



FOUNDED 1929



INDEPENDENCE

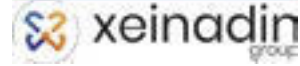
ANNUAL REPORT
SPRING 2022



Photograph Courtesy TRMT

No. 12 Engine "Sarah Siddons" 1994

**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

Chairman's Notes



The last year has shot by but, of course, we did hold the AGM later in the year in 2021.

First of all, I must thank your Committee for their work during 2021 – 2 and to those who have joined us during the year. We have a full Committee which is healthy and meet by Zoom every other month.

Most of our time has been taken up with the Local Plan and we have to go through it all again in the Autumn when a third Regulation 18 is to be issued by the District Council. In this we work with the Three Rivers Joint Residents Association who discuss the plan on a District level. I am also Chairman of that body for the present year so that is another 12 Zoom meetings with our Deputy Chairman, Ash Pattni.

One of the things being considered is a recent planning application for a Service Station between Junctions 17 and 16 using the slip road built for HS2. We will discuss this at our meeting in June but are likely to follow the lead of Maple Cross and West Hyde Residents Association and Chorleywood Residents Association on this project.

I must also thank our army of Road Reps who deliver Independence to our members. There is always a constant turnover here so if you are prepared to help with this in your road or a road near you, please let us know. We have 20 vacancies at present which puts a burden on our membership Committee.

In 2020, we could not ask our Road Reps to knock on doors to collect the annual subscription of £3.00 in cash so we developed four ways for members keeping up their membership.

Posting a cheque for £9.00 for three years membership to our Treasurer, setting up a £3.00 standing order, transferring £3.00 direct into the RDRA bank account or payment by Pay Pal.

Many of our members renewed their membership using one of these options but we have suffered a drop in membership which, over the rest of this year, we hope to resolve.

Are you prepared to help? We hope to carry on with not collecting cash which often involved the Road Rep calling back several times but, in addition to delivering Independence to our members, we need folk to go out and get lapsed members or non-members to join up.

Please can you let me know if you can help for two or three evenings a year.

On a brighter front, we have set up a working relationship with the Batchworth Community Council and discuss with them the various projects they are considering as well as suggesting others.

Other concerns of the Committee at present are the state of the cycleway alongside Riverside Drive and also that into Ebury Way, speed limits on the ring road especially over Batchworth Bridge where the 30mph speed limit is ignored, the two parking restriction proposals for Mill End and Batchworth and rumours that TfL are to cut down the Met Line service although this is just a rumour at present and there may be nothing in it.

We also need to start again with some projects we had to hit on the head when Covid came along.

Do remember that we issue an e-news every two months and you need to “opt in” to getting these sent to you. You can do this on the members page of our web site at <https://rickmansworthresidents.org/> where you can also renew your membership.

Contents

1	Chairman's Notes	14	Ricky Market
2/3	Friends of the Withey Beds	15	U3A
4/5	Batchworth Community Council	16	AGM & Treasurer's Report
6/7	Could Exercise Change Your Life?	17	Financial Statement
8/9	Three Rivers Local Museum	18 to 20	Minutes of 90th GM
10 to 12	Ricky Waterways Festival	20	Committee
13	Neighbourhood Watch		

GDPR (DATA PROTECTION ACT 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.

FRIENDS OF THE WITHEY BEDS

The Withey Beds Local Nature Reserve is named as such because this wetland area was once used to grow a variety of different species of willow which were used for coppicing (coppicing of willow takes place once the leaves have fallen and before they start to grow again). The willow poles were then used for basket making and thatching. It seems it was a major industry.

To revive this tradition the Friends of The Withey Beds, in the spring of 2010, planted two small patches of basket willow at the bottom of the slope beyond the notice board on the right as you come through the gate.

The cuttings, planted through a black plastic weed membrane, were supplied by Hazel Godfrey from her plantation. Hazel harvests her poles annually for her basket making which she regularly demonstrates at the Rickmansworth Festival. The straight willow poles grow from their base and are cut once a year, in the winter, when the leaves have dropped (see images below)

After the initial plantings, with a few replacements needed at The Withey Beds, the plots are said to be doing well. Later a third bed was added, but this one had always struggled because the patch where it is located is traditionally much drier. This year, with all the rain, the first bed and some of the second bed have shown vigorous growth with stems up to two metres long, fingers crossed for the third bed. Everything at the Withey Beds had become overgrown including this area and a visit was needed from Richard of the Countryside Management team to not only address the boardwalk but also to reopen the pathway down through the brambles so I could access the withey area. Once accessible there was further work needed to prise a considerable amount of bindweed from the willow stems.

