

The Hills annual competition recognises the importance of front gardens in maintaining appeal of the Conservation areas



hillsamenitysociety.co.uk

Hills Amenity Society

Formed 1972

HillsWatch



Autumn 2020



### Camera, camera on the wall, whose front garden is fairest of all?

Hills Amenity Society, formed in 1972, works to maintain the integrity of the York Hill, Staples Road and Baldwins Hill Conservation Areas. The Society is a registered Neighbourhood Watch Group, HillsWatch. Membership is £5 a year for which renewal details are available on our website [hillsamenitysociety.co.uk](http://hillsamenitysociety.co.uk) where more information on the stories in this newsletter can also be found. Residents of the conservation areas can join the local discussion on the HillsWatch Facebook page and also the WhatsApp for residents of Baldwins Hill



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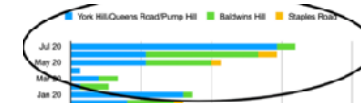
WORKING FOR THE YORK HILL, STAPLES ROAD AND BALDWINS HILL CONSERVATION AREAS  
www.hillsamenitysociety.co.uk Community Group: HillsWatch

### Dear Hills Residents

It's been a busy few months on the Hills, to put it mildly - one of the warmest, finest summers in record when life changed for all of us. So how has Hills Amenity Society risen to the challenge of lockdown?

- In May we organised our most successful and best attended Councillor forum where a long list of local issues were raised by residents. Outcomes for local action looked for by Hills Committee include hard earned improvements for Staples Road School Parking outlined by Cllr Judith Jennings; connection (at last) of the lamp on Queens Road/Pump Hill; and replacement bollards...to name a few. the upgraded heritage lamps in Staples Road were a success for Cllr Chris Pond after 10 years of campaigning; and petitions by Staples Road residents has achieved residents' and time limited parking.
- anger of residents on Baldwins Hill rose at suddenly being blocked end to end with cars displaced from the roads through the forest by five and a half miles of red lines crammed on local footpaths and forest verges. A Society committee member organised a meeting with the Chief Forest Ranger to address complaints
- noisy and sometimes ill-behaved crowds at the top of York Hill reflected in the highest number of offences yet in monthly crime statistics for the area. HAS responded by receiving a delegation of local residents and at their request held talks with licensee Mrs Tracy Roberts a number of changes were put in place
- Prince Charles' attention is being drawn to an "out of character" development in the York Hill Conservation area with a plea for an investigation into how could this have happened. (See website).
  - Council action is being taken on the fallen tree on York Hill Green, complicated by the tree being privately owned
  - ...to highlight but a few of the items in our autumn newsletter.

Report on Hills Forum with five local councillors



As local historian Richard Morriss once told us: the existence of the conservation areas benefit just through the attention Hills Amenity Society brings to the area through its almost 50 years of work. We hope you agree we do a bit more than just exist...and deserve your support.

Toby Scrutton  
Chairman

Hopefully some relief for residents of Baldwins Hill

## Hills meeting with Chief Forest Ranger on range of issues

At the Hills Open Forum in May residents of Baldwins Hill were voicing as their major concern the speed of vehicles using the road (until it was closed for about a month for utility works).

By July the concern had changed to the huge volumes of cars being parked by forest users, mainly due to the painting of five and a half miles of double red lines on roads through the forest. Our pictures show some of the causes of Baldwins Hill discontent. One action of the Hills Amenity Society was to support committee member and Baldwins Hill resident Marcus Warren in setting up a meeting with the Chief Forest Ranger, Martin Whitfield, in August.

The meeting was requested by Baldwins Hill resident Marcus Warren, a member of the Hills Amenity Society Committee, who raised a number of issues including **Litter bins** More bins would apparently worsen the litter problem. The bins overflow, people put litter by the bins when full and it blows everywhere in the wind...and the City of London, who own and administer Epping Forest, did not have the resources to regularly empty them. **Condition of Clay Ride** The state of the Clay Ride down to Baldwins Hill pond and the unmade section of Woodbury Hill, also a bridleway, would be raised at the appropriate level.

**Cars parked on forest land along Baldwins Hill** Various solutions had been suggested but Martin said it was the damaging of forest verges which prompted ticketing by vergers as Forest bylaws permitted parking up to 45 feet on forest verges provided damage was not caused.

**Speed of cars along Baldwins Hill** was not within City of London remit

**Speed of cyclists in forest** was a concern and options were under consideration. (A licensing scheme, similar to that for horse riders, has been suggested).

