



September 2019

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**8 pm, Thursday 17th October 2018
at Christ Church, Redford Way, Uxbridge
All Residents Welcome**

There is a varied programme for the evening –

As our topic we shall take the subject of RECYCLING. We are in danger of becoming a 'throw-away' society, with all the damage this does to the environment. We have invited as our Speaker OLLY SHAH, the Borough's Waste and Recycling Manager. Also, NURA has done some research on local good practice of recycling by shops, charities and other organisations. We will present the results.

In the 'business' half of our Meeting we will table, for your support, a PETITION TO THE MAYOR for the re-opening of the 24/7 Front Desk at Uxbridge Police Station. See later paragraph.

In the interval, we will invite you to look at a display of work by pupils of Hermitage Primary School on the subject of 'What I like about living in Uxbridge'. See the back page of this Newsletter.



Petition To The Mayor

The Mayor decided to close Uxbridge Police Station purely on cost grounds to realize a Town Centre asset. Residents argued against this furiously two years ago, but the Mayor faced out the opposition. Boris Johnson as Prime Minister has promised funds for an additional 20,000 Police Officers by 2022. It is reasonable to suppose that this will bring some relief to the Met, which should work its way through to Hillingdon. NURA considers this is the time to renew our call for the reinstatement of the 24/7 Front Desk at Uxbridge Police Station and to bring to an end the expensive project to refurbish the old and badly sited Hayes End Police Station. Also, at the present time, the Police offer occasional direct public access in various

locations, e.g. the Central Library and INTU Uxbridge. These arrangements are not working. We call upon the Mayor to provide one dedicated location in Central Uxbridge, with well-advertised opening hours and good facilities for the public where they can meet local Police Officers.

A Petition on these lines will be tabled at the Meeting, for your support. GLA Member, Andrew Boff, (former Leader of Hillingdon Council) has agreed to present the Petition to the Greater London Assembly. It will be posted on the NURA Website. Please follow the link to ipetitions.

HS2 Update

HS2 Limited have set up a Hillingdon Traffic The enabling works for the HS2 project continue. There have been lengthy road closures during the Summer and lasting into mid September. The project has recently suffered two blows –

- A Government cost review will consider all options, including stopping the project altogether.
- It has been announced that the timetable is unrealistic, so that the project could take up to seven years longer than planned.

Whatever view one takes on HS2, there is no doubt that we, in Uxbridge and Ickenham, would suffer considerable disruption and receive no local benefit. We therefore await the outcome of the review with some interest.....!

Heathrow Express Consultation 2019

We posted on our website details of the Third Runway Project in our August Newsletter. We commented ‘.....this is a huge infrastructure project on our doorstep. Irrespective of national implications, how can we as North Uxbridge residents respond – let alone cope – with all this? - massive local disruption, increase in air traffic movements, noise intrusion and toxic emissions breaching legal limits ...Opposition to the Scheme on these grounds continues.’

We sought Boris Johnson’s views on

becoming Prime Minister and he responded ‘I want to reassure you that my view on Heathrow has not changed. Everyone knows that I have taken a clear stance of opposition to expansion over two terms as London Mayor and as your local MP. However, I cannot pretend that Parliament did not vote overwhelmingly for it. It is a decision I respect, even though I disagree with it. Parliamentary democracy only works if those who do not get their way respect the outcome.’

Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP, Prime Minister

Despite the new challenges facing our MP, his Constituency responsibilities continue. So far as NURA is concerned, it is ‘business as usual’. If you wish to raise any local issues with our MP, please follow the normal arrangements. You can also contact our Ward Councillors for help – Martin Goddard or Ray Graham, but not David Yarrow, who is currently the Mayor of Hillingdon. Their Surgery is held at Uxbridge Central Library 10 – 12 noon on the first Saturday of the month.