At the end of the year, we will coppice all the willow. Jenny Fox from Yorke Mead Primary School, Croxley Green - which also has its own Forest School on site - collects the cut poles. The older children then use the willow to make objects to decorate, as well as obelisks to support plants. Any remaining willow will be used to make obelisks for an outdoor area with allotments for the youngest children. Jenny says, 'we believe that access to the outside and learning about nature encourages children to become inquisitive, develop independence and generally become more in tune with nature, which supports children's mental health.' Hopefully they should benefit from a good harvest this year.

We hope, with lockdown rules having been relaxed you are, if comfortable, able to get out more and take the opportunity to visit the Withey Beds as things, fingers crossed, continue to improve.

Following last year's issues, the reptile mats are now back in place. Those on the pond side attract field mice, water shrews, grass snakes and slow worms, depending on the time of year. I always have great anticipation on what might be hiding there. Please remember to pick up the mats slowly and put them down carefully so as not to surprise any wildlife or yourself!

The recent weather challenges and lockdown meant that nature had taken over leaving the Beds in need of a bit of attention. A big thanks to our local Countryside Management team who took this in hand as the lack of traffic and recent storms had meant the boardwalk was almost hidden beneath debris with plants growing up between the planks, but we are pleased to report that the area is now back to its best and ready for visitors.

Membership applications forms are available via the FoWB webiste.



Photographs of the Withey Beds

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



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

Batchworth Community Council is now entering its sixth year of existence. In this article for Independence I give a few highlights of what my fellow councillors and I, and our exceptionally hard working team of officers, have been up to over the past year.



Batchworth Community council is still the spring chicken sibling of our well established, and in some cases ancient, fellow parish and community Councils within the area of Three Rivers District Council. We are eight councillors looking after an area of around 5,600 households. Being a young Council means that we work twice as hard for our community as we grow and continue in our role in helping organise and supporting events, awarding grants, improving the area both with Herts County Council, TRDC or on our own and acting on behalf of our community to present a unified voice with regard to planning and the Local Plan.

For the most part of this financial year we have continued to work in an ever-changing Covid environment, life this time last year meant meeting on Zoom which was our only way to meet as a team, now at last we are well established in meeting in person with members of the public in attendance.

It is because of Covid, however, that we did not increase our council tax on your annual bill as expenditure during the covid period was low. However TRDC special expenses are now being listed on the BCC part of your council tax bill.

It was a huge relief in the middle of last year to finally get down to Council business and select our Christmas lights for Money Hill Parade and Rickmansworth town with additions to the lights in Church Street, as well as supplying and lighting Christmas trees in Moor Park and Eastbury.

In late November BCC were pleased to award substantial event grants to the Rickmansworth Christmas market and the Christmas fair in Eastbury. Rickmansworth Town Team organised a fantastic Christmas market on the 24th November and only 48 hours later we were at Eastbury recreation ground fair hosting our annual Mulled wine, mince pies and carol singing around the Christmas tree with some delicious doughnuts thrown in for good measure. Unfortunately we were prevented from scoring a festive events hat trick, with covid numbers rising, the carolling in Moor Park organised by Moor Park 58 was cancelled. An event, that no doubt, at the end of this year will be all the more special to us.

At the end of 2021 we started work on projects to be financed by the Welcome Back fund. This fund is British Government money put aside from the last of our European Union share of money to get people back on to our high streets. We gained access to this money through TRDC's allowance as a council and we came up with a plan for a monthly market and a blueprint design to green our high streets with planters and flower baskets. The fruits of our labours will be seen on a high street near you from the beginning of June.

Widening our circle of working with our community, BCC joined up with Rickmansworth Town Team and Shelley and Nikki from Preloved, to launch our first monthly market event on a sunny Sunday in April with lots of positive feedback. We are keen for these market events to be sustainable and therefore encourage travel to the market by bike or on foot to visit our Rickmansworth #loveyourhighstreet event. We continue to aim at running a market with less plastics and more recyclable packaging, with products that are made locally without too many petrol miles to get here, all whilst offering different to what you would find on the high street and complimenting our current retailers. Our next event is Sunday 26th June and we very much hope to see you there.

