



Newsletter

www.hillsamenitysociety.co.uk

Email: info@hillsamenitysociety.co.uk

Summer 2006

Have a thought for others...



Don't you just love it when you are forced to listen to the music or tv from two streets away? Or the bonfire from next door ruins your supper out doors? What about a "have a little thought.." campaign?



And more inside...

Hills Watch crime report	2
Council asked to be vigilant over Dryads Hall	3
Planning Update	3
Call to remove 'out of place' bin and seat	3
Your letters	4
Waller the historian	5
About Hills Amenity Society	6

What is future for Dryads Hall?

Rumours continue to circulate on the future Dryad's Hall, the family home of the Silber-rad family until the death of John Silber-rad last year. One, that it could become a prestige wedding venue, has been denied by the new owner who assures it will be a private home. Meanwhile concerns have been raised over the



felling of trees in the grounds and assurances requested that

permission had been sought and granted. (See Page 3)

Sui-side....?

For as long as anyone can remember, parking in York Hill above the Staples Road/Queens Road junction was on the left side going up. That's where the "park here" markings are (faint though they may now be). The switch to parking on the left then the right hand side create a gauntlet which is bound to cause an accident sooner rather than later—unless of course the council's yel-



low line gang gets there first and stops parking altogether...

Hills Watch 'making a difference'

A Neighbourhood Watch meeting was held in the Gardeners Arms on 29 June to further advertise the scheme and to get input from neighbours on what they want the scheme to achieve. All households were invited to air their views and to pose questions to the Community Police officers from Loughton station. Those present heard an update on recent incidents of crime in The Hills. See Page 3 for full story.



Sue Mushtaq, the Hills Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, reports on the open meeting on 29 June

At the Neighbourhood Watch meeting on 29 June in the Gardeners Arms all households were invited to come to air their views and pose questions to the Community Police officers from Loughton station. Thanks go to Police Community Officers Michele Pittey and Helen Knightley for attending and providing valuable information. The pub owners kindly provided the venue free of charge because they are part of the scheme. Thanks go to them too! Although attendance was low, the meeting was productive.

Report drug abuse plea

The 29 June open meeting produced key action points for the scheme which are sure to benefit the whole community. The two chief topics were antisocial behaviour and illegal and dangerous parking.

Residents complained of the **smoking of marijuana and after hours disturbances** particularly through the use of benches close to houses by young people. Residents were encouraged to always report this to the police so that it is on their radar as a problem area and will encourage more regular patrols. A patrol car will be despatched to clear the area but on very busy nights this will be subject to resources. If young people realise that the Hills is not a convenient place to hang out then they will keep away. (Call 01279 641212 for the Western switchboard)

Obstruction of the pavement has increased at the bottom of York Hill since the waterworks (see front cover). It is illegal to park across a pavement if a wheelchair or pushchair can't get past. This location in particular is very dangerous to pedestrians forced into the road. The Police issue fliers to warn drivers that they will be subsequently fined for such contravention. The Scheme agreed to produce their own notice to request drivers refrain from this. They can be left under the windscreen by residents affected by this thoughtless action. Please contact hillswatch@mywebspace.co.uk to request fliers. The Scheme will also be contacting the Council to request a 'Do not obstruct' sign as well as a repainting of the parking bays on the left hand side only.

Staples Road parking – Mary Erwin, the Staples Road coordinator, is to contact the Council to discuss options for parking restrictions to benefit residents.

In Loughton High Road CCTV is going live shortly. The police can now disperse groups of people engaging in anti-social behaviour from Loughton Station right up to King's Green.

*Please display
your Crime
Watch sticker*

Protect yourself and others Please email the coordinator for your street or telephone me on 020 8502 2665 if you hear of any criminal activity in the Hills catchment. If you would like to receive emailed news from the Watch please email me via: hillswatch@mywebspace.co.uk and I will add you to the distribution list. Don't forget to ask your provider of home insurance if they offer any discount for householders in a Neighbourhood Watch area. Some do! **Susan Mushtaq**

The Hills Watch coordinators

Chief Coordinator Sue Mushtaq 020 8502 2665

hillswatch@mywebspace.co.uk

Street coordinators

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

Wallers Hoppit, Potters Close: Susan Mushtaq, hillswatch@mywebspace.co.uk

Staples Road: Mary Erwin, hillswatch@hotmail.com

Steeds Way: Martyn Soul-Gray, martynsoulgray@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

We are still looking for coordinators for Queens Road, The Summit, Stony Path, and Wroths Path, Woodbury Hill and

Crime Watch report

The crime reports for April and May show a handful of incidents of which you should be aware.

