



INDEPENDENCE

FOUNDED 1929



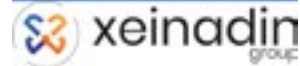
ANNUAL REPORT
SPRING 2021



Photograph by Emily Stimpson

Rickmansworth Aquadrome

**Paying London prices for business and tax advice?
Let Lee & Co help**



**We offer affordable local expertise, fixed fees
and excellent service.**

**Professionals
you can trust**

Our range of business services for companies and individuals:

- Accounting, payrolls and online bookkeeping
- Audit & assurance
- Business and general financial advice
- Company formations, acquisitions and disposals
- Personal & corporate tax, VAT & IHT planning
- Probate, wills and executorships

Our team advise over 700 clients and are keen to help the local community

You are very welcome to a complimentary meeting with one of our directors or
senior managers

Please phone 01923 897975 or email john@leeaccs.com

26 High Street, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 1ER

Phone: 01923 897975

www.leeaccs.com

Ample client parking at rear of our premises

FROM THE TILLER



Lockdown

Well, a year ago we would not have expected this Covid to carry on for quite so long and, to be honest, we still have no idea how much longer it will carry on for.

I was 70 at the end of last April and we had planned a party to celebrate that and my wife's 70th, our 45th wedding Anniversary later in the year and the 45th anniversary of the launching of our Narrow Boat. I remember saying to my wife in early March "do you think this lockdown will affect our party?" We decided not but by the end of March it was clear that it would. We postponed the event until October, the month of our Anniversary. We thought it would be far enough away from the virus being got rid of. How wrong we were. We have given up on the idea!

We must hope that the Government are right and we will be free again at the end of June but the PM has warned of the possibility of a third wave before it is over.

Well, we have been in lock down on and off for over a year now and we all seem to be coping quite

well although many miss cuddling grandchildren and the need for hiding indoors is becoming a bind. It came as a great shock to me to discover that Model Railway shops were not considered essential. Getting a haircut was also a challenge.

During this time the word Zoom has become known to everyone. There are others such as Microsoft Teams but Zoom seems to be the platform most people use. The basic version is free, my favourite price, but your Committee has taken to Zoom for the meetings we have to run the Association and discuss local issues. TRDC hold Council meetings in the same way. In fact most meetings, business or social, happen over the computer.

I have to say Zoom offers many advantages and there are many things you can do which, prior to Covid 19's arrival, you would not have considered.

Elections

In early May we have elections for Community, District and County Councils, as well as for the Hertfordshire Police Commissioner. At the time of writing this the date, 6th of May, is two weeks away but by the time this report falls through your letterbox, the results will be known.

To be honest, we are not expecting any major changes but having got the date out of the way, we will be able to get on with our lobbying projects. We may, however, be talking to new people so may have to start, in some situations from scratch.

Another matter which we all hope for but is less certain is a return to normal following Covid. There is some concern that a third wave may hit us but we can go back to February last year and resume campaigns which the virus put on hold.

These include:-

- Batchworth Bridge and the training of a team to monitor traffic.
- Speed limits on Rectory Road and Riverside Drive.
- Increase in HGVs on Harefield Road.
- Sewage in River Chess and Harefield Road
- A PCSO to patrol the High Street at least some of the time.

Chairman's Notes

And many others.

The Association will continue to lobby our elected representatives to make sure that they work on behalf of residents and local issues, as many of them do.

Editor

The Association needs an Editor for this Magazine – are you prepared to do this vital job once a year? If so, please contact me at chairman@rickmansworthresidents.org

Crime

I regret to advise that crime is on the increase in the area, especially in respect of theft of catalytic converters from vehicles and break-in thefts to vehicles.

The Police recently arrested a gang responsible for many of these incidents but it is essential to be aware of the many thefts which have happened in our area.

Please keep a look out and, if you see anything out of order, ring 999. Do not try to get involved yourself.

If you are reporting something which has happened but those involved have left the scene then ring 101 to report the matter.

Protect your catalytic converter with a security plate. These cost money but not as much as having to buy and have a new one fitted! On top of this you will not be able to use your car in the interim.

Another crime on the increase is the theft of dogs. Do not leave your dog outside a shop whilst you go in – get someone to go with you to look after them.

Our pets are part of our family so it is not just the theft of perhaps a valuable pet but the loss of a friend and the heartbreak that brings.

AGM

Our AGM is due to be held on the 21st of June. We plan to go ahead with this; however we do have an alternative plan using Zoom. If we need to transfer to Zoom, we will advise you by e-mail.

Please see later in this magazine for details of the AGM Agenda and a copy of the accounts.

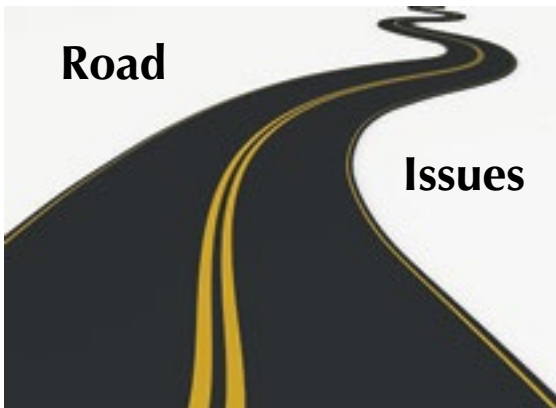
Michael Stimpson

Contents

1. Chairman's Notes
- 2/3. Bits and Bobs
4. Neighbourhood Plan
5. Appeal for Chorleywood Signal Box
- 6/7. Local History - Watercress Beds
8. Three Rivers Museum
10. Rickmansworth Bowls Club
11. RWT Trip Boat Project
12. A Pandemic of Scams
13. Citizens' Advice
- 14/15. Tackling Climate Change
16. AGM
17. Your Committee
- 18/19. Wonderful Online World
20. R&DRA Financial Statement

PETER'S PADDOCK**Not operating due to temporary (library) closure!**

We regret that Peter is not able, this year, to produce his normal article. This is due to the Library being closed because of Covid and thus Peter, not having access to the computers there, was not able to produce his normal text for us. Instead, I am producing this article with local news and information.

Road**Issues**

We have, for many years now, been campaigning for something to be done about accidents and speeding traffic over Batchworth Bridge. Frances Button outgoing, our County Councillor, has arranged for the metal grilles to be removed from the railings on the northern side to give drivers a better view of folk waiting to cross but cars nevertheless continue to speed across the bridge.

An RDRA member contacted us about speed limits on Rectory Road and Riverside Drive and we realised that the differing speed limits were part of the problem. We are thus starting a campaign to have the speed limits set to a uniform 30mph – it makes no sense to have different speed limits on such a short route.