Huge thank-yous go to all those involved including officers and volunteers. They continually give up their time and energies to enhance our community.

A project which has been on the agenda for a good few years is the Eastbury recreation ground adult gym. Originally a joint venture with TRDC, the finances were being split in half, now BCC are funding two thirds of the gym which will give the Batchworth community a state of the art public adult gym. The completion of which, we are hoping, will be in the third quarter of 2022!

As a community council we do not create the local plan but our Neighbourhood plan needs to sit alongside it. Our Neighbourhood plan is on track to go to public consultation next year. The Local Plan is a different story. In July of 2021, BCC ran a forum and sent out a newsletter to inform the community about what was happening with the Local Plan and how they could respond to the proposed areas for development. The community response was so large it will take months for this information to be processed and reported on. For now we await the new Local Plan as the administration at TRDC withdrew last years one pre the election. Once made public will be sure once again to communicate with our community on the way forward, and represent the responses given by those living in Batchworth.

We have now re-established our Newsletter, The Homepage, and since May last year we have published three. To ensure we reach all of our inhabitants and businesses we continue to use a hard copy, but hope over the next few years, with your help, we will be able to build a database stopping the need for as much paper to be printed. Living sustainably in Batchworth is something we feel as a council we have a responsibility to drive and to pioneer new ways of living to maintain our green and blue. Our water butts project is one of those, as is planting trees.

Throughout the year we are able to award grants of up to £500 to community groups and societies that are working to support and enhance our community such as the Batchworth Sea Scouts, The CW Wildlife Trust and many more. The application form and all details on how to apply for the grant can be found on our website. [Www.batchworth-ecc.gov.uk](http://www.batchworth-ecc.gov.uk)

In our vision for the future of Batchworth we are supporting the National project "20's plenty" that looks at reducing traffic speed in inhabited and built-up areas, and locally we are looking at ways we can work with the Colne Valley Trust to maintain our areas of blue and green.

We hope to continue with Rickmansworth events on the last Sunday of every month, Christmas lights and trees, bunting in the high streets, funding defibrillators in each corner of our community, sponsoring events and giving grants to communities within our community. We cannot do this without our community support and our volunteers who help make it all happen. I would ask if you have any inclination to become involved in your community and share the feel good factor of making a difference, and have some fun while you are at it, do not hesitate to contact us so that we can work together to support and enhance our community.

Full details can be found on our website of meetings, agendas and minutes. We hope you to see you sometime soon. We are here to listen to your suggestions. Hearing your voices will enable us to continue on our mission at BCC in Supporting and Enhancing the community of Batchworth.

Andrea Fraser



Could **Exercise** change your life?

By Debbie Wheeler

From my personal experience, exercise really does wonders for the body – my balance has much improved, and the stairs are easier to climb now.

After breaking an ankle a few years back, uneven ground was a big worry, but my confidence returned after doing some fitness classes and lifting weights. Regular exercise is the key, 2 or 3 times a week, spending 30 to 45 minutes each time.

YouTube has lots of classes and tutorials, but I chose to join a local gym to get some first-hand support! Whilst at the gym, I noticed they had started a GP referral system, so I asked one of the personal trainers there and this is what she said:

“The Exercise Referral programme provides a range of physical activity schemes for people who are recovering from illness or have been diagnosed with various long term health conditions. Referral programmes run for 10 to 12 weeks. You will have an initial face-to-face consultation on week 1 with our Specialist Health Advisor, with two other appointments held in weeks 6 and 12. We will also telephone you in weeks 4 and 9 to check in and ensure you are progressing on the programme.”

Who is eligible for Exercise Referral?

- ★ Must be 18 years and over
- ★ People who are referred after an NHS health check
- ★ People who are obese (body mass index over 30)
- ★ People who are overweight (body mass index over 25) and have one of the conditions below:
- ★ Heart disease
- ★ Cancer
- ★ Mental health disorder eg. Anxiety, Stress, Depression
- ★ Neurological eg. MS, Parkinson’s, Dementia
- ★ Diabetes
- ★ Hypertension
- ★ Chronic lower back pain
- ★ Osteoarthritis in hips or knees
- ★ Poor balance or mobility
- ★ hypercholesterolemia (a type of high cholesterol)
- ★ osteoporosis
- ★ asthma or COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)
- ★ Long COVID-19

To join an exercise referral programme, you will need to ask your GP. Whether you are referred or not, exercise is not just for the athletic but for everyone, all abilities – I do believe it will change your life for the better!

