things. After an hour, with the bags filling up, we headed back to return the equipment and dispose of the rubbish. We will certainly be doing this again in the future, with the help of the FEHG.

We have four very active groups in Eastcote and others nearby, with hundreds of members aged six to 25. We do need more adult volunteers, so if there's anything at all you can help with – including things like cooking, fundraising, or running activities, we'd love to hear from you. See what we're up to at <http://www.renscouts.org.uk> and click on "Join the Adventure!" to get in touch.

6TH EASTCOTE BEAVERS AND CUBS FILL THEIR BOOTS

The 6th Eastcote Beavers and Cubs created the excellent display behind Boots the Chemist by filling old wellington boots with plants which made a very colourful display.

They also look after a flower bed in Warrender Park, plus floral displays at the Acorn Youth Club and the British Legion. They also take part in the Eastcote Horticultural shows, which proves they all have green fingers and are very much a part of the community.



ERA COMMITTEE

Chairman: Alison Holtorp – 020 8866 8186

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

Deesha Chadha – 07976 920351

Chris Hankin – 020 8866 8186

LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Eastcote & East Ruislip Ward

Cllr Catherine Dann – 01895 558640

Cllr Becky Haggart – 07769 323142

Cllr Nick Denys – 01895 250316

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

Boris Johnson – 020 7219 4682

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.eastcoteracouncil.co.uk

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