

**THE RICKMANSWORTH & DISTRICT
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

INDEPENDENCE

FOUNDED 1929

www.rickmansworth-residents-association.org

AUTUMN 2011



**Tranquil Now.
Are you Prepared for Flooding?**

Need accounting or tax help?



Your local experts:

Our highly experienced team at Lee & Co can help you with:

1. Accounting, auditing & acquisitions
2. Tax advice, planning & returns
3. Business plans and cash flow forecasts
4. Corporate finance
5. Computerised Sage and QuickBooks accounting
6. Outsourcing & payrolls
7. Sole trader incorporations for tax savings

Why use us?

1. Fixed fees for all assignments
2. Agreed timetables to return work
3. Excellent value for money advice

Please phone John or Patsy Lee

(both highly experienced Chartered Accountants) for a complimentary first meeting at:

26 High Street, Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire WD3 1ER

Client parking at the rear of our own freehold offices

Telephone: 01923 897975 fax: 01923 897973

Visit our website: leeandco.co.uk

Email: info@leeandco.co.uk

Walkers

Furniture and Flooring

Come to the store with a
40 year reputation for
Excellent Service &
Competitive Prices

Specialists in all types of carpets, vinyls,
Amtico and Karndean flooring

Expert Fitting Service

Stockists of:

Living, dining and occasional furniture.
Upholstery including: Suites, fireside chairs,
electric riser and manual recliners.

Beds and bedroom furniture by:

**Old Charm, Kingstown, Cintique,
Sherborne, Hypnos, Dreamworks
Stuart Jones and more**

Tel: 01923 774725

www.walkersfurnishers.co.uk

8 Moneyhill Parade, Uxbridge Road,
Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 7BE



CHARLOTTE HOUSE PREP SCHOOL

It's not rocket science...

but it could lead to it.

It's just a question of investing in your daughter's education to ensure her future. At Charlotte House (formerly the PNEU school), we believe that anything is possible and we encourage our pupils to believe it too.

88 The Drive, Rickmansworth,
Herts, WD3 4DY

Tel 01923 772101

office@charlottehouseprepschool.co.uk

"We always appreciate any feedback you can give us on how you think we are doing....."

Hello and welcome to the autumn edition of **Independence**. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Jon Baker and I am the new chairman of the Residents' Association. I first joined the committee as a co-opted member two years ago and as a full member last year. During the time I have been attending committee meetings I have been impressed by the breadth of topics covered each and every meeting. I have also been impressed by the amount of influence the Association has on local affairs. We truly do have the ears of the local council and other organisations and are proactively contacted on a

regular basis to ask our opinions on local matters.

Your committee aims to represent the interests of all of our members and the wider community in Rickmansworth. If we are not doing this well then we have failed in our duties to you. We always appreciate any feedback you can give us on how you think we are doing, what areas you think we should prioritise and how we are communicating our activities to you. We should be truly accountable to you, our members. We always welcome new members to the Association and would especially welcome any help you can give us to enable the smooth running of the Association. We are in need of Road representatives to feed back issues to us and help deliver the **Independence** magazine. We would also welcome new members to the committee. We meet once a month on average for two hours or so. If you are unsure if you would like to make such a commitment or would like to learn more about what the committee does, then you are more than welcome to come along to one of our meetings for a 'no obligation, try before you buy' visit. Please contact either myself or our committee secretary for more details (our contact details are at the back of the magazine)

It is with sadness that one of our committee members, Jasper Jepson, has announced his retirement from the committee. Jasper has been a stalwart of the committee for a number of years fulfilling a number of roles including Chairman. Recently he has been active looking into health care issues which affect the region including developments at local hospitals and changes in the NHS. Jasper's energy, enthusiasm, knowledge and wit will be sorely missed and we wish him all the best with his future endeavours. Jasper's retirement once again highlights the need for new committee members.

Since our last newsletter, one of the features on the front page of the Spring edition of **Independence** has gone. The Morningside complex has been demolished. There has been an application for planning permission which has been approved. The Association have opposed this application on the grounds of its visual impact and the increase of traffic from

Chairman's Notes

this new development. We note with interest that Three Rivers Council has been meeting with developers, Police and the Fire and Rescue Service to see if bringing together Morningside and the now empty police station into one larger development would be more suitable. We will continue to monitor these developments with some interest. On the subject of planning, it is with dismay that we have noted that the timetable for building a new Secondary School in the area has slipped again. Three Rivers Council are doing what they can to progress potential site allocations but they cannot move forward until the County Council have completed their studies into potential sites. In the meantime, local parents have been looking into the possibility of opening a Free School in the area and have submitted an application to the government on this.

As you can see, we feel planning issues are very important to the Rickmansworth area. The government is proposing changes to the way local area planning is performed through the Localism Bill. This Bill which is working through Parliament now, devolves power from centralised government to local communities. Local neighbourhoods will have the powers to set up their own development plans. At the moment, how this will be implemented is not clear and we will report back to you when we know more. However, we do know that the plan is to have local groups such as Parish Councils and neighbourhood forums involved. We would like to hear from you your thoughts on this and how much you think the Residents' Association should be involved, if at all.

There are plenty more issues we have been looking into over the last six months so please read on to find out more!

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of **Independence** and I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and hope you have a prosperous New Year.

Jon Baker

Contents



Regulars

1. Chairman's Notes
3. Secretary's Notes
4. Peter's Paddock
12. Dates for your Diary
13. NHS Matters

14. CAB
15. AGM Minutes

News Updates

5. Metropolitan Line
6. Flooding

Community

7. Schools
9. Foresters
11. Localism
16. Road Reps

LOOKING FOR BETTER HOME INSURANCE?

We're just a 'phone call away...

**We're so confident that we'll give you £50
if we can't beat your current premium***

*Subject to a confirmed written proposal

Tel: 01895 678171

or email: dseabrook@fairweatherinsurance.co.uk

fairweather
insurance services

68 Park Way
Ruislip Manor
Middx. HA4 8NR

*If you contact
Fairweather Insurance
quoting Code
RDRA2011 and
subsequently take out
an insurance policy,
the Association will
receive a donation of
£25.00.*



Heathfield School



Whole School at Work Mornings

Thursday 3rd November, 10.30am–12.00noon • Tuesday 15th November, 10.30am–12.00noon

'Pupils' achievement is excellent'

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report 2010



www.heathfield.gdst.net 020 8868 2346

Heathfield School, Beaulieu Drive, Pinner HA5 1NB An independent day school for girls aged 3–18

Daily coaches from Ealing, Perivale, Greenford, Northolt, Harrow, Kenton, Wembley and Kingsbury

Secretary's Notes

I stood down as Chairman in June after 3 years in the role and handed over to Jon Baker. Now as Secretary I, once again, ask for volunteers to join the Committee. Whatever shape the Localism Bill finally takes, and however it works out here in Rickmansworth, the change that it will bring about could be massive. It should allow Councillors to actually campaign on real issues affecting the area without then being told that, by declaring their views, they have barred themselves from any sensible part in discussion in the Council. But it also gives us, the residents, the opportunity to come together in a Neighbourhood Forum and decide, alongside councillors and local business owners, how we want our area to develop. I am sure that the parishes of Chorleywood and Sarratt will take advantage of their new powers and it would be sensible for those of us living in the unparished areas to do so too.

I have mentioned the problem of flooding in the High Street in every issue of this magazine since the Autumn of 2007. Four years have passed, Hertfordshire Highways claim to know what is causing the problem but, since finally identifying the cause 18 months ago, have done absolutely nothing. We all must hope that the town doesn't suffer the a deluge similar to the one that we suffered in the mid-1990s because, if we do, the shops on the downhill side of the High Street, from Station Road to Marks & Spencer, will surely be flooded.

A very contentious local issue that we must not forget is the very expensive fiasco called the William Penn Leisure Centre refurbishment. A classically appalling example of project management, once the legal case is closed we will push for the promised independent inquiry into why it went so wrong.

In this issue we cover a wide range of issues, highlighting problems that affect many of us, of all ages. And that Localism Bill will, I am sure, bring a whole host of unintended consequences; some may be good, some may be bad, some merely a surprise. Much will depend on what we chose to make of it.

In the Harefield Road area Dorothy Burton has been active with members and non-members alike on two issues. The first is the constant threat, to anyone of any age involved with St Mary's School, from the traffic to and from the Veolia Water site in Stockers' Farm Road. The logical step would some form of parking and speed control but neither the District Council nor the County Council have any power there as the road belongs to Thames Water. The politicians are involved and we are currently awaiting a response from our MP. The second issue concerns the footpath from Harefield Road to Sherfield Avenue where Dorothy has helped a local group opposed to reshaping the footpath, removing the steps and making it a 12-degree slope. That reverses the work done some years ago and the opposition was because of the fear that, in bad weather such as we have had over the last two winters, the footpath would become dangerous. Despite a petition presented to Herts County Council by the action group the change to the footpath is to go ahead. It will be interesting, to say the least, to see if the fears of the local group are realised, we have accidents in bad weather, and what action HCC will then take.