How do you calculate your BMI (Body Mass Index)?
Where weight is in kilograms and height is in metres:
 $BMI = \text{weight} \div (\text{height} \times \text{height})$
www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-weight/bmi-calculator/

Gyms in the local Rickmansworth area (Google search)
Bodycoach Gym
130A High Street, Rickmansworth WD3 1AB
www.bodycoachgym.co.uk

Nuffield Health Fitness & Wellbeing Centre
(Royal Masonic School)
Rickmansworth Park, Chorleywood Road,
Rickmansworth WD3 4HF
www.nuffieldhealth.com/royalmasonic

William Penn Leisure Centre
Shepherds Lane, Mill End, Rickmansworth WD3 8JN
www.everyoneactive.com/centre/william-penn-leisure-centre



WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE AN ADVERT IN OUR NEXT ANNUAL REPORT?

PLEASE CONTACT THE CHAIRMAN FOR DETAILS

ADVERTS ARE FULL PAGE (A4) HALF PAGE LANDSCAPE (A5) OR ¼ PAGE (A6 PORTRAIT)

**IN ADDITION TO ADVERTISING YOUR COMPANY OR SOCIETY TO ALL OUR MEMBERS
YOU ARE HELPING THE ASSOCIATION WITH ITS WORK.**

**THERE IS ALSO THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE A DL SIZE SPACE IN OUR BI-MONTHLY E-NEWS
SENT TO ALL MEMBERS WHO ARE ON THE INTERNET.**

Three Rivers Museum of Local History

Fabian Hiscock,

Chairman of Three Rivers Museum Trust



We live in Metro-Land

The development of urban spaces (towns, largely) is an important historical discipline. How did our town come to be as it is? Who first decided on its layout? Was that popular, or imposed? What consideration was given to what people needed to make the town work?

At first, the provision of a market for people living nearby was important – there were no ‘shops’ as we now understand them. The market was usually provided (indeed, owned by) the lord of the manor, and often coincided with a central parish church. The well-to-do lived in larger houses in the town, the tradesmen in smaller ones, and the poor in cottages or tenements of one sort or another, often pretty poorly built and run down. As time went by the wealthy moved out of town, leaving the town centre to the tradesmen (who were, mind you, often well off), with the poor (often labourers or farm labourers) tending to gather in hamlets often centred on farms. People built what they liked on any plot of land they owned – or took up residence on a handy bit of ‘waste’ land. In a larger town the Corporation might have had some control, but it was generally their own members they were controlling.

And Rickmansworth, always a small town, will have developed along these lines. Paper making arrived from London in the 1740s, the Strutts brought industrial building in the form of the cotton mill in about 1770 and silk spinning came in 1805; but most of the small population depended on agriculture – or on service in the larger houses of the London ‘expat’, such as at Moor Park, Moor House or The Bury.

And that process continued to evolve slowly until about 1860. Then it all changed, under the influence of the railway expansion, with the connection to Watford and then the arrival of the Metropolitan Railway. Now, whether we like it or not, we live in Metro-Land, and Rickmansworth residents will be well aware of that.





In the museum just now, we're looking hard at the way those railways influenced the development of our town and area. The streets near the original LNWR station at Batchworth often date from the 1870s and 1880s, and we'd like to know what led their design and building. And, of course, as the Metropolitan Railway arrived in 1887 the new roads around the north and west of the town, and along the Uxbridge road through Mill End and Moneyhill, began to be developed, in a process that came to a crescendo between 1919 and 1939: the governing influence of the Metropolitan Railway shouldn't be underestimated. And Lord Leverhulme deliberately built on his newly-purchased Moor Park estate, with a golf course for the recreation of the residents.

And, of course, all this was accompanied by the installation of mains water, sewerage, gas pipes and then electricity: there must have been chaos in the first ten years of the twentieth century.

But we shouldn't think that the LNWR (with Lord Ebury's Railway) and the Metropolitan were the only influences. There were railway schemes being proposed all over the area north-west of London, to service the growing need to connect people to London. We've recently been given a copy of a hand-annotated Ordnance Survey map, which we think dates from about 1882, which shows a wonderful number of these schemes: the map (shown here) is on display in the museum, and also on our digital kiosk: come and have a look at it - and see if you can work out how many were actually built!

