From the Chairman

In the months since our last spring newsletter the weather has been so appalling that I hesitate to call it summer. We have nevertheless witnessed some exciting events including the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the Olympics and Paralympics and a Brit winning a male tennis grand slam singles title for the first time in 76 years. So perhaps it has not been such a bad summer after all!

As can be seen from the photograph above, the residents of St Mary’s Avenue were lucky enough to have a dry and sunny day for their street party to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee; a just reward for all the hard work that goes into such an event which was clearly enjoyed by all who attended.

In June we held our AGM, the minutes of which are attached to this newsletter. Given the very wet evening and the clash with an England football fixture, the turn out was better that expected. A rule change was adopted regarding the examination of the Association’s accounts and a copy of the amended rules is also attached. We welcome newcomer Ian Cristol to the committee to look after Roads and Community Speed Watch.

Environment

Some of you may have noticed that three of the four new cherry trees planted on Grove Green along Batchworth Lane, courtesy of Three Rivers District Council, have disappeared. Unfortunately they were diseased but as they came with a year’s guarantee they should be replaced this autumn. We are still waiting for Herts Highways to cut down tree stumps in verges on several of our roads. We are told that there is no money at present to replant any further trees.

New Committee Members required

I am sorry to report that Philip Green, who has done a sterling job looking after environment issues, is leaving our area shortly so we need someone to take his place. If you can spare a few hours a month to take an interest in what is going on in our area and would like to join the committee please contact me. We also need another Neighbourhood Watch coordinator as Bob Cockerell has left our area. (See page 5)

Elizabeth Willetts tel: 820940
chairman@eastbury-residents.org

AGM - Monday
10th June 2013

The next Annual General Meeting of Eastbury Residents’ Association will be held on Monday 10th June 2013 at 8pm at Eastbury Farm Primary School.

AGM Minutes
Amended Rules
Health Matters

Northwood and Pinner Community Hospital
Acting on behalf of NHS London, Sylvie Pierce is undertaking a review of site options. She expects to interview a range of local people including Hillingdon councillors and doctors and then provide positive options for the site.
Meetings have also been held with the Chairman of Northwood Residents’ and Northwood Hills Residents’ Associations and Joan Davis, Chairman of Community Voice.

South West Hertfordshire
West Herts Hospitals NHS Trust – Navigator Nurses. These nurses now operate 12 hour shifts seven days a week in Watford General Hospital to guide and support acute admission patients after diagnosis and during treatment.
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening – a screening programme is being set up covering the entire male population registered in Hertfordshire. Men reaching 65 years in 2013/2014 will be invited for an ultrasound scan in one of the “community based clinics” and surgery when needed will be provided by the West Herts Hospitals Trust.

Community Voice
At the July meeting Jan Filochowski, Chief Executive West Herts Hospital NHS Trust, spoke about the challenges of the last year.
- The closure of A & E at Welwyn’s Queen Elizabeth II Hospital had put pressure on Watford General. To meet that demand 12 temporary beds opened in July and a 36 bed unit will open in December.
- Major works supporting Watford General have been agreed. Completion of the Metropolitan Line extension is expected in 2016. The road linking the hospital to the M1 will probably be ready by 2014 by-passing the congestion of Watford. A multi-storey car park funded by a private investor will be built on the hospital site.
- The hospital now has a revamped discharge lounge, a refurbished chapel of rest adopted by John Lewis plc and a fast track check in service for out patients.

It was subsequently announced that Jan Filochowski is leaving to become Chief Executive of Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Adrienne Glicher

An Author in our midst
Ken Balneaves was a member of our committee for two and a half years. Some of you may recall his article in our Autumn 2010 newsletter about flying machines and his imaginative ideas about virtual road signs. Well he has now put his imagination further to work and written a science fiction adventure novel called "The Greatest Gift". The book opens in Cambridge in 2001 and ends somewhere beyond our wildest dreams!
You can find out more about Ken and his book - a sequel is on its way - by visiting his website at www.balneaves.co.uk.

