

## **Thirty Years Old!**

The Hills Amenity Society celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday this year! The society was formed in March 1972 for the public benefit of the area bounded by Goldings Hill, Church Hill, Kings Green, southern end of York Hill, including York Crescent, numbers 81 – 105 Staples Road and the Epping Forest boundary from Staples Road to Goldings Hill. This area has, of course, been extended but still operates to pursue the interests of the inhabitants of the Conservation Areas.

Conservation is NOT about opposing anything new or different in the area. It is NOT about opposing every tree lopping, pruning, trimming or even felling. It is about maintaining the integrity of the Conservation Area. To ensure that any development, whether new buildings or modifications and extensions to existing buildings, is in keeping with the character of the area, is in scale with its site and is an enhancement of the general amenity and ambience of its surroundings. The Hills Amenity Society knows that for progress to take place development and conservation must work together. As far as the trees and hedges are concerned, they are, obviously, an integral part of the Conservation Area and therefore need protecting. They do also, of course, need care and attention and advice on this is readily available from Chris Nielen's department at EFDC. Any and all work on trees in the Conservation Area has to have the approval of the EFDC.

## **Annual General Meeting**

The Chairman and Committee of the Hills Amenity Society do hope you will be able to join them for the Annual General Meeting which will be followed by a presentation by Mr Paddy Hagerty, a member of the Royal Horticultural Society.

Paddy Hagerty hails from Ireland, where his family still live. After leaving the Emerald Isle he joined the Army for his National Service where most of his time was spent in the field of Ordnance Survey. He settled in Chigwell in 1958 where he still lives.

After a career with BT where he specialised in work for the disabled with switchboards for the blind and aids for the deaf he is now "retired". An active member of Rotary International and Chigwell Rotary where he has served as President, he recently organised the art exhibition from local schools in Loughton library.

However, Paddy Hagerty's life long passion has been horticulture and as a well respected member of the RHS he has been called upon to judge many competitions. He maintains a large allotment and has himself exhibited at many shows. Although his special interest is fuchsias his interest and knowledge is very wide and includes trees as well as flowers and he will be happy to answer questions. Travelling, including recently South Africa, the garden and wine lovers paradise, and Hawaii is his other great interest.

Full details about the AGM accompany this Newsletter together with your subscription renewal form. We look forward to welcoming members old and new.

## **Front garden competition**

Later in the year, probably early July, the committee will be looking for the best front garden in the Hills area. This is an annual competition and the winner will be announced at our Autumn lunch when a presentation of a plaque and framed photograph will take place. If you know of a garden you would particularly like to nominate do let a member of the committee know.

## **Events**

Carol Singing last December raised almost £60 for The Riding for the Disabled Centre at Chigwell – many thanks to all who supported the event.

The Autumn lunch will again take place at 111 York Hill, by kind invitation of Peter Tidmarsh, and is another opportunity for anyone living in the Hills to meet over a glass of wine and to enjoy a light buffet. Put the date in your diary now – Saturday 12 October.

## **Loughton 100 years ago**

Two years ago, HAS and Loughton District Historical Society member, Richard Morris found in the possession of the Waller family a manuscript, written by William Chapman Waller 95 years ago, which described the Loughton he knew. The account, which was written over several years, is gossipy and discursive. It describes the buildings and their inhabitants in a series of amusing pen-portraits which give a real sense of what Loughton was like when the High Road was a quiet backwater along which the seven motor cars in the town occasionally drove. Not all the town is described but most of the Hills area is well covered, with the exception of Staples Road which, with Forest Road, Smarts Lane and the Parks, he did not reach.

Richard Morris and Chris Pond typeset the text and the LDHS has issued it, with high quality and hitherto unpublished photographs of a similar period. It is available from the Loughton Bookshop at 150 High Road priced £5.50. Chris has also reissued his Walk Round Loughton (first published 1995) in a new edition priced £1.25.

