



Hills Amenity Society

Formed 1972

Working for the Conservation Areas of York Hill, Baldwins Hill and Staples Road

Baldwins Hill car breaker convicted - then released

GOOD news that a young car breaker who caused a great deal of grief in the Baldwins Hill area was caught and convicted then BAD that he was released with a suspended sentence. We heard this at one of the two meetings, firstly with the Crime Commissioner and then with Loughton police, where our concerns were aired. Reports Page 9.

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Fed up with speeding in Hills?



Take action now

Are you one of the many of us who are fed up with with speeding vehicles on the narrow roads of the Hills - especially those parts without footpaths? So far our efforts to secure a 20mph limit has not secured the result we wanted but here's something we can do now by utilising space on our wheelie bins. And it's FREE! **See Page 3**

Hills open meeting and AGM

Tuesday 22 May 2018 at 7.30pm

**Followed by a talk by
County Councillor Chris Pond**

Old as the Hills

Local issues over the last 30 years as I saw them

All welcome



Gardeners Arms

York Hill, Loughton Tel: 02081655

Dates for your Diary

Royal Wedding Saturday 19 May

The wedding will be shown here at noon. Join the celebrations with US and we will be giving everyone a complimentary slice of homemade cake and a pot of tea from 11am

-oOo-

FA Cup Final

Watch the Cup Final later in the day with a FREE buffet halftime

-oOo-

Cheese and Wine tasting evening Tuesday 15 May at 7pm

ABSOLUTELY FREE

Everyone welcome + your opinion matters + help us to choose our summer wines

-oOo-

Saturday 17 June

Treat your Dad to home made steak and kidney pudding, one of our famous Roast Dinners. "Best food in Loughton" it has been said by many

-oOo-

QUIZ NIGHT

Fortnightly Wednesday 8pm start

Maximum 8 per team £2 per person good prizes



Hills Watch

Will you help confront the speeders and path parkers?

Your bin can be at the front line!



While we continue to press for a 20 mph speed limit, here is a simple idea for traffic calming which may appeal to Hills residents concerned about the seemingly increasing speed of so much local traffic, especially along those lengths with no footpaths - and pavements blocked by parked vehicles. Hills Amenity Society is purchasing stickers which can be placed on wheelie bins and act as a reminder one day a week that many of our local roads are shared by vehicles and pedestrians. To apply for your FREE sticker please email The Hon. Secretary on hillsamenitysociety@gmail.com with your name and address and one will be delivered to you.

email: hillsamenitysociety@gmail.com For your FREE wheelie sticker

School-time parking

A resident writes: "I read that some councils are trialling not allowing any school parking within a certain radius of the school so local residents can access their streets. Some local residents, in other areas, have even blocked their road forcing the council to take action. One does wonder why there are so many cars when the catchment area is so tightly drawn."

Our picture illustrates the problem each day school day in York Hill. Perhaps just a little more consideration would do the job?





Hills Crime Report

Keeping track of crime in the Hills

Each month HillsWatch on Facebook tracks crime in the Hills as published by Essex Police. May be it was the cold weather but we reported on the recent figures published: "Without wishing to tempt providence, February was a quieter month for crime in the Hills. A burglary was reported in York Crescent, a case of violence in the Kings Green, and single cases of violence in Queens Road and Ashfields off Baldwins Hill. The crime map can be viewed at <https://www.police.uk/essex/130/crime/>

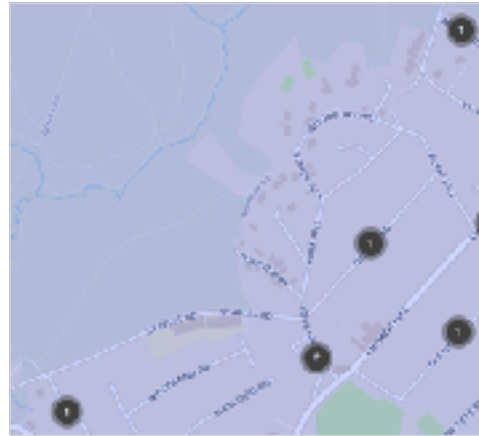
Saturday 12 May
Safety Day with Essex Police & Neighbourhood Watch
St Mary's Church Loughton in Loughton
By Loughton Festival



Let us have your news, views and comments on the HillsWatch Facebook Page which links to Epping Forest NHW Notices.

essex.police.uk update

Following closure to the public of Loughton and Epping Police Stations our nearest is now Harlow, open between 9.00am and 5.00pm. Reporting crime online is encouraged. Our police contact is now Chief Inspector Lewis Bashford
EppingForestCommunityPolicingTeam@essex.pnn.police.uk
Phone 999 in an emergency and 101 for everything else or go to www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online/



Don't buy fake chargers!

