

INDEPENDENCE

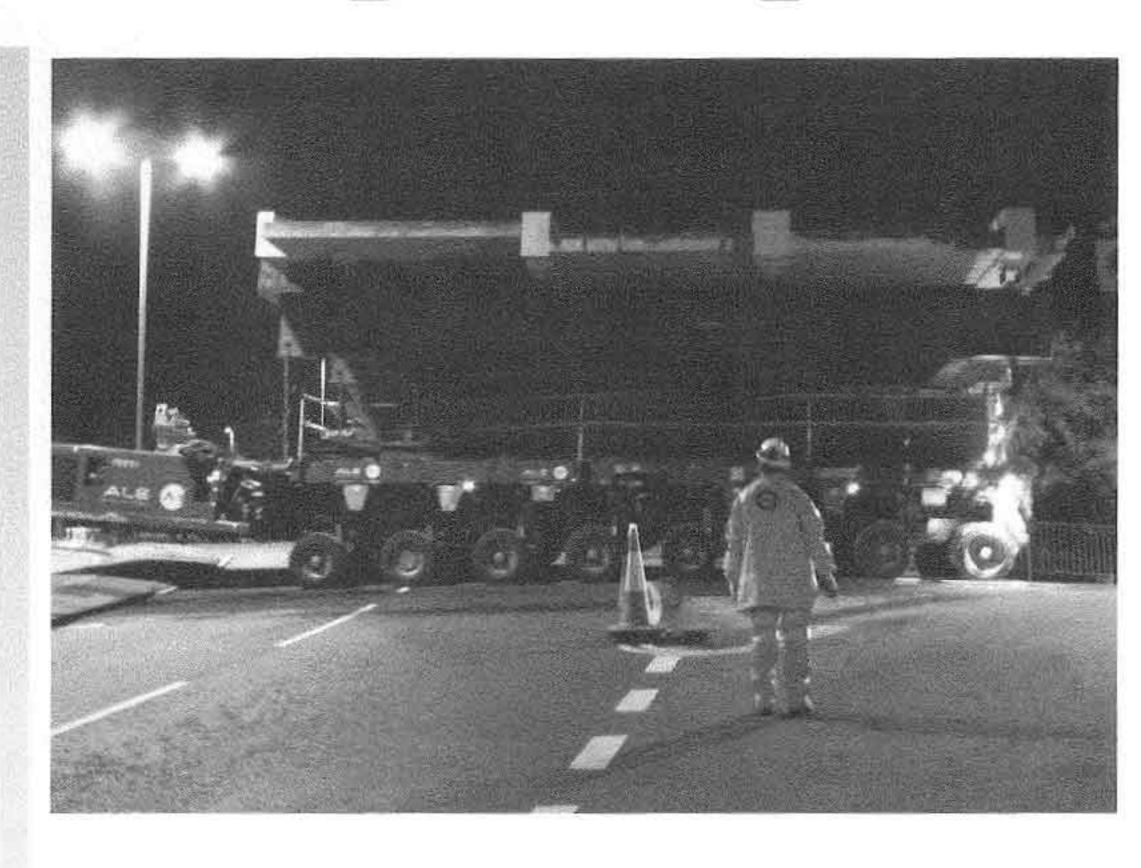
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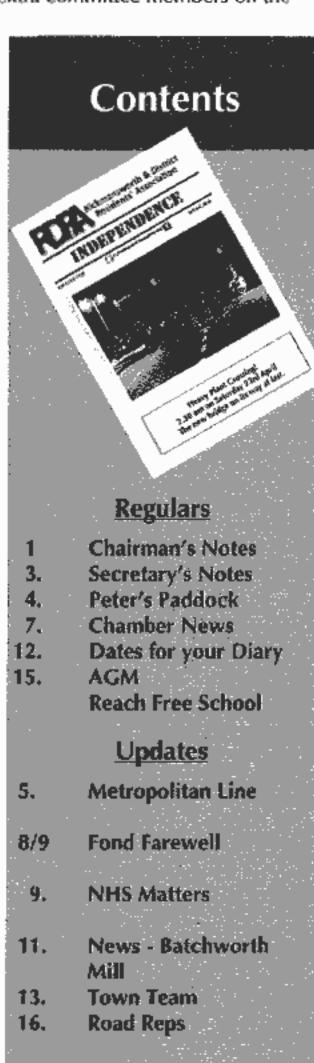
"We would welcome more road reps, notably to persuade non-members to join."

FROM THE TILLER

I start this issue with a plea. Ask not what your Community can do for you but what you can do for your Community!

Whilst we have been lucky enough to recruit some new faces onto the Committee and a couple of replacement road reps we still need more.

For a start we need an Editor for this magazine! We also need a couple of extra committee members on the



main committee and we are also short of Road Reps.

The committee meets 10 times a year, usually on the 3rd Monday of every month.

Road Reps are the contact between the membership and the Committee, collect the subs once a year and deliver !ndependence twice a year. Not a lot to it if you only have one, or even half, a road.

We also hope that Road Reps will call at the houses of non-members to get them to join. Back copies of Independence and letters introducing the Association are available from me – just give me a ring and I will drop them round to you.

RDRA is not the only organisation in Rickmansworth with "staffing" problems and every local committee who, between them, do so much work on a voluntary basis, is in need of your help.

The Rickmansworth Society is one such case in point and needs new local people to join the committee in the next year.

The Rickmansworth Society runs Ricky Week, the Ricky Week Carnival, the Autumn market at Watersmeet and the annual Quiz Supper at St Mary's Hall. The Society was formed in 1953 and runs these events each year and without this society many of them will simply not happen.

Can you help?

Ring me any afternoon or early evening during the week on 01923 770425 and I will tell you what is involved.

I would like to welcome the new members of the RDRA Committee Leslie Chrol-Frolowicz who has taken on the role of Membership Secretary, Richard Mitchell who has taken the role of Treasurer and Mike Ede who has taken the role of **Independence** Advertising manager.

Chairman's Notes

Your Committee will be proposing an increase in membership subscriptions at the AGM to £3.00 a year. We have not had an increase for many years.

We need to ensure thatr your Association has a viable financial footing for the forseeable future.

Of course, we are, as you know, planning to send out **Independence** by e-mail but we are not collecting e-mail addresses as quickly as we had hoped. Have we got yours? A hard copy of **Independence** will still be produced for members who are not on e-mail but we are hoping this will be a very few copies.

On the subject of Peter Crispin, I am sorry to say that he is leaving the Committee after serving for 10 years as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. His hard work for your Association and his experience will be missed. We wish him every happiness in his "retirement". Thank you Peter.

Finally, the loss of commercial premises being turned into flats continues. We understand the need for homes but if we take away the commercial premises then Rickmansworth will become a dormitory town – we need a balance – see article in this issue.

Mike Stimpson

DON'T FORGET THE
ASSOCIATION AGM
ON 21ST JUNE.
SEE PAGE 15 FOR DATAILS

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.