Staying with Riverside Drive, the cycle path alongside the road has suffered damage from tree roots and, as a result, cyclists are using the road which is not wide enough for vehicle users to safely pass a cyclist. We are taking this up with the County Council.

Dancing and Keep Fit using Zoom

Over this pandemic we have learned to communicate with people more, ie using Zoom.

It has been a lifeline for some families, being able to talk to someone, but also has enabled some businesses to keep going through this difficult time.

A local Dance School, Berry Lane Dance Classes, has been using Zoom for just over a year now. On speaking to the Principal, Julie Noble, it hasn't been easy and definitely comes with its challenges. Making sure the WiFi connection is good, making sure you are seen fully and also learning to 'mute' everyone if you are demonstrating anything (if no one is muted then the screen will automatically go to the person who is making the most noise !!), things that you would only know if you are using Zoom regularly.

Primarily on Zoom Julie has been teaching Tap dancing to children and adults and private lessons in Ballet, but it has also enabled her to keep her fitness class going 'Ballet Bootcamp' twice a week, Tuesdays 7.30pm-8pm & Saturday mornings 10.30am-11am and having friends/family joining in from as far as Sydney & Singapore. This is where Zoom can be amazing for those still wishing to exercise. Even after lockdown, Julie has informed the fitness class that she will continue classes on Zoom - something she would have never considered in the past. Certainly for Julie, Zoom has been a lifeline for her to be able to continue a job she loves.

Litter Pick

Members have commented on the amount of litter on the side of the towpath from Batchworth Lock to Stockers Lock and have suggested that we organise a litter pick. We have, once Covid rules allow, to undertake this in conjunction with Rickmansworth Waterways Trust who can arrange with the Canal and River Trust to supply equipment to assist.

We will advise the date, when arranged, by e-mail.

For some reason, folk think it is OK to visit our parks and countryside and leave litter behind. The worst is throw-away B-B-Qs which can still be hot to touch hours later and can cause injury to animals.

Morris Dancing

Your local Morris Side, Phoenix Morris, will not be able to dance in public until at least the end of June but that has not stopped them. They meet every week using Zoom and even held a Christmas Party and Annual Dinner using Zoom.

They have put their kit on though as a small number of them performed for Thames Television in a filming event last October and have just finished filming for an Indi Rock Video to go on YouTube which saw them both at Batchworth Lock and Chiltern Open Air Museum in early April. Filming, it seems, has different Covid regulations!

As part of those, all taking part had to have Covid tests at the main filming location – COAM.



Rickmansworth Waterways Trust

The RWT will start running trips on the Pride of Batchworth barge from April 12th and the Education Centre is also taking bookings from this date for certain organisations that are allowed to use it. Full opening will not be until restrictions are relaxed further.

Rickmansworth Museum

The picture which is the front cover of a new booklet 'Roll of Honour 1914-1919' is being sold in the Museum for £3. It provides details of 300 men who died in the conflict and who came from Rickmansworth.



Phoenix Morris are a mixed Cotswold Morris Side based in Rickmansworth.

Morris is a great way to make friends and keep fit whilst keeping alive a centuries old tradition.

We practice every Wednesday night in Ebury Road Rickmansworth unless dancing out.

We dance at local pubs and events as well as Folk Festivals across the country.

We are a friendly bunch of people who love having a good time and always welcome new members, both dancers and musicians, and no experience is required. Do come along and give it a try – you won't be disappointed.

**For further details visit our web site
<https://phoenixmorrisdancers.com/>
 or ring our Foreman, Sue Stimpson, on
 07831 815357**

Your Local Neighbourhood Plan Team Needs You!



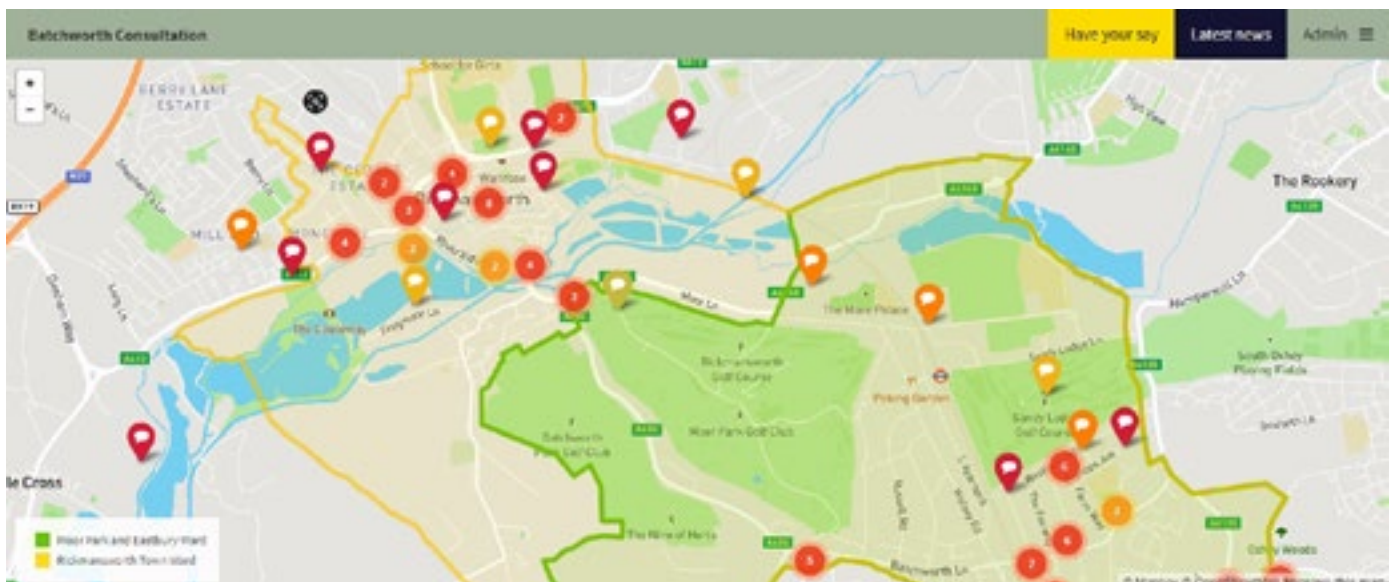
Residents and businesses of the Batchworth Community Council (BCC) area have an opportunity to create a shared vision and policies for the future development and growth of the area. This process allows our community to plan for the type of buildings, infrastructure and protected aspects of our area. The Neighbourhood Plan is a statutory document which, after a referendum, will be used alongside the Local Plan and other material considerations to guide decisions for planning applications in the BCC area.

Community engagement and two-way communications are key to our success and The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group invites residents and businesses of two Wards- Rickmansworth Town, Moor Park & Eastbury, to participate in the consultation process.