Finally, a brief note of thanks to Jasper Jepson who has handled the health service brief so well. We will all miss his constant lobbying for a better NHS.

Peter Crispin

STOP PRESS. The change to the footpath has been cancelled!

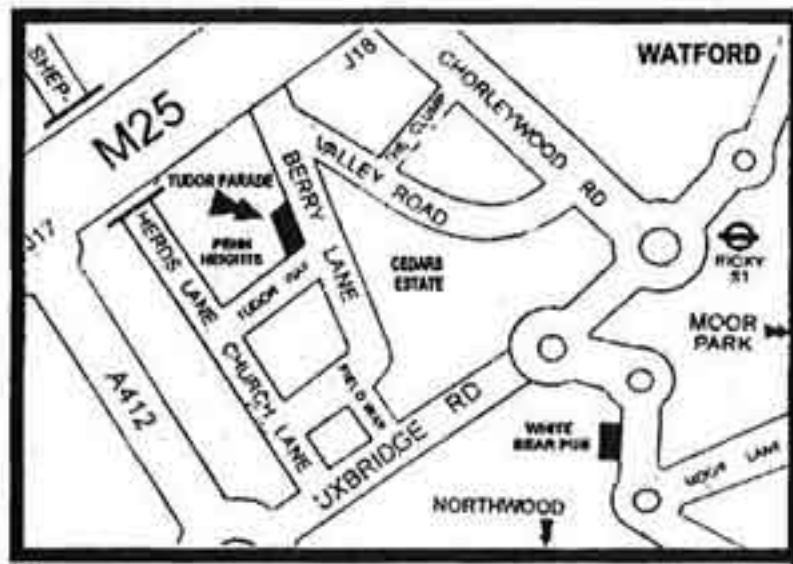
9 reasons why YOU should shop at

TUDOR PARADE!

Corner of Berry Lane and Tudor Way, Rickmansworth

- 1** **TUDOR PHARMACY** collection & delivery 773190
NHS & Private prescriptions, advice on minor ailments
- 2** **Maria Elena** Health & Beauty Salon 896117
Multi-award winning Declor, Environ & Jessica salon.
Laser hair removal, gel nails & eyelash extensions.
- 3** **Salon K** Hairstylists 4 Women & Men 773393
All aspects of hairstyling at VERY competitive prices
- 4** **K.B.R. Peking & Szechuan** cuisine take-away 721157
Evening orders £15+ delivered free, open 7 days
- 5** **McColl's Convenience Store** 712691
Post Office, National Lottery, newspaper delivery
- 6** **HARDWARE DIY & MAM ELECTRONICS** 897162
Coal, paraffin, coalite, Christmas decorations.
Gardening tools, seeds, photocopying, paint mixing
- 7** **A - Z CONVENIENCE STORE** 775933
Paypoint, Fax, Newspapers, Groceries,
open 7 days a week
- 8** **Rasa!** Bangladeshi and Indian 711399
Take-Away. Free delivery for orders
of £12+, open 7 days.

9 **FREE UNLIMITED PARKING!**
SERVICE ROAD RIGHT OUTSIDE



SUNDAY TRADING

All shops except Tudor Pharmacy, Maria Elena and Salon K are open 7 days a week. Please check for individual opening times.

Christmas is coming ...

Tudor Parade can provide you with all your festive food, drinks, decorations, cards, presents and gift vouchers!

Please support your local shops.
It's either use them or lose them!



Looking Back

Issue number 26 of *Independence* for October 1960 alerted members under the heading "Metropolitan Line Electrification" thus: "We remind readers with children of the danger of climbing over trackside fences by the newly electrified lines between Rickmansworth, Amersham and Chesham. London Transport have put up numerous striking KEEP OUT posters, as it is felt that electrification – after almost 70 years of steam – is a big change to get accustomed to in this rural area."

Twelve months later, fifty years ago this autumn (on the 9th September to be precise), the final exchange at Rickmansworth between steam and electric motive power for trains for Chorleywood and beyond took place. The event was reported anonymously in issue number 29 (were this practice still followed, we should have reached around 140 by now) of *Independence* for October 1961 under the heading "Farewell to Steam". Some memories may be revived by these extracts:

"I gazed at my pink ticket. "Special Train", it said, "9th September 1961 Baker Street to Amersham. Fare 6/0" ... Half of Rickmansworth was present on this blazing Saturday afternoon, some armed with movie cameras, some with still cameras, and many others clutching small children. Surely, I thought, they are not all travelling – they can't – there will not be enough room!

Slowly I forced my way down the subway and up the other side where I stood awaiting the "Special" Punctually at 3.05 p.m. the frantic blowing of hooters announced her arrival, and she drew up at the platform, whereupon the entire trainload of passengers scrambled out and joined the crowds already waiting on the station. The main idea of course was to watch the changing of the engines, and every conceivable vantage space was used. Trespassing was forgotten as the crowd swarmed into the signal box, clambered onto the signals and even invaded the track, much to the alarm of the Railway Officials, but fortunately nobody was electrocuted.

The shining diesel was uncoupled and a gleaming black steam loco

"Peter looks back at Metropolitan Line electrification and forwards to HS2".

emerged rather shyly from the siding [the site of which beside the main tracks is marked by the large space behind the upper end of Townfield] ... By now it was time to start looking for a seat, and I managed to settle myself into a compartment before those enthusiasts, who had joined the train at Baker Street, started to return in the hopes of regaining their seats. Many were unlucky and by the time the Station Master blew his whistle, we were packed in "à la rush hour".

The crowds on Rickmansworth Station cheered us as we steamed out. The engine driver replied with shrill blasts of his whistle, and seven coaches – packed tight – slowly disappeared round the bend and up the line towards Amersham.

Our progress along the route was something of a triumph. Gardeners rested on their tools and waved us on our way; the stations of Chorleywood and Chalfont & Latimer had many sightseers, many of whom threw streamers as the train passed by, and even a cricket match came to a standstill as the batsmen waved their bats in salute.

So we journeyed on to Amersham As the train came to a stop, there was a scramble to detrain and a large crowd gathered round the engine, where more photographs were taken. The privileged few then adjourned to the Station Hôtel where a substantial tea was waiting. Whilst this was in progress Mr Robbins, the Chief Public Relations Officer [of London Transport] made a short speech He hoped that the new services would operate in a two-way fashion – not merely to take people into London, but to bring prosperity to Metroland as well.

After tea we returned to the station in readiness for the return journey, but this turned out to be somewhat of an anticlimax"

I myself remember this well, for I still have my pink ticket, number 092, for that special train!

(In the same issue a paragraph headed "Train Services" in the report of the Association Committee for 1960-61 stated: "Concern has been expressed by many members who go to London in search of their daily bread at the effect of the re-organised train schedules, and the reduction in the number of fast trains stopping at Rickmansworth ..." Sounds familiar?)

Looking Forward

These days rather more drastic railway developments not far away are afoot in the shape of the high-speed (HS2) line from London to Birmingham due to cross the Denham Way on a viaduct to the south of West Hyde. If built (for the thirty thousand million pounds currently estimated) on the schedule projected I shall be dusting down my 80th birthday cards before it opens, so I am not holding my breath.

My own main objection to this already highly contentious proposal lies not in what it will do to the environment (we have already had all this with the various motorways within ten miles) but is that it will stymie the ambitions of Chiltern Railways (CR) with their already proven excellent track record. I corresponded last year with the CR Strategic Development Manager, Allan Dare, who said that the company's franchise agreement "includes reopening the rest of the old Great Central route as a 'secondary aspiration' - i.e. a project which may be worth developing in future, but for which funding is not yet available ... [such as] new 'Parkway' stations to serve the M1/M6 junction, and the area around Buckingham ..."

Now we have the HS2 juggernaut, which will weave in and out of the path of the Chiltern Line beyond Aylesbury and, after Brackley in Northamptonshire, will use the very trackbed of the Great Central that has been until now a distinct gleam in the CR eye. No intermediate stations between Birmingham and London will mean no benefit to those living along the HS2 path in between, but it is clear from Mr Dare's comments that, unless the long-term reopening envisaged by CR can be fitted in alongside those stretches where HS2 will have bullied it off its intended alignment, this project will be frustrated.