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Secretary's Notes

How quickly time flies by and here we are once more looking forward to Spring. This year the season certainly came in like a lion with frost, snow and freezing wind and as I write this I hope that it leaves like a lamb. Easter falling so early means that good weather could enable many to get out and enjoy the beauty of the area in which we live.

In my Autumn column I mentioned apathy as being a threat to the English countryside and it always surprises me that so few make their voices heard when out of character developments threaten to despoil our surroundings. In October there was a proposal from a developer to build an eight story block comprising 401 apartments along the frontage of Tolpits Lane, from the Kenwood Building to the roundabout where the Camelot building is. This developer is buying up properties as they become vacant on the business park.

Because of the shortage of housing nationally there was a Statute (Statute 596) passed by government to enable developers to apply for change of use from industrial or business to housing. I feel Rickmansworth may be about to suffer from the law of the unintended consequences of this undebated statute. Local authorities have few grounds on which to reject planning applications for the housing once change of use is granted - witness Swan House opposite Rickmansworth Met Line station.

The proposal for the massive development on what is the business park has been withdrawn for now, but the problem has not gone away. Tolpits Lane is not suitable for the vastly increased traffic flow which would be generated by such a huge development nor is Rickmansworth able to accommodate the increased demand for schooling, parking or medical needs. There was also a proposal to create a lit footpath across Croxley Moor, which is a site of special scientific interest. The residents of Rickmansworth should be aware of planning applications such as this and make their objections known. In addition to this, Hillingdon has received a planning application to build 122 houses and apartments in Springwell Lane. It surprised me how close the border of Hillingdon is to Rickmansworth, running within a short distance from the turnoff from the A412 into Springwell Lane and the proposed development is for a site close to Stockers Lake, in a bend of the river Colne on the site where previously a garden centre stood. Increased traffic from a development of the site would emerge onto the A412 at a dangerous intersection. At present we wait to see whether the application is granted or whether the objections have been successful.

Writing this makes me feel that I am becoming a Cassandra, always foretelling doom and gloom when Spring is such a lovely season full of hope and anticipation. I wish you all have a lovely summer, full of sunshine and relaxation.

Dianne Passmore

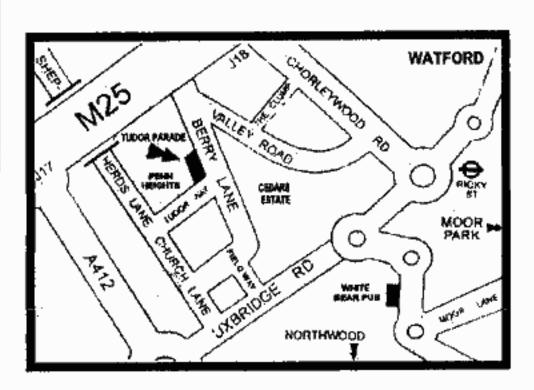
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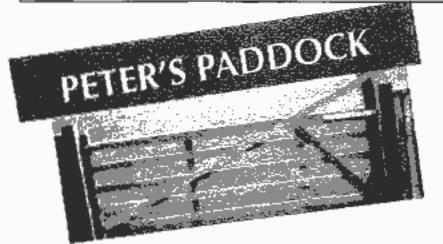
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Peter discusses the Hôtel Travis, demon drivers and Green Belt.....

That Hôtel

Now that their plans are in the public domain, as revealed in the Watford Observer on the 15th January, I can confirm the intentions of Travis Perkins (TP), about which I was informed off the record nearly a year ago, to build an 88-bedroom hôtel on their existing site in Church Street. I went to speak to the manager after the "photoshoot" of Nina Hosking and me (who endorsed her comments at the time, although this was not reported) outside TP's premises a few days beforehand, and he confirmed that which I had already heard, namely that of the 700 or so TP branches in the country Ricky's is the fourth largest.

A glance from the start of the Ebury Way will show just how much space there is to reduce the size of the existing buildings to leave enough room for an hôtel of the size envisaged. Of course (assuming that planning permission is forthcoming) care will have to be taken that it blends with its immediate vicinity, including the canal and the River Chess.

The site is admittedly not the best from the traffic point of view, on a roundabout on the busy A404 and thus akin to a major objection (one of several) to Lidl's achieving their goal (which I hope they don't) of a store up the same road the other side of the Ebury Roundabout in Rectory Road. Nor, of course, will the TP hôtel be anything like as convenient for the station as the Long Island Exchange, where (to mention but one example) many people over the years from a long way away put up to go to a final or similar event at Wembley Stadium.

But half a loaf, as they say, is better than none, although local B&B landladies may well fear that their custom may drop as a result. Your Association will watch developments closely and keep you posted.

Demon drivers

In the spring 2014 issue of Independence I criticized those impatient idiots who, unable to be patient and queue like the rest of us in the morning along the final stretch of Nightingale Road from the bend by my turning into Nightingale Place

along to the Chorleywood Road, think nothing of driving along all or most of the stretch in question on the wrong side of the road, quite illegally, to reach Victoria Close a minute or two sooner to deposit a loved one to catch the train. This habit continues unchecked, and it will only be a matter of time before a serious collision occurs, especially with a vehicle turning left out of Victoria Close where neither idiot nor potential victim can see the other coming. How this has not happened already I do not know, but I see this most mornings. I do not apologize for repeating this warning, but what can be done about it?

Indicate please!

While on the subject of driving standards, no doubt all local residents set a good example when negotiating one of the five roundabouts on our ring roads from the bottom of Batchworth Hill to the junction of Park Road and the High Street when it comes to indicating where they intend to go next. Long experience, however, leads me to regret that many drivers at these points fail to do so, particularly at the Station Roundabout with vehicles coming from Park Road not indicating that they wish to go up the Chorleywood Road. It is a shame that such inconsiderateness, which could be overcome by the simple flick of an indicator, makes life unnecessarily hazardous. Am I being overcritical, or do readers agree?

Homestead Where?

When Station Road was closed for the second time in January and February it was noticed that more effort had been made to provide adequate road signs warning traffic in advance of the diversions entailed and of shops remaining open in the High Street. Less than total competence was displayed, however, in the prominent sign at the Station Roundabout still advising approach to Waitrose via Homestead Lane. There were several such before Christmas and, though there was only one this time, such continuing mistakes hardly inspire confidence.

Sixty Years Ago

The editorial in issue no. 12 of Independence in February 1956

included a section headed "Building in the Green Belt" which stated: "A meeting was held recently under the auspices of the Association regarding an endeavour to use Green Belt land in the Harefield Road for business purposes. The [Rickmansworth] U.D.C. had already refused permission ... and an appeal was made to the Ministry of Town & Country Planning, who ordered an inquiry. This was held in Rickmansworth and the U.D.C.'s refusal ... was upheld by the Ministry. We were glad that the Association were able to give assistant and to members in this area in the preservation of their amenities." Plus ca change ... with the concept of the Green Belt under renewed threat these days, shall we have to call another meeting? Batchworth Heath, for example, is our cordon sanitaire between Rickmansworth and outer suburbia: just imagine if greedy developers managed to get their rapacious hands on that successfully as a result. We must remain watchful as a community if Rickmansworth, regardless of its being within the M25, is not to be sucked physically into Greater London. (even if The Times in January said that Rickmansworth was suburban – cheek!)

