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Tennis Membership Application Form

***Volunteers sought for Community Speed Watch in Eastbury***

Lots of residents complain about speeding traffic on our roads. Whilst our local police go out with speed guns whenever they can, they can't be out there all of the time. Why not become a **Police Volunteer** and see if you can help to reduce traffic speed around Eastbury.

Last year's Autumn Newsletter included a picture of PCSO Chris Bignell testing the latest equipment to catch speeding motorists – a Speed Indication Device (SID) which displays the car's speed followed by a happy or sad face. This equipment is being used as part of Hertfordshire Constabulary's Community Speed Watch initiative, one of a package of measures intended to improve road safety by encouraging speed compliance.

Experience from other Police areas shows that Community Speed Watch (CSW) activity can reduce traffic speed. CSW is complementary to, and not a replacement of, conventional Police speed enforcement which will continue to take place.



*Volunteers at work*

*Would you like to participate in a CSW group in Eastbury?*

This requires you to become a Police volunteer. As a CSW group member you will participate in monitoring the speed of traffic at specific locations in our area with other CSW members and processing the information gathered.

Standard procedure will be to identify the registered keeper of an offending vehicle and cross reference it against previous offence records. For a first offence, a warning letter will be sent, for a second offence a final warning letter will be sent. Persistent

offenders will be considered for targeted police enforcement and prosecution.

Volunteers are not expected to commit themselves to a specific number of hours per month. Any time, even just an hour or two per month, spent participating in CSW can only help reduce speeding in our area.

If you are interested or would like more information please contact PC Sharon Hill tel: **01923 472211** or by e-mail: **sharon.hill@herts.pnn.police.uk**.

**Annual General Meeting  
Monday 6th June 2011**

Notice is given to members that the Annual General Meeting of Eastbury Residents' Association will be held on Monday 6th June 2011 at 8pm at Eastbury Farm Primary School. Members are invited to put forward nominations for the Executive Committee and to submit items for the Meeting Agenda. Nominations and Agenda items should be forwarded in writing to the Secretary, Mr John Servent, 1A Woodfield Avenue, Northwood, HA6 3EA no later than 8 weeks prior to the AGM (i.e. by 11th April 2011) as laid down in the Rules. However nominations and items for discussion will be welcome up to 14 days prior to the meeting.

## Scores on the Doors



Scores on the Doors is a national food hygiene rating scheme where you can find the official local authority hygiene ratings for food businesses. The scheme works by awarding each business a star rating following a food hygiene inspection by your local environmental health officer. Businesses with excellent standards of food hygiene will be awarded five stars ranging down to zero star for those with poor hygiene standards.

Find out how hygienic and well-managed the food preparation is at any of our local take-aways, clubs, pubs and restaurants. To view ratings in Three Rivers visit : [www.threerivers.gov.uk](http://www.threerivers.gov.uk) and search on **Food Hygiene Ratings**. The ERA website, [www.eastbury-residents.org](http://www.eastbury-residents.org) contains a news item about the scheme together with links to the Three Rivers and London ratings.

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## Health Matters

### ***The Community Voice***

The Community Voice celebrated its 20th anniversary at its December meeting which was attended by Nick Hurd, MP for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner, who gave a few words of praise and encouragement. Presentations were made to key pioneers and also to the current chairman Joan Davis. There were also displays focusing on the achievements of the past 20 years. Recent guest speakers have included Stephen Ramsden on Patient Safety Issues, Patrick South from the King's Fund and Dr Stella Barnes speaking on "Hospital Care for Older Patients – Why is it so different?". If you want to know more about The Community Voice visit [www.communityvoicehealth.org.uk](http://www.communityvoicehealth.org.uk) or telephone **01895 636095**.

### ***West Herts Hospital Trust***

Following a recent Out-Patient Survey the Trust moved from being the worst four in the country in 2009 to "substantially average" in 2010, a dramatic improvement. Its finances are sound too with a predicted surplus of £7.5 million for the year.

### ***Mount Vernon Hospital***

Mount Vernon is now thriving after major investments in the Cancer Centre and the Treatment Centre. Both centres appear to be safe for at least 20 to 30 years.



*Mount Vernon Hospital*

The new Chemotherapy suite was opened by Sir Terry Wogan on 29th September last year.

