



Newsletter

www.hillsamenitysociety.co.uk

Email: hillsamenitysociety1@ntlworld.com

Spring-Summer 2008

Welcome our new treasurer – and please pay your subscription now!

The Hills Committee is grateful to Juliette Harvey for agreeing to be the Society's new treasurer. Please give her a big welcome by making your donation promptly using the enclosed form and addressed envelope: thank you!

And more inside...

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Hills agm and open forum 15 May: meet police and council

Both a council representative and our neighbourhood police team have accepted invitations to the Hills agm and Open Forum to be held at The Gardeners' Arms, York Hill, on **Thursday 15 May at 7.30pm** when all will be welcome. The council's conservation area specialist Paul Sutton has been invited to explain the new approach to conservation areas and the implications for the Hills. Our community police officers have said they would like to meet us and to discuss how we can work with them to reduce local crime. Come and have your say about our neighbourhood and how we can make it an even better place to live.



Empty the public bins plea

A York Hill resident is leading the way in a bid to persuade local authorities to empty the rubbish bins they put in place. Offending bins at the top of York Hill and Woodbury Hill should be emptied regularly by the Forest authorities and the district council should empty the bin on the corner of York Hill and Potters Close. The Hills committee is supporting the call as overflowing bins attract rats and foxes and spread disease apart from looking horrible! Litterbin heroes: **Page 5.**

Hills Amenity Society
Open Forum
Thursday 15 May
Gardeners' Arms
top of York Hill 7.30pm
Speakers from district council conservation and neighbourhood police team.



A different approach
to estate agency



252 High Road, Loughton, IG10 1RB-020 8508 3871

Spruced up and looking in their prime

Smart new look for special interest properties in 'gateway to the Hills'

We have commented from time to time on "the gateway to the Hills" at the bottom of York Hill, occasionally bemoaning its unbecoming state. Following the sprucing up of 19 and 21 York Hill, the early 19th century properties up from the Wheatsheaf, the "gateway" is looking rather better and, we thought worth a picture!

The now closed tile shop has also changed hands but it's unclear at the moment what it is being replaced with. The link was fitting with the area's tiling and pottery past as Kiln Farm was a prominent building in pictures from the last century.



Keep out!

Notices banning motor traffic and log barriers have been the Corporation of London's response to complaints about drug taking and other undesirable behaviour at the top of **Woodbury Hollow**. An unintended consequence is that the long horn cattle can no longer be delivered to crop the grass and spring saplings.



After **necklaces** were stolen by youths from the RNLI table on Kings Green the owner placed a note asking the culprits to leave the money for what they had stolen. Sadly we have not heard that they have.

*Please display
your Crime
Watch sticker*

Graffiti, fly-tipping and litter are althings which take the gloss off our beautiful conservation areas. Please do your bit by picking litter and reporting offenders.

Our Loughton Neighbourhood Police Team are Kevin Sanderson and Richard Earl who is the Wildlife Crime Officer. Contact through at Loughton police station 01279 625520 Ext 23030 or mobile 07968 354021.



Criminal damage in York Hill

Hills Watch co-ordinator Andrew Reid circulated neighbours with a plea to watch out following a renewed spate of vandalism to cars parked on the (York) hill—usually at weekends. "If you have any evidence of who might be carrying out such offences, please do inform the police. Please let me know if your vehicle has been vandalised in the past. It is important to inform the police of all damage to vehicles, even if this is retrospectively,"

Hills Watch co-ordinators wanted

If you would like to be a coordinator for **Queens Road, The Summit, Stony Path or Wroths Path, Woodbury Hill and King's Hill, Forest Way** please ring Sue on 020 8502 2665

Hills Watch coordinators

Key Coordinator and York Hill, Wallers Hoppit and Potters Close: Susan Mushtaq,

hillswatch@mywebspace.co.uk 020 8502 2665

York Hill: Andrew Reid, areid@waltham.ac.uk

Staples Road: Mary Erwin, hillswatch@hotmail.co.uk 0795 154169

Steeds Way: Martyn Soul-Gray, martynsoulgray@hotmail.com 078751 32058

Baldwins Hill (Foresters to Goldings Hill)

Whitakers Way and The Lanterns Grahame Williams, grahamyra@aol.com 020 8508 6204

Baldwins Hill (up to Foresters), Ashfields and

St John's Road: Norman Hall, norman.hall3@ntlworld.com 020 8281 1890

Hills property update

In association with



Church Hill: £649,499 Victorian four bedroom semi convenient to High Road. The property is described as having many fine features and includes a rear garden with two separate outbuildings. Offered with no onward chain through Bairstow Eves, Loughton.