Have your say about areas that need improvement and how to make our area a better place to live and work, on an interactive map at <https://batchworth.commonplace.is> The consultation process will also include 4 Focus Group meetings for each Ward which will be conducted online. Residents, businesses and stakeholders are invited to register and participate in the Focus Groups topics of Open Spaces, Design and Heritage, Civic and Employment and Infrastructure.

Details can be found at: <https://www.batchworthplan.org.uk/focusandsteering-group/>

Please scroll down the web page to sign up for Focus Group discussions.



March 2021 - New appeal for Chorleywood Signal Box

Last autumn we asked residents for suggestions about the possible use of the empty signal box at the south end of the station's down platform. This prompted suggestions that included an educational museum for children and adults alike. This could focus on the railway and how it affected the development of Chorleywood.

Next a committee of wide local representation was established by Martin Trevett and Owen Edis. This included members from CRA, CPC, TRDC, RDRA, CU3A and A&CMRS (see in full below). Since then five Zoom meetings have been held from which good progress has been made in establishing a Constitution, appointing officers, obtaining a bank account, and setting up this website. Most recently a representative from TfL, the owners of the Box, has joined in the meetings. We are hoping for a second site visit in April (when allowed) that will involve other London Underground specialists including the curator of LU Museum.

Ideas for the museum are to have display boards with historical photographs and posters showing the original development and changes to the railway. This would include original track plans with a possible operational model of the station and goods yard (now occupied by the station car park).

Also information about past events, reference books, memories of those who served on or watched the railway over the years, and displays of any railwayana that can be made available. We may even include some sounds from steam days.

But before we can do this, the inside of the box needs refurbishing and safe access arrangements need to be installed bearing in mind it is situated on a working railway. It is estimated that these works would cost in the region of £15,000. So our next step is to seek donations and obtain grants from whatever sources we can. To get started we have sent out a Just Giving (Crowdfunding) notice hoping to initially raise £5000 from interested people. In the meantime, if you have any photos, interesting personal experiences/memories of the railway to describe, or appropriate items of railwayana, please contact the project secretary at 07713862738 or secretary@chorleywoodsignalbox.co.uk. Much of this will go on a History tab on this website some of which will be displayed in the museum when it comes to fruition.



Abbreviations:

CRA = Chorleywood Residents Association

CPC = Chorleywood Parish Council

TRDC = Three Rivers District Council

RDRA = Rickmansworth and District Residents Association

CU3A = Chorleywood University of Third Age

A&CMRS = Amersham and Chorleywood Model Railway Society

Update on Chorleywood Signal Box Project

The signal box project is now in full swing with five meetings to date of the committee, from which a comprehensive administrative framework has been established. Read more on the news page of our brand new website <https://www.chorleywoodsignalbox.co.uk/news>

We need to preserve these important heritage sites as once they have gone they have gone for ever.



(Picture of "Up Met Goods train June 1934". Note that the station name back then was "Chorley Wood and Chenies")

My Mother was a Payne



My cousin Dawn asked me to show my family history photographs and documents, I was quite happy to do this but it was only when I took my photographs round to her that she gave me a poster and I find I am listed as a speaker.

I never have problems in talking but talking about watercress is something else!

I have always been pretty close to Dawn but I think she had pushed our friendship to the limit - only joking.

I know absolutely nothing about watercress, I think it was one of the few things I had to like as a child, I have yet to try watercress soup!

Terry will be able to tell you all about the farming of the cress, I can tell you about my watercress family and

some of my childhood memories.

I have done a little research and the first watercress grower I have on my family tree is Joseph Payne born in 1799. His son James was born in 1811, his son James 1887, his son Thomas (my grandfather and Dawn's Uncle Tom) born 1869 and his two sons (my uncles Harold and Leslie born in 1903 and 1905, that is five generations spanning 161 years. Not forgetting that farming was usually kept in the family, my grandfather's elder brother (another James) was also a watercress grower and the pictures are of my James, Tom and presumably their brother Albert Payne, some employees and their father James Payne – the James born in 1887. Family members wore bowler hats and employees caps I understand.

James Payne junior lived in Rickmansworth and had 13 children, I presume that he split from the family business in Watford and started the Payne watercress business in Rickmansworth,

The photographs I have are not dated but I would imagine them to



be about 1890 or thereabouts, maybe some further research sometime will give me the exact dates.

I have the framed photographs in my lounge with other very old family photographs and they are a great talking point and surprisingly when my children's friends call they are really impressed and interested

My grandparents had a house in Watford. At the back, there was a stable. I don't remember the horse at all and in my lifetime the stable was used to store the oblong cress boxes, the sort with a metal handle and an absolutely huge pile of string to tie up the bundles. The string was in such quantities and had a really pungent smell. I used to like playing in there.

My Christmas stocking was unreal!

It was one of my grandad's huge thigh-length thick knitted stockings, worn for warmth under the thigh-length wellington boots. I don't remember my grandad working but my uncles carried on the business until about 1960

The documents show many interesting pieces of information about bore holes, cress orders, receipts - it goes on and on

The cress was taken by train to London and on to other outlets, orders were by post – can you imagine!

Before the war sewage pipes were laid through the land, this was compulsory and compensation was eventually paid out after the war ended

After my grandparents died, my Dad said, my uncles didn't bother with the beds and let them go to seed and

once that happens it takes a lot of work to get them up and running again. I understand my uncles had had enough of getting up at the crack of dawn and did not seem interested. I remember my dad saying he would help after work and at weekends but I am afraid that was when the business folded.

My Uncle Leslie took a caretaking job for a few years and my uncle Harold worked for the Samsons, another watercress family.

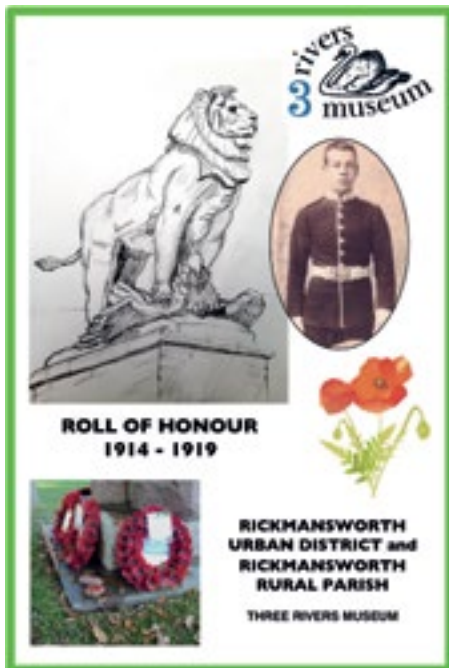
I feel very privileged to have such documentation and photographs to hand down to my family as they are very old and precious to me.

Carole Maddison



Three Rivers Museum of Local History

An update from Fabian Hiscock, chairman of Three Rivers Museum Trust



There have been a number of changes at the Museum, despite (or perhaps because of) the Pandemic.

