



Newsletter

www.hillsamenitysociety.co.uk

Email: hillswatch@mywebspaces.co.uk

Spring 2006

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Taking Action: Peter Tidmarsh, Chairman of the Hills Amenity Society, writes:



Talk is easy. Taking action is much harder, especially when we are volunteers and all lead busy lives. But looking after our environment is just so important. As we often remark, we do live in a very special area—that's why it has been designated for conservation. But as so often in life it can be the little

things which make or mar our enjoyment of where we live. That is why, as acting chairman of the Hills Amenity Society, I very much welcome the launch of the Hills Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and do hope everyone will support this—at least by displaying the sticker distributed with this

newsletter. You will see that we are also taking action on things like litter and re-painting the parish pump in addition to the on-going important work of trying to keep development in tune with the character of the conservation areas. Do come to the agm on Tuesday 3 May.

Peter Tidmarsh

Launch of Neighbourhood Watch scheme at agm



A recent spate of walk-in burglaries around the Hills has been just another reminder of the need for the launch of the Hills Neighbourhood Watch Scheme which will take place at the agm on Tuesday 3 May. It was an outbreak of vandalism and a bag snatching in York Hill early last year that initially prompted the suggestion at last year's Hills agm to start a Watch scheme.

At a public meeting in the autumn there was unanimous support and committee mem-

Hills Annual Meeting

Have your say.....on litter, vandalism, crime, the neighbourhood watch programme, planning.....

Tuesday 3 May

Gardeners' Arms at 7.30 pm

Guest speaker will be Catherine Hammond, Epping Forest Museum, on "Collections and work of Epping Forest Museum".

ber Sue Mushtaq agreed to head up the scheme as key co-ordinator.

Do come along to the agm—and turn to Page 2 for a full report of progress.

Sue Mushtaq, the Hills Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, writes:

Why do we need Neighbourhood Watch?

As Hills residents we know we are lucky to live in such an exceptional neighbourhood. We have great views, the Forest on our doorstep, local amenities nearby and we also enjoy a low level of crime. Therefore any spate of vandalism, antisocial behaviour or theft causes outrage and a deep desire to stamp it out quickly. We are therefore forming a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for the Hills, so that we can be proactive in preventing crime, improving safety and reducing the fear of crime. We will be able to build closer relations with the local police who have designated community support officers to work with us. The objectives of the scheme will be based upon the areas of greatest concern to residents. It is therefore crucial that the scheme attracts a strong membership of people who want to communicate the problems they are experiencing, receive information on incidents and most importantly, instigate initiatives to tackle them.



Please display the sticker included with newsletter

Enclosed with this newsletter is a Neighbourhood Watch window sticker and a 'Welcome to Neighbourhood Watch' leaflet.

Please display the sticker inside your front door or window so that potential criminals know that this is a community working together to reduce crime, and so is not an easy target.

The leaflet explains more about how schemes work, the relationship with the police and some successful case studies from established schemes.

Protect yourself and others:

The police have recently reported to me a couple of burglaries where entry has been through the front door during daylight hours. The losses have been mainly electrical items and jewellery. In one example a side window was broken so that the front door handle could be turned from the inside. If you have a modern Chubb lock make sure you double lock it from the inside before you leave. Then an intruder cannot open the door from the inside without a key. Always set your alarm even for short trips out. Keep an ear and eye out for any unusual sounds and sights from your neighbours and always call the police if in doubt.

If you see or hear anything suspicious... Please email the coordinator for your street or telephone me on 020 8502 2665 in the Hills catchment area.