WatchOut, the Essex Community Messaging Magazine, warns that fake chargers can do this! Cheap can prove very expensive...

Who to contact

Noise: ring the District Council Environmental Health team (01992 564000, 24 hours), not the Police

- **Anti-social behaviour**, such as drunk and disorderly, intimidation etc, ring 101 and get a crime number or telephone 01245 491491

- **Criminal activity**, such as a threat to life/safety or property (an emergency situation) - ring 999;

Help wanted

Please let the Committee know if you would be interested in becoming a HillsWatch Street Coordinator.

Conservation area dos and don'ts

- Fences and hedges are protected in many areas. If you notice hedges being uprooted or fences altered, consult the EFDC conservation officer on 01992 564119. Penalties can be imposed for infringements
- Doors and windows visible from roads may also be protected—so ask before you ditch them.
- Where possible please keep dustbins, wheelie bins and out of sight until collection day
- Rubble or lumber should not be kept on your frontage and if any is dumped in communal areas, call Epping Forest District Council on 01992 564000 x3050 to have it removed.
- To have graffiti removed call 01992 564272
- Defects in pavements or street furniture should be reported to EFDC on 01992 564000. The council's policy is to replace defective furniture in three months.
- Do not park commercial vehicles in the conservation area overnight or at weekends.
- Do please pick up litter
- Park vehicles off the road where possible
- But do not park on footpaths or in turning bays
- Plant flowers...in front gardens, tubs and window boxes...
- and dog owners do please clear up afterwards.

 Join Hills Watch



Stuck! A red faced morning for the driver of this refuse collection vehicle who tried to turn down York Hill outside the Gardeners Arms

Not-above-our-heads operatives

“Have you noticed the heavy vehicle and no through road signs at the war memorial and the entrance to Staples Road have been turned round?” asks CC Chris Pond. “A simple thing to turn them back, you'd think, but no, the Highways Rangers can't work at heights above 6ft! To see the proof of this, look at the road sign on the corner of The Drive and Woodland Road. The rusty pole was painted up to 6ft, but not an inch above, the rest being left rusty.” The Hills will consider investing in some steps to lend them.....

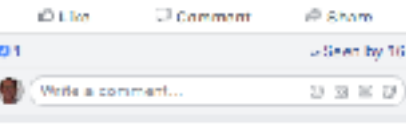
Not us, Guv' - must be t'other lot...

Thames Water is denying responsibility for washing out the Shaftesbury to Forest Rd path, caused by a catastrophic failure, yet again, of the 10-inch main. In addition to surrounding damage, this filled up a Mercedes sports car parked on the bridge.

Drains blocked - echoing a reader's letter (Page 8) we have noted a number of drains blocked (like the one nearest the Hills notice board on York Hill which looks like builders material. We will let the LA know.

You can now contribute to

Hills Watch - Nineteen of us have signed up so far to the HillsWatch page on Facebook and we would like to see many more, especially those who are willing to contribute to our work of keeping watch on the Hills.



1
Write a comment...

Jan Locks
2 February

Let's welcome our new members:
Christine Turner,
Michael Tanner-Driver



7
Write a comment...

Christine Turner · Thank you for adding me.
Like · Reply · 11w

Jan Locks
2 February

Some good people have been putting native on cars parked like this pointing out from Suffolk & Co. to force motorists with prams, disabled vehicles etc. In fact all of us - into the middle of narrow York Hill. Perhaps more advice might be offered, politely of course, to drivers who block the pavement.



Someone had a real go to reopen the York Hill to Baldwins Hill link

The second iteration of heritage posts barring the way through from York Hill to Baldwins Hill have stood for many years after the first rather flimsy jobs were stolen. It surely was not the January high winds which knocked over the two bollards so we must blame "the lads of the village". It is hoped the local authority is on the case.



It certainly has been with the long-overdue paving of the path from Baldwins Hill down to Sedley Rise. Most welcome.

And after six years...the decrepit gates at the end of Staples Road - target for several angry drivers over the years - have been replaced. Another victory for patience and persistence by County Councillor Chris and Councillor Caroline Pond amongst others.

Thank you for the (be)witching time



Thank you to Marco Milone and family of Queens Road who continued their feature of the most (only?) decorated home in the Hills for Halloween

and opened their "grotto" for viewing and parties

Thank you to the litter pickers....

Hills litter pickers are hard to spot but they are there: they see some litter and pick it up. A big thank you to them.

An example of the Hills Watch page...

...on Facebook is on the left. Do join us.

