

# Hills Amenity Society

# Newsletter

<http://www.intsl.com/hills>

Summer 2004

## ??Autumn Lunch

?? All welcome

?? Saturday 16 October at

?? 111 York Hill.

?? Come and join friends and neighbours for a glass of wine and buffet lunch.

?? See any committee member or pay on the door—£4 per head

??

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?? **Paving way for 18,000 new homes**

?? **Please clear it up!**



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## Appeal to police to end Staples Road daily gridlock

Hills Amenity Society is again appealing to the police to take control of the daily gridlock at the Staples Road/Queens Road and York Hill junction.

The Hills annual meeting heard that parents park 'almost anywhere' to drop off children at Staples Road School.

In a letter to the police, Hills chairman, Peter

Smith, writes that he first drew police attention to the problem in March 2002.

'At our recent annual meeting a number of residents again raised their concerns. Parking on pavements, yellow lines, dangerous parking at the road junction and even double parking cause gridlock. Residents at the Shaftesbury Road end of Staples Road are unable to get either in or out of their homes. Emergency vehicles cannot reach these properties during these times.'

He says that, despite promises for action by police, there had been little evidence of any being taken.



Concludes Mr Smith: 'I would be grateful if you would advise the Hills Society what further action you plan to take on this matter.' The Hills Committee understands that traffic enforcement officers have been challenged on the legality of wavy lines outside schools but argues that it is the general danger which concerns them.



## Rat alert...

**Rats** are becoming an increasing problem in the Hills, no doubt encouraged by the increasing amounts of rubbish left out often days before collection. If possible, please put out rubbish no earlier than the night before collection.

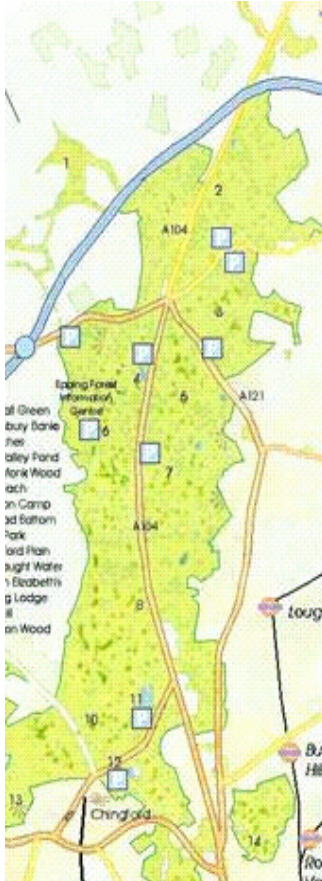
**Noise:** Although, at the time of writing, this has not yet been a great summer for being outdoors, the chances are that good weather will bring its own problems. Most of us live in close proximity with our neighbours. Let's just



give them a thought before we create a disturbance.

**Dog mess:** please don't leave the mess from your dog for children and others to step on. Please clear it up!

## Welcome back the English Longhorn cattle to Epping Forest



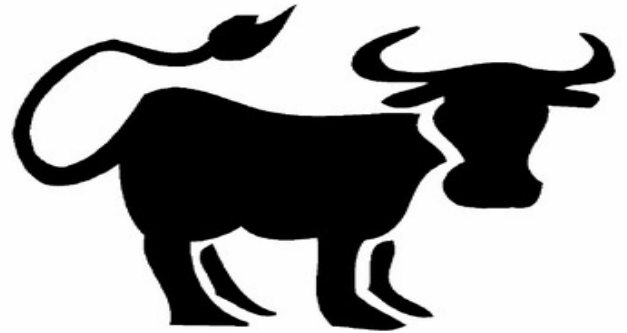
The re-introduction of grazing cattle to Epping Forest by the Corporation of London has been recognised by being awarded as a Green Flag winner by the Civic Trust.

Noting that the decision was made in order to control shrub

growth, the judges commented that this showed “a sensitive and fitting approach to managing an area of natural heritage significance.

The English Longhorns, from a conservation herd of this now rare breed (which our illustration depicts inadequately!) paid their second Spring visit to Woodbury Hollow. While not necessarily welcomed by absolutely everyone, they undoubtedly did a splendid job in keeping open an area which otherwise rapidly becomes impenetrable. Epping Forest also received a Green Flag Award as an open space catering well for “mobility restricted” visitors and families with small children. The judges commented: “Epping Forest offers a diverse landscape, rich in wildlife and enjoyed by millions of visitors every year. People visit for a multitude of reasons, including the forest’s proximity to London, its wealth of ancient trees and open spaces, and its rich wildlife and history.