The same editorial covered another topic of perennial concern to local residents, namely pavements: "We were very pleased to see the improvements to the pavements in the High Street. There are, however, many other places which also need attention. Mount View, Elm Way, Rectory Road are some we call to mind and which are a disgrace to a modern community. We have drawn the Council's attention to some of these and we are happy to note that the neglect which they have hitherto suffered is being remedied." Don't hesitate to draw fresh contenders for improvement to your Association's attention to be followed up.

Stupid Lights

And yes, those lights on Batchworth Heath Hill are still (February 2016) alight for non-existent speed signs!

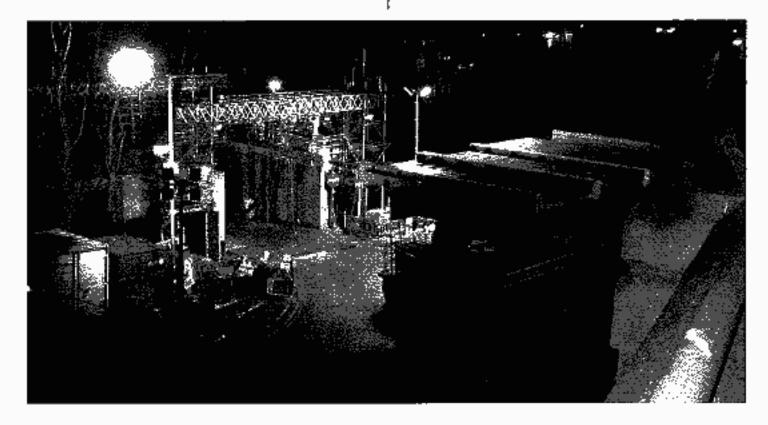
Peter Waters



MET LINE - Update

You could hardly avoid knowing about the work to replace the bridge in Station Road but there is a lot going on with the Met Line. First, however, to the bridge replacement.

of the change-over was to move the new bridge across Rectory Road into Homestead Road before moving the old bridge out of the station forecourt and then across Rectory Road to the



We knew that the bridge had to be replaced over Easter 2016 or the job would slip a couple of years. What we didn't know, and nor did London Underground (LUL), was that there was a great deal more reinforcement work needed than was originally planned and that, as is so often the case in Rickmansworth, the plans of the utilities were wrong. As a result the preparatory work which, thankfully, LUL started well in advance took much longer than predicted. Both piers had to be reinforced, the work on the London side pier being much more extensive than that on the Amersham side. LUL had no excuse, however, for the appallingly poor level of communication with both TRDC and your Committee during that first road closure period last year.

The actual bridge replacement took place over Easter, as planned but not exactly as advertised. The first step, on the Friday, was to remove the old bridge and park it in the station forecourt. The very clever machines, with some 64 wheels, that moved each of the bridges are masterpieces of engineering and cost about £1 million each new. They are controlled by an operator walking behind and using the type of control box more often association with flying radio controlled model aircraft, albeit in this case linked to the bridgemover by cable. The second stage

site of its dismantling. At that stage watchers discovered that the bridge-moving machines are masterpieces of manoeuvrability with all the wheels on any one axle capable of being steered independently of the wheels on any other axle, giving the machine the capability of rotating on the spot. It was fun to watch and the photographs show



line starting and finishing at Wembley Park, with passengers changing to and from the Jubilee Line. (The alternative would have been the complete closure of the tunnels for about three months.) There is a full timetable available and that will also show the good news that most trains will be running faster, shaving a minute or two of journeys into town, and that there will be two semifast trains into town during the evening peak period. Occasional weekend closures of the line beyond Kings Cross will continue for many months. The Chiltern Railway timetable should be unchanged.

The Met Line extension, alias the Croxley Link, is progressing but you can expect some serious traffic delays at the two bridges roundabout in Croxley as the preparatory work gets underway this year. The Met Line update programme itself is running some 9 years behind the schedule that we were promised when told about the new trains some 7 years ago but it does look as if the revised dates will hold and the new look Met Line will be fully operational for Rickmansworth in 2022, with more and faster trains. About time, you may say, but by then there will be so many

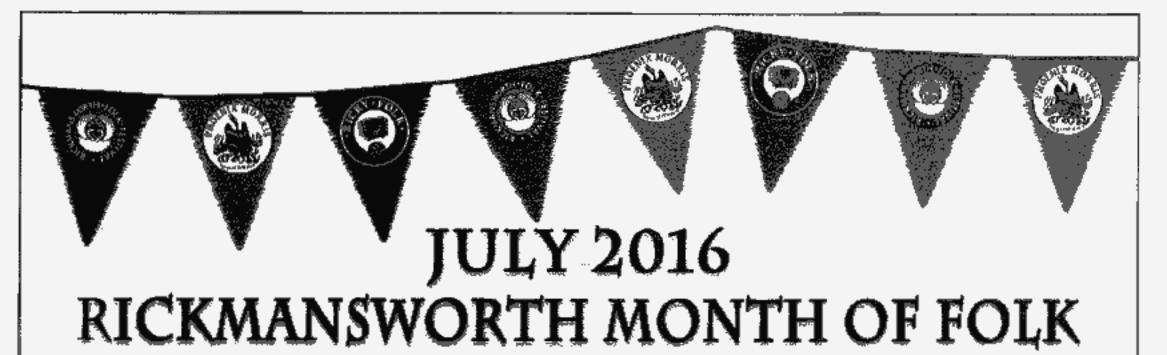


some of the stages of the work.

Looking ahead, the major engineering work in the Baker Street to Finchley Road tunnels will start on Monday 16th May. For just over two years the Met Line will be closed from Wembley Park to Aldgate from 10.00 pm to about 6.00 am on Monday to Wednesday nights with trains on our

extra passengers that overcrowding in the rush hour will be just as bad as it is now, if not worse, unless some serious lateral thinking is done by LUL and Chiltern Railways together.

Peter Crispin



Fri 1st July - Julie Felix in Concert - 8pm at St Mary's Church Church Street, Bury Lane, Rickmansworth WD3 1JB. Doors 7.30pm.

Our third concert featuring folk hero and local resident, Julie Felix,

supported by The Pals, Maia Packington and Dave Artus & Graeme Morrell
Tickets* £10 in advance or £12.50 on the door (if still available).



Tues 5th July - Folk at The Bear - 8pm

The White Bear, Harefield Road, Rickmansworth WD3 1JQ An evening session of folk. Come along and sing &/or play or just listen.