Keeping In Touch!
Eastbury Residents’ Association produces and distributes this Newsletter to Residents every six months. The Association also has a web-site www.eastbury-residents.org which is regularly updated with information about Eastbury.
- If you would like the Association to keep you informed by e-mail about matters affecting our area, please send us your e-mail address which can be done via the website.
- If you would like to receive information from the Police and Neighbourhood Watch teams about crime in our area, and crime prevention advice, please send your details to join OWL (Online Watch Link).
- If you are concerned about speeding traffic on our local roads, please volunteer to become part of the Community Speed Watch (CSW) initiative in Eastbury.

More information about these three important issues can be found on the home page of the Association’s web-site.
Planning Rules on Extensions to be relaxed 'to Boost Economy'

Despite the Local Government Association claiming it is a "myth" that the planning system is stopping house building, the government wants to get planning officers "off people's backs" with a relaxation of the current rules in England. The government will consult on allowing people, for a three-year period, to build larger extensions on houses - up to 8m long for detached homes. Rules on shops and offices expanding and on developments having to include affordable housing will also be relaxed as ministers seek to boost the economy.

Just a few months ago the government rewrote the entire planning framework for England, after fierce initial resistance from countryside campaigners. Three Rivers District Council has published its Local Development Framework document which outlines its approach to satisfying the government’s requirements. The proposals would permit all householders to build 6m long extensions without planning permission (it’s currently 3m). The proposed new Permitted Development Rights would also make it easier to install conservatories and loft extensions without going through weeks of planning bureaucracy. If the plans go ahead, full planning permission - currently required for extensions of more than 3 or 4 metres from the rear wall of any home - would only be needed for those reaching beyond 8m for detached homes and 6m for others. Rules that restrict an extension to no more than 50% of a property's garden will remain.

The new proposals will still follow the main principles of permitted development summarised below:-

- No more than half the area of land around the "original house" would be covered by additions or other buildings.
- No extension forward of the principal elevation or side elevation fronting a highway.
- No extension to be higher than the highest part of the roof.
- Maximum depth of a single-storey rear extension of 3 (now potentially 6) metres beyond the rear wall for an attached house and four (now potentially eight) metres beyond the rear wall for a detached house.
- Maximum height of a single-storey rear extension of 4m.
- Maximum depth of a rear extension of more than one storey of 3m beyond the rear wall including ground floor.
- Maximum eaves height of an extension within 2m of the boundary of 3m.
- Maximum eaves and ridge height of extension no higher than existing house.
- Side extensions to be single storey with maximum height of 4m and width no more than half that of the original house.
- Two-storey extensions no closer than 7m to rear boundary.
- Roof pitch of extensions higher than one storey to match existing house.
- Materials to be similar in appearance to the existing house.
- No verandas, balconies or raised platforms.
- Upper-floor, side-facing windows to be obscure-glazed; any opening to be 1.7m above the floor.
- On designated land (which includes conservation areas) no permitted development for rear extensions of more than one storey and no side extensions.

It is important to stress that currently the proposals are only proposals and yet to be verified as government policy; keep an eye on the press for if and when this becomes policy. For further technical information I would recommend researching via the planning portal website :-  

www.planningportal.gov.uk

Andrew Tooley - e-mail: planning@eastbury-residents.org

Bonfires

Bonfires are a perennial problem. Would residents please ensure that your gardeners, if you have them, do not light bonfires at times when they are likely to cause a nuisance to neighbours or allow them to get out of control. Please use your brown bin instead or take large amounts of garden rubbish to the household waste site at Riverside Drive, Rickmansworth.
Environment Issues

The summer has been dominated by the Olympic (and Paralympic) winners and losers. My report contains some wins but also some losses in terms of the Environment of Eastbury.

**Winner:** The camper van featured in our last newsletter and parked on various roads in our area seems to have moved along or been sold. Either way it has not been seen in the area for some months now and we hope it will stay that way.

**Loser:** As seems to be the normal state of play these days it appears that building works have increased during the summer. It sounds like a win but the damage to our verges, pavements and local area makes us losers. It really is up to all of us to tackle this problem if we don’t want to see our area blighted by damaged pavements and verges.