And we'll continue to research the various influences on the development of our town and villages.

Photographs from TRMT.org.uk

Rickmansworth (W)



The crowds on Saturday afternoon on the main walkway through the site



Boats on the towpath above



Boats Below Batchworth Bridge



Singers at the Lock

The Festival has been run every year since 1978 but it was cancelled in 2020. 2021 was no different but the event was held with thousands descending on the Aqueduct. People can walk along the canal, visit the stands set up for the festival, see many acts putting on a show on the meadow. Some acts were performing, whilst others performed at the lock.

The team, headed by David Montague, organised a splendid post-covid event and would not have been without the turnout.

The Rickmansworth Waterways Trust has a long history. It set up a small centre in the old stable block. The Trust has built a model canal which was replaced by a new building on the south side of the lock. The Trust has held education meetings, could be used for education.

The team hold training trips for schools and offer a passenger trip boat down to Stockenham. The Trust is providing the education facility for local schools.

The next project is to replace the present lock.

The weekend shows how much can be achieved. The Rickmansworth Waterways Trust are proud to have had such a successful event. Saturday afternoon was a busy event and it was difficult to move from one area to another.

Well done to all those who gave their time to make the event.

(Waterways) Festival



the bridge to the Aquadrome

since 1993 until Covid called a halt to it was back with a vengeance this year Aquadrome to visit the boats moored in the Aquadrome and listen to the main stage where a constant variety of performed at other locations including

we, have worked hard to arrange such a not have been disappointed by

was formed by the RDRA in 1992 and block at Batchworth Lock. They then ed a few years ago by the Education when Batchworth Mill, where the no longer be used.

l children in the block and run s Lock and back in addition to cal school children.

ent trip boat with an electric version.

e achieved by volunteers and the to be congratulated on putting on rnoon was the busiest period of the m one part of the massive site

time to help plan, set up and run



In the walkway from the main stage and bar area.



Berry Lane Tap performing on Saturday morning.



Phoenix Morris opposite the Cafe

Rickmansworth (Waterways) Festival (cont/d)



Boats at the Junction of the Grand Union Canal and River Colne.



Another of the main stage



Lancaster Bomber over the site on Sunday. This was preceded on Saturday with a Spitfire.



Flyer for the event.



The main stage showing the packed area in front.

Photographs by Michael, Susan and Emily Stimpson

Neighbourhood Watch is 40 years old



Yes, Neighbourhood Watch is 40 years old.

It was formed in the UK in Cheshire in 1982 and has since grown to be the largest crime prevention charity in the UK. It continues to go from strength to strength, with more than 167,000 Hertfordshire homes receiving regular 'OWL' messages, an increase in membership of almost 6,000 homes in the last 12 months.



Be part of the biggest voluntary movement in the UK

Online Watch Link (OWL)

Neighbourhood Watch (NhW) in Hertfordshire uses OWL to send out emails containing up-to-date information about local crime trends, crime prevention advice and community events. The messages come from the constabulary and from Neighbourhood Watch coordinators, as and when there is something to report. They are usually specific to your locality but occasionally include information from a wider area.

Be part of the biggest voluntary movement in the UK

Anyone can become a member of Neighbourhood Watch. All we ask is that you are committed to working alongside your neighbours to help make the place where you live safer, friendlier and vibrant. We would like all members to support us in the spirit of our values: **neighbourly, community-focused, inclusive, proactive, trusted and collaborative.**

By becoming a member you take the first step to making your area a stronger and safer place to be. All members will receive access to crime prevention information and campaigns, support to run your local scheme, monthly national newsletters, and be more equipped to tackle important issues affecting your community.

For more information contact John or Christine Payne on 01923 773854 or go to www.owl.co.uk



RICKMANSWORTH MARKET



Photographs by Michael Stimpson

RICKMANSWORTH

Founded in 1982, u3a (University of the Third Age) is a nation-wide movement of locally-run interest groups that provide a wide range of opportunities to come together to learn for fun. Members explore new ideas, skills and activities together.

There are 1,057 u3as with over 450,000 members; (membership costs less than £20 on average per year) and is open to everyone who is no longer in full-time work.

u3a has members who draw upon their knowledge and experience to teach and learn from each other but there are no qualifications to pass – it is just for pleasure. Learning is its own reward.