Why can CR not be encouraged to realise their already established ambitions instead, once their immediate priorities of the new route to Oxford via Bicester and speed enhancements on the Marylebone-Birmingham line are achieved?

Peter Waters

The Metropolitan Line - Update on the Slowdown

One thing is clear from London Underground's introduction of the new trains for the Metropolitan Line and that is that passengers' comments have been ignored and promises have turned out to be propaganda.

The new trains have 306 seats compared with 448 seats on the old A stock that they replace, a design intended for the short journeys on lines such as the Circle and forced on us by Mayor Livingstone. Those seats have a much shorter squab (seat cushion) so most people will find them far more uncomfortable on long journeys than the seats on the old trains and comments to that effect were ignored by London Underground (LUL). Oh, and the Association has already seen complaints from people who have travelled on the new trains when they have been filled with 1,200 standing passengers and cannot reach anything, other than another passenger, to hold on to.

We were told at our 2008 AGM that, once the new signalling was in place in 2013, we would get more trains each hour to partially compensate for the reduction in the number of seats. The claim was that the new signalling would enable London Underground to run so many more trains that we would then have, per hour, 98% of the number of seats available in trains operating the 2008 timetable. The contract for the new signalling was suspended and then re-let and it is likely that the new signalling will not be in use until 2018 but we are beginning to see how LUL plans to provide more seats without a total redesign of Baker Street station.

By the time you read this you may have been told by LUL that, from the 11th December, the following changes will be taking place:

There will be an additional two trains in the peak hours, diverted from the Uxbridge line, but those extra trains will run on the slow line to and from Harrow. That change will almost, but not quite, restore the number of seats per hour to those available with the timetable operated by the old trains but for those on the extra trains you know it will be a slow journey.

Apart from peak periods, there will be no increase in train frequency and all trains will run all stations to Baker Street. That means that the journey to Baker Street will probably take about 45 minutes compared with 36 minutes now and 29 minutes in 2001. So the journey time in the middle of the day, in the evening and at weekends will have increased by 42% over the past 10 years and with more uncomfortable seats to balance out the air-conditioning and improved ride of the new trains. So you go slower and in more uncomfortable seats, if you can get one.

In 1922 journey times varied between 30 minutes and 40 minutes, depending on the time of day and the number of stops, so the service we will receive will be worse than that our forebears had 90 years ago when there were only two tracks between Harrow and Moor Park and the Metropolitan Railway shared those with the Great Central trains.

In the meantime things could get worse. The Harrow North junction is so unreliable that when the temperature rises above about 75° F, or 23° C, northbound fast trains will always use Platform 1 at Harrow so that they don't need to cross from the slow to the fast lines north of the station. The junction can also be unreliable when it is cold or wet, yet there is merely the intention to replace the junction, so LUL plan to carry on

inconveniencing passengers for years to come; be prepared to scurry across to Platform 1 on hot days, and perhaps on very cold or wet days as well.

You may have experienced severe delays around Finchley Road when there has been heavy rain. This is usually because a large amount of water leaks into the northbound tunnel and, because some of the drains have collapsed under the track, floods the track up to sleeper level, putting the signals out of action. Solving the problem will need some expensive repair work by Thames Water to their water mains and drains and by LUL to the track and its drains. It is hoped that the repair work will be funded and undertaken by the end of 2013 but don't bet on it. Perhaps LUL should have a new slogan; "Met Line Traveller? Rain outside? Stay at Home!"

In summary, the new trains are being delivered but, as you already know, more slowly than planned. They give a better ride and are air-conditioned but have fewer and more uncomfortable seats, in most cases will run more slowly than any trains since the First World War and will be subject to disruption because Harrow North junction is unreliable and the Baker Street to Finchley Road tunnel is liable to flood. Our train operators cannot run the existing railway as well as their predecessors did so why on earth is the government planning to spend between £24 billion and £32 billion, depending on how far the line goes, on HS2. Peter Waters makes the point that HS2 will not stop between London and Birmingham whilst destroying any hope that Chiltern Railways could reopen the old routes north from Aylesbury destroyed by Beeching's axe. What is worse is that, if the French and Spanish experience is anything to go by, the effect will be to further increase London's economic dominance rather than build up "The North".

It would appear that the management of London Underground has decided that the Metropolitan Line timetable be written for the convenience of staff rather than for the convenience of passengers. This timetable makes a mockery of the government's proposed high-speed railway to Birmingham, as it will take 5 minutes longer to travel from Amersham to Baker Street off-peak as from Euston to Birmingham; so much for progress.

The Association is strongly opposed to the proposed change to the off-peak service and has written to the head of LUL, Mike Brown, as well as to David Gauke MP, to no avail. A few years ago the Association understood that the Metropolitan Line to Amersham and Chesham would continue to have a service analogous to the provided by the RER in Paris, with fast trains to compensate for the long distances involved. The proposal is far from such a concept and will force many more people to use the Chiltern Line instead, adding to the crowding already experienced on many off-peak services.

If you feel strongly about any of these issues then write to David Gauke MP at the House of Commons or e-mail david@davidgauke.com.

Peter Crispin

PS We should know by the end of the year whether the Croyley Rail Link will be funded. If it is then the shape of the local network, and the pattern of transport, will change.

Flooding – how the Environment Agency can help you.

Are you prepared for flooding?

Over five million people in England and Wales live or work in properties at risk from flooding. The Environment Agency is responsible for building, maintaining and operating flood defences and for issuing flood warnings to the public, other flood-responding organisations and the media. Our flood risk management work reduces the risks to people, property, businesses and infrastructure, and benefits the environment, for example through the creation of habitats. We, and our

risk from flooding from either the River Colne or the River Chess.

While we aim to provide advance warning of flooding, and local authorities may provide assistance, the person who can do the most to help is you.

What do I need to do?

To find out if you live or work in an area at risk of flooding you can phone our Floodline service on 0845 988 1188 or visit our website www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodsoutheast. You can speak to an operator for advice 24 hours

or Typetalk 0845 602 6340 or you can visit our website at www.environment-agency.co.uk/floodsoutheast

Know your codes!

The table below explains the symbols we use for our Floodline Warnings Direct service.

Preparing for a flood

You can prepare for flooding by following some simple steps. Complete a Personal Flood Plan. Download an easy template from www.environment-agency.co.uk/floodsoutheast or phone Floodline on 0845 988 1188. Let us know when you've completed your flood plan to help us learn how people are preparing for flooding.

You can prepare your property for flooding by buying and installing flood products in advance. Visit www.environment-agency.co.uk/floodsoutheast for advice or www.bluepages.org.uk for an independent directory of flood products. Look for the Kitemark to check that a product meets minimum industry standards.

You can monitor water levels during a potential flood on our website. Go to www.environment-agency.gov.uk/riverlevels to monitor levels of over 1,700 river and coastal locations across England and Wales.

As well as the services provided by us, you can also get more help and information from the National Flood Forum. The National Flood Forum is a charity that gives support and assistance to communities and individuals who have been flooded or are at risk of flooding.

For further information, please visit their website:




<http://www.floodforum.org.uk>

To find out more about Environment Agency services:

Call us – Floodline 0845 988 1188

Visit our website – www.environment-agency.co.uk/floodsoutheast

Email us - enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Flood warning symbol	What it means	When it's used	What to do
	Flooding is possible. Be prepared.	Two hours to two days in advance of flooding.	Be prepared to act on your flood plan. Prepare a flood kit of essential items. Monitor local water levels and the flood forecast on our website.
	Flooding is expected. Immediate action required.	Half an hour to one day in advance of flooding.	Move family, pets and valuables to a safe place. Turn off gas, electricity and water supplies if safe to do so. Put flood protection equipment in place.
	Severe flooding. Danger to life.	When flooding poses a significant threat to life.	Stay in a safe place with a means of escape. Be ready should you need to evacuate from your home. Co-operate with the emergency services. Call 999 if you are in immediate danger.
Warnings no longer in force (no symbol)	No further flooding is currently expected in your area.	When river or sea conditions begin to return to normal.	Be careful. Flood water may still be around for several days. If you've been flooded, ring your insurance company as soon as possible.



partners, manage over 27,000 miles of flood risk management assets.

Flooding is a serious issue. In Rickmansworth, 1,496 properties are at

a day.

We provide daily, three day flood risk forecasts for England and Wales on our website. The forecast covers flood risk from rivers, the sea and the potential of surface water flooding from intense rainfall.