Firstly, the long life of our very well-respected chairman of more than twenty years ended in December 2019. I've had the great honour of being asked to follow in her footsteps, and I took up the role exactly a year ago – just as the Museum closed for the

first lockdown. And although we were able to open briefly in September and October, we've been closed ever since. But we expect to be open again from 17th May!

Other changes to our team include the move to the Trustee Board of Jenny Barzilay, a volunteer for a while and elected at the AGM in mid-summer 2020. And we're delighted that Sally Williams, who with her husband Rob has also been a volunteer for some years, has taken up the role of our Education Officer.

We are, as I hope all residents know, in the middle of the town in Basing House, between the library and Watersmeet. We're only small, and all-volunteer, but we have an amazing amount of 'stuff', and an increasing digital collection as well as a lot of printed material – booklets and indeed books. So we want to make sure that we're providing a proper attraction in the centre of Rickmansworth (bearing in mind that we serve the rest of Three Rivers as well), and that as many people as possible know what we have and do, and can come and use us.

We see ourselves as a first-stop for information and activities related to the heritage of Three Rivers. The question for us now is, 'How do we best present that?' We'll be developing both our digital and our physical presence, and when you visit you'll start to see a number of changes in the way we look and feel, on which we'll be working as soon as we can get back in with a group. And we'll be involved in a number of 'community' events, for example the post-pandemic dance event 'Reawaken'. But we really need to know what you, our 'audience', want of us, and during the summer we'll be carrying out a number of surveys to which we'd very much like your input – the Residents' Association will be just one group to ask, albeit a very important one.

You can also help by coming to see us! Even better, join the Trust – and join our volunteers. There's no reason for that to be a major commitment: we have a number of short-term projects on the go, and help for just a few days, certainly a few weeks, could make all the difference. So, for example, would you like to help re-shape our website? Or help scan or photograph documents of various sorts? Or carry out a survey? Providing our 'staff' when we're open by becoming a steward would be wonderful. Our present volunteers do all that and more – but there's a lot more to be done, especially as we make the changes we intend.

**We hope to hear from you:
enquiries@trmt.org.uk, or of course
01923 727333.**



GDPR (DATA PROTECTION LAW MAY 2018)
Under the above Act we are required to inform our members that their name, address and road representative will be kept on a computer record. This information will be used solely for the benefit of the Association and will not be disclosed to a third party. Any members who object to their details being recorded in this way should contact the Secretary.

Bowlers wanted!

Want to start a new hobby? Want to get some good, safe, healthy outdoor exercise?



Rickmansworth Bowls Club is seeking to increase its membership and would welcome experienced bowlers and newcomers to the sport, both ladies and gents, of all ages.

The club plays at Basing Gardens, Northway, opposite the Three Rivers District Council offices. We hope to start bowling in April this year and would love to see potential new members there.

We have spare bowls for newcomers to use so they can try the sport out before committing to buying their own. We will show you the basics of the sport and give you the opportunity to see if you like it. All you would need at first would be a pair of flat-bottomed shoes, plus comfortable trousers and shirt.

We will be following the Government guidelines to ensure that members stay safe during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please contact **Nick Bessant, Club Secretary**, for further details: tel. **07731 897481**, or email **nick.bessant@talktalk.net** or **Sid Yexley, Green Management**: tel. **07503 196786**, or email **syexley@aol.com**

Photography by Victor Shack

Stills and video

Conversion V.H.S. Hi 8 MiniDV
to D.V.D.

01923 772262 - 07771 332281

victorshack@btconnect.com

www.victorshackphotography.co.uk

PERSONALISED HOME CARE

In the comfort of your home by professional, reliable and compassionate carers

-  Daily Personal Care
-  Wake up Calls
-  Bedtime Routines
-  Meal Preparation
-  Medication
-  Respite
-  Dementia Care
-  Companionship
-  Palliative Care
-  Post Surgical Care



If you need a little extra help,
a better level of care, have complex needs
or simply someone to keep you company . . .

 Aqua
Care

Please contact your local friendly team on
020 3907 0707 | 01923 718822

care@aevacare.co.uk www.aevacare.co.uk

Rickmansworth Service Station

MOST MAKES OF CARS SERVICED,
TYRES, EXHAUSTS, BATTERIES,
ACCESSORIES, BOSCH TUNING,
AIR CONDITIONING



MOT
Centre



RMI



VICTORIA CLOSE, RICKMANSWORTH

TELEPHONE: 01923 778787

OPEN 8 A.M. - 6 P.M.

Rickmansworth Bowls Club

You may have heard about the problems that Rickmansworth Bowls Club was facing this time last year. The club plays at the Basing Gardens, Northway, Rickmansworth, sharing the ground with The Royal British Legion Bowls Club. Both clubs use the facilities, the green and the clubhouse, through a rental agreement with Three Rivers District Council. This arrangement has been in place for many years, with the licence being renewed every 4 or 5 years. The previous licence expired 5 years ago and both parties continued the existing arrangement until last year, when TRDC requested that the bowls clubs enter into a new licence or lease arrangement.

Under the old licence arrangement, the clubs paid a set rent each year. In return, the council maintained the playing surface and paid for the upkeep of the clubhouse. The rent originally covered the cost of this but over the years a discrepancy developed and the council was losing money. The clubs were therefore offered 2 possibilities. They could have a new licence whereby the council still paid the bills and maintained the green, but with the rent being 4-5 times greater than previously and therefore far too expensive for



the clubs to afford. The second option was to take on a lease at a much lower rent but whereby the clubs took on the full responsibility of maintaining the playing surface and the cost of the clubhouse, including any potential repairs to the building.

The clubs expressed their interest in the second option as their members were willing to carry out the work necessary to keep the green in playing condition, even though they would need to buy the expensive equipment and consumables needed to do this. However, they were very concerned that the upkeep of the clubhouse might cost more than they could afford, potentially forcing the clubs to



close. They have therefore been trying to negotiate a more affordable option with the council, including hopefully going into partnership with another organisation to produce an outcome that would be better for the bowls clubs, would benefit the local community in many other ways, and would also be financially better for TRDC. This has been a very protracted and stressful business, probably made more difficult by the effect of covid19, changes of staff at TRDC and everyone working from home. As a result, we have yet to reach a satisfactory outcome to the negotiations. We are still optimistic and hope that a lease/licence of some sort will be signed in due course.

In the meantime, the lockdown restrictions are easing, the government has decided that outdoor sports can resume, and the outdoor bowling season is about to start! The clubs' members have been working hard to improve the playing surface in recent months and the green is now looking superb! We are therefore hoping that TRDC will allow us to start bowling ASAP whilst negotiations continue. Assuming that this happens then Rickmansworth Bowls Club would welcome new members, both experienced and newcomers!