Tues 12th July - Ricky Folk - 8.30pm -11pm at The Conservative Club Bury Lane, Rickmansworth WD3 1DT. Monthly meeting, on the second Tuesday of the month. Come along and sing &/or play or just come and listen.





Wed 20th July - Morris at the Lock - from 7.30pm

An evening of performances hosted by Phoenix Morris, starting at Batchworth Lock, (access from Church Street - dual carriageway near Travis Perkins) followed by performances at 8.15 at The Feathers, 34 Church St, WD3 1DJ and 9pm at The Fox and Hounds, 183 High Street WD3 1AY

Sat 30th July - Day of Dance and Folk - 11am to 4pm Grand opening outside Watersmeet at 11am. Events throughout the

day with folk singing and Morris Sides dancing at various locations around the town, including Batchworth Lock, The Fox and Hounds,

The Feathers and the Conservative Club. Collect a timetable on the day.

Additional Folk Session from 1pm to 4pm at The White Bear, Harefield Road WD3 1JQ Sat 30th July - Ceilidh at St Mary's Church Hall - 7.30pm - 11pm

Our month of folk ends with an evening of music and dancing. 7.45pm The Pals. 8pm Ceilidh: The Gallows Hillbillies, with caller Alan Simpson. Phoenix Morris will perform during the

The Gallows Hillbillies, with caller Alan Simpson. Phoenix Morris will perform during the interval. Tickets* £10 in advance or £12.50 on the door (if still available).

* TICKETS for the Concert and Ceilidh are available through Eventbrite - via the following link: www.rickmansworthtown.co.uk/rickmansworthfestival.html or by posting a cheque payable to "Rickmansworth Town Team" and S.A.E. to: RFF, Heron Wharf, 12 Heron Close, Batchworth, Herts WD3 1NF. All other events are FREE. For further detals call 01923 770425





A share of profits will go to local charities.

Brought to you by Rickmansworth Town Team CIC in association with Phoenix Morris & Ricky Folk For more information see:

www.rickmansworthtown.co.uk/rickmansworthfestival.html



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Rickmansworth Folk Festival



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Chamber News



On Friday 22nd April we held our Launch luncheon with David Gauke MP, Clir Ann Shaw and Clir Ralph Sangster as guests.

VocaLink, the largest employer in Rickmansworth supported the event presenting their new strategy to help local businesses; their decentralised procurement process. VocaLink will be working closely with the Chamber over the next 12 months to roll out a series of workshops designed to assist micro and SME businesses by sharing skills and knowledge.

The Three Rivers Chamber of Trade & Commerce has now finalised its affiliation to Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce which in turn is the accredited Chamber to the British Chambers of Commerce.

These close links will ensure that every size of business has a realistic opportunity to join a chamber and give a bigger voice to business organisations in this part of the County.

We continue our appeals to Three



Rivers District Councillors and our MP regarding the imbalance in the local economy being created by the rampant conversion of commercial buildings to residential, and are entering into an appeal process with HMRC for High Street businesses in Rickmansworth to receive rebates in compensation for the closure of

Station Road for the bridge replacement works.

Business/Community

www.threeriverschamber.co.uk

Nina Hosking Chairman Rickmansworth Chamber of Commerce

Offices or Flats?

I was recently asked why the RDRA is against new flats in Rickmansworth. We are, of course, not.

As long as the infrastructure is built alongside any new developments, doctors, schools (in hand) and transport links, then we will support, on an individual basis, any projects that are proposed.

Of course, we need to look at the impact of the design of each individual project on the surrounding buildings and other factors but new dwellings are in great demand all over the country and, of course, there is the prospect of new members.

Where the Association does have a problem is turning offices into flats – something which is happening all over Rickmansworth at the present time.

This is because, if you take the day time workers from Rickmansworth, you take away a large amount of the business which the local shops and traders rely on.

A shortfall on footfall has already been noticed and the less workers we have on the local area the less of a profit will be made by the shops in the High Street.

Is this not a Chamber problem I hear you ask? Well, of course the Chamber is also concerned but from the point of view of the Residents it will meal loosing shops as rents and rates increase and profits fall. Shops will close and local residents will have to go to Watford or Uxbridge for their shopping needs.

In time this will leave us with a deserted High Street and Rickmansworth will become a dormitory town. If this happens then those who live here will set off to London in the early hours and will return late at night so the only businesses that will thrive will be pubs and restaurants. The other problem is that such people are not, in the main, interested in the local area – they have no reason to be. They live here for a few

years and then move on as they change jobs or buy a home of their own and move away.

This results in a loss of interest in our local community. The Rickmansworth Society, Rickmansworth Town Team and Rickmansworth Waterways Trust, amongst other organisations, work to this aim but without members to serve on the committee, the work of such groups could fail.

This is the way we seem to be heading and we must all fight against it.

Flats (and houses) are thus fine in the right place but do not take away our working spaces – the heart of the society.

Michael Stimpson

"I wish your committee the best of luck as it seeks to work for your benefit..."

This is my final article as a member of your committee, as I will be resigning at the AGM after 10 eventful years.

Now, for the first time, I am looking back as well as forward and reviewing some of the action, successful and unsuccessful, taken by the Association over the past decade. Your committee has been criticised at different times by politicians of both parties represented locally so it must be doing something right.

2006 saw the Association start a campaign to have cures implemented for the frequent flooding then affecting Church Street and both ends of High Street. The Church Street flooding, and that by the Coach and Horses in High Street, were relatively speedily cured by thorough cleansing of the drains and culverts in both areas; recently, however, another period of less serious flooding in both areas reminded the County Council that keeping flooding at bay requires constant vigilance. The flooding at the west end of High Street took far longer to solve, not helped by the fact, unchanged to this day, that there is no map of the drains and culverts within Rickmansworth town centre. It was finally agreed that the problem had been caused by concrete blocking the highway drain where it passed behind William Hill's shop and only when that was drilled away was the problem solved, 8 years after the campaign to fix it had started.

In 2008 the Association started working with local councillors and residents of Mill End and Heronsgate to prevent the large field on the town side of Denham Way, the M25 link road, being used for the construction compound for widening the M25. The site may have been convenient for Skanska Balfour Beatty (SBB) but it would have meant 24 hour a day, 7 days a week operation just 65 yards from the nearest house. A coordinated campaign of opposition, strengthened by direct contact with the Minister of Transport and expert advice about national and European law, successfully ensured that SBB saw sense and located the compound where the original construction compound had been, between Junctions 16 and 17 on the Buckinghamshire side.

As the M25 works compound drew to a close the Association became involved in another campaign, that for a new secondary school centred on the Mill End/Maple Cross area. Started by a few far-sighted parents, who could see their young children reaching secondary school age with nowhere to go, this campaign enjoyed widespread support although with strong and divergent views about the best location for the school. The proposal for an academy in temporary accommodation pending the final selection of a site found favour and Reach Free School opened in an adapted office building in September 2013. Let us hope that it is not too long before it is able to move to its permanent building by Long Lane.