Floodline Warnings Direct service

Our Floodline Warnings Direct is a FREE service which sends you a direct message when flooding is expected and may affect your property. Flood warnings will give you time to prepare for flooding which could save you time, money and heartache. You can receive warnings by telephone, mobile, email, SMS text message or fax, whichever you prefer. **Call Floodline on 0845 988 1188**

Martin Blackman

CROXLEY GALLERIES

QUALITY PICTURE FRAMING & ART GALLERY



EXTENSIVE RANGE OF PRINTS, LIMITED EDITIONS & DESIGNER IMAGES
CERTIFICATES & TAPESTRIES



IMAGINATIVE MOUNTING AND FRAMING OF YOUR TREASURES INCLUDING PHOTOGRAPHS
ALL WORK CARRIED OUT IN OUR OWN WORKSHOP

TEL NO: 01923 720764
FAX 01923 896419

143A HIGH STREET RICKMANSWORTH
HERTFORDSHIRE WD3 1AR

Struggle for new school for WD3 continues

Over the summer, Herts County Council has been undertaking detailed technical investigations into the suitability of 4 local sites for a new secondary school. Three Rivers District Council required notification of the preferred sites by 17th October 2011, and then we entered into a period of public consultation. Again.

It is frustrating that we do not appear to be any closer to ascertaining the pros and cons of each site than we were 12 months ago. Residents will be asked to comment on each site (2 in Mill End and 2 in Croxley) and a final selection will be made for inclusion in the Site Allocations Development Plan. This document must then be submitted to the government in July 2012 for examination and, all being well, will be adopted in May 2013.

Alongside TRDC's work on the Local Development Framework, HCC must submit planning applications and ready themselves for purchase, possibly compulsory, of the sites. This will require a public enquiry and need approval from the Secretary of State if in the Green Belt.

In November 2010, HCC envisaged the opening of a new school by September 2016. This seems like a difficult target given the progress to date.

In the last issue of *Independence* I wrote of the "Free School" application made by a group of local teachers known as Reach Learning. The Department

for Education undertook due diligence investigations on the team involved and site visits were made, but unfortunately we were not successful in reaching interview stage compared to the other applications. It is a competitive process, and we were up against independent schools wishing to secure Free School status and groups with extensive professional support through private education companies.

The Department for Education's feedback highlighted two areas for development. Firstly, the application needed to provide more details of extra-curricular activities the Reach Free School would provide and what additional, supported learning would be given to any pupil in need of it (e.g. one-to-one mentoring, etc.). Secondly, the application's "...evidence of demand section did not clearly demonstrate how [Reach Learning] have reached out to families with children from a range of backgrounds and abilities (including deprived or disadvantaged families) or how [Reach Learning] would target them in future."

Reach Learning are committed to opening a secondary school in the Rickmansworth area, but can only do so with community support. They can apply again next year, but must develop their application to cover the above points. Local parents need to sign up for the Reach Free School, or the Department

for Education will not consider our application.

A new Local Authority school is not a certainty. The local planning process is long and Hertfordshire has other communities campaigning hard for a new secondary school. None of the potential sites may be deemed suitable, and the money has yet to be secured. If local parents don't continue to demonstrate demand, it will be very easy for HCC to turn their attentions elsewhere.

If you are a parent of young children, and you are worried about their education prospects, this Autumn take a few minutes to respond to TRDC's school site consultation and sign up to show your interest in the Reach Free School. Join the WD3 School Action Group on Facebook, and petition your primary schools to pass on information from the Group. We are a non-political group committed to improving the choices for secondary education in the WD3 area, and need the support of local residents if we are to succeed.

The alternative? Be prepared for your children to make lengthy journeys to Francis Combe or Bushey Academy, or be ready to join the growing number of local families leaving the area to ensure they can secure an appropriate local school place.

Carolyn Venn



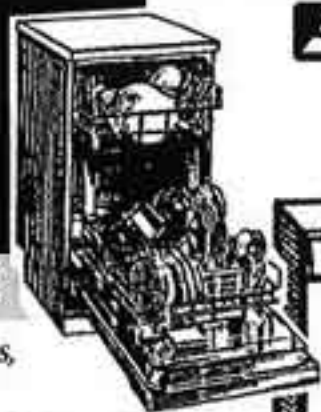
ALBANY APPLIANCE CENTRE

SALES, SERVICE & REPAIRS

WASHING MACHINES, TUMBLE DRYERS, VACUUM CLEANERS,
MICROWAVES, DISHWASHERS, FRIDGE FREEZERS

127 UXBRIDGE ROAD, RICKMANSWORTH WD3 7DN

TEL (01923) 771851 / 778770



ESTABLISHED 25 YEARS

Advertisement

IMPROVING NOT MOVING IN 2011 ?

Building a new home or improving the one you have? There is one person who is a key player in your building team who many people don't even know exist. You can even employ them before you have your planning permission. This person is your project manager.



Winners of Hertfordshire New Business of the Year 2010 company ClearPlan Project Management will add value to any building work that you undertake. Our services will save money, time and a great deal of stress.

James says "With 95% of people overspending by an average 25%, many homeowners current approach to building works doesn't work for them. The ClearPlan way is simple – we bring the principles and methods used for large scale commercial projects to homeowner builds, whether it be a single or double storey extension, refurbishment or complete rebuild. The service is affordable and you absolutely do not have to be building a "Grand Design" to need a project manager."

"We are proud of the fact that all of the builders and tradesmen working on our projects are from the local area – there is a real pool of talent in the South West Herts area and we want to ensure that homeowners benefit from these quality companies."

For a free quote or advice on any build or home improvement ideas call 01923 896550, email jamesbryden@clearplanpm.co.uk or visit www.clearplanpm.co.uk.



**ClearPlan
Project
Management
– simply
building
success !**



CLEARPLAN

PROJECT MANAGEMENT LIMITED

*Project Management & Planning Services for re-development and extensions.
Not builders, managers of the build process.*

Property owner Services:

- Building project management
- Extensions
- Re-developments
- Refurbishments
- Your build delivered on time within budget

For more information see

www.clearplanpm.co.uk

or call **01923 896550** to arrange a **FREE**,
no obligation consultation to discuss your requirements.

Email: info@clearplanpm.co.uk

Average
unmanaged
build
overspend
= 25%

ClearPlan Project
Management Limited,
First Floor,
36 Highfield Way,
Rickmansworth,
Hertfordshire, WD3 7FR



Court 2643 "Prince Albert" Foresters Friendly Society

Court 2643 is the Rickmansworth branch of the Foresters Friendly Society. The first branch was established in Rickmansworth in 1854 as simply a group of friends who looked after each other and reached out to those in need. The branch has been providing a supportive community network to its members ever since. The Society's Head Office in Southampton deals with all financial and policy matters involved in running a modern mutual society whilst helping the branch provide a professional and friendly service to its members. The membership covers a wide spectrum of people including the active retired, the elderly who live alone or in a care setting, children, grandchildren and working age members. Membership brings benefits that can be both financial and social.

The financial benefits of the Society are built on the Society's early business from the 1830's onwards. The Friendly Societies at that time were an early form of social insurance. After the introduction of National Insurance scheme by the Liberal Government in 1912 the Society became one of the Societies approved to run it on their behalf until 1948. Before the National Insurance Scheme members could make regular contributions to the Society's sickness benefit fund. Payment would then be made in times of sickness and disablement to offset the loss of earnings, making the member independent of the Poor Laws. There was a contributory funeral fund to cover the funeral costs of the member and his wife/widow, thus saving for many the shame of having a pauper's funeral.

The Society was always concerned for children and the family - historically widows and orphans. The Society still holds central funds that can provide discretionary payments to members' children who are orphaned or whose parent/s are totally incapacitated, or those with special needs. There are discretionary Educational Awards available to all members.

The branch can make discretionary



grants to members in difficult circumstances and can also help with optical and dental costs from local funds. This is very much in the tradition of providing service to the community members and being more than just another financial service provider. Although the Society is regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA), these discretionary grants are not regulated by the FSA.

An active social programme is much enjoyed by members. The branch meets six times a year to discuss a variety of matters - some social, some business. The social committee arranges outings and activities. This year the Court has enjoyed another very successful holiday to the Isle of Wight, a coach trip to Hatfield House, an Indoor Bowls match and a coffee morning. Later in the year a Quiz Night is planned, together with a Christmas Social meal out. Trips can also be made in conjunction with other Courts in the Northern Home Counties Area.

Last September the branch held a Welcome Evening at Watersmeet. It was a relaxed, enjoyable event for members, friends and family to meet and hear about the history of the Society in Rickmansworth and the types of things that are on offer today. The branch displayed its marching banner which was purchased to celebrate the branch's 50th year in 1904. Every member of the branch at the time was asked to subscribe not less than 1/- towards the purchase. Local gentry were also asked to subscribe. A photograph of the banner is above. One side shows

Foresters in hunting green supporting the AOF armorial bearing in the centre with emblems of the British Empire at the base. The other shows a Forester on his sickbed attended by two doctors, one giving his attention to the patient who is obviously getting better, whilst the other gives his concern to the wife and children. It neatly illustrates the motto "Help and Sympathy in Time of Sickness".