The official launch of the CyberKnife at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre took place in January and talks are underway with NHS East of England to enable Herts patients to receive this treatment.

### ***Hillingdon Hospital***

David McVittie Chief Executive of the Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust is hoping that the hospital's assessment for Foundation Trust Status will be approved by April 2011. The Trust was one of the first to achieve stroke care accreditation. Services and infection control at Hillingdon Hospital have hugely improved. The Secretary of State has recently visited Hillingdon Hospital primarily to see Bevan Ward, the pilot ward for single rooms with en suite facilities. The project had been a success but some patients preferred the interaction of being in a ward with other patients.

*Adrienne Glicher*



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## Any Suggestions

If you have any comments on the newsletter or suggestions on items for inclusion then please contact **Elizabeth Willetts** on **820940** or at [chairman@eastbury-residents.org](mailto:chairman@eastbury-residents.org) or any member of the ERA committee.

## **Chairman's Report**

Welcome to the Spring 2011 Newsletter. Let's hope our dreadful winter is over and that we can now start to enjoy some longer and brighter days ahead.

### **Roads**

The weeks of snow and freezing cold played havoc with our roads this winter. Herts Highways have an uphill battle to repair all the potholes but if you don't report them they won't know about them. Please use the Highways Fault reporting facility on the Herts Website or telephone . Details can be found in Ken Balneaves' article on page 7. The bridge along Batchworth Lane in particular was in a dreadful state after the snow. We had asked Herts Highways for a complete resurfacing of this part of the Lane which was not done in 2009. Some repair work was carried out in February this year but the patches are already breaking up. Lack of funds is preventing immediate work but it is hoped it will be attended to later this year.

Several other roads in our area are scheduled to be thin resurfaced by Herts Highways in 2011 and 2012. Specific dates are yet to be confirmed. We are talking to Herts CC about what can be done about the ravaged state of some of our grass verges and how damage done by delivery and builders' vehicles can be repaired without the cost landing on us as Council taxpayers. It would also help if some residents stopped parking on the verges particularly in Batchworth Lane.

Many of us still complain about the traffic lights at Northwood. I understand from the Chairman of the Northwood Residents' Association that an independent review of the lights is to be carried out by external consultants probably in April or May this year.

### **Parking Charges in Northwood**

Traders in Northwood are concerned that the further increases in charges introduced at the end of January will hit business. In an article in The Northwood & Rickmansworth Gazette on January 19th I was quoted and said that the further increases "....were penalising Eastbury residents (who) are now more likely to take their custom to Rickmansworth where the first two hours of parking are free". The Northwood Residents' Association has sent a petition signed by many Northwood Traders to Hillingdon Borough Council requesting a reduction to the charges for non-Hillingdon residents.

### **Waste Collection**

Changes will be made from 13th June to our household waste collections. Brown bins will be emptied weekly and green bins fortnightly. Further details together with the reasons behind this change are to be found in the Three Rivers Times which you should have received by now. If not call the Council to ask for a copy.

### **School Parking**

The planned playground supervision before school has not materialised and there has been no improvement in the attitude of parents who continue to park inconsiderately. PC Sharon Hill spends as much time as possible around the school at starting and finishing times but she does have other police matters to deal with as well. The School Governors are now considering the problem and I am pressing for some positive action to be taken soon. Meanwhile Three Rivers District Council, at my request, has erected some wooden bollards around the car park in Batchworth Lane by the tennis courts and play area to prevent parking on the grass verges which has been causing dangerous obstructions as well as damage to the grass areas.

### **Donation**

Residents may remember the tragic accidental deaths of two young members of the Puddifoot family, both of whom had attended Eastbury Farm Primary School as children. The Association has made a donation towards the purchase by the school of a wooden chair in memory of Karen and Christopher which is to be placed in the courtyard garden at the school.

### **Valency House**

The fire at Valency House was reported on the front page of last year's Autumn Newsletter. The damage caused by the fire was so extensive that the House will have to be demolished. I am pleased to report that the recently approved plans for the rebuilding of the house as five apartments will, as far as possible, replicate the original architecture and exterior design features.

### **Committee**

Martin Shultz has resigned from the committee because of work commitments and I thank him for his contribution to the Association over several years. He will however continue to assist the Committee with Internet and website matters for which we are most grateful.