'There is a lot we can do to help each other...'
Sue Mushtaq

The Hills Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators

Contact the Hills Neighbourhood Watch through

hillswatch@mywebspaces.co.uk

Or by telephoning chief co-ordinator Sue Mushtaq on

020 8502 2665

York Hill: Andrew Reid, areid@waltham.ac.uk
Wallers Hoppit, Potters Close:
Susan Mushtaq,
hillswatch@mywebspaces.co.uk

Staples Road: Mary Erwin,
hillswatch@hotmail.co.uk

Steeds Way: Martyn Soul-Gray,
mg@hotmail.com

Baldwins Hill (Foresters to Goldings Hill) Whitakers Way and The Lanterns
Grahame Williams, grahamyra@aol.com

Baldwins Hill (up to Foresters), Ashfields and St John's Road
Norman Hall, norman.hall3@ntlworld.com

Co-ordinators wanted

We are still looking for coordinators for The Summit, Stony Path, Wroths Path and Queens Road, Woodbury Hill and King's Hill, Forest Way. If you would like to help care for your neighbourhood contact Sue Mushtaq at hillswatch@mywebspaces.co.uk

Dryads' Hall *Telegraph* 'Property of the Week'

Interest in Hills property Dryads' Hall has been escalated by a half page feature in the *Daily Telegraph* on 4 March.

On the market through Savills of Chelmsford with a price guide of £1.5 to £2m, informal bids were due in by 30 March. The property is on the market following the death of local character John

Silberrad. The article suggests the property is suitable for "many lines of business", having in the past being used by John Silberrad's famous father, experimental chemist Dr Oswald Silberrad, the man who discovered how to detonate TNT successfully. Among many to have worked there was Dambusters inventor Barnes Wallis.

Sadly the Arts and Crafts house is not listed. But it is both in the Conservation Area and "pink" forest land. The Hills' Committee is watching developments closely, but standby for some "adventurous" applications. Would-be developers please note: a multi-storey flat block would not go down well!



Daily Telegraph article featuring Dryads' Hall.

Planning Update...

The Foresters' public house - The

request for extended hours has been accepted (weekdays until 12 pm and Friday/Saturday



until 1 am). A close watch will be kept on any further requests for extended hours at public houses within the conservation area.

Stoney Path - the new planning application for the empty plot in Stoney Path has been refused.

1 Church Hill (Montessori Nursery) - The first application was refused

but a new application for 10 flats has been received and the Hills Committee has objected.



Chestnut Tree to be felled in High Holly (Kings Hill) No objections

8 Baldwin's Hill - A planning application has been received for a loft conversion and after studying the plans, the Committee felt that it should object for several reasons: removal of the chimney and the change to the side elevation will affect the character of the house. Furthermore, the size of the extension is not in proportion to the size of the site.

25 Pump Hill - A planning application to add a further three bedrooms and 2 dormers is being proposed. The Committee felt this was a case of over-development of the site, neighbours would experience a loss of privacy and it is adjacent to a listed property (off Stoney Path).

2 Wroths Path - An application for an extra two bedrooms (first floor extension) plus a garage is proposed. The Committee again feels that it is over-development of the site.

42 Baldwin's Hill - Plans for development have gone to appeal but a decision has not yet been made. The Hills Committee had objected.

Complaint over 'abandoned' development....then ACTION

The Hills Committee applied for a complaint form after months of inactivity on the development at 11 Woodbury Hill. A month later the form was completed, highlighting the untidiness of the site and the general air of neglect being inflicted on the area of the property. Lo and behold



someone appeared on the first day of spring with the suggestion that the site is now under new (and much improved) ownership. Oh, and those who recall that the building was "nearly a metre" higher than the approved specification, according to one council official, will be relieved to learn that it was "more like a couple of feet" according to another—and all was therefore in order to proceed. So that's okay then...

Let's pick up as we go

- Hills response to Council 6 May "Clean Up" day



Remember The Wombles—those characters of good sense with rubbish from the 1970's? - with acknowledgements to BBC.

The suggestion that the Hills should get behind Loughton Town Council's "Clean up Loughton" Day declared by Loughton Town Council for 6 May seems a good one at first sight. Everyone turns to and fills the sacks and then, if so minded, repairs to the pub feeling good about what they have achieved. And there is good sound sense behind this, especially as an edu-

cational effort for young people. The Hills committee takes a slightly different view: "We should pick up litter around our own homes—then the whole area stays clean and tidy all the year round".