Nick Bessant, Secretary.
tel: 07731 897481
email: nick.bessant@talktalk.net



Rickmansworth Waterways Trust - Trip boat replacement project



You may have seen that the Trust have been doing work recently to keep our trip boat, the Pride of Batchworth, in good repair as it is a key part of both our educational work and used extensively to run trips for visitors. The last work was to replace the Perspex panels on the roof with steel to solve long term issues with leaks - not ideal in a boat!

The boat is now around 30 years old and was second hand to us when we bought it. Some residents may remember it was an electric boat originally. However after several years' operation with the Trust the batteries started to fail. Due to the expense of replacement and lack of range with electric technology at the time we converted the boat to its current diesel engine. This conversion has always been a compromise in terms of the old electric systems in the boat and the space to service and maintain the diesel engine. Due to the age of the boat and the fact that we are spending an increasing amount on the boat to keep it in a safe operational condition, the Trustees have set up a small team to look into specifying a replacement.

The first task the team completed was to prepare and agree a Statement of User Requirements which defines what we need the boat to do. This document was then used to derive a more detailed System Requirements Document. One of our experienced volunteers guided us through this process and he helped us very successfully with this approach to generate the same documents for the Batchworth Lock Education Centre. Without this robust approach it is very easy to get "scope creep" when embarking on a major project. It stood us in good stead as many times when discussing design details for the building we went back to our User Requirements to ensure decisions we were making were in agreement with what we said we actually needed!

Having generated these two documents, starting from a list of all the boat builders in the UK, we have narrowed down to a shortlist of a few companies to approach. We will be arranging visits to talk to the front runners and see their operation once travel restrictions are eased. So we are at a very early stage in what will be a long term project. One route which is in scope, instead of another diesel boat, is going for a full electric boat. The technology has improved dramatically from over 30 years ago and several companies are producing excellent boats with this technology and a new all electric trip boat has just gone into service with another charity.

So at the moment we have many routes we could take but the key thing is that this will be a long term project for the Trust. Depending on the builder we choose we could be waiting up to 2 years for a build slot and we also have to raise the remainder of the money required. Although the Trust has been accumulating some funds in a specific reserve for the Pride of Batchworth's eventual replacement we are looking for grant applications to fund the project. So you will see the Pride of Batchworth for several more years carrying passengers and school children on the Grand Union Canal in Rickmansworth. However you can look forward to seeing an all new-boat in a few years' time.

Meanwhile below is a picture of the all electric Pamela May 2 which is in service with the Droitwich Waterways Trust Ltd. It is slightly longer than we could go for due to our need to turn at Batchworth but it has an endurance of more than 8 hours cruising and apparently last summer the solar panels kept the boat fully charged without the need to plug it in! They have chosen an excellent colour though!

**David Montague
Chairman,
Rickmansworth Waterways Trust.**



A pandemic of scams

During COVID-19 maybe you've heard that someone you know has been scammed. Or perhaps you've unfortunately been a victim yourself. None of these scenarios are surprising as, according to Action Fraud, since March 2020 around £34m has been stolen in pandemic-related scams.

These scammers have used their usual opportunistic approach, fake text messages, phone calls, websites and even doorstep visits to try and trick people into unwittingly handing over cash or revealing their financial details. One victim was a 92 year old woman who was targeted by a doorstep scammer, posing as a fake NHS healthcare worker, who supposedly vaccinated her and then went on to charge her £160. This happened over two visits and just shows that the most vulnerable of us can and do get scammed multiple times.

The NHS Counter Fraud Authority has produced a COVID-19 Vaccine Fraud Leaflet which contains some really useful tips that explain what to look out for and what you can do to protect yourself. The Met Police have also recently produced a vaccine fraud information video. Search for both of these items online.

Romance fraud

As well as the financial loss, there is the emotional impact. Many people are left feeling angry and also experience a sense of vulnerability because there was nothing they could have done to stop the scam happening to them. One thing you can be sure of is that most scams happen when you're distracted or at your most vulnerable.

Bertie felt lonely and was looking for romance when he met someone new via a Facebook Friend request. Over a period of six months he had got to know this person and began to trust them. They didn't ask him for any money, in fact he showered them with gifts. They then asked him to allow them to use his bank account to transfer money in and out of, which he granted.

As a result of this grooming, Bertie ended up being investigated by his bank for money laundering. They closed his accounts and placed him on the National Fraud Database. He had become the unfortunate victim of a romance fraudster. Fortunately, he wasn't fined or even worse, given a prison sentence.

Between August 2019 and August 2020 Action Fraud reported that victims had lost around £66,335,239 to this type of scam.

Protect your personal information

If you have given a scammer your personal information or made a payment, contact your bank and take guidance on your next steps. This could include changing passwords or closing the account and opening a new one. Regularly carry out a credit check for new activity. It's also always good practice to change passwords on any email address, websites or apps.

Become scam aware

Bertie is just one of the clients who has come to us for help but is now much more scam aware. Find out more about scams, how to spot one and what you can do if you become a victim, visit our public site and search for scams. <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam/>.

Citizens Advice in Three Rivers

Advice column from your local CAB

Three
Rivers



We've had a lot of issues receiving our post recently and haven't seen our usual postie around in a little while. I know that a couple of Christmas cards I sent in December still haven't been received. And some of my neighbours who are shielding, and completely reliant on shopping online, and who have had some of their deliveries delayed too. Is there anything I can do for my neighbours who are shielding, and completely reliant on shopping online, have had some of their deliveries delayed too. Is there anything I can do?

A) You're not alone, we know posties are currently working very hard, but we've seen a huge increase in the number of people coming to us for advice about post and parcel issues. If, however, an event is cancelled, your refund rights will depend on how you bought the ticket.

Letters

If you haven't received any letters in your post, think about if there's anything you were expecting like bills that might be due soon. If you're missing a bill you could check your account online to see how else you could pay. Lots of businesses offer online chat, email and phone as a way to contact them.

If you're worried about missing letters referring to any benefits you receive you can contact the Department for Work and Pensions on the number given on any previous letters you've had. If you have questions about Universal Credit and don't have a digital account, you can call the Universal Credit helpline on 0800 328 5644

You can check Royal Mail's website for updates on areas which may be experiencing delays.

Parcels

If you bought something from a business to be delivered, it's the seller's responsibility to make sure the item is delivered to you.

If the seller used a courier, they should chase the courier to find out what's happened to your order - it's not your responsibility.

Check the delivery address you gave the seller. Then contact them and ask where your order is.

If the seller claims they've delivered it or don't know where it is, you can ask for a redelivery. You might be able to get a refund in some circumstances where the delivery time was essential and you let the trader know ahead of time.