Good neighbours

Two dumps of snow lasting up to a week were a feature of the 2017-18 long winter with a leap to spring/summer in about three days mid-April. Well done those on the (steepest) hills who helped with gritting and a Snow Shifter's Medal for Laura on York Hill (pictured far left on HillsWatch) and from Brenda to the lads from Davenant who turned to and cleared pathways on some of the steeper parts of Queens Road. We don't have a picture of the pile of broken sledges at the top of Baldwins Hill when it was all over...



Donald Pohl - historian antique collector and campaigner



With the death over Easter of Dr. Donald Pohl, aged 78, the Hills has lost one of its larger than life characters and the area one of its great founts of local knowledge. A leading member of Loughton Historical Society for many years, Donald Pohl, who lived in Queens Road was the author of Loughton 1851 - The Village and its People. Five years ago he was featured campaigning against the “confused and insufficiently comprehensive” consultative process for local parking changes. Picture with thanks to West Essex Guardian

Dear Hills Amenity...

Blocked drains

I noticed, as I walked up from Kings Green and turned into Staples Road, that all the drains are blocked and the run-off from the roads and forest goes down into the High Road. Sorry for the grumbles but on a pleasant note, School Green looked very nice with the crocuses and daffodils this year. *(Name and address supplied)*



The bee-fly

If residents see this insect, not to worry it is harmless and does not sting. It is called a Dark-edged bee-fly and is a sign of spring! I saw one today on my allotment.

Diane Rhodes

Nominate a best front garden

Help us to find a winner for 2018 by 31 July

The Hills Amenity Society for most of its 46 years has organised a competition to find



the best kept front garden, the winner being rewarded with a fine shield to be held for a year.

Front gardens play a huge part in shaping the character of the conservation areas, hence the restriction on paving over manicured areas for car parking. To nominate a neighbour - or indeed your



own garden - just email a picture to hillsamenityociety@gmail.com. The award will be presented to the winner at the Hills Autumn Lunch in November.

Police Commissioner hears message loud and clear

Both impressive and a bit depressing was the verdict of the meeting with the Police and Fire Crime Commissioner for Essex with Police and Fire colleagues at EFDC council chamber. Impressive because the commitment to get things right came through strongly. A bit depressing that with their resources the police can only ever hope to target priorities. impressive because they caught a pest who had been breaking into cars along Baldwins Hill. Depressing because he got nine weeks in jail...suspended. Impressive - and hopeful - because the Commissioner is dedicated to raising the number of volunteer 'specials' to bring back local policing, so he has heard the message that we feel neglected when victims of crime and no one takes any notice. Depressing because so few of us went to Epping to deliver the message that we care. So let's try and do better next time!



Street lights 'no crime impact'

Apparently turning off street lights in the small hours has not affected crime levels according to a report prepared for Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex Roger Hirst (pictured). Full report on <http://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk>



The scene in the Council Chamber as Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex Roger Hirst and fellow officials take questions

Drugs, car theft and parking

Drug dealing, car theft and parking emerged as the three top concerns of residents who attended the meeting with Loughton Neighbourhood Police at St. Mary's Church. The meeting, impressively led by PC Mark Arnold, was an opportunity for Loughton residents to share their concerns and for the police team of PC Arnold and two PCSO colleagues to explain the daily challenge of their small team dealing with an average seven calls a day, seven days a week. The need to prioritise was obvious and calls involving threat or harm to life had to come first - unless the duty team was directed to a major incident elsewhere in Essex. To scale the problem, the 197 calls one recent month in Loughton and Debden compared with 141 in Waltham Abbey, 115 in Epping and 51 in Ongar. The consensus of the meeting was this was a highly committed team determined not to be overwhelmed by the size of the challenge facing them and to focus on the things which were causing greatest distress. PC Arnold and his colleagues received well-deserved applause. We heard that public nuisance offences - youths cycling dangerously along pavements, jostling, disturbance and the like - had subsided with the colder weather and following the closure of two trouble spots in the High Road. The idea of more match-funded or group funded specials for areas where there is a special need for more policing is there on the table. ..oh and we learned that the car thief apprehended and convicted after a long-running spate in Baldwins Hill had apparently moved to Debden with his suspended sentence. Hopefully a sufficiently long walk from the Hills!

Planning applications

69 Queens Road - Application for two storey rear extension, basement extension and rear dormer
Woodberrie, 13 Woodbury Hill - four separate applications for amendments and clarification to planning permission to demolition of existing garage and erection of two storey extension with two storey link, single storey rear conservatory extension and linked garage together with minor external changes including to drainage and landscaping and tree protection requirements.