Those who would like to take part in the Town Council's Clean Up Loughton day, please call

Loughton Town Council

020 8508 4200

Talkback

Hills newsletter likes to receive news and comments from residents—and is happy to publish (within the bounds of reasonableness of course).

Mrs V Manzi of Woodbury Hill, comments:

The Pump Hill pump needs repainting.

This was discussed at a meeting of the Hills Committee and Mathew Geyman has offered to undertake the task.



How about a litter-pick?

See article this page on Loughton Town Council's litter pick—and the Hills Committee's suggestions.

How about using a bank standing order for subscriptions?

The committee has yet to discuss this—but the problem arises when the amount changes!

Have your say through these columns or at the open meeting on 3 May.

Thank you...to the residents of the York Hill, Steeds Way and surrounding areas who contributed to the Hills Carol Singing collection which raised £178.94. The money has been donated to the Macmillan Nurses.

Ash Green...the fine property at the top of St John's Road, is reportedly on the market for £2.5m,

Businesses' litter 'a disgrace...'

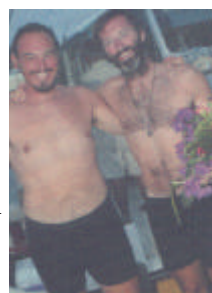
The increasing amount of mess around the businesses at the bottom of York Hill is of growing concern and we appeal to Zizzi's and The Wheatsheaf to clean up around them. However appeals by the Hills Committee to Epping Forest Council have revealed there is no plan for street cleaning around the Hills Conservation Area—meaning, we believe, we are visited "occasionally". Both the mess around the York Hill businesses and the council's response are a disgrace, according to the Hills Committee, which is considering what further action it might take to get this area cleaned up.

Welcome back to Atlantic Rower

When Atlantic rower Phil Harris returned to his Steeds Way home it was to meet for the first time the twins Joshua and Samuel who had been born to his wife Nikki while he was away on his 62 day test of endurance. Also pictured are daughters Jessica and Sasha. The story and picture which appeared in the *Loughton Guardian* (right) told of how Mr Harris lost three-and-a-half stone during his adventure with Charlie Fisher (pictured together in another photograph published in *The Guardian*). Together they had rowed more than 3,000 miles from the Canary Islands to the West Indies and were declared to have officially completed the trip across the Atlantic. Sadly though they did not qualify as completing the race after having to accept help over the last 90 miles to Antigua. The rowers are hoping to raise £1m for Tommy's and the Royal Marsden Cancer Hospital. Donations may be made to www.row4life.com.



With acknowledgement to the *Guardian* local paper for the coverage and cuttings



Comment

Shame on them....

The environment in which they operate must be key to the success of businesses such as Zizzi's and The Wheat-sheaf at the bottom of York Hill.

Dining and drinking out opportunities are not hard to come by in Loughton and these two businesses are competing for our custom.

We believe it is an absolute disgrace that these busi-nesses are allowing this "gateway to the Hills" to get in such a mess.

But as we report on Page 4, we are now told the Dis-trict Council has no planned sweeping of our area. This too is an absolute disgrace but until The Hills Commit-tee can secure regular street cleaning it is more impor-tant than ever that we all do our bit—and pick up as we go.

*Fifth in the series featuring Hills celebs
by Jane Bowen*

Man of Words



The blue plaque at Forest Villa, 7 Staples Road, commemorates the Rev Dr Robert Hunter (1823-1897) who was a lexicographer who compiled a massive 14 volume encyclopaedic dictionary before the creation of the Oxford English Dictionary. A Scot by birth, Hunter had been to India as a missionary.



Forest Villa, Staples Road—built by "man of words" Dr Robert Hunter

He was keenly interested in the study of ancient writing— palaeontology— as well as astronomy and geology. The steep roofed house in a classic Scottish style was designed by Hunter himself, including a "belvedere" - or conservatory to most of us. Besides being Robert Hunter's home, Forest Villa was also a refuge for sick children from the Victoria Docks.