Under the Consumer Rights Act, you can ask the seller to deliver the item again if the item wasn't delivered either:

- by an agreed date
- within a reasonable time - usually within 30 days

If the new delivery fails to come within a reasonable time you can ask the trader for a refund.

If you ordered something from a private seller or if you think a seller had broken the law by refusing to deliver an item, you can contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline for help.

Due to the new lockdown we are now closed for face-to-face meetings. Please contact our offices for advice from Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm on 01923 293136 (Rickmansworth), 01923 271707 (Abbots Langley) and 0208 5158321 (South Oxhey). Our county-wide adviceline is also open Monday to Friday 10 am – 4pm 0800 144 8848. You can also contact us directly via email through our website - www.threeriverscab.org.uk.

*Our CAB needs you! If you have some spare time and are interested in volunteering as an adviser or Trustee please get in touch.
Email: training@abbotslangley.cabnet.org.uk*

Tackling Climate Change in Three Rivers



What's the problem?

Limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C to avoid the worst impacts of climate change and safeguard the planet for future generations will require radical action at all levels of government and society. A Green Recovery from Covid is a rare opportunity to redesign our economies and societies to be more resilient, sustainable and inclusive.

There is already mounting evidence of a changing climate in the UK with life-cycle events occurring prematurely (e.g. when flowers bloom or pollinators emerge), rising sea-levels encroaching on coastlines, floods devastating local communities, and unprecedented heat waves harming people's health. If we reach a 2 degree rise, Three Rivers could see summer highs of ~38.2°C. If we reach a 4 degree rise, it is predicted summer temperatures could reach ~42°C, and our wettest winter days seeing 38% more rain than we see today.

"Biodiversity is collapsing. One million species are at risk of extinction. Deserts are spreading. Every year, we lose 10 million hectares of forests. Oceans are overfished - and choking with plastic waste. The carbon dioxide they absorb is acidifying the seas. Coral reefs are bleached and dying. Air and water pollution are killing 9 million people annually. Emissions are 62% higher now than when international climate negotiations began in 1990. Today, we are at 1.2°C of warming and already witnessing unprecedented climate extremes. We are headed for a thundering temperature rise of 3-5°C this century. ..." - Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General.

Strategy

Three Rivers have developed and run a consultation on a Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy to help reach Net-Zero Carbon for the council by 2030 and the District by 2045.

Top ways to help.

- Switch to renewable home energy, and make your home more efficient through improving insulation.
- Eat more local, seasonal, plant-based foods.
- Walk, bike, or use public transport.
- Opt for items with less or no packaging, and replace single-use items with reusables.
- Reduce your water use. Hertfordshire has the highest water use in the country, yet is one of the driest.
- Increase biodiversity in your garden. Check out tips from Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust!
- Buy less stuff! Try second-hand, or share with neighbours and friends.





Waste and Recycling in Three Rivers

Waste Reducing Tips:

- Swap bottles for bars! You can swap soap, shampoo, conditioner, and more for bars.
- Visit refill shops where you can buy many items and foods plastic free!
- Swap cleaning products for home made of refillables.
- Best tip? Don't buy! Every time you go to buy, pause and think if you really need it—if you do, can you borrow it or buy it second hand instead?
- Swap single use sanitary products and nappies for reusables! Search the WasteAware website for our Real Nappy discount!
- We waste 1/5 bags of food — keep your fridge below 5 degrees, plan your shopping, and use up leftovers.
- Remember your Reusables! When you go out, take your reusable bottle/coffee cup/bag/cutlery/straw.

Recycling Hacks:

- Plastic: If you can scrunch it, you can't recycle it!
- You can recycle more away from the kerbside! Check out TerraCycle and your local supermarket for hard to recycle collection points!
- Make sure your recycling is clean and dry so it doesn't stick together.
- Yes batteries can be recycled—but not at home! batteries in bins cause fires and need to go to a collection point.
- Mixed materials (like pringle tubes) can't be recycled at the kerbside.

FAQs:

- **Can I put biodegradable or compostable packaging in my food/garden waste? NO.** Despite what they say on the packaging they must go in your refuse.
- **What happens to our food waste?** It is turned into energy and fertiliser.
- **Why isn't everything recycled in the UK?** There is only a small market for recycled clothing or plastic in the UK.





91st Annual General Meeting 21st June 2021

The 91st Annual General Meeting of the Rickmansworth & District Residents' Association is due to be held on Monday 21st June at 8 p.m. in the Committee Room, The Royal British Legion, Ebury Road, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 1BN

In the event of Covid regulations making such a meeting not possible, the meeting will be held by Zoom details of which will be e-mailed out in June.

Agenda:

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. To consider and, if thought fit, approve the minutes of the 90th AGM held by Committee on Monday 15th June 2020
3. To consider and if thought fit, adopt the Honorary Treasurer's Statement of Accounts
4. To appoint an Honorary Examiner.
5. To receive and, if thought fit, to adopt the Chairman's Annual Report.
6. To elect the President of the Association.
7. To appoint Vice Presidents of the Association.
8. To elect the officers of the Association (Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer).
9. To elect the Association Committee for 2021/22

The Committee for 2020/2021 comprised, in alphabetical order, Leslie Chrol-Frolowicz, Chris Evans, Frank Evans, Adrian Kitachi, Richard Lawman, Anne Littlejohn, David Montague, Ashtok Pattni, John Payne, Michael Stimpson, Bob Templeman, Carolyn Venn, Andrew Wheeler and Debbie Wheeler.

Peter Waters, who is President of the Association, also serves in a non-executive role.

10. Any other business for which advance notice has been given.
11. Date of next meeting (Monday 20th June 2022)

At the end of the evening tea/coffee and biscuits will be available

Rickmansworth and District Residents Association AGM 2020

At a Committee meeting held on the 6th of July 2020 the holding of an Annual General Meeting with the Covid 19 pandemic preventing a gathering of members as usual the Committee came to the conclusion that a normal meeting could not be held and that the Committee should take steps to continue the work of the Association.

The following were agreed.

1. The AGM would be deferred until further notice. Members would be notified by e-news, the web site, Facebook and the notice board. Bob Templeman would put a notice on the RBL door on the 20th July advising that the meeting had been postponed until further notice.
2. Members had already been advised of the Association's current financial position, the current committee members and the minutes of the last AGM. It was agreed that, under the present Covid 19 conditions, we would take the decision to continue with the existing Committee, Officers, President and Vice Presidents and to confirm the reappointment of the Reporting Accountant.
3. A Zoom account would be purchased for future meetings and, if necessary, an AGM. The Chairman to set up. It was noted that the cost of an annual Zoom account was less than the cost of an using the Royal British Legion on a regular basis.
4. Future RBL bookings should be cancelled and a refund requested as the hall is not currently available for hire due to excess furniture being stored in it to allow for social distancing in the bar area.
5. It was unanimously agreed to adopt the amendments to the constitution as set out in the current Independence. The Chairman to mention in E-News.