### **Keep in Touch**

Finally I am pleased to announce that we can now keep in touch with members via e-mail if you log onto our website and send us your details. More information on page 5.

If you want to get in touch with me then please telephone or e-mail me. All committee members try to be aware of issues in our area but you also need to tell us what needs attention.

*Elizabeth Willetts Tel: 820940  
chairman@eastbury-residents.org*

## Reporting Activated Burglar Alarms and Suspicious Behaviour

Eastbury and Moor Park, as well as surrounding areas of South Oxhey and Rickmansworth, have recently seen an increase in dwelling burglaries. Local officers are increasing patrols in the area, both overt and covert, in order to deter criminals and catch those responsible. Crime prevention advice is regularly sent out via OWL (Online Watch Link, a messaging service. E-mail [Sharon.Hill@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Sharon.Hill@herts.pnn.police.uk) for further information or see our website, [www.eastbury-residents.org](http://www.eastbury-residents.org)).

PC Sharon Hill gives some advice below specifically about our Eastbury area.

"A large proportion of dwellings in Eastbury have burglar alarms fitted but activated alarms are regularly not reported to the police for various reasons. I think that residents may have become complacent. As some alarms are regularly activated it has become the norm so residents presume it is a false alarm and consequently do not inform the police. I would urge residents to please inform the police so we can investigate the premises to confirm whether or not it is a false alarm. Residents feel they are wasting police time by calling us but if police are available, we will send them - it's better to be safe than sorry.

Residents presume somebody else has informed the police or we are automatically informed. This may be the case but

if we are not automatically informed and everybody thought that somebody else had called the police, we would never know!

I would also urge owners of houses whose alarms regularly activate to please have their alarms serviced.

For similar reasons to the above, residents frequently see suspicious behaviour and do not report this to the police. I have often had a conversation with somebody to be told that they saw something suspicious a few weeks ago. If you see something suspicious, please call the police immediately. Even in the unlikely event that police officers are unavailable to attend, a log will be created stating what you have seen. I review all logs in the area to see what has been happening and these reports help build a picture of the area. Officers regularly patrol Eastbury but we cannot be in all areas at one time. We need your help to be our eyes and ears in the community. If you see anyone or anything suspicious in your area could you please contact the police as soon as possible on **0845 33 00 222**. In an emergency, please call **999**."



PC Sharon Hill

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## ANPR - local Police have a new weapon in their fight against crime

The police car used by our local neighbourhood Police Constable Sharon Hill is now fitted with Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology. There are two rear mounted and one forward facing cameras in the car capable of reading one number plate a second. The onboard computer system is linked into the DVLA database, along with various Police systems to immediately identify vehicles being driven without insurance, tax, MOT or vehicles otherwise of interest to Police, such as those used by disqualified drivers or suspected drug dealers.



ANPR user interface

Those using their vehicles lawfully will have nothing to fear, but those found to be driving without the correct documentation can expect to be dealt with. For example, drivers found to be driving without insurance will have their vehicles seized by the Police and issued with a £200 fine and 6 penalty points.

Drivers with number plates that have been illegally modified - for example, italicised fonts or incorrect spacing - will also be dealt with. Along with a £60 fine, the DVLA will be notified of illegal number plates and have the power to recall so called 'personalised plates' - at the expense of the registered keeper. The car is also fitted with CCTV, which means that any incidents can be recorded to be used as evidence later.

Safer Neighbourhood Team Sgt Luke Mitchell has said "It means that we will be able to crack down on any illegal use of a vehicle and its driver if its number plate is read.

It can only help to keep our area safe for law abiding citizens." PC Sharon Hill said: "ANPR is an excellent piece of technology for the police and it will be invaluable in cracking down on all sorts of crime and hopefully lead to arrests."

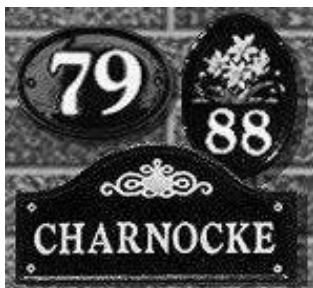
The ANPR equipment was paid for with money specifically allocated for community safety.

## Councillors' Corner

### Do you know about house numbering and naming?

Three Rivers District Councillor Ralph Sangster explains...

With many more infill developments being carried out now the proper naming of new roads and numbering of new



properties is becoming more important than ever. It is the responsibility of the Local Authority to approve new road names and the numbering system to be adopted.