## **Planning matters outside the Hills of general interest**

### **Car park between Lawlors and Eastern Eye restaurant (Lambs Garage site)**

Possibly to be developed as a Marks & Spencer Food Hall. HAS has written re potential loss of car parking space.

**Higgins High Street development** - revised planning application submitted. HAS written re loss of tree and inappropriate design.

**Sainsbury's development** - everyone should have received information showing proposals. HAS has decided not to comment on this proposed development as opinion in the area appears to be split with as many in favour as against.

**City Sports Car Dealers 107/109 High Road** - plans for residential houses approved.

**259/309 High Road (from Alfrenes to TSB)** - proposed conversion to two large retail outlets with refurbishment to upper floors. HAS feels it is unfortunate to lose small, well patronised local shops.

**Postal sorting office** - it appears that the Loughton sorting office move has been delayed – until date unknown. HAS was told that if it moved a small “shop” might be set up from where customers could collect undelivered parcels.

**Bosworths** - to dispel any rumours – we are informed Bosworths are definitely not closing but merely moving the kitchen! As long as people keep shopping there they intend to stay open. Let's all support them!

## **Website**

The Society hopes to get its website up and running soon. At first it will contain the newsletter and a home page where residents can voice opinions or concerns. Later we hope to expand the site to give a photographic history of the area and information about other sites of interest in and around Loughton. If you have any suggestions for the site do come to the AGM or speak to one of the committee members.

## **Committee members**

**Peter Smith**, Chairman, 72 Queens Road, 8508 7000; E mail: [Petersmithloughton@btinternet.com](mailto:Petersmithloughton@btinternet.com)

**Chris Pond**, Vice Chairman, 7 Staples Road, 8508 2361; E mail: [Loughton\\_ponds@hotmail.uk](mailto:Loughton_ponds@hotmail.uk)

**Amanda Gotham**, Treasurer, 5 Staples Road, 8508 1153

**Brenda Harris**, Planning

**Valerie Locks**, Newsletter, 2 Potters Close, 8502 3998; E mail: [Valerielocks@aol.com](mailto:Valerielocks@aol.com)

**Peter Wynn**, 37 Woodbury Hill, 8508 4873; E mail: [Peteandsuewynn@btinternet.com](mailto:Peteandsuewynn@btinternet.com)

**Jane Bowen**, 91 York Hill, 8508 9689

**Peter Tidmarsh**, 111 York Hill, 8502 2370; E mail: [Petetid@yahoo.com](mailto:Petetid@yahoo.com)

**Toby Scrutton**, 4 Queens Road, 8281 4892

**Alison Middleton**, 113 York Hill, 8502 3671

## Planning

### What do you think?

Plans have been submitted for the site in Pump Hill created from the gardens of the cottages adjacent to The Gardeners Arms public house. The Hills committee has discussed the outline plans with differing views among the members. Some feel that development of this site should continue to be opposed on the basis that it would be over development and create yet another dangerous access on to a very narrow road. Others would like what has become, some say deliberately, an eyesore to be tidied up. What do you think? Please make your views known to any member of the committee.

**15 Woodbury Hill** This is one of the two old adjoining weatherboard cottages the owners of which wish to considerably increase the size of the property. The committee felt this would be out of character and be an overdevelopment of the site.

**11 Woodbury Hill** The owners have appealed against the planning refusal. HAS has restated its opposition.

**Southbank** The property has recently changed hands again and a new planning application for a "detached garage and conservatory link" has just been lodged. This has not yet been inspected.

**2 Faircroft Cottages, Whittakers Way** Decision from Council awaited.

# **NEWSLETTER**

## **HILLS AMENITY SOCIETY**

### **SPRING 2002**

#### **Inside**

**Society is  
30 years old**

**Pump Hill  
Plans: what  
Do you think?**

**More development  
in Woodbury Hill**

**Appeal decision  
awaited**

**Southbank in  
new hands**

**AGM details**

**Do join us for our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday 24 April 2002**

**7.30 pm**

**Function Room, The Gardeners Arms, York Hill**