The Corporation endeavours to ensure that visitors to the forest enjoy their visit, and do so safely and sensitively. Ninety trained staff are employed in maintenance and conservation, and to give advice and information to visitors. The Corporation engages with visitors through the Epping Forest Forum which represents over 30 user groups.



## Baldwins Hill parking spotlighted again

Residents of Baldwins Hill have appealed to the Hills Amenity Society for help in tackling the growing problem of vehicles blocking pavements, particularly in the area between the Foresters pub and Whittaker’s Way.

The Hills annual meeting heard that vehicles park so close to the boundary walls and fences of properties that it is impossible for pedestrians to use the pavements and are therefore forced to walk in the road.

The danger particularly to older people and those with children on foot or in pushchairs was emphasised at the meeting. Said Hills chairman Peter Smith: “We are not certain as to the law with regard to parking on pavements but it does seem to us that some urgent action should be taken to alleviate this problem before there is a fatality.”

Residents’ views are invited on what action can be taken on this matter.

*‘Danger particularly to older people and those with children’*



## Buy your garden, guv’?

Has someone in a flashy car and snappy suit knocked on your door asking to buy your garden?

At the last meeting of the Hills Amenity Society Committee there were reports that there was more speculative activity in the area than for some time.

While it is easy to understand the temptation to clean up and move on it is equally understandable that those not planning to “leg it” would like to see the inheritance of the Conservation Area protected for future generations.

## Bungalow to 5-bed mansion plans go to appeal

Plans to convert the bungalow at 13 Pump Hill into a five bedroom mansion have now gone to appeal following opposition on a number of fronts to what is argued to be over-development of this site. The Hills Amenity Society committee was among those which objected on these grounds.

### Save these ash trees

The Hills Amenity Society committee has written objecting to an application to fell and replace two of the three huge ash trees in the garden of 96-98 York Hill in Loughton.

Writes chairman Peter Smith: "These are covered by a Tree Protection Order and therefore should not be felled unless it is deemed that they are seriously diseased." He continues: "As you are aware we have previously expressed our concern over the decimation that has taken place to trees and boundary hedgerows since the commencement of the redevelopment of these premises."

The trees are the subject of professional advice which has previously indicated the need for substantial reduction of their height .

*Pictured is the original frontage of Southbank, York Hill, which has been mainly preserved in the substantial enlargement of this property, now almost complete after a two year programme.*



## Planning Update...

**34 Queens Road**—Plans for a two-storey extension have been approved following a revision of plans to shorten the extension.

**10 Queens Road**—no objection has been raised to plans for a side extension.

**Woodbury Hollow**—Report awaited following representations by local conservation bodies on plans for changes to the historic white house at the top of Woodbury Hollow.

**Therapy Unit, Stables Cottage, Whittakers Way**— outcome of appeal awaited. Residents have objected to the noise which comes from the type of therapy offered.

**27/29 Staples Road** – Outcome of the appeal for the proposed 5-bedroom house is still awaited. Planning permission has now been turned down three times

**Marie's Path**—the hard-won right of way, between the lower end of Queens Road and Church Hill now has provisional footpath signs in place.

*"A letter from the Hills Society, which covers around 600 properties in and around the Conservation area, holds considerable weight with Epping Forest District Council"*  
- chairman Peter Smith

## Local plan to pave way for 18,000 homes

Public consultation on the next phase of the Local Plan was due to begin on 22 June. But as this newsletter was being compiled the council's website [www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/](http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/) was still promising details. Copies will be available at a cost of £50 for the paper version, £7.50 on cd-rom...or free on the website.

The Local Plan—First Deposit Consultation will be on display for comment until early August and offers the alarming—some would say appalling— prospect of 18,000 more homes in the Epping Forest area. Farm diversification, flooding, new glasshouse areas and retaining community

facilities are all highlighted as key aspects.

There is also a heavy focus on building sustainable and affordable housing for key workers in the area. Developers will be required to increase the proportion of 'affordable' homes in all future projects.

But it is likely to be the freeing up of more land, and the allowing of ever-increasing concentration of land usage, which will be the main focus of concern for many in the Conservation Areas.

Copies of the plan may also be viewed at the Council offices and at public libraries during the month of July.





## Please just go home and go to bed!

- desperate resident plea to 2am gang

Young people who have adopted the seats and green at the top of York Hill—most of them too young to be admitted to The Gardeners Arms public house, have been causing increasing annoyance to long suffering residents.

A defining moment recently was a 2am confrontation when a desperate resident confronted the gang and asked them to “please just go home and go to bed.” And, perhaps amazingly and at least on this occasion, they did!

Groups of youngsters, teenage scooter riders—at least some of them local—congregating to drink and smoke on the seats on York Hill



Green, with the associated daily heap of litter have all added to residents' concerns.