The appalling project management of the William Penn Leisure Centre redevelopment was another problem that occupied the Committee, starting in 2009 as rumours about the tremendous overspend involved started to circulate. In December of that year your Committee decided to take the very rarely used option of asking a question in full council as it seemed impossible for the Council to set a legal budget, and have its accounts audited correctly, if the overspend remained secret. It was hardly a surprise that the Council hurriedly put the essential details of the fiasco in the public domain just before that Council meeting but any pleasure from that small victory was wiped out by the confirmation of the scale of the overspend, the final bill being twice the original estimate and most of that excess being due to TRDC's failure to manage the project properly from the start. Let us hope that the South Oxhey project is far better managed.

Do you remember the Regions? In 2009 the East Region plan, containing four scenarios, was circulated for comment, an important document as the District Plan would be, and was, predicated on meeting the targets set in the Regional Plan. Your Association responded in detail, copying its answers to the local council and the MP, and the Committee wondered why it had bothered. The main comments made, over 6 years ago, were:

The substitution of homes for places of employment in our area means that we are seeing a policy-driven increase in commuting because of a steady reduction in local employment opportunities.

The increase in commuting of all types will severely stress the transport links that exist, be they the Metropolitan Line, bus services or the road network.

The M25 will, despite its current expansion, be overloaded and will require to be either supplemented by an outer ring motorway or widened again.

The shortage of secondary school places will necessitate one new school by 2014 and another by 2030. These schools will have to be built in the green belt and exacerbate the overloading of the road network.

The increased population will require more doctors' surgeries, hospital facilities, local primary schools and playing fields: There is no mention of funding for this additional infrastructure.

Extra commuting will further increase the high levels of CO2 and NO2 pollution in Three Rivers.

Everything we feared -- pressure on schools, medical facilities and transport links - has come to pass, or is coming to pass, made worse by the fanatical emphasis, at every level of government, on converting office space to dwellings. We no longer have any statistics on pollution so can only assume that it continues to get worse as traffic increases.

So your Association has tried to influence the District plans for the future at every stage, only to be largely ignored by those writing the plans and they didn't live here and weren't affected by the results. When the District Plan was written, after the Regional one, your Association tried unsuccessfully to reduce the density of developments in its area but if we had a parish or community council it, as with all the other parish councils in the District, would probably have been able to influence the District

plan for the better.

On a more cheerful note let us consider some of the little successes that may have passed you by. It was your Association that first raised the issue of the gradual dilapidation of the old shops by the station and, once that was taken up by the Council, we saw the facades spruced up and the archive photographs put in place. Your Association has been a member of the user committee that meets with Met Line management every 4 months and, through that committee, has successfully argued for such things as hanging straps on the new trains, quicker and more accurate information about service problems and for better planning and more information about the Station Road bridge replacement.

Now let's look forward to the challenges ahead. What will happen if more of the business properties along Tolpits Lane and the adjacent business park are turned into housing. With, say, 1200 to 1400 new flats in that area, built without any need for planning permission, all the infrastructure problems that your Association has highlighted will be dramatically worsened with no sign that government, at any level, is prepared to challenge the unintended consequences of the latest political bright idea.

The impact of HS2 construction will be felt over the next decade, with several

hundred workers either living on the site at West Hyde or commuting to it and a massive increase of traffic on the A412 even with Junction 16A built to take much of the heavy traffic. You may not believe it but the Uxbridge Road through Rickmansworth has been designated, by the H52 project, as the overflow route, should the M25 be blocked, for the forty 40 ton trucks an hour that will be go to and fro from the HS2 construction site. Are the HS2 planners mad? Probably, but that is of little help.

What if the M25 Service Station is built at Junction 17? Three years of additional construction traffic, let alone the noise then and in perpetuity. The M25 will become even more prone to delays with yet another exit to contend with as the existing Junction 17 certainly cannot cope with a vast increase in traffic. Are the planners mad? Probably, but that is of little help.

London Underground predict that by 2023 the number of people using Rickmansworth Station will have more than doubled in the 20 years from 2003, and that is without any of the conversion of offices to flats that now face us. Car parking will become an even worse problem and the Met Line will be chronically overcrowded. Ideas? How about making Croxley and Chorleywood car parks double deckers? With Crossrail taking a lot of the strain on the old Great Western mainline to Maidenhead, how about diverting some Chiltern Line "mainline" services to Paddington and putting extra 5 or 6 coach trains on our line to ease the pressure on the Met Line? How about starting those Chiltern Line services to Watford Junction directly from Amersham and Chesham, so widening the commuting options; Milton Keynes, in under an hour? In other words, sweating the infrastructure that exists or is being built.

What could be done to help us locally? How about a campaign by TRDC to help keep employment locally, first by using an Article 4 designation for critical employment sites and then by emphasising the high quality workforce available, the good transport links close by and, perhaps most importantly, that we have some of the fastest broadband speeds in Britain?

It is time to go. It is still a good place to live, with the Aquadrome and the green space alongside our three rivers, with easy access (most of the time) to air, rail and road routes and with many other advantages. I wish your committee the best of luck as it seeks to work for your benefit to retain the best of the area and improve those things that are failing or are being planned to fail.

Peter Crispin

West Herts Hospital Trust-Wow!

The problem of discharging patients home before noon with a supply of TTAs (tablets to take away) has been worked upon by the Pharmacy department of the Trust. To this end a pilot scheme was trialled, which involved renting a "Workstation on Wheels" (WOW) as a mobile dispensing unit to improve discharge dispensing turnaround times. The pilot was made possible following the roll out of Wi-Fi to some areas of the Trust, WOW has been tested on Level 4 of the Main Block and results showed that for nearly half of the patients, TTAs are now completed in 15 minutes rather than around two hours as was previously the case.

The Chief Pharmacist said that the process for dispensing TTAs across other wards will be rolled out as Wi-Fi becomes increasingly available. As the trial has proved so successful, the Trust has decided to purchase two WOWs to improve patient experience with hospital discharge.

Further Improvement: A new conference room equipped with video conferencing facilities to enable multi-disciplinary teams of consultant surgeons, specialist nurses, pathologists, radiologists and oncologists to discussed the diagnosis and treatment options for patients diagnosed with cancer, is being created at Watford Hospital. This type of multi-disciplinary team examination and discussion of the appearance of ultrasound and x-ray images, clinical findings and pathology has been found to lead to the best outcomes for patients. Included in the upgrades and

NHS Matters

improvements taking place at West Herts
Hospital Trust is the anticipated arrival of
two new scanners at Watford Hospital.
A new state of the art Computed
Tomography (CT) scanner and also
a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)
scanner, are due to arrive during May
2016 and both machines will enable
imaging of the heart.

Once these machines are up and running patients with suspected heart problems will be able to be assessed locally and much more quickly, leading to better and safer patient care.

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PROBLEMS AT THE LOCKS



The Rickmansworth Waterways Trust was originally set up by RDRA in 1993 and has grown in success over the years with a number of projects including

the Rickmansworth (Waterways) Festival and Learning at the Lock – a much used facility which has been housed in the premises at Batchworth Mill for a number of years.