Property selling prices in The Hills August-December:



Buy to wreck....



It's a growing trend: buy the house and pull it down. That's what the owners of 12 St John's Road want to do and then to erect a bigger and better replacement dwelling. Planning decision awaited.



For sale—This property in Baldwins Hill is also for sale with a desirable forest aspect.

Pictured is 9 Baldwins Hill, a detached freehold house which sold for **£890,000** in October. Other sales have included:
 7 Baldwins Hill, **£820,000** Detached Freehold 10-Dec-2007;
 29 Baldwins Hill, **£380,000** Terraced Freehold 26-Oct-2007
 78 Church Hill, **£395,000**, Terraced Freehold 21-Sep-2007
 2 Grasmere Close, **£669,000** Detached Freehold 20-Sep-2007
 22 Pump Hill, **£360,000**, Terraced Freehold 16-Aug-2007
 24 Wroths Path, **£283,000** Detached Freehold 12-Oct-2007
 7 York Hill, **£300,000** Detached Freehold 30-Aug-2007

Hills planning update—

from the Hills Committee notes

23 Queen's Road Loft conversion with rear dormer and front velux windows and selective pruning of cedar.

25 Pump Hill Loft conversion with front and rear dormers.

31 Church Hill Single storey rear extension to kitchen.

90 Church Hill Permission requested to fell oak tree.

Staples Road Infants School

The council has resisted an application for the continued use and retention of one relocatable classroom until 31 October 2012 because the application did not comply with the time limit condition attached to the planning permission.

46 York Hill Permission has been granted to remove branches of Robina which overhang into 5 Forest Way.

21 York Hill, Permission granted to fell conifer

29 Baldwin's Hill Permission has been refused for the installation of a sky dish

on this listed building. The council ruled that the proposed sky dish to be sited at the rear of the building, would have "a visually harmful impact on the building and detract from its historical appearance and architectural character, therefore it is contrary to policy HC10 of the Adopted Local Plan and Alterations".

96 - 98 York Hill

Permission granted to reduce and reshape holly and fell malus.

Woodbury Hollow Cottages

Permission granted for detached garden store/boiler house with the conditions that details of the types and colours of the external finishes of the roofing materials were submitted for approval

31 Church Lane

Permission with conditions granted for loft conversion with front and rear dormer windows, new garage and alteration to windows.

No to conservatory

When the owners of **6 Baldwin's Hill** applied for permission to erect a rear conservatory they may have thought this would be acceptable. However the council has refused permission on grounds that the proposed development's height, depth and proximity to the boundary, would result in a loss of light and visual amenities to next door and "would result in an incongruous addition out of keeping and harmful to the appearance of the main dwelling and the conservation area.

Garden development refused

Plans to erect a studio apartment at the Rear of 38 Church Hill have been refused by the council on the grounds that the proposed dwelling would result in a cramped form of development on this severely constricted plot.

This would be out of character and appearance of the area and the siting would have an adverse impact on the outlook of occupants of No 38 Church Hill.

It's what I do...

...an occasional look at what those around us do

Lucy Nichols has spent most of her life living in York Hill with her parents. If you receive **The Local Mag** you will know how well it is received—but you may not know that *Tatler* and *Vanity Fair* contributor Lucy is its editor. “We don’t pander to advertisers,” she says “and we always put the reader first by providing intelligent, thought-provoking editorial. The Local Mag is now launching in Chelsea, Kensington and Notting Hill followed by a version for Hampstead, Highgate and Maida Vale.



Lucy Nichols

Shush—don't tell anyone....



When we featured the Loughton Potato Ground allotments in our autumn edition things were looking pretty bleak as winter set in. Now the bleakness is more in the soaring price of food—and the allotments are looking more attractive than ever. If you want to get on the list to start digging it can be difficult to find anyone to contact: if you promise not to tell anyone it's the allotments Secretary: Joyce Sutton on 07767 226928. The allotments are held in trust by the Loughton Parochial Charities, administered by three Trustees, one of whom is always the Rector of St. John the Baptist Church, Loughton. Apparently demand for space has never been higher...rather like the cost of food.

Lost....and found

When our cameraman saw this notice about an



“abandand” (sic) child in Stony Path he was alarmed. On the very next lamppost was one for a lost Bart (this time a cat).