RICKMANSWORTH & DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

President	Peter Waters	
Vice-Presidents	Tony Berry and Peter Crispin	
Chairman	Michael Stimpson	
Secretary	Christina Evans	
Treasurer	Leslie Chrol-Frolowicz	
Membership Secretary	Anne Littlejohn	
Planning Officer	Bob Templeman	
Advertisement Manager	Position Vacant	
Website Manager	Debbie Wheeler	
Publicity Officer	Position Vacant	
	Carolyn Venn	Laurie Irvine
	David Montague	Richard Lawman
	Andrew Wheeler	John Payne
	Frank Evans	



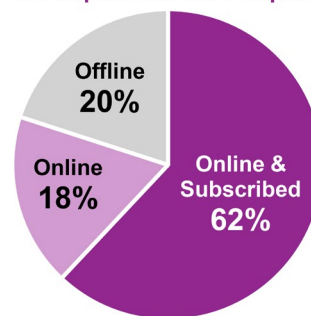
Rickmansworth Aquadrome by Emily Stimpson

The wonderful online world!

We've noticed that our members are getting themselves online and subscribing to our bi-monthly electronic newsletter, RDRA e-news.

However, since the new website launched in October 2019, our offline members and those who are online but not yet subscribed have missed out on a total of 10 e-news and 4 special emails with information or calls to action about our community and local area. All members receive our two printed annual reports but it's just not enough to keep you abreast of all that is happening throughout the year!

RDRA paid members' capability



If you have an email address, get more value out of your membership and subscribe to our bi-monthly e-news emails: www.rickmansworthresidents.org/subscribe

How to become online?

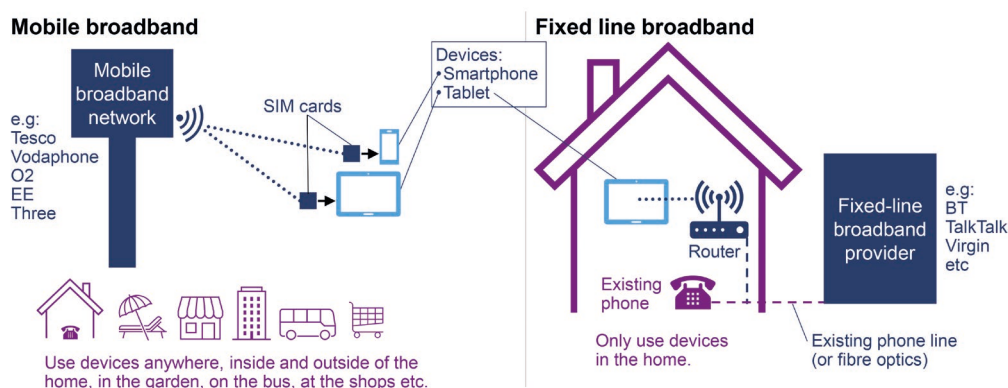
It may seem daunting to get online, but more and more people are doing it – even a 90-year-old grandad got himself an iPad and has never looked back! Being connected has changed his life for the better and stopped him being digitally excluded – there's absolutely nothing stopping you apart from a bit of research and minimal costs. You don't need a computer or laptop, and you don't need to understand how computers work.

Get help: assistance, support and training

If you're uncertain, please reach out to family, friends or neighbours for help. Plus, the following three charities are recommended on the **Three Rivers District Council website**:

- **Age UK** has a special helpline which assists the elderly to get online – it's open from 8am to 7pm every day: **0800 678 1174**
- **Ability Net** offer a free, remote IT support service on **0800 048 7642**
- Once you are online, the charity **Computer Friendly** runs helpful online training sessions, to find out more or book call: **01727 617359**

There are two ways to connect to the internet: Mobile broadband or Fixed line broadband



Advantages of mobile broadband:

- It's portable, you can take your device anywhere. On the other hand, fixed broadband is, well, fixed, and can only be used at home.
- It's simple to set up, all you need is a SIM card and a compatible device. The people in the shop(s) will be able to help you with the set up.
- Mobile broadband plans are usually a lot more flexible. Some networks provide monthly rolling contracts or Pay-as-you-go deals - whereas fixed line broadband is almost always on at least a 12-month contract.

What next: Find out more about Mobile broadband

When safe to do so, take a bus/travel to Watford to visit one or more of the following shops and ask to see some devices and compare costs (take your glasses and perhaps a notepad):

- The bigger **Tesco Extra** (mobile phone depart.)
- **Carphone Warehouse** (within PC World)
- Four shops inside the Watford shopping centre:
O2 | Three | Vodafone | EE

Example mobile network cost: Three has a £5 per month deal for 1Gb data, enough for basic browsing, like looking at the RDRA website, and checking emails but not enough for watching online videos. Note you could just buy the SIM card from these Watford shops, then buy a device elsewhere.

Find out about buying a device: See information overleaf about buying either a smart phone or a tablet with SIM card slot.

Advantages of fixed line broadband:

- It's more widely available. If you can get a landline, you can almost certainly get fixed line broadband.
- It's more reliable and better for things like video calls and watching online videos.
- In most areas, fixed line broadband is faster than mobile.
- If you already have a phone line at home, it might be cheaper to add broadband to your existing phone bill.
- A tablet used with fixed line broadband doesn't require a SIM card.

What next: Find out more about Fixed line broadband

Contact your existing landline phone provider and ask for their Broadband deals. If you go down this route, your provider will supply you with a little box called a Router that plugs into your existing phone line.

Example cost: BT phone rental is £20 per month, add broadband and it's £27 per month.

Find out about buying a device: See information overleaf about buying a tablet.

Remember costs shouldn't be exorbitant. Don't feel pressured or rushed into buying anything – always go home and think about it, chat with your friends and family or call the charities in the Help section overleaf for advice.

Buying devices

Devices are available to buy locally in Rickmansworth High Street but there is a bigger selection in Watford (see list of shops overleaf). Second-hand devices are called re-conditioned or refurbished and they might be cheaper than buying new. Tablets have bigger screens so might be better for you, but they may cost more than a smart phone.

Estimated cost of devices

Smart phones	Tablets+	
Second-hand from £70-£100 New from £120-£150	Second-hand from £150-£175 New from £220 upwards	+ if you'd like a tablet for Mobile broadband use, you'll need a tablet <u>with a SIM card slot</u> .

The first thing you should do after becoming online...