**Winner:** And this a big win. Against all the odds we have persuaded the powers that be that it must be made clear to home owners and developers that damage caused by the builders as mentioned in the last paragraph is the responsibility of the property owner. The cost of repairing paving stones, crossovers and verges caused by building work will now shift to the home owner. Councillor Frances Button has worked with us and she recently wrote as follows:

> “Does damage to pavements and grass verges, left behind after local building work has taken place, concern you? A new sentence has been included in all grants of planning permission and certificates of lawfulness, stating: ‘Please also note that any damage to the verge, footway or highway caused as a result of implementing this development is your responsibility and will be pursued by Hertfordshire County Council under Section 133 of the Highways Act 1980.’”

**Losers:** Herts Highways has awarded a new contract for all aspects of road and footway maintenance and improvement, street lighting and winter service. The new contractor is Ringway who takes over from Amey Lafarge at the beginning of October. There may be some delays in getting works finished or started after the switch over. One consequence is that Steve Wooding who has liaised with us from Herts Highways is to take early retirement. The ERA has had a longstanding and excellent relationship with Steve who has been a great advocate for our area. He will be sorely missed. I shall miss our walks around the area. At present there is no planned replacement, so even more reason why we need to work together to maintain our environment.

**Winner:** We are grateful to Herts Highways for agreeing to reduce and thin out trees affecting residents at the bottom of Bourne End Road and well done to Jack Riouliier, a resident of Bourne End Road, for continuing to campaign for this work to be done.

Philip Green

### Take a Walk on the Wild Side in Oxhey Woods

On our doorstep is Oxhey Woods Local Nature Reserve, about one hundred hectares of ancient semi-natural woodland, several areas of which date back towards the last ice age some 10,000 years ago. More recently “Tree Pirates”, a roving band of chainsaw sculptors, arrived this summer to create some innovative carvings from materials within the woods. Some of these can be seen by the entrance to the woods from the car park on the corner of Oxhey Drive South and Prestwick Road. They include a giant stag beetle high up in a tree and a giant frog and snail. As well as the Tree Pirates a number of other artists are creating a variety of other sculptures out of wood. There is already an imposing entrance arch and a wooden xylophone is to be installed. You can follow progress at the Sculpture Trail’s [facebook](http://www.facebook.com) page. The Countryside Management Service in partnership with Three Rivers District Council are working together on a £200,000 project to reinvigorate Oxhey Woods. The Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded a grant of £46,000 and a further £60,000 has come by way of a grant from the Forestry Commission. The remaining funding has been allocated by Three Rivers District Council. New signage and updated access points are being installed. Visitors will find the site easier to explore by following new way marked routes and drainage and surfacing works have improved many of the woodland paths. An orienteering course is also planned. So why not take a walk in Oxhey Woods and look out for the stag beetle!
Please help us reduce traffic speed in our area
Volunteers sought for Community Speed Watch in Eastbury

The Hertfordshire Constabulary’s Community Speed Watch (CSW) initiative is one of the measures intended to improve road safety by encouraging speed compliance.

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

As a CSW group member you will participate in monitoring the speed of traffic at specific locations in our area with other members. The registered keeper of an offending vehicle will be cross referenced against previous offence records. Warning letters will be sent. Persistent offenders will be considered for targeted police enforcement and prosecution.

For further details please contact Ian Cristol tel: 01923 823405 or e-mail: committee@eastbury-residents.org.

Road Stewards

With a group of over 30 Road Stewards, it is only to be expected that changes take place from time to time. Some wish to retire; others move away from our area. This year there have been changes affecting several roads.

- Cheryl Keene has taken over 1-44 Batchworth Lane from Janet Harding.
- Bishops Avenue and The Roughs now have two Road Stewards. Numbers 21-56 Bishops Avenue have been transferred from Richard Laycock to Miss Prarthna Devani. Richard will continue to cover 1-20 Bishops Avenue and The Roughs.
- Responsibility for Eastbury Avenue has passed to Andrew Dawrant from Geoffrey Taylor, who has stepped down as a Road Steward following a long period of service to the Association in various key roles.
- Tracey and Jo Barraclough will cover Grosvenor Road and the nearby roads that were previously shared between Cheryl Keene and Calver Townsend.

We would like to thank the retiring Road Stewards for their work on behalf of the Association and we welcome their successors to their new roles.