Members are enthusiastic about raising money to benefit local and national charities. Over the last ten years a total of £9,400 was donated to charity. These have included the Citizens Advice Bureau in Three Rivers, Great Ormond Street Hospital, The Peace Hospice, Water Aid, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf and the RNLI. The Court is a patron of Meresworth Care Home for the Elderly. The branch's charities for 2011 are the Home Farm Trust and Camphill Communities East Anglia, both caring for adults with learning disabilities. Money is raised through social events and also through a stall that the branch has run at the Batchworth Sea Scouts' Fete at the start of Ricky Week. In addition to local fundraising carried out by the branches, the Society also has a national charity which is currently Guide Dogs for the Blind. The Society is sponsoring the Archery GB's Olympic and Paralympic teams.

The branch is always delighted to receive new members. If you are interested in joining a very friendly and community-orientated group **please do contact the Court Secretary Mrs Helen Mace on 01923 720032.**

Foresters Friendly Society is the trading name of The Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society Limited, 29 - 33 Shirley Road, Southampton. SO15 3EW. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Registration No. 110029. Incorporated Friendly Society No. 511F FSA. Membership benefits are not regulated by the FSA.

Helen Mace



JUST STUNNING

In choosing new windows, doors or a conservatory for your home, quality pays for itself - year after year. Just Windows and Doors' reputation has been built not only on the quality of the products we make but also on the quality of installation which ensures a superb fit every time.

Simply call us or visit our showrooms to find out about the difference Just Windows and Doors can make to your home

www.justwindowsanddoors.com

FREEPHONE 0800 132510

JUST WINDOWS & DOORS LIMITED

(Admin) 8 Long Lane, Ickenham, Middx UB10 8TB

Tel: 01895 633241 Fax: 01895 622054

NEWLY REFURBISHED SHOWROOM

149 Uxbridge Road, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 2DW

Tel: 01923 775500 Fax: 01923 777323



FENSA

Registered Company



GGF

Approved Installer



www.justwindowsanddoors.com

WINDOWS · ENTRANCE DOORS · PATIO DOORS · FOLDING/SLIDING DOORS · CONSERVATORIES · ROOFLINE

YORK HOUSE SCHOOL



**NOW
CO-EDUCATIONAL**



- An outstanding School for boys and girls
- Small classes and plenty of individual attention
 - Highly qualified caring staff
- Excellent success rate to Senior Schools
- New Junior school, ADT and Science facilities
- Superb facilities set in 47 acres of Green Belt
- Early Morning & After School clubs available

01923 772395

York House School, Redheath, Sarratt Road,
Croxley Green, Rickmansworth WD3 4LW

Website: www.york-house.com

Email: yhsoffice@york-house.com

Bursaries available. IAPS School. Administered by Charitable Trust No.311076



Localism - How Will It Be For You?

By the time you read this the Localism Bill should be close to becoming law. My comments are based on a variety of sources as the bill itself is almost totally incomprehensible to the uninitiated, being full of legal jargon, references to numerous Acts of Parliament and caveats of one sort or another. Most of the latter seem to allow the Secretary of State to amend and over-rule anything that he or she doesn't like. Having looked at the latest version I now understand how we sometimes finish up with laws that MPs who voted for them later made comments on the lines of "I didn't understand the implications of the Act". This will, I suspect, be one of those.

The bill cannot be considered in isolation but must be looked at in conjunction with the Draft National Planning Policy Framework. I had hoped that the Localism Bill was designed to "Let a hundred flowers bloom", to quote Chairman Mao, but it seems that, rather as Chairman Mao then chopped the heads off all the flowers that bloomed this Government (or the civil service) doesn't really want local individuality and the Planning Policy Framework would effectively enable the Government to snuff out any attempt at local individuality.

Now a caveat. Despite reading many articles about the Bill and the Policy Framework, I cannot pretend to understand all the implications. So I may have misunderstood some of the detail or the detail may have changed by the time you read this. Beware. But these proposed changes will be very important for every area in England and Wales.

I will start with the Planning Policy (and I hope that you added your comments

whilst the consultation was open) which has a key statement: There shall be a presumption in favour of sustainable development. The National Trust, in its campaign for a rethink, quite reasonably argued that the word "sustainable" was irrelevant and that the thrust of the plan is a presumption in favour of development as it leaves the local community with the challenge of proving that any development isn't "sustainable". The likely implication of this policy in our area is for large-scale back garden infilling unless a road is in a conservation area or individual plots are already fairly compact. What is missing is any requirement to make sure that the local infrastructure, such as schools, surgeries and transport, will support the proposed development.

It is difficult to see how any large-scale development in our area can be described as sustainable whilst we are short of both primary and secondary school places, a shortage that is unlikely to be fixed until 2017 or 2018, has a railway upgrade under way that will not be complete until 2018 and roads that are already clogged at rush hour. The Environment Agency claims that about 1,500 existing homes are at risk of flooding so, presumably, all the areas thus classified would be off limits. Adding several hundred more homes without improved infrastructure would be a recipe for disaster.

One suspects that the proposed policy could lead to wealthier, louder and more experienced groups, such as developers, getting their way at the expense of those with less lobbying power and experience.

If an area does not have a parish council, then any "neighbourhood forum",

Community News

such as your Association, could apply to TRDC to become a "qualifying body". The Association appears to meet many of the criteria, although the forum might have to be separately established as it must have 21 members drawn from residents, councillors and business people. It would be charged with "furthering the social, economic and environmental well-being of individuals living, or wanting to live, in the area". The Forum should allow local people the chance to draw up a "neighbourhood development plan" to say where they think new houses, businesses and shops should go and voice opinions on what they should look like. If the proposals meet certain basic criteria, do not cut across the local authority's own policies and are cleared by a local authority inspector, a referendum (paid for and administered by the local authority) must then be held. If the majority votes in favour then the local authority must adopt and implement the plan. The bill would also allow a Neighbourhood Forum to make neighbourhood development orders, granting planning permission for a specific development such as a particular housing scheme.

The bill would also allow residents concerned about an issue in Rickmansworth to present TRDC with a petition signed by at least 5 per cent of their electorate. Then TRDC would have to hold a referendum and would not be able to ignore the result; whether this could override the presumption for development remains to be seen but the local referendum may prove an important political tool.

Other sections of the bill require councils to maintain a list of property with community value, such as a sports facility or pub, which then won't be able to be disposed of without giving time for local interest groups to make a bid, and proposes that some money from that raised by a levy on development should be directed towards community organisations for small scale infrastructure projects, such as improved footpaths.

There is much that might change in the Localism Bill but a Neighbourhood Forum may become essential. The area involved cannot overlap other local authorities, such as Chorleywood Parish, so it could be, for example, the old (1990s) Rickmansworth and Moneyhill wards. It seems certain that, however the Localism Bill and the Planning Policy are amended, local government will be changing and there will need to be much more activism if the locality is not to be subject to the wishes of developers.

Peter Crispin

Serves U Rite 151 High street. Rickmansworth

Phone: 01923 777534

Fax: 01923 442400



Kids' party items including: serviettes, party cups, party bags, straws, paper plates, etc., books, stationery, picture frames, linen, gardening items, tools, DIY., dye, glass and chinaware. Pet-food, greeting cards and gift paper, toys, knitting wool, haberdashery, paint, artists' products, plastic food boxes and a wide range of plastic storage boxes.

Why not pop in and see for yourself. If we don't stock what you are looking for, ask, and we will do our best to get it in.