Staples Road: In two thefts of mobile phones a month apart a man had his hat taken from his head and his mobile phone removed directly from his pocket by two males. A second mobile was snatched from the victim's hand. A motorcycle was also stolen.

Queens Road: A trellis was vandalised and a dog sign pulled down

York Hill: An elderly lady came home from shopping and did not secure her front door. After washing her hands in the kitchen she found a man in her downstairs bathroom. She shoed him out and he mumbled something about 'just using the toilet'. Fortunately the incident ended without serious consequence but it serves as a reminder to be extra vigilant about who is around when you arrive home and to secure the door behind you immediately.

A car was keyed the complete length of the driver's side

Save our historic pub signs



The possible disappearance of traditional signs on the three public houses in the Hills Conservation areas is to be challenged by the Hills Amenity Society committee.

Concern has been raised over The Foresters' in Baldwins Hill which has put in plans for an illuminated sign on the outside of the building—completely out of keeping with a conservation area according to committee members.

At its meeting on 1 June the Committee expressed the view that the public houses and their traditional signs form an important part of the Conservation area “feel” and agreed that the introduction of intrusive illuminated signs should be strongly resisted.

‘The signs form an important part of the Conservation area

Plans for new building at Staples Road School ‘inspiring’

The Hills Amenity Society Committee has looked at the plans for the new building at Staples Road School and reacted very favourably. The word “inspiring” was even used by one committee member. In a letter to the Council the committee states: “We are not objecting in any way.”



Two minor issues have been raised. Residents of Staples Road hope the building work will be carried out with the least possible disruption and access along the road maintained at all times.

Councillor Chris Pond has made the point that if some of the original Victorian railings were being removed to allow emergency access, that these be retained and used to fill existing gaps.

Planning Update...

Land adjacent 26 Stony Path

At a District Council hearing in March there was considerable opposition to the building of two semi-detached residential dwellings on land adjacent to 26 Stony Path. The application was refused. The Hills Committee agreed this was an excellent example of how community action really can make a difference.

Dryad's Hall -

At its meeting on 1 June concerns were expressed following considerable clearance of trees for which no planning application had been received. Dryad's Hall recently changed hands for a sum believed to be well in excess of £1m. The committee agreed that the council should be contacted and asked to monitor the site closely in advance of the expected planning application.

11 Wallets Hoppit - Concern over the possible removal of trees to make way for a new shed have been raised with the Council.

2A The Uplands - An application for demolition of bungalow and replacing with a block of flats has been withdrawn.

15 Staples Road - The owner has given an assurance to the Council that a demolished boundary wall will be replaced with a picket fence.

1 Forest Way - A proposal has been submitted for a two-storey side extension with basement store.

11 Woodbury Hill -

At its meeting on 1 June the Hills Committee agreed to send a letter of concern about the final height of the rear garden and ask for more details about the final design of the garden and proposed wall. No planning application had been seen for a proposed chimney at the side of the property.



2 Pump Hill - application received for replacement of trees.

If you.. have a planning issue please contact a committee member.

Council rejects call to remove 'out of place' bench and bin

Loughton Town Council has rejected a call from Hills Amenity Society Committee to remove the bench and litter bin installed without consultation on the corner of York Hill and Potters Close.

In the letter to the Town Council the committee said the bench and litter bin should be removed. "Neither are befitting of a conservation area," the committee protested.

They stated that a bin is not necessary in that position and, if the one at the top of York Hill is anything to go by, reminders to the council to empty it will be frequently required. "Both pieces of furniture look rather odd and out of place in this position. People using the bench will look directly into the residents' homes on York Hill."

The letter concludes that there was no consultation with the Hills Amenity Society "which is very disappointing



The odd bench and bin in York Hill.

from a local town council".

In its response the Town Council defends the decision to impose the seat and litter bin, regards the siting of it as appropriate and says it did not feel obliged to consult with local residents on a matter of this kind. "Basically someone from elsewhere decided to put it there and they are now refusing to remove it. Quite outrageous behaviour," said a committee member.