Request from our local Police Team

If you notice anything untoward which causes you concern, you can use the following e-mail address (as an alternative to dialling 101) UxbridgeNorth.South.SNT@met.police.uk This e-mail links to a mailbox, which is checked regularly by the Officers who look after Uxbridge North, Uxbridge South and Uxbridge Town Centre Wards. Although these Officers may not be able to respond to every e-mail received, they do read every single one and investigate all allegations/suspensions of crime brought to their attention by this method.

Naturewatch

Paul Johnson writes: If a Blackbird keeps flying out at you from your Pyracantha hedge, you know there is a nest in there (picture). We saw that at least one of the

fledglings was successfully reared.



NURA Road Representatives

We have vacancies for these roads. Volunteers can help on a temporary basis if preferred.

- Gravel Hill
- Pages Lane
- Montague Road
- North Way and Brookside
- Honey Croft Hill
- Hyacinth Drive and Cowslip
- Morris Ave Area
- Itea Court Area

Ann Rix Writes...

Our London Borough of Hillingdon has large areas of woodland with many interesting insects found locally. Two are described here.

The Jersey Tiger moth is a large, colourful moth once scarce but making a recent comeback. A portrait appeared in the Gazette in July with several follow-up letters. This prompted me to set up an overnight moth trap in our garden. A light attracts moths down a funnel into a large container. The moths rest here overnight to be identified, counted and released early the next morning. We found nine of these beauties. Their caterpillars live on a wide variety of plants including nettles, ground ivy and brambles. Jersey Tigers do fly by day and night so look for them in Summer.



The second uncommon insect is the Glow Worm, actually a beetle. These live in the Frays' Valley Local Nature Reserve along the old railway embankment which is a short walk downhill from Uxbridge Golf Course. The flightless female Glow Worms generate light in the rear segments of the body to attract males. Once mated the light switches off and egg laying begins. Soon delicate, string-like larvae emerge actively searching for snails. They penetrate the snail skin and feed off them. Growth is slow taking two years to reach adulthood. Numbers are falling with habitat loss, weather and light pollution possibly to blame. Both London Wildlife Trust and Hillingdon Natural History Society arrange late evening walks in July to find them.

NURA Officers

Chairman: Paul Johnson

Subscription Secretary: Sheelagh Butler

Secretary: Mandeep Jandu

Treasurer: Sushma Chouhan-Kleber

e-mail: northuxbridgeresidents@gmail.com

website: <https://northuxbridgeresidents.org>

This Newsletter is published by NURA, designed by Rob Shepherd and sponsored by Cameron Estate Agents, Uxbridge.



Children's Page

September 2019



Recently we discussed having a children's page in our Newsletter. We asked Elaine D'Souza, Head Teacher of Hermitage Primary School, if the pupils could be asked to do a picture of something they like about the place where they live and a short explanation of why they like it. We would then choose the 'winner' for publication. Well.....We were overwhelmed by the response and found it impossible to choose just one. Instead –

- We have asked our designer, Rob Shepherd, to design a page with some of the children's work.
- We will display the work at our AGM for you to see.
- Some 'flavours' are set out below.

From Year 3

- 'It's better than being in Central London because Central London is polluted'.
- 'It has a Library (a favourite for many....). I love it because I love reading. When you are reading it sometimes feels like no-one is around you and you can't hear a thing from people around you'.

From Year 6

- Some splendid montages, which we will display.
- A very mature analysis (Marli Khan) of the social/leisure/retail and transport benefits of Uxbridge.
- A lovely whimsical poem by Thomas Donnelly and Logan De'ath 'Uxbridge is a funny little Town....'. Will display.
- Ten reasons why you should visit Uxbridge Common – suggestions by Rachel Green (age 9) for fun/wildlife spotting/healthy exercise. 'If you feel stressed, then grab a book and head off to the Common for a spot of 'me time'.
- Favourites for many are the Battle of Britain Bunker, INTU, the Odeon Cinema, the parks, the Grand Union Canal and the Fair on the Common.



Thank you, children and thank you, Elaine!

(logo by Dylan Desai, Year 3 and Townscape by Mahi Matharu, Year 4)