With acknowledgements to "The buildings of Loughton and Notable People of the Town" and "A Walk Round Loughton" by Chris Pond

Looking after community

Throughout the year the Hills Amenity Society works to protect the very special environment in which we live—The Hills Conservation areas of Loughton. The Society undertakes a number of functions and services including:

- review of local planning applications
- publication of this newsletter
- AGM with talks by guest speakers
- summer gardens competition
- an informal Autumn lunch
- carol singing for charity
-and now responsibility for the new Neighbourhood Watch programme

The Society has published a [Discovery Trail](#) of the area and initiated environmental improve-ments, including replacement of concrete lamp-posts, installation of wooden bollards to protect the greens from vehicle damage, renovation of the Pump Hill pump, and projects to maintain the area's hedges. and footpaths.

Tell us what you think

The Hills Amenity Society would like to know what you think about the area in which you live, what are the things you would most like to change—and how you believe The Hills Amenity Society might help. Also, would you be prepared to lend a hand?

<p>Is the environment of The Hills:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Improving</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> About the same</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Getting worse</p>	<p>Do you feel the Hills Amenity Society</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gets it about right</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Could do more</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not sure</p>	<p>Comments:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>Are you aware of the of The Hills Amenity Society</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fully aware</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Just about aware</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not previously aware</p>	<p>Would you be prepared to lend a hand</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Delivering newsletters</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Attending events</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On the Committee</p>	
<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Phone _____</p>		
<p>HILLS AMENITY SOCIETY</p>		

Acting Chairman:
Peter Tidmarsh
111 York Hill, Loughton

Tel: 0208 502 2370;
E mail: Petetid@yahoo.com

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The litter bin with arguably the best view in the Hills on a damp Spring morning.



*Working to protect and enhance the
Conservation Areas in which we live*

Now over 30 years old, the Hills Amenity Society, which is affiliated to the Civic Trust, was formed in 1972 as a result of the interest shown by local residents in their environment. Its aims are 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 area. The Hills' unique blend of building styles and materials, set in narrow lanes hedged with hawthorn and holly, and enjoying spectacular views across the Thames valley to the Kent hills, was further recognised in 1977 when Epping Forest District Council created the York Hill conservation area.

The Hills Committee

Amanda Gotham, Treasurer, 5
Staples Road, 8508
1153; amanda.gotham@phoncoop.coop

Brenda Harris, Planning;

Valerie Locks, Newsletter, 2 Pot-
ters Close, 8502 3998; email: Valerie.locks@ntlworld.com

Peter Wynn, 37 Woodbury Hill,
8508 4873; E mail: Petead-suewynn@btinternet.com;

Jane Bowen, 91 York Hill, 8508
9689;

Peter Tidmarsh, chairman, 111
York Hill, 8502 2370; E mail:
Petetid@yahoo.com;

Toby Scrutton, 4 Queens Road,
07957 424233;

Matthew Geyman, 22 Pump Hill
07970 610002 email: mattgeyman@hotmail.com

Carol Francis

Lisa Godsalve, 21 York Crescent,
Loughton, Essex IG10 1RW 8508
2363 e-mail: lisagodsalve@rnib.org.uk

Juliette Harvey, 15 Woodbury
Hill

Sue Mushtaq, 8502 2665
sue@mywebspace.co.uk

Andrew Reid,
areid@waltham.ac.uk

*If you would like to help
with the work of the Hills,
please contact Peter Tid-
marsh.*

Petetid@yahoo.com;

Annual General Meeting

Join us for the Annual Gen-
eral Meeting of the Hills
Amenity Society at the
Gardeners' Arms on Tues-
day 3 May at 7.30 pm

The Speaker will be Cath-
erine Hammond, Epping For-
est Museum, on "Collections
and work of Epping Forest
Museum".

Have your say!

Subscriptions are due for 2005—new members welcome

*Membership of The Hills Amenity Society costs just £4 per house-
hold a year. Subscriptions are now due. If you have not already
done so, please pay promptly. New members always welcome.*



Join up now

Hills Amenity Society