It is important to note that house numbering is, once authorised by the Local Authority and adopted by

Royal Mail, a statutory designation of your property. It is both a legal requirement and a neighbourly duty to display

the number of your home on the property so that it can be identified.

Deliveries of mail and other items to your property depend on its proper identification. Relying on your neighbour's house number to give a clue to the deliverer of your own house number is not always a guarantee of success.

If you wish to name your house it is best practice to check the proposed name with the Local Authority to ensure that it is not a duplication of another house name nearby. If you do name your house it is still a requirement to retain the number for identification purposes and deliveries. You can check the requirements for house numbering and naming on the Three Rivers Web Site at: [www.threerivers.gov.uk/Default.aspx/Web/StreetNamingandNumbering](http://www.threerivers.gov.uk/Default.aspx/Web/StreetNamingandNumbering).

To contact Councillor Sangster, tel: 01923 836442 or e-mail: [ralph.sangster@threerivers.gov.uk](mailto:ralph.sangster@threerivers.gov.uk)

### Keep informed by e-mail

Last winter when we had problems with household waste collections those residents for whom we have e-mail addresses found it helpful to be kept informed of collection difficulties and changes to the normal collection arrangements.

If you wish the Association to keep you informed by e-mail about matters affecting our area please send us your details by going to the 'Members' page on our website [www.eastbury-residents.org](http://www.eastbury-residents.org) and filling in your name and e-mail address. It only takes a minute!



### Fundraising Events for Michael Sobell House

Michael Sobell House at Mount Vernon Hospital provides for the care of patients with life limiting illness and support for their families and carers. Your support is needed to maintain the services provided from charitable sources. If you want further information about any of the following events or would like to become a volunteer please contact **Ophelia Chambers-Henry** on 01923 844829 or e-mail [ochambers@michaelsobellhouse.co.uk](mailto:ochambers@michaelsobellhouse.co.uk).

- |             |          |      |   |
|-------------|----------|------|---|
| <b>May</b>  | Saturday | 7th  | <b>Annual Plant Sale</b> - Bedding and exotic plants, vegetable and fruit patch favourites at very reasonable prices. 10.00am—12.30pm.      |
| <b>May</b>  | Sunday   | 15th | <b>On Yer Bike For Care</b> - 12, 23 and 50 mile bike ride through the Hertfordshire countryside.   |
| <b>June</b> | Friday   | 3rd  | <b>Ladies in the Night Walk</b> - 5 or 9 mile route. See <a href="http://www.ladiesinthenightwalk.co.uk">www.ladiesinthenightwalk.co.uk</a> |

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### 10th Anniversary Golf Day at Sandy Lodge on Thursday 3rd June 2011

The MSH Charity Golf Day at Sandy Lodge Golf Club is now a well established event. It is a vital fundraiser and has also become one of the highlights of the local golfing calendar. The 2011 event is the 10th anniversary, so will be quite special.



For further information contact **Stephen Lee** on 01923 825173 or e-mail [stephenlee@btinternet.com](mailto:stephenlee@btinternet.com). For sponsorship enquiries contact **Roger Michael** at e-mail [rmichael@michaelsobellhouse.co.uk](mailto:rmichael@michaelsobellhouse.co.uk).

## Road Stewards

Our Newsletters are delivered by more than 30 Road Stewards, to whom we are most grateful. In addition, they collect membership subscriptions. We also encourage Road Stewards to take the time to talk to members and to listen to your concerns and issues.

There are still one or two areas where we would like new Road Stewards to come forward and volunteer to help. If you live on Mount View or Eastbury Avenue, or in the area near Oxhey Drive, we would particularly like to hear from you. Please contact **Andrew Daurant**, Membership Secretary on **822660** or **Elizabeth Willetts**, Chairman on **820940**. Alternatively, you can e-mail [committee@eastbury-residents.org](mailto:committee@eastbury-residents.org)

We have also established an e-mail link to the Road Stewards. If you need to contact any of them, please send an e-mail to [roadstewards@eastburyresidents.org](mailto:roadstewards@eastburyresidents.org) and the message will be passed on to them.