**Dogs taken ill after swimming in Goldings Hill pond:** dogs are NOT permitted to swim in the forest ponds.....

**And further discussions?** Further discussions would be welcomed

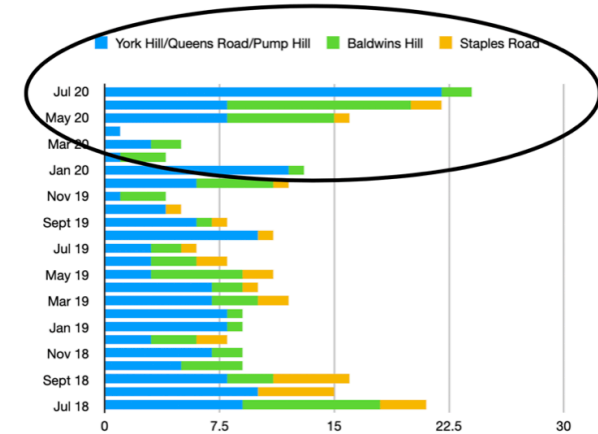
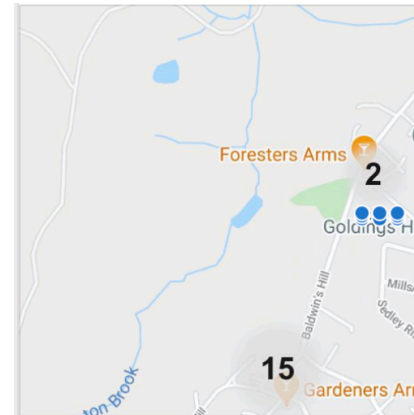


Baldwins Hill's summer of 2020 in pictures. Clockwise from top left: looking west from the Foresters, the solitary litter bin, total disregard parking...and a child's plea to visitors

And residents achieve results around the top of York Hill after

## Anti-social behaviour drives up crime figures

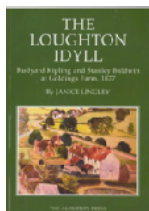
As crime figures for July 2020 make all too clear (see chart and link to police figures) the top of York Hill has been a crime hotspot in the Hills this summer, peaking in July with, at this date, figures for August still awaited. In this post are also a letter to Hills Chairman Toby Scrutton from the EFDC Licensing Compliance Officer and comments to HillsWatch from a resident about the problems being encountered during the warm evenings.



Crime figures for Baldwins Hill (2) and York Hill (15) contributed the bulk of the 24 offences for the three Conservation Areas in July 2020. In more detail there were 15 offences at the top of York Hill, 13 of which were anti-social behaviour, one public order and one violent or sexual. Four at the bottom of York Hill included two vehicle crimes, one anti-social and one criminal damage/arson. The three in Queens Road were all anti-social behaviour while just two offences were recorded on Baldwins Hill. View Police statistics [here](#).

Following a meeting of the Hills Amenity Society in July, at which a delegation of residents from around the top of York Hill were invited to put their case, a complaint was lodged by the HAS Committee in the name of chairman Toby Scrutton with EFDC licensing team. Mrs Handan Ibrahim responded by meeting with the Gardeners' licensee Tracy Roberts who introduced a number of measures to check ages and restrict numbers by fencing off the frontage.

## Snippets from the Ponds



**On a very hot day**, I met PROW officers on site following complaints some time ago now from horse riders that bridlepaths 13 and 14 (rear of Woodbury Knoll and Woodpeckers to Forest Way) can't be used by riders.

**Following complaints by residents** at the top of the hill, county and district officers are investigating if the new fence at the Gardeners Arms is allowable. A number of changes were apparently requested following complaints by residents about noise.

**The new controlled parking zone** for Shaftesbury and nos 3 to 65 Staples Rd (resulting from two petitions from residents) came into force on 10 August.

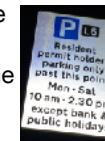
**The new Lidl** is due to open on 1 October.

**Baldwin, Kipling and the Hills** The Loughton District Historical Society have published, *The Loughton Idyll of 1877*, a six month holiday Stanley Baldwin and Rudyard Kipling spent as boys at Goldings Farm, researched by Janice Lingley, and is available price £6.50 from the Bookshop.

*Contributed by Cllr Chris Pond in consultation with Cllr Caroline Pond*

## Victory for Staples Road residents....who have

been campaigning for residents' parking along the length of road from the school to the western end by Shaftesbury. Paid parking of up to £10 a day has also been introduced along the flood relief length of Shaftesbury - until now a treasured spot for all day parking for shop and office workers.



## Fallen tree saga on York Hill Green

Four months on from the Hills Councillors' Forum in May the fallen tree blocking the York Hill Green is still being pursued by Cllr Bob Jennings as District and County councils press for action amid dispute over ownership. According to research by Tree Officer Robin Hellier the tree is on land forming part of 1 Woodbury Hill and has fallen on land under Corporation of London control.