Talkback

A resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, has written to us saying:



"Loughton police are aware that moped riders, some without helmets and some with pillion riders, are racing along Staples Road. If you see this activity going on, you are invited to report it to them at this email address: Piers.Quinnell@essex.pnn.police.uk

Shhh....!

And another resident writes:

"It's just amazing how inconsiderate some people can be, especially when the weather is as "outdoors" as some of June's has been. Loud parties, blaring televisions, trampolines at four in the morning...we've had them all. Could you put something in to ask people to be more considerate?"

We do so...with pleasure this year as always! Ed.

Please send your contributions for the newsletter to

info@hillsamenityociety.co.uk

New identity...for the path which runs from Staples Road to The Drive. It has been named Staples Hill Path.

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

What 'Conservation Area' means

What is a conservation area? A Conservation Area is an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. Conservation Areas are designated by the District Council in recognition of their special character and to protect an important part of our heritage.

What does this mean to residents in practical terms? Conservation Area designation aims to ensure that the special architectural or historic character of the area is properly preserved and enhanced. Buildings, paved areas, trees, hedges, walls, open spaces and other landscape and architectural features can all contribute to the character of an area. Designation of a Conservation Area does not mean that changes cannot occur, but rather that any changes should preserve and enhance the special character of the area.

Are there any special restrictions?

There are several special restrictions that apply to Conservation Areas. These are in

addition to normal planning controls:

* The size limit for extending your home without obtaining planning permission is 50m³ or 10% of the house's original volume, up to a maximum of 115m³.

* Consent must be obtained from the District Council for the demolition of any building within the Conservation Area - this may also include gates, walls and fences.

* You must give the District Council six weeks notice in writing before felling or cutting back any tree *unless the tree is dead, dying or dangerous*; causing a nuisance in law; a cultivated fruit tree; less than 236mm (9 1/2") in girth around the trunk when measured 1.5m (4'10") above the ground.

* Some additional restrictions apply to the siting of advertising hoardings or other advertisements and satellite dishes.

There are further restrictions in the Staples Road Conservation Area under an Article 4 (2) Direction.

Further information on <http://www.hillsamenityociety.co.uk/site/faq.htm>

Comment

Thank you.....



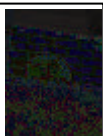
In this slot in our last Newsletter we castigated the commercial premises at the bottom of York Hill for allowing this “gateway to the Hills” to degenerate into a slum.

Our rant seems to have paid off: Zizzi’s has installed a new fence to replace the ramshackle mess there before (and even repaired it after a car backed into a section), the Wheatsheaf has been more diligent in keeping its garden tidy and even the water leak seems to have been repaired.

Thank you! We do appreciate it when people show they care.....

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

Waller the historian



The blue plaque on the wall of 11 Wallers Hoppet commemorates William Chapman Waller (1850-1917) who lived at Ash Green House, Baldwins Hill from 1874.



Waller Hoppet was part of Ash Green’s garden before the development of 11 detached houses on the site in the early 1980’s. The garden had a magnificent sweet chestnut, a pond, an orchard and the remains of a gardener’s cottage.

Over a period of 30 years Waller compiled a unique record of Loughton’s history with delightful pen portraits of local folk, such as the lady who carried her bantam-cock around as a pet!

William Waller and his wife Minnie had four children and their daughter Evelyn lived in the family home until her death in 1945. Ash Green House is currently on the market for a staggering £2.5m.

Compiled from William Chapman Waller (1850-1917) Loughton’s Historian by Richard Morris and Loughton a Hundred Years Ago by William Chapman Waller (edited by Richard Morris and Chris Pond) published by the Loughton and District Historical Society.

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 improvements, 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>		

Find out about us at www.hillsamenitysociety.co.uk

Contact any committee member or email info@hillsamenitysociety.co.uk

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



*A sunny Sunday morning view from the heart of the Hills
over to Canary Wharf, obscured in the mist.*

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

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If you wish to contact Hills
Amenity Society please do so
through any member of the
committee or email

info@hillsamenitysociety.co.uk

Favourite trees Project

A project to identify the 50
favourite trees has been
launched by Epping Forest
District Council.

An exhibition is planned
based on the results.

To find out more, or to nomi-
nate your favourite tree, go to
www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk or
ask for a nomination form at
the public library.

Subscriptions are due for 2006—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