And then round the corner in Baldwins Hill was not only a child's cycle (yes he had looked again and seen the picture of a bike!) but almost a cupboard of abandoned toys. A story of carelessness, heartbreak, and flytipping—all on a sunny April's morning...



Come on board for Hills project

In our autumn and winter edition we declared The Hills committee's intention to work with the District Council on a scoping project to set out a future planning direction for the three Hills conservation areas. Due to staff changes at the Council start on the project has been de-

layed so it is still not too late to declare your willingness to take part in any of the three linked Character Appraisal projects for York Hill, and Baldwins Hill or Staples Road. If you would like to help, please contact Ian Locks on ian.locks@ntlworld.com



Parking mayhem—how long can this go on?

Parking is a perennial problem in the narrow roads and lanes of the Conservation Areas—but are we always as considerate as we might be....and if not, can we expect (and perhaps deserve) more regulatory intervention? Clockwise from right: parking has been suspended in the layby opposite **Staples Road** School. Reports our Staples Road correspondent: “Recently the road was blocked for 25 minutes. It is extremely unfair on residents trying to meet appointments or get to work. Both the Essex highways authorities and the police have been contacted by residents and councillors about the continuing problem.” The **York Hill** “chicane” remains a nightmare, with the regular squeal of brakes and the foot-path destroyed by heavy vehicles as evidence of the dangers and difficulties. And the **Baldwins Hill** “pinch point” is simply illegal parking. Common sense or yellow lines? It’s our—the residents’—choice!



Please help the litterbin heroes

Have you ever wondered who empties the litterbins around the Hills? Sadly, the authorities seldom do. Instead mostly it is unseen local heroes who step in. So PLEASE don't use the bins for your household rubbish, cat litter or dog mess—and you might even help by taking something out until we can engage the council to do its bit! Thank you.



From this...



...to this

The Staples Road School conversion, though (still) not yet completed, is a truly magnificent and sensitive extension.



Coming along nicely...monitoring major projects

From this...

The Woodbury Hollow cottages before their recent make-over: one of the oldest properties still standing in the Hills Conservation Areas.



...to this

...and now well on the way to being finished bar a door or two. When completed it will be interesting whether this sensitive conversion receives brickbats or plaudits.



This makes way

Historic Dryads Hall has been demolished to make way...



...for this



Hills Amenity Society
working for the
Baldwins Hill, York Hill
and Staples Road areas



Working to protect the
conservation areas in
which we live

Find out about us at

Www.hillsamenityociety.co.uk

Email: hillsamenityociety1@ntlworld.com



Just two Sunday mornings in April 2008: that's Spring for you!



Comment

It's about caring...innit?

How much do you care about the area in which you live? Do you "just live here" and reckon to move on pdq...or is it your home?

Do you care...like the resident who is battling to get litter bins emptied regularly? Do you care...like the residents who labour on their allotments in the Potato Fields? Do you care...enough to come to the Hills agm on 15 May at 7.30 at The Gardeners' Arms and have your say? We do hope so: please come along. Do you care enough to pay a £4 annual subscription to support those who do the caring on the Hills Amenity Society Committee? Or may be you could even care enough...to join the committee and do your bit to help?

That would be good...and you would be MOST welcome!

Well, it's April!

The pictures of Baldwins Hill on this page were taken just one week apart: a very wintry scene one week and delightfully spring-like the next. Global warming? Surely it's just April!

Send your comments to:

Email: hillsamenityociety1@ntlworld.com

Parish notices

Hills Committee has joined the chorus of concern about **potholes** in many roads in the conservation areas.

Complaints about **blocked drains** have had the welcome result of a number of drains being cleared.

The **weight of vehicles** using the narrow lanes during the recent years of "development hell" has raised the question of weight restrictions. Hills Committee is investigating.

New signs have been erected on a number of roads. They are smarter but clearly less substantial than those they replaced. And don't forget:

Hills Amenity Society Committee

Wendy Fisher (Chairman) 19 Stony Path, Loughton IG10 1SJ wendlesfisher@hotmail.com

Brenda Harris, Planning;

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

Peter Wynn, 37 Woodbury Hill, 8508

4873; Email: pgw@pwynn.demon.co.uk

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

Juliette Harvey, 15 Woodbury Hill julesandguy@yahoo.co.uk

Hills Amenity Society

Open Forum

Thursday 15 May

Gardeners' Arms, top of York Hill at 7.30 pm

Subscriptions are due for 2008-9—new members welcome

Membership of The Hills Amenity Society costs just £4 per household 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