It's all voluntary; a typical u3a will be home to many activity groups covering hundreds of different subjects - from art to zoology and everything in between.

Rickmansworth u3a helps retired and semi-retired people to share educational, creative and leisure activities on a self-help basis.

Ricky u3a have very active, friendly members from all walks of life and organise various Interest groups including:

Architecture, Art Appreciation, Bell Ringing, Bridge, Classic Film, Comedy, Craft, Cycling, Discussion, Engineering Heritage, Fabric, Finery & Fashion, Family History, Food, French, Games & Pastimes, Gardening, German, Golf, History, Memories, Movie Makers, Music, Philosophy, Photography, Play Reading, Poetry Circle, Reading & Writing, Spanish, Swimming, Table Tennis, Theatre, Travel, Ukulele Players, Walking, Walks in London.

The u3a Movie makers group is led by Nigel Longman and have produced an excellent short film 'A Boatman's Tale', a brief history of the Grand Junction Canal (as it was known then) passing through Rickmansworth. This film is hosted by the Three Rivers Museum on their You Tube channel and is available to view there:

<https://youtu.be/9JT6MwYHBaQ>

More information about Rickmansworth u3a is available here: <https://u3asites.org.uk/rickmansworth>



92nd Annual General Meeting 18th July 2022

The 92nd Annual General Meeting of the Rickmansworth & District Residents' Association is due to be held on Monday 18th July 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.

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. To consider and, if thought fit, approve the minutes of the 91st AGM
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, Richard Lawman, Anne Littlejohn, Ashtok Pattni, John Payne, Michael Stimpson, Bob Templeman, Carolyn Venn, and Debbie Wheeler.

Also standing are Ian Mercer, Narinder Sian and Jo Warburton.

10. Any other business for which advance notice has been given.

11 – Date of next meeting Monday 19th June 2023

At the end of the evening tea/coffee and biscuits will be available and the Chairman will present Certificates to the Life Vice-Presidents.

Treasurer's report for Independence 2022

Subscription income has reduced by approx. £400 compared with the previous year, largely because we changed to a non-cash basis for collecting subs during the pandemic.

The result is that there are many former members who have not yet set up either a standing order or payment using PayPal. With many of our faithful team of road reps not being so young these days we did not feel it fair to ask them to knock on doors, sometimes repeatedly, in order to collect money rather than simply drop a copy of Independence through people's letterboxes. However, we are very grateful to those members who have set up standing orders or PayPal payments.

If you are planning to set up a standing order payment please quote as a reference the second part of your postcode as well as your house number. Please don't forget to let me know you are doing this on treasurer@rickmansworthresidents.org so that I can easily identify your payment when I go through the bank statements (sometimes payments appear which I am unable to identify!)

If you do not wish for any reason to set up a standing order you can send a cheque payment for £9, payable to RDRA, which will give you membership for three years entitling you to receive our bi-monthly e-newsletters.

On a positive note, we have raised more revenue from advertising this year as this not only appears in Independence but in our monthly e-newsletters.

Total expenditure for the year has been at very close to the amount in the previous year.

May I offer, as always, a big "thank you" to David Rees for examining our accounts and for his willingness to continue as Examiner.

RICKMANSWORTH & DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**FINANCIAL STATEMENT - YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2022**

BALANCE SHEET	31 March 2021	31 March 2022 £
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank balances	8,316	7,930
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	8,316	7,930
NET ASSETS		
Representing:-		
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT 31 MARCH	£8,316	£7,930
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES		
	YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2021	2,022 £
RECEIPTS		
Subscriptions	2426	2,044
"Independence" & e-news advertisements	335	515
Donations	50	
Refund from Royal British Legion	100	
Grant from HCC for new Notice Board	500	
Bank Interest		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	3,411	2,559
Less:-		
PAYMENTS		
Printing Independence	2215	2,050
Subscriptions	27	7
Printing, postage & stationery		12
Website expenses		228
Room hire - British Legion		25
Donations - British Legion Poppy Appeal	20	30
New Notice board	228	
Repaid to HCC re Notice Board	275	
Contribution to TRJRA		360
Miscellaneous expenses	191	232
TOTAL PAYMENTS	(2,956)	(2,944)
NET (PAYMENTS)/RECEIPTS	455	(385)
MEMBERS' FUNDS AT 31 MARCH	£8,316	8,771
MEMBERS' FUNDS AT 1 APRIL	£8,771	£8,386

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 activities.
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 27 April 2022

Rickmansworth & District Residents Association

90th Annual General Meeting 20th September 2021

Minutes of the 90th Annual General Meeting held on Monday 20th September at 8pm in the Committee Room, The Royal British Legion, Ebury Road, Rickmansworth. (Note this meeting was originally planned for 20th July 2021 and was postponed due to COVID restrictions).