Some of you are already aware that the Learning at the Lock sessions in February and March had to be cancelled at short notice when the Rickmansworth Waterways Trust were informed at short notice that the classroom at Batchworth Mill was unavailable due to health and safety concerns. Subsequently, the Mill has been locked and all of its users have been notified of its closure.

Mark Saxon and Jenny Barzilay of the Trust were invited to a meeting with Affinity Water, the owners of the Mill, on the 30th March. At this meeting they were informed that the health and safety concerns and the possible cost of remedial work, plus the possibility of Affinity Water disposing of some their building assets meant that the Trust

were no longer able to use the Mill for the Education Programme and that the agreement with them was cancelled.

This obviously has a significant impact on the education programme as RWT need to find a new secure base from which they can provide the history section of the programme as well as storage of the many artefacts and equipment currently stored at the Mill.

The Trust have already looked at a number of alternative venues including the Batchworth Sea Scout Hut, St Mary's Church, the lounge at St Mary's Court and the WRVS Hall adjacent to the Bury but none of these provide us with either a short or long term solution.

They are now looking at other options further afield or thinking about how we deliver the history section in a different manner possibly by taking it into the schools themselves but logistically this may prove to be impossible.

Another, but medium to long term, option is to obtain a boat as a floating class room which would have the added advantage of being used for other purposes when not in use as a class room with the potential, perhaps, of earning additional revenue for the Trust.

In the short term it has been decided that Room 1 at St Mary's Church Hall is



Batchworth Mill

the best option.

The Trust are, of course, still going to be running the shop and information centre on a daily basis, Ferry Trips, Charters and visits to the 'Roger'.

RWT are also are continuing all the work for the next Rickmansworth Festival being held on May 21st and 22nd so the Trust remains active, strong and open for business.

If the idea of a boat is decided on then it is clear that RWT will need additional funding for such a project on a massive scale.

As for the future of Batchworth Mill is concerned, the prospects are not good. The Mill has been there for about 500 years and, at one time, was used by John Dickinson as a Paper Mill and is believed to be the site of the first automatic paper making equipment.

Without knowing what the problems are we have no idea what the future holds for this site but going the same way as Long Island is a distinct possibility. We can only hope, if the site is turned into residential units, that the outside shell of the older buildings can be kept.

Michael Stimpson



Batchworth Mill

Dates for Your Diary

Rickmansworth Local Area Forum (at Three Rivers House, Thursday 7th July. 7 for 7.30 pm)

Rickmansworth & District Residents' Association

86th A.G.M., Tuesday, 21st June

(in St Augustine's Hall, Our Lady's Catholic Church, Park Road at 8 pm)

Friends of Watersmeet Coffee Mornings

Friday 15th July

(on Fridays in the first floor foyer at Watersmeet 10.30 – 12, all welcome).

Friday 9th September

Friends of Watersmeet Film Society

(all Thursdays at 2 and 7.45 pm except where stated otherwise)

Wednesday 25th May (7,45 pm only)

The Revenant (cert 15, 156 mins)

16th June

Room (cert 15, 118 mins)

30 June

Dad's Army (cert PG 100 mins)

21st July

Noble (cert PG13, 100 mins)

Rickmansworth Folk Month

Friday 1st Julie Felix in Concert

St Mary's Church, Church Street, Rickmansworth.

Tickets £10 in advance (Ring 01923 770425) or £12.50 on the door.

Tuesday 5th – Folk Session White Bear 8pm Free event.

Tuesday 12th - Ricky Folk

Back Bar at the Conservative Club, Bury Lane 8.15pm

Free Event

Wednesday 20th - Morris in Ricky

7.30 Batchworth Lock, 8.15 Feathers 9.30 Fox & Hounds

Free Event

Saturday 30th – Day of Dance and Song Morris Dancing and

Folk Singing in Rickmansworth

Free Events 11-4

Saturday 30th - Ceilidh

St Mary's Church Hall £10.00 in advance or £12.50 on the door.

Tickets in advance 01923 770425

Community/Diary Dates



The Regulatory Services Committee of Three Rivers District Council are making a recommendation to Full Council, that a ballot take place at the end of June 2016 following the EU Referendum. The recommendation is for a postal ballot for which at least 10% of the electorate will have to respond for the votes to be opened. There are further caveats that will be applied to the ballot and these will be announced nearer the time, but essentially this will be a Yes/No Ballot.

This is great news for the Campaign. There will be more information being sent out to all households in the four unparished wards over the coming months. In the meantime you can visit www.4wards.net to find out more about the benefits and costs of having a Community Council.

Nina Hosking



Garden waste collection changes

From 11 July 2016, the garden waste collection service will be chargeable, meaning that only brown bins that are paid for will be emptied.

Letters are being sent out to all households in Three Rivers over the coming weeks to advise of the changes to garden waste, which have become necessary because substantial cuts in funding by central government have placed significant financial pressures on the Council. The annual charge is £35 (a number of concessions are available), although this year there will be a reduced charge of £25 to cover the period up to 31 March 2017.

If you do not wish to pay for a brown bin we will make arrangements later in the year to remove it, please look out for further information on the Council website. Other ways to dispose of garden waste are to compost at home or take your garden waste to one of the Household Waste Recycling Centres. Please note garden waste should not be placed in your refuse bin.

Phil Brading, Lead Member for Public Services said "The free service was well used and popular with residents, but local authorities are not obliged to collect garden waste; some councils now make a charge for collecting it, whilst others do not offer a garden waste collection at all."

To sign up and pay for your brown bin, read frequently asked questions and terms and conditions please visit www.threerivers.gov.uk or my.threerivers.gov.uk

Town Team



We continue with our event timetable for 2016. The main addition to this schedule was the Bonfire Beacon Event and the flags on the High St to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday. A fabulous event for the Community attended by more than 400 people. These were organised and funded by the Town Team.

In July, in association with Phoenix Morris and Ricky Folk, the Town Team is organising a Month of Folk – the dates of the events throughout July can be found in the "Dates" part of this publication.

Nina Hosking





If you would like to know more about the Town Team or would like to get involved please contact: info@ rickmansworthtown.co.uk -01923 888399



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Advice column from your local CAB

Q) Our circumstances recently changed and my spouse and I are considering re-writing our will. We had a leaflet through the door advertising will writing services which seemed quite reasonable. Is this method recommended?



A) We would not recommend will writing firms as they are not regulated by the Law Society so there are few safeguards if things go wrong.

It is generally advisable to use a solicitor or to have a solicitor check a will you have drawn up to make sure it will have the effect you want. It is easy to make mistakes and, if there are errors in the will, this can cause problems after your death.

However, if you don't use a solicitor, it is better to use a firm which belongs to the Institute of Professional Willwriters. These firms must follow a Code of Practice which covers the training and assessment of willwriters. There is also a complaints and conciliation procedure which can help you sort out problems if things go wrong. You can find details of The Code and of firms which belong to the Institute on the Institute's website at www.ipw.org.uk.