"WHERE WE SERVE U RITE"

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 8th October - Rickmansworth Society Autumn Market (at Watersmeet)

Saturday 29th October - Friends of Watersmeet "Five Star Swing" Jazz Evening (at Watersmeet)

Sunday 13th November - Remembrance Day Services and laying of wreaths

Saturday 19th November - Rickmansworth Society Quiz-Supper (St Mary's Church Centre)

Thursday 24th November - Rickmansworth Local Area Forum (at Maple Cross J.M.I. School, Denham Way)

Friday 25th November - Rickmansworth Starlight Evening (formerly Victorian Evening)

Wednesday 7th - Saturday 31st December - Christmas Pantomime (Cinderella) (at Watersmeet)

Friday 2th March (2012) - Friends of Watersmeet Quiz (at Watersmeet)

Friends of Watersmeet Coffee Mornings (all Fridays, at Watersmeet except in December)

11th November

9th December (in St Augustine's Hall, Our Lady's Catholic Church, Park Road)

13th January 2012

9th March (none in February)

Friends of Watersmeet Film Society film evenings (all Thursdays, at Watersmeet):

17th November: Burlesque (cert 12a, 119 mins)

19th January (2012) : Oranges & Sunshine (cert 15, 105 mins)

11th February: Puss in Boots (cert U, 90 mins)
(N.B. matinée only)

23rd February: The Lincoln Lawyer (cert 15, 115 mins)

(Showings at both 2 and 7.45 p.m. except where stated)

Community

If you are experiencing

Relationship problems / breakdown
Work related or personal stress / anxiety
Self-esteem issues
Depression
Addiction problems
The need for support with cancer
Stress due to fertility issues
Bereavement

.....we can help

Problems, present and past, have the capacity to overwhelm us and it is not always suitable to talk them through with family or friends.

Counselling Contact Service is a confidential service with over 20 years experience with senior accredited counsellors who work with the issues that affect people in day-to-day life. If you are interested email info@counsellingcontact.co.uk and leave a contact number for us to get back to you, so that we can arrange an appointment. Or visit our website at www.counsellingcontact.co.uk



Counselling Contact Service

Est. 1990
Member of BACP & UKRC

Regus, Cardinal Point, Park Road
Rickmansworth WD3 1RE

**THE COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU
 BECAUSE
 THE COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU
 CONTACT**

**Peter Crispin on 772277 or
 Bob Templeman on 773973**

Hints and Tips

Will you be travelling in Europe? If so, be prepared. Accidents can happen and you never know when. So, to make things happen smoothly should you need a trip to hospital in an ambulance with lights flashing and sirens going, you need the following with you:

Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

Your passport.

The address and telephone number of wherever you are staying.

The EHIC will make life easier when dealing with an ambulance team. All three items will be required by the hospital administration.

And, of course, to make life easier for you have your mobile phone with you and the telephone number of your insurer. English is not universal. The team that handles medical emergencies will almost certainly have someone available who can act as an interpreter and, therefore, clarify what is wrong, for the ambulance team and doctors, and what is going to happen, for you.

Oh, and keep a colour photocopy of your passport back where you are staying.

Updates from Jasper Jepson

In this issue, an outline of the Department of Health's proposed goals for patient care; one person's experience of a hip operation on the NHS; and good-bye from Jasper.

NHS Aims

In last year's Autumn magazine, I wrote about how forthcoming changes to the NHS would affect GPs, Primary Care Trusts, Strategic Health Authorities, Hospitals, Service Providers and the General Structure. Subsequently, arising out of political pressures, changes have been made, mostly relating to the uncertain business of privatisation.

In this issue I draw attention to the effect of the proposed reforms on patients and the general public. I reproduce below the Department of Health's Quick Guide to Health and Care Reform for your consideration.

Department of Health

Quick guide to health and care reform

Why is it happening?

Much of the health and social care system is excellent but England falls behind many of its European neighbours on a number of key health measures, such as cancer survival rates. Our health and care system needs to deliver an improved service with better results for patients:

- There needs to be more focus on improving quality, as poor quality care costs more money - if hospital acquired infections are not tackled, or if there are no steps to prevent falls among older people, it can cost the NHS billions of pounds every year.
- Services need to be joined up more effectively - patients who need support from both health and care professionals too often find their needs aren't met, because health and social care professionals don't work together locally.
- About half of all deaths in this country are preventable, so more needs to be done to encourage people to look after their own health by eating well and exercising more.
- Health costs are rising because of an ageing population and advances in medical technology, so steps need to be taken now to cut waste and improve performance

What does it mean for the patient?

'No decision about me without me' will be the principle behind the way in which patients are treated. Patients will be able to make decisions with their GP about the type of treatment that is best for them. Patients will also have more control and choice over where they are treated and who they are treated by.

They will be able to choose their:

- GP
- consultant
- treatment
- hospital or other local health service

Patients will be able to get the information they need, such as how well a hospital carries out a particular treatment, to help them decide on the best type of care. If patients are unhappy with their local hospital, or other local services, they will be able to choose another one to treat them.

Patients will be able to rate hospitals and clinics according to the quality of care they receive, and hospitals will be required to be open about mistakes and always tell patients if something has gone wrong.

Patients will have a strong collective voice through a national body, HealthWatch, and in their communities through arrangements led by local authorities.

What does it mean for the public?

The public will be able to have more influence over what kind of health services should be available locally. They will also have greater opportunities for holding to account local services that are not performing well.

They will be able to get more information about how their local health services are performing, such as how well their local hospital carries out a particular operation or treatment.

There will be more focus on preventing people from getting ill - the Public Health Service will pull together services locally to encourage people to keep fit and eat more healthily.

Notes on hip operations and related treatments at local hospitals

In recent times, a friend was suffering from the debilitating effects of severe osteoarthritis in both hips, further aggravated by very high blood pressure. He received treatment at a number of local hospitals, including two hip

replacements.

Following tests and consultations with specialists and surgeons, first at Hillingdon to assess condition of the hips, then at Harefield concerning his blood pressure, and finally at Mount Vernon to prepare for surgery, he attended a 'Joint School' along with fellow patients. The purpose of this was to give a comprehensive briefing on all aspects of the treatment and additionally on coping with domestic challenges on return home. The briefing was instructive and reassuring. Five Mount Vernon staff - a Ward Sister, Anaesthetist, Pharmacist, Occupational Therapist and a Physiotherapist - gave presentations and resolved all queries to the satisfaction of patients.

The Ward Sister reminded patients that although they were to undertake intensive surgery they were otherwise fit and healthy individuals and expected to be on their feet on the day following surgery. And so it was, thanks to the skill of the surgeon.

Our friend had previously heard unfavourable comments about the National Health Service, but he was most impressed by the consideration and treatment he received. He recommends the course of treatment he received to anyone suffering with arthritic hips.

Farewell from Jasper

Lastly, a fond farewell to my regular readers. The time has come for me to go. I have enjoyed writing these articles and hope they have provided useful information to you. I strongly encourage you to do what you can to help our hard-working Residents' Committee, which is in urgent need of your support. Alternatively, consider joining **Community Voice**.

Now I must get on with my memoirs. How else will the world know who it was defeated Hitler and took on Uncle Joe Stalin?

Best of British.

Jasper Jepson

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1984

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.

Rickmansworth Service Station

(Proprietor P. J. Lewin)

MOST MAKES OF CARS SERVICED
TYRES, EXHAUSTS, BATTERIES, AC-
CESSORIES, BOSCH TUNING,
AIR CONDITIONING



MOT
Centre



RMI

VICTORIA CLOSE, RICKMANSWORTH
Telephone: 01923 778787
OPEN 8 a.m. - 6.p.m.

JANET POTTON
F.A.M.U

SOFT FURNISHER/DESIGNER BLINDS SPECIALIST

(Established 1967)

HAND MADE HIGH CLASS

SOFT FURNISHINGS

ALL KINDS OF BLINDS

SUPPLIED AND FITTED

FREE ESTIMATES

www.janetpotton.co.uk

email: janetpotton.rickmansworth@virgin.net

68 Townfield
Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire
WD3 7DD



Telephone
01923
773035
24 hr answering
service

Advice column from your local CAB

Q. I'll be 65 next year and know that under normal circumstances I'd be expected to retire, but I love my job and don't want to give it up. I'm still very fit and mentally sharp and can see no reason why I shouldn't go on a few more years. Can my boss make me leave?

A. The age at which you can be forced to retire from work is to be phased out between April and October this year.

Up until now, employers have had the right to make you stop work at age 65, but when the changes come into force, in most jobs you'll be able to choose when you want to leave work.

How the changes affect you will depend on when you're due to retire:

- if you're due to retire before 1 October 2011, your employer can still force you to stop work at age 65 if they gave you notice before 5 April
- from 6 April 2011, if your employer hasn't already told you that you have to retire at age 65, they can no longer force you to stop work because of your age, even if you're going to be 65 before 1 October
- after 1 October, employers will not be able to force you to stop work at age 65. They may be able to dismiss you for other reasons, but they will have to justify those reasons.

These changes will apply to most workers. However, there may be a few jobs where your employer can make you retire at age 65 for a specific reason. This could be, for example, where your age could affect your physical or mental ability to do your job.

The new rules also mean that an employer cannot refuse to employ you because of your age if you apply for a job after you've reached 65.

If you're worried about how the changes will affect you, or think that your employer may be discriminating against you because of your age, you can get advice on what to do from your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau

For more information and advice, please contact your local CAB.