*Andrew Daurant*

<b>Area Covered</b>	<b>Steward</b>	<b>Address</b>
Ardross Avenue	Linda Cooper	20 Ardross Avenue
Batchworth Lane 1 - 44, Heron Walk	Janet Harding	43 Batchworth Lane
Batchworth Lane 47 - 63, 46 - 86	Martin Higginson	7 The Fairway
Bishops Ave, The Roughs	Richard Laycock	10 Bishops Avenue
Bourne End Road	Andrew Daurant	27 Bourne End Road
Crofters Road	Jenny Duncan	28 Crofters Road
Davenham Ave, Davenham Place, Shelley Close	John Lloyd	27 Davenham Avenue
Eastbury Avenue (even nos)	Geoffrey Taylor	42 Davenham Avenue
Eastbury Avenue (odd nos)	Vacant	
Eastbury Road	Sheila Wheeler	67 Eastbury Road
Eastglade, Holbein Gate, Little Stream Close	Fiona Denman	4 Holbein Gate
Farm Way	Keith Clement	27 Farm Way
Grosvenor Rd, Parkside Rd	Calver Townsend	1 Grosvenor Road
Grove Farm Park 1 - 31	Phyl Gallagher	Grove Farm Park
Grove Farm Park 32 - 64	John Jones	Grove Farm Park
Kewferry Road, St Martins, Batchworth Lane (named)	Raj Kumar	63 Kewferry Road
Mount View	Vacant	
Oxhey Drive South, Pinewood Close	Colin Berthelsen	The Spinney, Oxhey Drive South
Oxhey Drive, Oxhey Ridge Close, The Woods	Vacant	
Ross Way	Harry Marriott	5 Ross Way
Sandy Lane North	Steve Watson	Valency Lodge, Sandy Lane
Sandy Lane South	Douglas Cole	
Sandy Lodge Way	Margaret Carr	23 Sandy Lodge Way
Seven Acres, Tree Tops, Bel Air	Nora Ryan	6 Seven Acres
St Mary's Avenue (even nos)	Alison Cameron	16 St Mary's Avenue
St Mary's Avenue (odd nos)	Margaret Redding	12 St Mary's Avenue
The Fairway 1 -20, Woodfield Avenue	Chetan Mehta	38 Davenham Avenue
The Fairway 21 - 44	Mike Perrot	32 The Fairway
Watford Road	Colin Roberts	Lansdowne, Watford Road
Wellesley Avenue, The Lee	Cheryl Vials	
Westbury Road 1 - 30	Diane Rustam	29 Westbury Road
Westbury Road 32 - 50, 31 - 65	John Lazarus	63 Westbury Road
Westbury Road 52 - 76, 67 - 109	Catherine O'Sullivan	69 Westbury Road
Woodhouse Eaves	Bob Hurran	42 Woodhouse Eaves

## Winter Driving

There has been much in the news recently about the need to be 'green' and about alternative fuels. Of course Nuclear Fusion would be the ultimate fuel for running our vehicles but until that is harnessed we must continue to consider the environment and try to reduce our Carbon Footprint. This is of course a difficult balance and the recent unexpectedly early bad weather proved yet again that the only way of getting around is in a car suitably equipped for snow and ice - yes the dreaded 4x4. There is no getting away from it, it is the tool for the job as it copes admirably in snow and ice but with its poor fuel economy, I can see why many people resent such a vehicle, particularly when for so much of the year its massive power is simply not needed. In snow and ice though, the 4x4 comes into its own. That is if there is nothing else on the road because, most of the time, those who are poorly equipped in two wheel rear wheel drive are slithering about in front of you effectively blocking the road, often in both directions. BMW and Mercedes, and we have a few of them in our area, seem to be particularly bad in this regard which is surprising considering their origin.



In November 2010 Germany introduced new rules which make the use of winter tyres compulsory for all vehicles, including motorbikes, lorries and buses. The new law clearly states that under icy and snow conditions you must not drive without winter tyres. Since it is difficult to predict the weather it is advisable to have winter tyres between October and Easter. Drivers caught failing to comply with the law face fines. The new snow tyre law applies to all drivers including foreign visitors so keep this in mind if you are planning to drive through Germany later this year.

From what I hear in the news, the future holds more of the

same in terms of weather trends so perhaps we, in the way Germany has, should consider introducing a policy for winter driving rules?