Following a series of complaints Hills Committee Chairman Peter Smith has written to the police

asking them for more frequent patrols and greater attention to this area. He said: “The Police have promised to give a higher priority to these types of nuisance which cause such distress. Sadly we have not seen too much police support so far.”

## Please help the environmental effort...

Epping Forest District Council, in common with authorities throughout the country, is being charged with meeting re-cycling targets imposed by central government.

Currently its focus is on garden waste, with a fortnightly collection during the summer months, and the all-year round fortnightly collection of paper, especially newspapers and magazines.

The council will be receiving increasing pressure to

*While many support the blue box scheme, many do not.'*

While many support the existing blue box scheme, others do not. You can do your bit to help the environment by asking Epping Forest District Council for a blue box, if you do not have one.

Glass, plastic bottles, clothes and newspapers and magazines can all be disposed of at one of the local recycling centres, the nearest to The Hills

being conveniently sited next to the Esso garage on Church Hill. Be a re-cycler!

## Cramped Post Office? T'was ever thus...

Over the past 100 years, Loughton's Post Office has moved four times—its original site being on the corner of Forest Road and the High Road in what is now the florists, Flower Trend. Despite being less cramped than in our present Post Office in Huchins Chemists, local historian William Chapman Waller complained about the premises as long ago as March 1902.

‘ Some time ago I wrote complaining of the Post Office, and more particularly of the building. This morning an official called and explained the difficulty the Department has in getting premises . He also said he had made arrangements by which the letter sorting should not interfere with the business at the counter’ .  
According to Waller, the Misses Bar-

ton, Maria and Agnes, who were very grumpy people, kept the post office in succession to their father, Joseph, also a grumpy person!

*Extracts from : Notes on Loughton by William Chapman Waller, edited by Richard Morris and Loughton 100 Years Ago by William Chapman Waller, edited by Richard Morris and Chris Pond.*

# Parish notices

## Hills Gardens Competition

With a record number of front gardens reviewed this year, the winning entry is Mrs Tremaine of 36 Queens Road who will be invited to receive the trophy and £10 voucher at the Hills autumn lunch on 16 October.



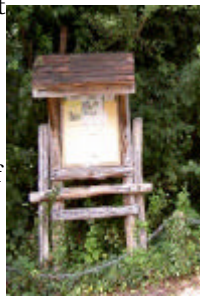
**A grit box** is being requested for the corner of Steeds Way and York Hill. On slippery mornings this junction is a nasty hazard now with no Council gritting.

**Hills Quiz Night** plans for a quiz night are taking place for a date to be announced in the autumn.

**The new vice-chairman** of the Hills Amenity Society is Peter Tidmarsh.

**Hills notice board** at the York Hill-Potters Close junction has been propped up for over a year now—waiting for one of us to feel strong enough to replant it.

Help was at hand with a digger being used to excavate a garden in Potters Close and there is now a hole. All that is needed now is some concrete, some fencing posts, some rustic tiles, plenty of muscle ...and we are there. Hopefully help is at hand to finish the job before winter!



**Please write to us** if you have an issue, information or views you would like to express through the Hills newsletter. Our next edition will be in the autumn.

Join up now

Subscriptions are now due—new members welcome

*Membership of The Hills Amenity Society costs just £4 a year. Subscriptions are now due and new members are welcome. Please pay promptly: we are all volunteers!*



  
Hills Amenity Society

Thank you.....

# The best £4 you will spend this year!

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

It has also published a [Discovery Trail](#) of the area and initiated a number of environmental improvements, including the replacement of the concrete lampposts, the installation of wooden bollards to protect the greens from vehicle damage, the renovation of the Pump Hill pump, as well as undertaking 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?

Is the environment of The Hills:	Do you feel the Hills Amenity Society	Comments:
<input type="checkbox"/> Improving	<input type="checkbox"/> Gets it about right	
<input type="checkbox"/> About the same	<input type="checkbox"/> Could do more	
<input type="checkbox"/> Getting worse	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	
Are you aware of the of The Hills Amenity Society	Would you be prepared to lend a hand	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fully aware	<input type="checkbox"/> Delivering newsletters	
<input type="checkbox"/> Just about aware	<input type="checkbox"/> Attending events	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not previously aware	<input type="checkbox"/> On the Committee	

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## HILLS AMENITY SOCIETY

Chairman: Peter Smith  
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Hills Amenity Society

*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 importance of the Hills, with its unique blend of building styles and materials, set in narrow lanes hedged with hawthorn and holly, and which enjoys 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

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**Lisa Godsalve**, 21 York  
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**Juliette Harvey**, 15 Wood-  
berry Hill

### The Hills Autumn Lunch

will take place on

16 October at

111 York Hill

£4- all welcome