In the month of November, some organisations will write a will in return for a contribution to charity. Please ask at your local CAB if there is an organisation that offers this service near you.

If you belong to a Trade Union they may offer a free will writing service. There are also books which provide guidance on how to draw up a will. These can help you decide if you should draw up your own will or if any of the pre-printed will forms available from stationers and charities are suitable. It is also possible to find help on the internet. However, you should only consider doing it yourself if the will is going to be straightforward.

For further information, please contact your local CAB

Rickmansworth CAB, Northway House (behind the library), High Street, Rickmanworth, WD3 1FH. New Telephone number -

0844 245 1296

Monday Tuesday 3 10.00am - 3.30pm Thursday

Wednesday 10.00am - 12.30pm | Saturday Friday

10.00am - 12.30pm | By appointment 10.00am - 11.30pm

only

If you would like to train as a volunteer CAB adviser, please call us on the telephone number in the contact details.

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



86th Annual General Meeting 21st June 2016

The 86th Annual General Meeting of the Rickmansworth & District Residents' Association is to be held on Tuesday 21st June at 8p.m. in St Augustine's Hall, Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Park Road, Rickmansworth.

Agenda:

- Apologies for Absence.
- To consider and if thought fit, approve the minutes of the 85th AGM held on 2nd June 2015.
- 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.
- To elect the Vice Presidents of the Association.
- 7. To elect the officers of the Association (Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer). Peter Crispin, after 10 years of service as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer to this Association, has relinquished the role of Treasurer and is retiring from the Committee. Richard Mitchell has joined the Committee and has taken on the duties of Treasurer since the end of March 2016. He is willing to continue in this role. Dianne Passmore is willing to stand as Secretary
- To elect the Association Committee for 2016/2017.

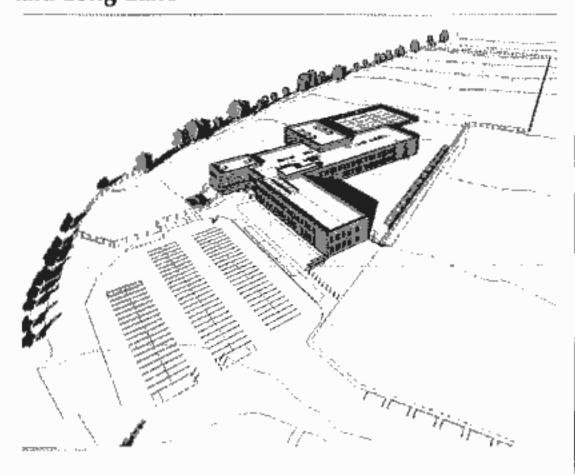
The Association for 2015/2016 comprised, in alphabetical order, Helen Burdis, Leslie Chrol-Frolowicz, PeterCrispin (Retiring), Mike Ede, Nina Hosking, Laurie Irvine, Richard Lawman, Richard Mitchell, Dianne Passmore, Michael Stimpson, Bob Templeman, Carolyn Venn and Peter Waters who is President of the Association. There are three Committee vacancies still to be filled.

- To approve an increase in subscriptions to £3 per household from 2017
- 10. A Presentation by Richard Booth, Head Teacher of the Reach Free School. The Reach Free School should be relocating to Long Lane, Rickmansworth within the next two years.

There will be an interval during which tea/coffee and biscuits will be available. This will be followed by an opportunity to ask questions of the speaker followed by open discussion on matters of local interest.



Proposals for the Reach Free School development at the corner of Uxbridge Road and Long Lane



The Reach Free School was founded in September 2013 as a non-selective, non-denominational school, and is currently temporarily located at the Wolsey Business Park on Tolpits Lane. This site has its challenges and we will soon outgrow the space we have available. We already teach many local children, and have gone from strength to strength since our foundation rated "Good" by Ofsted in our first assessment. Our proposed permanent new facilities at this site will help us to take the next step.

Our plans include:

- A new, modern educational building that will become the permanent home of the Reach Free School
- Capacity for up to 840 pupils, including 240 sixth form places.
- A good level of space for sports and other outdoor use, including playing fields
- Appropriate landscaping across the site
- Potential community use of the facilities outside of school hours.

Source: Letter from Richard Booth Headteacher

RICKMANSWORTH & DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION rickmansworthresidents.org COMMITTEE

President Vice-President	Mr Peter Wate	01923 775505		
Chairman	Mr Mike Stimp	01923 770425		
Secretary	Mrs Dianne F	01923 775466		
Treasurer	Richard Mitch	01923 771820		
Membership Secretary	Leslie Chrol-F	01923 776306		
Advertisement Manager	Michael Ede,	01923 779397		
Mrs Helen Burdis, 47 Middleton Roa	d, WD3 8JE	07947 208266	Mr Laurie Irvine, 57 Norfolk Road, WD3 1JY	01923 217212
Mrs Carolyn Venn, 68 Mount View, WD3 7AY		01923 770434	Mrs Nina Hosking, 14 The Cloisters WD3 1HL	01923 888399
Mr Richard Lawman, The Old Vicara	ge,		Mr Bob Templeman, 11 Ebury Road, WD3 1BL	01923 773973
10 Church Street, WD3 1BS		01923 776542		