Walnut Cottage 18 Stony Path - Permission granted for garden room outbuilding in front garden to rear of existing garage.
5 Ashley Grove, Staples Road - Permission granted for ground and first floor rear extensions with alterations to existing roof profile and dormer extension to the rear to create a loft room.
48 Baldwins Hill - Permission granted with conditions for demolition of existing detached garage at rear and erection of lower ground and upper ground floor rear extension incorporating new garage.
1 Stony Path - Application for proposed two storey rear

and side extensions including rear terrace.
1 Woodbury Hill - Permission refused for removal of further sections of roof above ground floor addition at rear, and raising of roof of part of ground floor back addition as revisions to previously approved scheme. Retrospective permission granted for retention of cement based composition smooth cladding installed to replace tiles on all elevations.
3a York Hill - Permission granted for change of use from residential flat (at first floor) to professional office use.

Property for sale



Shaftesbury - Three bedroom house with large master bedroom, en suite with potential £700,000



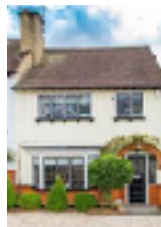
Baldwins Hill - five bedroom detached £900,000 (Left)

Queens Road - Three bedroom detached £675,000



Wroths Path - Two bedroom semi-detached £525,000 (Left)

Queens Road - Four bedroom, semi-detached £825,000 (Right)



Queens Road - two bedroom flat with off-street parking £450,000 (Right)



York Hill - Semi-detached period two bedroom house £595,000

in association with



York Crescent - three bedroom flat, ground floor, £350,000 (Below)



Farewell Loche Fyne

Hospitality corner

Loche Fyne, once a widely welcomed and smart presence on the edge of York Hill Green, was shut down mid April and now makes a miserable sight (below right). Mark, its popular manager, was still working away behind the grills for a couple of weeks afterwards tidying up and phoning customers who had booked tables. ‘All very sad,’ he said. ‘I could book you a table at our St. Albans branch instead.....’



....and Hail Quindici



The baton for style has passed to Quindici, York Hill, which, after a mixed reception as the night spot Fifteen has re-emerged as a stylish Italian Restaurant (*this picture courtesy Cullen Carpentry Ltd on Twitter*). Rating 4.5 stars on Trip Advisor on 85 reviews and 4.6 on Google on 32 reviews, the ghost of the old Wheatsheaf can be proud of its latest incarnation. Welcome Quindici!

Recent Property sales

Keepers Cottage, 40 Baldwins Hill. Detached freehold. Sold Nov 2017 £710k.



21 Baldwins Hill, semi-detached, two bedrooms, freehold. Sold Oct 2017 £475k. (*Left*)



83 Baldwins Hill, detached freehold five bedrooms. Sold July 2017 £780k



Forestside, Baldwins Hill, detached freehold, four beds. Sold October 2017 £1.15k (*Below*)



52 Baldwins Hill, semi-detached, freehold, two bedrooms sold September 2017 £730k



12-18 Pump Hill, detached, freehold four bedrooms sold July 2017 £977k



1 Stony Path, detached, freehold four bedrooms (previously sold May 1998 for £310k) sold July 2017 £1m



Mulberry, Woodbury Hill, five bedrooms, detached, freehold, sold May 2017 £1.825m (*Below*)



Comment

Time for (legal) direct action

Those of us who regularly walk the narrowest parts of the Hills where footpaths are a rarity - and increasing where they do exist are blocked by parked cars - know the fear of hearing a speeding vehicle. Imagine how much worse for those with little or no hearing, or sight..or both. And for those with young children, pushing prams, riding a mobility scooter - or simply trying to drive out into a narrow road. When, several years ago, the Hills Amenity Society took the initiative and prepared Appraisals for our three conservation areas the need for a 20 mile an hour limit was highlighted was a priority. Shame, we say.

But now there is something we CAN do and that is to put our wheelie bins in the front line on collection days bearing a safety sticker. Do join the campaign!

Please Support our work for the Hills: Subscriptions are due

Hills Amenity Society has been working since 1972 to preserve, protect, develop and improve features of both historic and public interest and to promote higher standards of planning and design in keeping with existing amenities and the rural character of the three Loughton conservation areas of York Hill, Staples Road and Baldwins Hill.

The Society organises social events such as occasional picnics, autumn lunch and an open meeting and AGM in the Spring. It awards a prize for the best kept front garden, monitors planning and has carried out detailed appraisals of the area adapted and now adopted by the District Council. New members are always welcome.

Membership of Hills Amenity Society costs just £5 per household a year payable to Hills Amenity Society and may be sent sent to The Treasurer, Woodpeckers, 37 Woodbury Hill, Loughton.

Please complete and return the subscription form delivered with this newsletter. Thank you

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