I would suggest that if there is an official 'Weather Alert', cars should only be permitted on the road with chains, winter tyres or be four-wheel drive. This would undoubtedly reduce the number of accidents and free up the flow of traffic which would in turn reduce fuel wastage. It would however put far more pressure on the Highways

Maintenance Department as the winter tyres or chains would probably wreak havoc on the road surfaces. It would be a very interesting study to see if the fuel savings, reduced accident occurrence (and the resources needed to attend these) and even the possible reduction in the need to salt and grit would balance the extra cost of maintaining the roads to an acceptable standard, something Highways has difficulty doing at present due to an apparent

lack of funds. Maybe someone at the Highways Department would like to champion such a study and, if the results were favourable, perhaps one of our Councillors would like to propose such a policy to the Government?

As for the state of our roads, the early snow did not assist the repair programme but I continue to keep a fault log and liaise with Herts Highways to ensure that anything that requires attention, gets attention. As always however, the Eastbury Residents Association committee and I need your assistance in reporting issues relating to roads and footpaths so please either report these to **Hertfordshire Highways** on **01923 471320** or via their **Fault Reporting** webpage **[www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults](http://www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults)** or bring them to my attention. The webpage can also be accessed via the ERA website on the Environment and Roads page.

*Ken Balneaves*

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## Green Corner

Grants are available for low cost home insulation – but you need to act quickly.

Think you've got enough insulation? Around half of heat loss in a typical home is through the walls and loft. If your home doesn't have effective cavity wall and loft insulation, you could be wasting hundreds of pounds every year. Installing cavity wall and loft insulation can help to prevent this heat loss and could save you money on your heating bills.

Cut price loft insulation top-ups and cavity wall insulation is now available through the Herts and Essex Energy Partnership (HEEP) discount scheme at less than half price from just £49. The scheme runs until April 2011. Installation is free for the over 70s and for people who receive certain benefits. Freephone **0800 980 6026** for more details or visit **[www.heepgrant.org](http://www.heepgrant.org)**.

### **Correction**

In the Autumn 2010 newsletter it was stated that if the government insulates your loft then you are required to empty your loft and replace the contents afterwards. This is incorrect as if the loft floor is insulated you will not be able to replace items. If instead you pay to have your insulation installed inside the roof beams you can continue to use your loft space.

## Sandy Lodge Golf Club

*Clive Bailey, General Manager of Sandy Lodge Golf Club writes...*

Sandy Lodge Golf Club celebrated its Centenary in 2010 and has made several recent improvements to the Golf Course. The Course has been in beautiful condition and receives many accolades from visitors. The Club's Green Keepers actively manage the terrain to enhance the enjoyment of golfers as well as walkers on their footpaths. The site has considerable geological, historical and wildlife interest. There are three main tree lined boundaries to the Golf Course. On the southern boundary we are responsible for the Lombardy poplars which line the backs of the houses parallel to Westbury Road. On the western boundary the Club is responsible for the trees overhanging both the public footpath, part of the London loop, and the metropolitan line track which run parallel to each other, stretching from the rear entrance of Moor Park Station to the bottom end of Westbury Road. On the northern boundary we are responsible for the trees within



*Poplars backing onto Westbury Road houses*

our borders which overhang Sandy Lodge Lane, from the clubhouse to the public footpath entrance onto the course. All of these boundaries are inspected at staggered five year intervals by a reputable Arborist company with any

maintenance work carried out within a recommended structure programme. This work on the trees is done with view to achieve the best ecological interest and enhances the establishment of all kinds of wildlife, including Kestrels, Badgers, Green Woodpeckers, Pheasants, Muntjac Deer etc. The Club has an active membership of golfers and non golfing social members. If any residents would like to be part of the ever increasing social community at Sandy Lodge and would like more information please feel free to contact **Clive**

**Bailey** on **01923 825429** or via e-mail **clivebailey@sandylodge.co.uk**. The Club's website is **www.sandylodge.co.uk**.

## Eastbury Tennis

The 2010-11 Eastbury Tennis Year starts on **Monday 28th March 2011** when the locks will change and new keys will be available from this date.

### Membership

Existing Eastbury Tennis members have been sent membership renewal information by e-mail detailing dates and arrangements for exchanging keys. Details are also available on the ERA website **www.eastbury-residents.org**.