	ROAD REPRESENTATIVES								
ROAD R	EPRESENTATIVE	HOUSE NO.	I ROAD	REPRESENTATIVE	HOUSE NO.				
Arnett Close	Mrs S.Denham	21 Amett Way	London Road	fMrs T. Golden	17 Batchworth Hill				
Arnett Way 1				UMrs A. Levy	6 The Byeway				
Ashleigh Court	Miss B. Bell	26	Long Lane	Vacancy					
Barn Lea	Vacancy		Malm Close	Leslie Chrol-Frolowicz	4				
Beacon Way	r Mrs C. Smith	24	Maxwell Close	Vacancy	17				
Ť	(Vacancy		Millennium Wharf	Mr R. Lycett	15				
Berry Lane	Mrs Mary Fagan	49	Middleton Road	Mrs H. Burdis	47				
Berry Way	Mr F. Pinder	25	Meadow Way	Mr J. Peters	42				
Broughton Way	Mrs How	25	Money Hill Road	Ms L. Fowler	26				
Bury Lane	Vacancy		1	Vacancy	-				
Bury Meadows	Miss R.Lake	29	Moor Lane	Mr Roy Davis	6				
The Bury	Mrs J. Haigh	7		LMr M. Collier	9				
The Byeway	Mrs T. Golden	17 Batchworth Hill	Moss Close	Mrs J. Gordon	15				
Cedars Avenue	Mrs J. Riddleston	8A	The Mount	Mrs J. Berry	4				
Chess Hill/Chess Close	Mrs M.Smith	Endways, Chess Close	Mount View	Mrs B. Davies	27				
Chiltern Drive	Vacancy		Nightingale Road	Vacancy Mr A. Tucker	21 Hill Rise				
Chorleywood Road	Mrs. S. Butler	Banstead Down	Nightingale Place	Mr P. Waters	7 Priory Lodge				
Old Chorleywood Road			Nightingale Court	Vacancy	7 Filoty Louge				
Church Lane	Vacancy	55.17.2.11.5	Norfolk Road	Mr L. Irvine	57				
Church Street	Mr L. Irvine	57 Norfolk Road	Park Road	Mr T. Tims	16 The Cloisters				
Clarkfield	Mrs H, Burdis	47 Middleton Road	Park Way	Vacancy	10 The Children				
The Cloisters	Mr T. Tims	16	Parsonage Road	Mrs C. Fenton	9 Rectory Road				
The Close	Mrs M. Jones	11	Pheasants Way	Mr D. Maskell	2A				
Coinc Avenue	Vicancy Miss S. Jacobs		Plaitford Close	Mr M. Weinberg	12				
Colne Mead Coombe Hill Road	Mrs A. Rae	6	Rectory Road	Mrs R. Fenton	9				
Curtis Close	Vacancy	o	St Peter's Close	Vacancy					
Drayton Ford	Miss T. Jeneid	<	Rushmoor Close	Mr R. Loes	10				
The Drive	Mr A. Berry	4 The Mount	Salters Close	Mrs A. Booth	75				
FIRE DELVE	the it metty	4 THE WINGH	Shepherds Way	(Vacancy					
Eastwick Crescent	Mr W. R. Williams	30		Mrs S. Rickayzen	17				
Ebury Road	Mrs M. Templeman	11		Mrs C. Simpson	75				
Elm Way	Mrs C. Venn	68 Mount View	Sherfield Avenue	Mrs P. Warmington	33				
Field Way	Mrs A. Kent	27	61.1.1	lMr J. Freeman	13 Landford Close				
Frogmoor Lane	Mr M, Woods	12	Skidmore Way Spencer Walk	Mrs Daniels	24 5 I amount of Unitable				
Goral Mead	Vacancy		Springwell Avenue	Mrs S. Mazhar Vacancy	5 Lynwood Heights				
The Greenway	Mrs D. Passmore	115 Tudor Way	Stockers Farm Road	Mr P. Harman	2 Juniper Gate				
•	Mr J. Freeman	13 Landford Close	Swallow Close	Mrs E. Childerhouse	6				
Harefield Road	{ Vacancy		Swan Close	Mr P. Waters	7 Priory Lodge.				
	Mr M. Woods	12 Frogmoor Lane	O Wall Cabo	***************************************	Nightingale Place				
Harriet Walker Way	Vacancy	_	Tailbot Road	Mr L. Irvine	57 Norfolk Road				
Heron Close	Mrs B. Sievenson	23	Thellusson Way	Vacancy					
High Close	Mrs Brett	lA.	Thompson Way	Mrs J. Clews	50 Williamson Way				
High Street	Mr R. Templeman	11 Ebury Road			•				
			Thrush Green	Mr B. Graham	4				
Highfield Way	Mr R. Pratt	45	Townfield	{Mr M. Baker	5 Parsonage Farm				
	UMrs R. Miller	7		Mrs P. Jago	40				
			Tudor Way	Mr R. Bangs	130				
The Highlands	Mr R. Weller	17	Upper Hill Rise	Mr A. Tucker	21 Hill Rise				
Hill Rise	Mr S. Fryer	19	Uxbridge Road	Mr K. Pragnell	109				
Home Way	Mrs K. Panton	3	Valley Road	Mr S. J. Cohen	57				
Hutchings Lodge	Mr P. Waters	7 Priory Lodge	Victoria Close	Mr P. Waters	7 Priory Lodge,				
		Nightingale Place	XE # .	#3	Nightingale Place				
landare Band	Mary 1 Change	CO West	Vine Tree Court	Vacancy M. S. Uill	/0				
Jordans Read	Mrs J. Clews	50 Williamson Way	West Way	Mr S. Hill	69				
Juniper Close	Mrs P. Warmington	33 Sherfield Avenue	Williamson Way	Mrs Redwood-Williams	47				
Juniper Gate	Mr P. Harman	2	The Willows Winchfield Way	Vacancy Mrs. I. Berry	4 The Mount				
Kenwood Drive	Mrs R. Tame	19	Winchneid Way Woodcock Hill	Mrs J. Berry Vacancy	4 the Monne				
Landford Close	Mrs D. Champion	5		*					
Lime Tree Walk	Mrs S. Mazhar	5 Lynwood Heights	ROAD REPRESENTA						
Lynwood Heights				e required for some roads. This					
			I independence with col	lection of subscriptions in the sc	www.castdolisterv.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.

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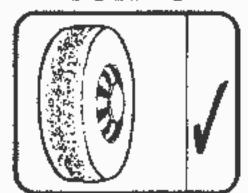
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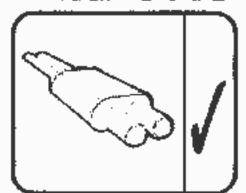
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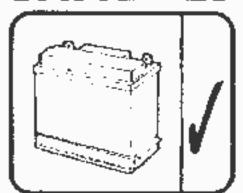
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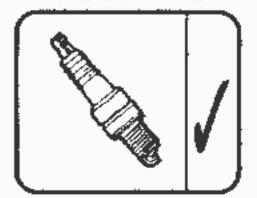
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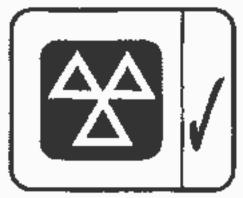
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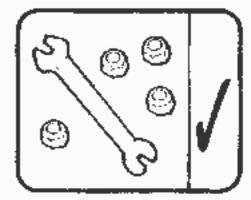
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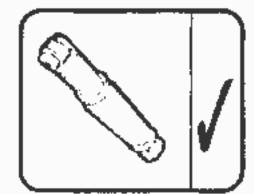
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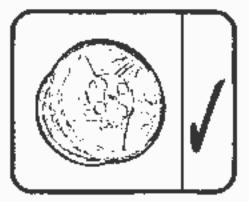
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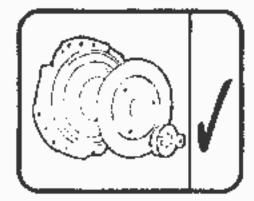
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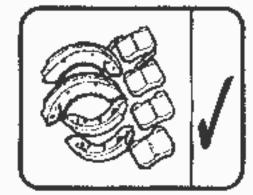
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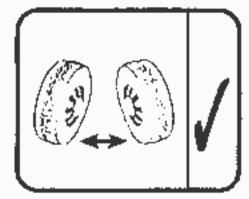
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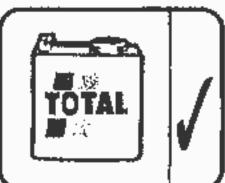
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