On your device you'll find a "browser", the most popular are called Chrome (by Google) or Safari (by Apple) – you can type anything into these browsers to find or do anything. The first thing you should type in are these words: www.rickmansworthresidents.org/age-uk This will redirect you to **Age UK's** website with essential information about getting an email address, using email and scams to be aware of. **Read it all!**

Then subscribe to RDRA e-news: www.rickmansworthresidents.org/subscribe (password changes every year, **contact us** to ask what it is)

The wonderful things you can do with your online device...

- You could do a grocery shop from your sofa and get it delivered on a particular day and at a specific time, e.g **Tesco, Waitrose, Morrisons, Sainsbury's** etc.
- Find your doctors surgery and order your repeat prescription online, e.g. **Gade Surgery** or **The Colne Practice** etc.
- Find the menus of your local takeaways to order food to be delivered to you, my favourite takeaways are **Thai Orchid** and **Rasal**, but there are many, many more: **ZaZa, Sea Master, Kebab Centre, Curry Garden, Mangal Express** etc.
- If you're confident, do your banking online like paying bills.
- Buy clothes and even shoes online – most clothing shops have a free returns policy if you don't like them - take a look: **Marks & Spencers, M&Co, Wallis, Bonmarché, Dorothy Perkins, New Look, H&M, Next** and **Burton**
- In fact, you could buy anything online from fridges (**Currys** or **AO**) to pet supplies (**Fetch**), from freshly caught fish (**Fish in a box**) to garden supplies (**B&Q**), and get it all delivered to your door.
- You can borrow **e-books and audiobooks** with any Rickmansworth/Hertfordshire library card number and pin.
- Read any news article (you might need to pay for some articles, this is called a 'Pay Wall'), e.g. **Guardian, Independent, Telegraph, Mail Online, The Times, Double Down News** etc.
- Download an 'App' that identifies plants in your garden like **Plant Snap**. 'App' is short for Applications – find them in the App store (if using an Apple device) or the Play store (for any other device).
- You could watch an interesting **TED Talk** and other videos on **YouTube**.
- Find any piece of music, from any genre, on **Spotify**.
- Listen to any radio station from around the world with **Radio Garden**.
- To watch popular films and programmes, subscribe to a streaming service like **Netflix** (£5.99 per month for 1 screen), **Now TV** (£9.99 per month for Entertainment) or **Amazon Video** (£7.99 per month, includes music & free delivery on **Amazon shopping**).
- Choose a birthday card to be printed and delivered on a particular day to your friends or family through **Moonpig**.
- Find huge amounts of recipes and hobby-related information online – just type in what you want in the browser, e.g. **BBC Good Food, U3A** (University of the Third Age) etc.
- Play online games such as **Candy Crush, Words with Friends** (like Scrabble), **iBridge Plus** (card game), or **Sudoku Fun**.
- You can get together with friends and family, see their little faces in a 9x9 grid on basic **Zoom** (free 40-minute sessions) and play online games together such as **Countdown** or **Bingo** or, my favourite **The Telephone Game** (like Chinese whispers).
- You could be opinionated on **Twitter**.
- Find friends and relatives or like-minded souls on **Facebook**.
- Chat with friends, relatives and neighbours on **WhatsApp** – your road may already have a WhatsApp group and if it doesn't, I highly recommend you start one!
- Be entertained on **TikTok**.
- Take beautiful sunrise photos with your new device and share them on **Instagram**.
- Go to some fun online pub quizzes like **Gooses Quizzes** (live at 7pm, Mon-Sat) on **Twitch** or **Jay's Virtual Pub Quiz** (live at 8pm, Thurs/Sat) on **YouTube**.
- When safe, you could buy online tickets for the theatre (**Watersmeet** or **Ticketmaster** for West End shows), cinema (**Vue** in Watford or **Odeon** in Uxbridge). Tickets for online events are available, e.g. **Eventbrite**.
- Explore the world digitally with **Google Maps**.
- There are even web cameras at the **local dump** and **Broadwater sailing club** that shows whether the places are busy or not!

The possibilities are endless! Please don't exclude yourself from this wonderful digital world – become online!

This article, with all the **bold** words as hyperlinks, can be found on the RDRA's website here: www.rickmansworthresidents.org/online

Good luck!

Debbie and Andy Wheeler
RDRA website

RICKMANSWORTH & DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**FINANCIAL STATEMENT - YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2021**

BALANCE SHEET	31 March 2021	31 March 2020 £
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank balances	8,316	7,861
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	8,316	7,861
NET ASSETS		
Representing:-		
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT 31 MARCH	£8,316	£7,861
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES		
	YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2021	2,020 £
RECEIPTS		
Subscriptions	2426	3,671
"Independence" & e-news advertisements	335	495
Donations	50	
Refund from Royal British Legion	100	
Grant from HCC for new Notice Board	500	
Bank Interest		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	3,411	4,166
Less:-		
PAYMENTS		
Printing Independence	2215	2,200
Subscriptions	27	7
Printing, postage & stationery		61
Website expenses		184
Room hire - British Legion		220
Donations - British Legion Poppy Appeal	20	20
New Notice board	228	
Repaid to HCC re Notice Board	275	
Miscellaneous expenses	191	28
TOTAL PAYMENTS	(2,956)	(2,720)
NET (PAYMENTS)/RECEIPTS	455	1,446
MEMBERS' FUNDS AT 1 APRIL	£8,316	6,415
MEMBERS' FUNDS AT 31 MARCH	£8,771	£7,861

Signed for and on behalf of the Committee on June 2021

MICHAEL STIMPSON Chairman
LESLIE CHROL-FROLOWICZ Treasurer

Notes on the above

1. The Committee is responsible for keeping proper books and records with respect to the Association's
2. The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis. .

Report of the Independent Examiner

I confirm the financial statement set out above is prepared from the books and vouchers presented to me and is in accordance therewith

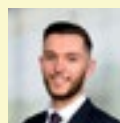
David REES
Watford
Dated April 2021



NOW MORE THAN EVER, OUR 150
YEARS OF EXPERIENCE MATTERS



Graeme Warren
Head of Residential Sales
01923 725 504
gwarren@savills.com



Rob Shuttleworth
Head of Residential Lettings
01923 725 550
robert.shuttleworth@savills.com

SAVILLS RICKMANSWORTH, 11 CHURCH STREET, RICKMANSWORTH, WD3 1BX



For **ALL** your motoring needs visit:

fairwayrickmansworth.co.uk
90 Uxbridge Road
Mill End
Rickmansworth
WD3 8BW

Contact us on:

info@fairwayrickmansworth.co.uk
01923-721008



✓ MOT



✓ REPAIRS



✓ ALIGNMENT



✓ CLUTCHES



✓ AIRCON



✓ DIAGNOSTICS



✓ EXHAUSTS

✓ SERVICING



✓ RE-MAPPING/TUNING



✓ BRAKES



✓ SHOCKS



✓ BATTERIES



✓ ALLOYS



✓ WELDING