In the Chair: Peter Waters, President of the Association.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Michael Baker, Jean Berry, Frank Evans, Councilor Andrea Fraser, Lisa Hudson, John Payne and David Raw.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the 89th Annual General Meeting held on the 17th June 2019 were approved as a true record and the Revised Constitution of the Association was proposed to be adopted by Bob Templeman and seconded by Ash Pattni - all were in agreement.

3. Honorary Treasurer's Statement of Accounts:

The Accounts were presented by the Treasurer, Leslie Chrol-Frolowicz.

He explained the main differences in the figures from the accounts for 2019/20. Firstly, subscription income as at the financial year end (31st March) was down some £1245 on the previous year, largely on account of the fact that cash payments were no longer acceptable as this would have involved Road Reps knocking on doors to collect these during lockdown with its COVID restrictions.

Income from Advertisements, both in Independence and in e-newsletters, amounted to £335. A grant had been received from Herts County Council for a new Noticeboard in the High Street outside the Post Office. Many thanks to Frances Button for enabling this.

Thanks were expressed to our computer guru, Debbie Wheeler, ably assisted by her husband Drew, who also created the current splendid website. As a result payments can now be made annually using PayPal and there are also members who are paying membership for three years in advance by sending us cheques for £9.

With the introduction of standing orders and payment by PayPal last year it is expected in future to have a more stable flow of income.

The financial year 2020/21, like the previous one, is clearly an unusual one: with the advent of coronavirus it was considered unwise to ask our faithful team of road reps, many of whom have been doing it for quite a few years now, to do any more than simply deliver copies of Independence without having also to knock on doors to collect cash subscriptions.

Many members have helpfully sent payments unprompted. There are still quite a few former members from whom payment has not been received.

Appreciation was given to all the Road Reps for their efforts: they are the cornerstone of the Association's interface with our members. Without them the Association could not function as it does.

Printing costs have reduced compared with a couple of years ago as a result of having changed from producing two copies of Independence a year to one. Members on e-mail now also have the benefit of receiving a bi-monthly e-newsletter with up-to-date news of developments within the area.

The effect of these changes, and some smaller ones, sees the Association in the position of having a modest surplus year-on-year in 2020/21 of £455.

This gives the Association accumulated funds of £8,771 at the start of this financial year at 1st April (£900 up on the previous year's figure) and with no liabilities. As the minimum balance that the Association needs to function at the end of its financial year on 31st March is in the region of £2000, there is a reasonable margin, the current bank balance as at today's date being £7849.33.

Therefore the Association continues to be a going concern with a viable and sustainable future.

David Rees was given thanks for examining the accounts, and he has expressed willingness to continue as Honorary Examiner next year, subject to the approval of this meeting.

The accounts were adopted by the meeting.

4. To Appoint an Honorary Examiner.

It was proposed by Leslie Chrol-Frolowicz that David Rees should be re-elected as the independent Examiner for the Association's accounts for the current financial year - all were in favour.

5. Chairman's Annual Report.

Michael Stimpson presented his report for the past year. He thanked all the Road Reps and the Committee for all their hard work and contributions over the last two years. A special thank you to Anne Littlejohn as Membership Secretary, Leslie Chrol-Frolowicz as Treasurer and Debbie Wheeler for her continuing work on the e-newsletter and IT-related matters.

He introduced and welcomed the two new County Councilors Reena Ranger and Paula Hiscocks.

Activities over the last eighteen months.