Existing members can qualify for the reduced £15 annual membership fee by bringing a completed Eastbury Tennis Renewal Form and the £15 annual subscription together with their old key/fob to any of the four "Exchange Sessions" on 28th March to 31st March when there is no need to ring or book beforehand – see opposite. New members are also most welcome to sign up at these "Exchange Sessions".

### Exchange Sessions

- Monday 28th March - 10am to 12noon
- Tuesday 29th March - 4pm to 6pm
- Wednesday 30th March - 11am to 1pm
- Thursday 31st April - 2pm to 4pm

Outside the four "Exchange Sessions", please telephone or e-mail François Neckar to agree a convenient time to take round your Application/Renewal Form and pick up a key. Tel: **821510** or e-mail: **tennis@eastbury-residents.org**.

An Eastbury Tennis Application/Renewal Form is included at the back of this Newsletter. The annual subscription is £20 plus a £5 key/fob deposit.

The courts were pressure washed in February this year courtesy of Three Rivers District Council to clean off an accumulation of moss and dirt. This has greatly improved the playing surface and appearance of the courts. As the weather continues to improve I hope you can all get out onto the courts and enjoy your tennis.

*François Neckar, Tennis Secretary*



## Metropolitan Line News

This last year has in my opinion seen the worst performance from the Metropolitan line in the 25 years since I first moved to the area. Metropolitan Line management have acknowledged that the service had not been good enough and that they are working to improve matters but so far there has been no noticeable improvement.

The new S-stock trains have not been introduced as quickly as hoped, partly because of reliability problems. There have been a number of occasions when the doors on the trains have failed requiring the trains to be taken out of service. The introduction of the new trains has required modifications to the positioning of monitors on station platforms and by the end of March works to all the stations are expected to be completed, which will mean that during the rush hour passengers from Eastbury, who take the crowded Fast or Semi-Fast Aldgate trains, will most likely have to stand as the new trains have 30% fewer seats than the old trains.

Continuing maintenance on the old signalling and points is required until such time as they are replaced which is currently scheduled in for around 2017. Until this time the old systems which in some cases are over 70 years old need to be maintained and parts that are obsolete must be made to order. The age of the system means that there have been a great number of failures throughout the year causing considerable disruption. Unless London Underground can either bring in the new system ahead of

schedule or radically improve the current system, such failures are likely to continue.

In the light of the continuing disruption FOMLUC has been pressing for improved communications, so that station staff and drivers are better informed and able to keep passengers fully updated and to allow controllers to be able to reschedule trains, for example where several north bound trains are heading to the same destination consecutively.

Whilst the London Underground acknowledges that the service is not as it should be, it also relies on "Customer Satisfaction Survey Statistics" to show how well the different lines have been performing. The Evening Standard of 31st January this year reported that London Underground spent over a million pounds last year hiring "Mystery Shoppers" to

monitor the service. FOMLUC has pointed out that the statistics seen bear no resemblance to what commuters on the Met Line experience!

Further to my report in the Autumn Newsletter, the area directly outside Moor Park station is still cordoned off for staff parking and this matter is still to be resolved.

Please report any matters concerning the Met Line to me so that these can be brought to the attention of the Management. My e-mail is [john.lunzer@gmail.com](mailto:john.lunzer@gmail.com).

*John Lunzer*  
*Federation of Metropolitan Line Users' Committees*  
*(FOMLUC)*



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## How do we stop some of our houses from being demolished?

*Eastbury resident and Association member, Diana Rustam, poses the question and suggests some answers*

Apart from the noise and disruption caused this has a carbon footprint which takes around 50 years to recover! The government targets to increase energy efficiency in our housing stock are set for 2020 and 2050. Nationally this will still include 75% of presently existing housing stock and as we do not have very old houses here in Eastbury this concerns every one of our houses right now. To be on target it is necessary for 700,000 houses to significantly upgrade their energy efficiency EVERY YEAR. We have over 1,000 homes in our Residents' area. In the recent sub-zero spells quickly melted roof snow has revealed that practically no-one has the current standards of loft insulation and only 1 or 2 houses in 10 have any partially effective insulation at all!

As the pay back in saved energy bills is only 2 to 3 years for roof or cavity wall insulation why aren't we doing this? Conversely the energy bills payback for replacement double glazed windows never happens in their lifetime – but nearly everyone has spent a lot of money on this! Can we unite – as a community – to keep our housing stock up to current and future standards starting right now - and then ask that the Council recognise our efforts and block any more demolitions?