Rickmansworth CAB,
Northway House (behind the library),
High Street,
Rickmansworth, WD3 1EH.
Tel 01923-720424.

Monday	
Tuesday } Thursday	10.00am - 3.30pm
Wednesday	10.00am - 12.30pm
Friday	10.00am - 12.30pm
Saturday	10.00am - 11.30pm
By appointment only	

If you would like information on becoming a volunteer adviser or admin. worker, please contact us on the above number or call in.

The Citizens Advice Service in Three Rivers receives funding support from Three Rivers District Council



AGM

81st Annual General Meeting May 2011

Minutes of the 81st Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 31st May 2011 in St Augustine's Hall, Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Rickmansworth.

In the Chair: Brian Morgan, President of the Association.

Present: About 30 members of the Association and the general public.

1. Apology for Absence

Tom Jones.

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 80th Annual General Meeting held on 1st June 2010 were approved by the meeting.

3. Honorary Treasurer's Statement of Accounts

Shirley Jacobs presented the accounts which were distributed to the meeting. She reported that subscriptions and advertising income were up on the previous year, resulting in an overall profit of £580 for the year to 31st March 2011. The financial situation was generally satisfactory and therefore no increase in subscriptions was necessary. A question was raised concerning expenditure of £16.50. The treasurer responded that this was a donation to the Royal British Legion for a wreath.

The President thanked Shirley Jacobs for her 7 years as treasurer and the accounts were then approved by the meeting.

4. Appointment of Honorary Auditor

Thanks were extended to the Honorary Auditors, Messrs Alliotts, Chartered Accountants, who had indicated their willingness to continue in office for the ensuing year and were duly appointed.

5. Chairman's Annual Report

Peter Crispin presented his report for the year, in which he highlighted the major issues in which the Committee had been involved during the year. The first issue was that of the M25 widening and the change without consultation from an embankment to sheet piling. With the help of TRDC, Skanska Balfour Beatty agreed to plant more and larger trees to speed up hiding of the metal work.

Flooding in the High Street is still a problem where a culvert running under private property is either collapsed or blocked. We will keep up the pressure on HCC to resolve the issue.

The Association is working with the WD3 schools campaign to push for construction of a new secondary school in the area and responded in length to TRDC's consultation on potential school sites and came out strongly in favour of the Frogghall Farm site.

The Association is represented on FOMLUC - the Federation of Metropolitan Line Users Committees. There are three current issues; unreliability of the service in wet, icy, snowy or hot weather, the delivery of the new S class rolling stock is very slow, and London Underground are proposing from December this year, all off-peak services will call at all Metropolitan Line stations to Baker Street.

At Stockers Farm Road Depot, the Transport Commissioner has imposed some serious restrictions on the operator but those restrictions do not apply to visiting vehicles so may well have little impact. A change to the law may be required so that restrictions apply to all vehicles using the depot.

The Association invites residents to comment on the new route for the HS2 line from Euston to Birmingham. We are also awaiting the completion of the legal action that the Council has commenced against the contractors on the William Penn Swimming Pool rebuild as only then will the inquiry start to find out what went wrong.

The Chairman finally paid tribute to the work carried out by committee members and the road representatives during the year. He requested volunteers for the roles of magazine editor, treasurer and secretary, and help for each of the areas the Association is involved in, including the NHS.

The report was adopted by the meeting.

6. Election of Vice-Presidents of the Association

Tony Berry, Peter Nicholls and Peter Waters were re-elected for a further year.

7. Election of Officers of the Association for 2011/2012

Peter Crispin was elected as both Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer.

8. Election of Association Committee for 2011/2012

The existing committee members were prepared to serve for a further year. There still remained vacancies on the Committee.

9. Presentation by Renato Messere

TRDC's Head of Development Plans presented the proposed changes to the planning system under the localism bill. The bill should devolve greater powers from government to councils and residents and give communities more control over housing and planning decisions. Areas covered included Neighbourhood Plans, Community Infrastructure Levy and Permitted Development Rights.

Questions from the floor included the impact of Government funding for green initiatives, whether permeable drives are mandatory (no, but encouraged), development on Wharf Lane gasholders (enquiries for housing but no application made, plus it's an area at risk of flooding), progress on housing sites (more TRDC-led consultation in the autumn).

10. Metropolitan Line Upgrade

Peter Crispin talked through the signalling upgrade due for completion in 2016, the need for replacing the points at the Harrow North junction, the threat that Neasden Depot will not be ready for delivery of the new S Class trains at the end of 2012 as planned, and the proposed timetable changes where all off-peak services will call at all stations to Baker Street, resulting in 45 min journey times. Residents were urged to keep writing to David Gauke, London Underground and Boris Johnson.

11. Open Discussion

Items raised during open discussion included: HS2 and its effect on the proposed Chiltern line extension, the lack of maintenance of a River Chess tributary at Salters Close (details to be passed to Ann Shaw), the lack of footpaths and crossings at Moor Lane and Tolpits Lane, and whether the Residents' Association should form a local forum to create a Neighbourhood Plan.

RICKMANSWORTH & DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

www.rickmansworth-residents-association.org

COMMITTEE 2011-2012

President	Mr Brian Morgan, Stockers House, Stockers Farm Road WD3 1NZ	01923 773922	
Vice-Presidents	Mr Tony Berry, Mr Peter Nicholls, Mr Peter Waters		
Chairman	Dr Jon Baker, 9 Talbot Road, WD3 1HD	01923 351854	
Deputy Chairman	Mr Peter Waters, 7 Priory Lodge, Nightingale Place WD3 7DG	01923 775505	
Secretary and Treasurer	Mr Peter Crispin, Leybarn, 22 Cedars Avenue, WD3 7AN	01923 772277	
Membership Secretary	Mr Bob Templeman, 11 Ebury Road, WD3 1BL	01923 773973	
Mrs Dorothy Burton, 51 Sherfield Avenue, WD3 1NN	01923 776942	Miss Shirley Jacobs, 6 Colne Mead, WD3 8DX	01923 776531
Mrs Nina Hosking, 16 The Cloisters WD3 1HL	01923 888399	Mr Peter Nicholls, 24 Hill Rise WD3 7NZ	01923 775334
	Mrs Carolyn Venn, 68 Mount View, WD3 7AY	01923 770434	

ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

ROAD	REPRESENTATIVE	HOUSE NO.	ROAD	REPRESENTATIVE	HOUSE NO.	
Arnett Close	} Mrs S. Denham	21 Arnett Way	London Road	{ Mrs T. Golden Mrs J. Weitzmann	17 Batchworth Hill Chalk Dell House	
Arnett Way						
Ashleigh Court	Miss B. Bell	26	Long Lane	Miss Pip Jacobs	36	
Barn Lea	Mrs S Jacobs	6 Colne Mead	Malm Close	Mrs A. Taylor	2	
Beacon Way	{ Mrs C. Smith Mrs C. Porter	24	Maxwell Close	Mrs S. Bramley	17	
			46	Millennium Wharf	Mr R. Lycett	15
Berry Lane	Mrs M. Bathurst	42	Middleton Road	Mrs G. Bowman	36	
Berry Way	Mrs M. Bathurst		Meadow Way	Mr T. Jones	7	
Broughton Way	Mrs How	25 Bury Lane	Money Hill Road	Ms L. Fowler	26	
Bury Lane	Vacancy			Mrs V. Stevenson	88	
Bury Meadows	Miss R. Lake	29	Moor Lane	{ Mrs P. Warmington Mrs C. Gray	33 Sherfield Avenue	
The Bury	Mrs J. Haigh	7				17
The Bypass	Mrs T. Golden	17 Batchworth Hill	Moss Close	Mrs J. Gordon	15	
Cedars Avenue	Mrs J. Riddleston	8A	The Mount	Mrs K. Evans	33	
Chess Hill/Chess Close	Mrs M. Smith	Endways, Chess Close	Mount View	Mrs B. Davies	27	
Chiltern Drive	Mrs P. Warren	60 Berry Lane	Nightingale Road	{ Mrs D. Brown Mr A. Tucker	17 21 Hill Rise	
Chorleywood Road	} Mrs K. Deeming	Hillside Hatch				7 Priory Lodge
Old Chorleywood Road				Nightingale Place	Mr P. Waters	2
Church Lane	Vacancy		Nightingale Court	Mrs M. Udesen	55	
Church Street	Mr L. Irvine	55 Norfolk Road	Norfolk Road	Mr L. Irvine	16 The Cloisters	
Clarkfield	Mrs I. Ayres	19 Clarkfield	Park Road	Mr T. Tims	8	
The Climb	Vacancy		Park Way	Mrs J. Holdstock	9 Rectory Road	
The Cloisters	Mr T. Tims	16	Parsonage Road	Mrs C. Fenton	2A	
The Close	Mrs M. Jones	11	Pheasants Way	Mr D. Maskell	12	
Colne Avenue	Miss S. Jacobs	6 Colne Mead	Plaitford Close	Mr M. Weinberg		
Colne Mead	Miss S. Jacobs	6	Queens Drive	Vacancy		
Coombe Hill Road	Mrs J. Butler	68 Shepherds Way	Rectory Road	Mrs R. Fenton	9	
Curtis Close	Vacancy		St Peter's Close	Vacancy		
Drayton Ford	Trish Jeneid	5	Rushmoor Close	Mr A. Willis	7	
The Drive	{ Mr A. Berry Vacancy	4 The Mount	Salters Close	Mr J. Rayner	64	
				Shepherds Way	{ Mr S. Merchant Mrs S. Rickayean Mrs C. Simpson	4 17 75
Eastwick Crescent	Mr Williams	30	Sherfield Avenue			51
Ebury Road	Mrs M. Templeman	11		{ Mr J. Burton Mr J. Freeman		13 Landford Close
Elm Way	Mrs J. Todesco	10	Skidmore Way			19 Bury Meadows
Field Way	Mrs A. Kent	27	Spencer Walk	Mrs S. Mazhar	5 Lynwood Heights	
Frogmoor Lane	Mr M. Woods	12	Springwell Avenue	Vacancy		
Goral Mead	Mrs M. Theobald	62	Stockers Farm Road	Mr J. Carter	1	
The Greenway	Vacancy		Swallow Close	Mrs E. Childerhouse	6	
	{ Mr J. Freeman Mr G. Greenhough Mr M. Woods	13 Landford Close	Swan Close	Vacancy		
Harefield Road			Talbot Road	Dr Jon Baker	9	
			3 Thelluson Way	Mr E. Waller	3	
Harriet Walker Way	Mr E. Waller	23	Thompson Way	Mr F. Stokes	57	
Heron Close	Mrs B. Stevenson	1A	Thrush Green	Mr B. Graham	4	
High Close	Mrs Brett		Townfield	{ Mr M. Baker Mr N. Mandalia	5 Parsonage Farm	
High Street	Mr R. Templeman	11 Ebury Road				26
	{ Mr R. Pratt Mrs R. Miller	45	Tudor Way	Mr R. Bangs	130	
Highfield Way			7	Upper Hill Rise	Mr A. Tucker	21 Hill Rise
			Uxbridge Road	Mr A. Stebbing	107	
The Highlands	Mr R. Weller	17	Valley Road	Mr S. J. Cohen	57	
Hill Rise	Mr P. Nicholls	24	Victoria Close	Mr P. Waters	7 Priory Lodge, Nightingale Place	
Home Way	Mrs K. Panton	3			4	
Hutchings Lodge	Vacancy		Vine Tree Court	Mrs J. Carman	69	
Jordans Road	Vacancy		West Way	Mr S. Hill	47	
Juniper Close	Mr J. Burton	51 Sherfield Avenue	Williamson Way	Mrs Redwood-Williams	17 Maxwell Close	
Juniper Gate	Mr Carter	1 Stockers Farm Road	The Willows	Mrs S. Bramley	4 The Mount	
Kenwood Drive	Mrs R. Tame	19	Winchfield Way	Mrs J. Berry	Bishops Cottage	
Landford Close	Mrs D. Champion	5	Woodcock Hill	Mr J. Luff		
Lime Tree Walk	} Mrs S. Mazhar	5 Lynwood Heights				
Lynwood Heights						

ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

Road representatives are required for some roads. This involves the delivery of **Independence** with collection of subscriptions in the spring and delivery of **Independence** only in the autumn. Road representatives are invited to assist the Association by canvassing for new members in their roads.

SWAN WINDOWS



TRANSFORM
YOUR HOME
Enhance, secure
& Insulate



A Local Family
Business with
28 Years
Experience



All our products
carry a 10 YEAR
insurance backed
GUARANTEE



COMPETITIVE
& SENSIBLE
PRICES



Please call us Freephone on

0808 155 2428 or 01923 720 792

42 Church Street, Rickmansworth WD3 1JE

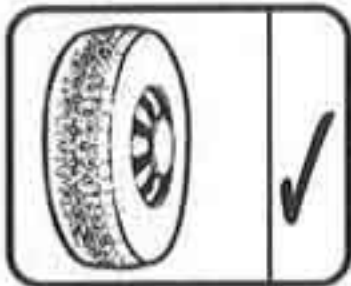
Info@swanwindowsltd.co.uk

Mon to Fri : 9:00 to 16:30 Sat: 10:00am – 14:00pm

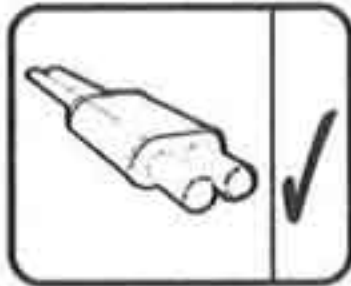
FAIRWAY

THE ONLY WAY TO GO FOR:

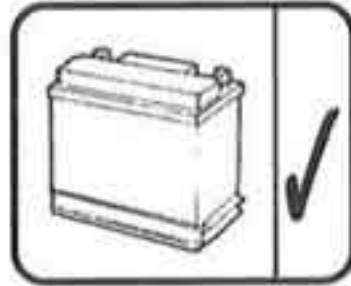
TYRES



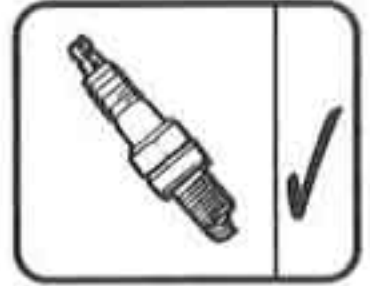
EXHAUSTS



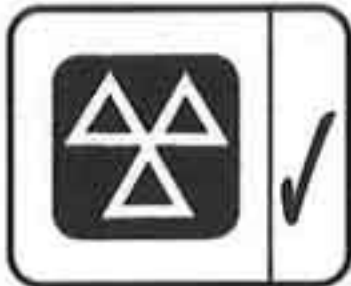
BATTERIES



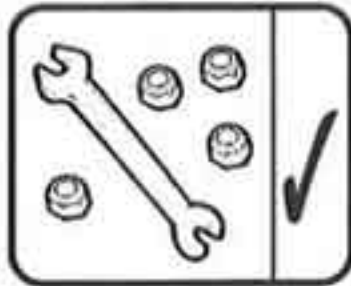
TUNING



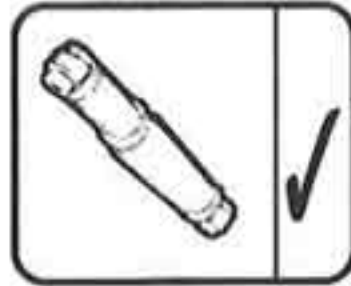
M.O.T.s



REPAIRS



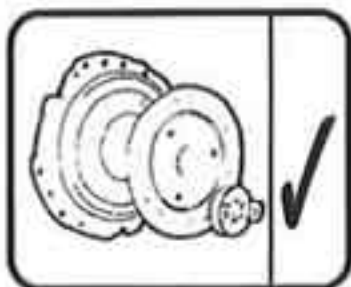
SHOCKS



ALLOYS



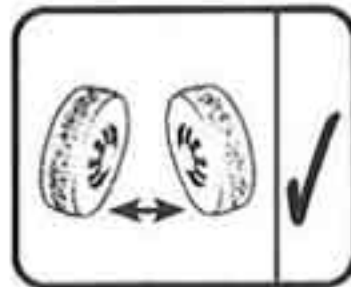
CLUTCHES



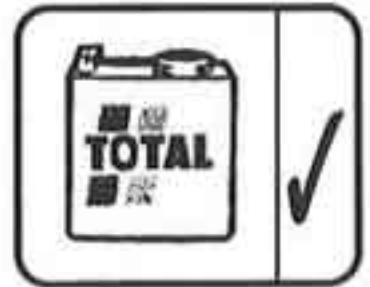
BRAKES



ALIGNMENT



SERVICING



COME AND VISIT YOUR

LOCAL INDEPENDENT ONE-STOP MOTORISTS CENTRE



FOR THE PERSONAL SERVICE THAT MAKES US SPECIAL
OPEN 8AM-6PM MON-FRI / 8AM-4PM SATURDAY
90 UXBRIDGE ROAD, MILL END, RICKMANSWORTH



TEL: 01923 721008