- Nominated members to be trained to use a mobile SID (speed indicator device) to record details of vehicles travelling in excess of 30mph on Batchworth Bridge. This was postponed due to Covid.
- Rectory Road and Riverside Drive - proposed to reduce speed limit to 30mph. Rectory Road is a dual carriageway so this may not be possible.
- Community Council work with District and County Council - any suggestions to the Community Council, e.g. concern over the number of HGV vehicles on Harefield Road.
- Local Plan - Michael Stimpson and Ash Pattni are representing the RDRA on the TRJRA (Three Rivers Joint Residents Associations). The TRJRA was formed to consider the Local Plan. The response by the RDRA was submitted in 2018, all but three of the sites strongly objected to have been removed from the plan. It was requested in the response that there was a need for small 1/2-bedroom starter homes. A reason could not be established for the proposal to build on the field at Mill End by the M25. The TRJRA discovered that the guidelines are only a starting point and do not have to be followed. It was understood that the TRJRA were disappointed that the District Council had not adopted a more robust position to the plan. The TRJRA would be working with the Council for the Protection of Rural England to help protect proposed sites. The Local Plan should have been returned for consultation with residents. Three Rivers have received 2500, possibly 3000, responses. Most of the attendees at the meeting had not received a consultation leaflet. Michael Stimpson had written to Claire May CEO of Three Rivers as it appeared the distribution company had failed to deliver. The next consultation should be in the Autumn and a Public Enquiry in Spring 2022. The campaign has been hampered by COVID.
- FOMLUC No final decision has been made yet with regard to Rickmansworth Station step- free access although this is likely to involve two lifts on either platform going up to a connecting over bridge.
- We understand that a Riverside Drive speed check has been carried out, Rectory Road has yet to be started. This is in connection with our request to lower the speed limit on these two roads and slow traffic down on Batchworth Bridge.
- There was a proposal to move the Library to the Council Offices, the RDRA and the Community Council were campaigning to keep it where it is but perhaps in a new building.
- There were currently two questionnaires on circulation for Residents to complete, one regarding the Aquadrome and one regarding the daytime closure of the High Street. Many attendees at the meeting were unaware of the questionnaires, it was agreed to inform members via the e-newsletter. The District Council are responsible for the funding of the Aquadrome, the Parish of Batchworth pay a percentage towards it.
- Sewage problems – two areas of concern: the River Chess and Harefield Road from Stockers Farm Road to Heron/Moss Close. Michael Stimpson has worked with Reena Ranger regarding the sewage in Harefield Road. Thames Water had not been very responsive to the issues.

Everyone at the meeting was happy to adopt the report.

6. Election of President.

Peter Waters was proposed by Michael Stimpson and everyone at the meeting was in favour.

7. Election of Vice-Presidents.

Vice Presidents were no longer to be elected each year but appointed for life. It was proposed Tony Berry, Peter Crispin, Brian Morgan and Bob Templeman be elected as Life Vice-Presidents agreed by all.

8. Election of Officers:

It was proposed Leslie Chrol-Frolowicz be elected as Treasurer and Christina Evans to be elect-ed as Secretary - agreed by all.

9 Election of the Association Committee:

The following were also appointed to serve on the Committee until the next AGM.

Richard Lawman, Anne Littlejohn, Ashok Pattni, John Payne, Michael Stimpson, Bob Templeman, Carolyn Venn and Debbie Wheeler.

There are four vacancies on the Committee. If anyone would like to become a Committee member please contact Michael Stimpson.

10. Any Other Business:

Councillors Reena Ranger and Paula Hiscocks gave updates on the following issues:

- High Street Survey – please respond to the questionnaire. Concerns had been raised over the disabled parking bays and trees that had been removed from the verges to be replanted.
- A locality budget is available for Community Groups to apply for e.g organize litter-picking within Rickmansworth.
- Flooding should be reported.
- Trees have been pollarded rather than pruned. It was planned to pollard trees every three years.
- Watersmeet are given a grant for Community use of their facilities. Currently coffee mornings are arranged.
- Action was continuing by the District and Community Councils to save the Bowls Club. It was understood that Batchworth Community Council wished to take it over on a lease; however Three Rivers did not want to grant a lease.
- Concern about increase in the deer population and the possible hazard on the roads.
- Concerns had been expressed that the Riverside Drive cycle path was not wide enough.
- RDRA looking into the proposed planning for Beeson's Yard, concern over height of building, potential flooding and increased traffic. Objections have been submitted.

The meeting closed at 9.29pm

RICKMANSWORTH & DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

President	Peter Waters
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

Plus: Frank Evans, Richard Lawman, Ashok Pattni, John Payne, Carolyn Venn, Ian Mercer and Narinder Sian.

For the perfect relationship...



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

savills.co.uk

savills



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