Perhaps we could form a working committee to collate information on recommended procedures and businesses we can trust and disseminate this to the rest of us, maybe negotiating group discounts? There are cost effective measures with short, medium or long term payback times – but they will all add to the value of our homes and improve the environment too. We need a mass movement and change of mind-set here instead of the present inertia. It does not matter what your view is on global warming – none of us wants to pay the increasingly excessive energy bills do we? We all want cosy homes which will also increase in resale value. Please telephone or email me: [DianaRustam@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:DianaRustam@hotmail.co.uk) or telephone **835864** to follow this up.

## Northwood Live at Home Scheme



The aim of Northwood Live at Home Scheme (NLAH) is to help older people in Northwood and Northwood Hills to remain living in their homes by providing support and advice over and above that provided by social services and NHS. The NLAH runs coffee mornings every Thursday at St Johns Court, Murray Road, a weekly lunch club is held at St Johns United Reformed Church in Hallowell Road and weekly chats over tea and cakes take place at Oaklands Gate Methodist Church. Shopping trips are also arranged where transport is provided. If you would like to become a member of NLAH or a Volunteer or Friend please telephone the NLAH office on **01923 842494**.

## Eastbury Horticultural Society

Eastbury Horticultural Society is a friendly and active local society and well worth joining if you are interested in gardening. It doesn't matter if you are a beginner or an experienced gardener; our varied programme is aimed at all levels of skill and our bring-and-buy plant sales are a great opportunity to meet other enthusiasts as well as to find some real bargains. Throughout the winter, we hold evening meetings each month at Eastbury Farm Primary School with talks on gardening by professional speakers followed by coffee.

Our AGM with a cheese-and-wine party will be on 9th May. We have a programme of garden visits by coach planned for the summer and a holiday to gardens in Normandy. The annual subscription entitles members to attend all evening meetings, plant sales and our AGM for no additional charge. Garden visits by coach travel and holidays cost extra, but our organizers ensure that they are very reasonably priced. Our Annual Flower and Produce Show this year will be on 9th July and you don't need to be an expert to give it a try! We do hope you will join us.

To join, please send £3 cash or cheque (payable to Eastbury Horticultural Society) to:

**The Membership Secretary, 28 Crofters Road, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 3ED**

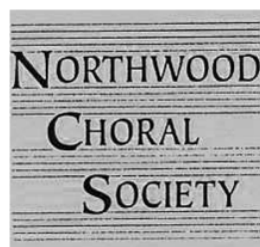
Alternatively, print the Application Form from the **Local Organisations** page of the ERA website where you can also see our Programme for 2011. For any more information please ring me, Jenny Duncan, on **01923 824537**.

*Jenny Duncan, Membership Secretary*

### ERA Executive Committee

Chairman	Elizabeth Willetts	820940
	chairman@eastbury-residents.org	
Treasurer & Tennis Sec	François Neckar	821510
Secretary	John Servent	822827
	secretary@eastbury-residents.org	
Membership Secretary	Andrew Dawrant	822660
Roads	Ken Balneaves	827721
Community Voice / Health	Adrienne Glicher	826569
Environment	Nisa Patel	828805
Planning	Mehdi Fazal	822562
Neighbourhood Watch	Bob Cockerell	822797
	Ken Mills OBE	821370
	Alan Short	824192
	Richard Crook	823325
E-mail :-	committee@eastbury-residents.org	

### Northwood Choral Society



The Northwood Choral Society's Summer concert will be held on **Saturday 14th May at 7.30pm** in **Holy Trinity Church Hall, Northwood**. It will feature part of 'The Armed Man' by Karl Jenkins and 'The Daniel Jazz'. Tickets includes wine and cheese.

The Society is also holding a 'Come and Sing' on **Saturday 4th June**, where all interested singers are invited to come to an afternoon rehearsal, followed by an evening performance. The programme will be Faure's Requiem and Cantique de Jean Racine. Further details are available on the website, **www.northwoodchoralsociety.org.uk**.

New members are always welcome so please contact Nikki Hind if you are interested in joining or learning more about the Society.

*Nikki Hind*  
Tel: **01923 823678**

The newsletter is delivered to over 1200 households in Eastbury and part of the Frithwood area of Northwood.