There are still a few areas where we would like new Road Stewards to come forward and volunteer to help. If you live on Mount View or in the area near Oxhey Drive, we would particularly like to hear from you. Please contact Andrew Dawrant, Membership Secretary on 822660 or e-mail 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@eastbury-residents.org and the message will be passed on to them.

Andrew Dawrant

Neighbourhood Watch

A volunteer is urgently needed to help as a co-ordinator for the Eastbury South area now Bob Cockerell has left our area.

It’s not a particularly arduous task – we just need someone to represent the area at occasional short local meetings, deliver Newsletters to Road Stewards for distribution twice a year and meet Gareth Williams, our local PCSO from time to time.

If you can help, please call Alan Short (824192), Ken Mills (821370) or Richard Crook (823325).

In case you haven’t seen the latest OWL warning, we recommend you particularly look at the OWL message of 5th September detailing SCAMS currently affecting Hertfordshire.

Local Area Forum

There is a Forum meeting being held at:-
Eastbury Farm Primary School
on
Thursday 29 November at 7.30pm

This is your chance to meet your District Councillors and air your views.
If there are any particular issues you would like addressed at this meeting please let me know so that I can ask for them to be put on the agenda.

Elizabeth Willetts - tel: 820940
chairman@eastbury-residents.org
Remembrance Day Services

There will be a Remembrance Day Service at Eastbury Farm Primary School on Sunday 11th November starting at 10am. A member of the committee will be attending on behalf of the Association to lay a poppy wreath.

The service at the Northwood War Memorial in Green Lane, starting at 10.45am, will also be attended by a committee member who will lay a wreath on the Association’s behalf.

Eastbury Church Seasonal Services - Autumn 2012

In the coming months Eastbury Church is holding the following services in the school hall at Eastbury Farm Primary School to which everyone is welcome:

- **Harvest Thanksgiving**: Sunday 30 September, 10am - 11am. Any donations of food or money are given to the work of Watford New Hope Trust.
- **Remembrance Day**: Sunday 11 November, 10am - 11am. This service is now in its third year.
- **Christingle**: Friday 23 November, 6.15pm for 6.30pm. Service ends at 7.10pm, followed by refreshments.

For further details visit: [www.eastburychurch.org.uk](http://www.eastburychurch.org.uk)

Eastbury Tennis

If Andy Murray hasn’t spurred you on to renew your Eastbury Tennis subscription and you need a bit of nudge to get out onto the courts, can we help you by serving up our mid year price reduction? It’s now only £10 for the rest of the 2012-2013 Eastbury Tennis year. So just download an application form from the ERA website and you’ll be on the courts before you can say “Flushing Meadow”!

François Neckar, Tennis Secretary

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<tr>
<th>ERA Executive Committee</th>
<th>Eastbury Horticultural Society</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chairman</strong></td>
<td><strong>Our Autumn/Winter programme of talks begins on 15th October at 8pm at Eastbury Farm School when we welcome Andrew Turvey, who will be speaking about the fascinating “Hidden Treasures of Myddelton House Gardens”.</strong></td>
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<td>Elizabeth Willetts</td>
<td><strong>On 12th November, Monica Gerhold, who designed the stunning Hardy Plant Society’s Gold Medal winning exhibit at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2009, will share with us “A Chelsea Experience”</strong>.</td>
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<td>820940</td>
<td><strong>All members receive regular newsletters and an annual subscription of only £3 entitled members to attend all evening meetings, plant sales and our AGM with cheese and wine for no additional charge. Garden visits by coach and holidays cost extra. To join, please send £3 cash or cheque (payable to Eastbury Horticultural Society) to:</strong></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:chairman@eastbury-residents.org">chairman@eastbury-residents.org</a></td>
<td><strong>The Membership Secretary, 28 Crofters Road, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 3ED.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Treasurer &amp; Tennis Sec</strong></td>
<td>Alternatively, print the Application Form from the Local Organisations page of the ERA website where you can also see our Programme for 2012. <strong>Jenny Duncan, Membership Secretary tel: 824537</strong></td>
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<td>François Neckar</td>
<td><strong>The newsletter is delivered to over 1200 households in Eastbury and part of the Frithwood area of Northwood.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Secretary</strong></td>
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