

This is a replacement for our normal newsletter and a different format as it is going onto our web site and face book. We hope you enjoy catching up and especially reading the back pages about what raised our spirits during lockdown.



Who can remember this round about ?
The picture found by a local resident
from archives?

SOUTH RUISLIP NEWS IN BRIEF

VICE CHAIRMANS COMMENT

In these very strange and trying times I would on behalf of myself and the committee wish you all the very best and hope that you are safe and well. Congratulations to Cllr Puddifoot on his Knighthood. We cannot produce a newsletter in the usual way as it would be unacceptable to ask our ever helpful road stewards to put themselves in danger delivering it, we are therefore producing this on line and hope that those that can access it will pass any relevant information to neighbours who are not on line. We will return to the regular newsletter as soon as the situation improves.

Writing this newsletter has been extremely difficult for a number of reasons which I am sure that many of you can relate to. Firstly being isolated means that we become out of touch and cannot access the usual sources of information. Secondly in my case certainly I have had a great deal of difficulty getting motivated and lifting out of the lethargy that affects us all when we are isolated from much of the community.

I know that there are a number of stalwarts that are doing their very best to assist the less fortunate or less able in our society to these we must say a very big thank you for the selfless way in which they give their time freely.

LIDL

Those that can venture out will know that the improvement works to the front of the Lidl store are underway, these were forecast to be completed by the end of August but we understand that that additional strengthening is required to the culvert, no new completion date has been given. Our councillors have received and are dealing with a number of complaints from residents with respect to noise and vibration created by the work.

ST MARYS CHURCH

An asbestos problem has meant the church is out of action and needs to raise money to fund building work. As we use the church hall for our meetings please consider contributing to their fund raising.

HS2

We already posted information with respect to the work commencing on the vent shaft behind ALDI, we have not received any further information with respect to start dates.

With all the information around I think it's fair to say that HS2 are guilty of environmental vandalism on a number of fronts and sites. One that is of serious concern is the drilling into the chalk aquifers with visible evidence of chalk being present in local streams as a result of their work.

Hillingdon council have had a small victory in the courts with respect to HS2 conforming to planning regulations, when they do it will probably be a first.

There is also the very sad and serious cases of people losing their homes, what a shocking state of affairs.

SOUTH RUISLIP BRIDGE

New lights have now been fitted under the bridge and the walls have been shot blasted to clean them. Due to continued water seeping through the walls, calcification has occurred so other options for coating the walls is being investigated.

RAF NORTHOLT

All meetings with the RAF have as expected been postponed but we did receive a note from the new MCO wishing everyone well and hope they stay safe.

LIBRARY

The library is currently closed for refurbishment; another three libraries are still open and can be used with extended borrowing times available.

Polish War Memorial and Memorial Garden

Around the 15th July 2020 we noticed that work on the Polish War Memorial appeared to have finished and so Hazel and I thought we would pay the site a visit during one of our early morning exercise walks. The names on the vehicles indicated that work had been undertaken by a firm of Stone Masons.

We entered by the right hand gate of the memorial onto the York stone paving. We were unaware of exactly what they were tasked with but it looked excellent and all credit to their workmanship.

Have to admit to being somewhat disappointed at the remainder of the memorial including the Memorial Garden. It was looking 'tired' although of course, we are not privy to the proposals the Council may have.

Since being asked to submit a few words for the Newsletter, thought a further visit to the Memorial site should be under taken. This we did the morning of 25th July 2020.

Unlike our earlier visit all the gates were padlocked! (*How did they know we were visiting? Perhaps a leak somewhere! Should there be a Member's Enquiry?*)

Unfortunately, but with the gates locked could view only from outside the fencing. We are very pleased to say the Green Spaces Department appear to have paid a visit – would suggest as recent as yesterday. (*Wonder whether they were nudged into action!*) It was such a transformation to our earlier viewing. The grassed area around the Memorial as well as the Memorial Garden had been mown and with the four fountains now switched on, it all looked very respectably indeed.

Written by Colin & Hazel Hook



FREECYCLE

Freecycle aims to keep items out of landfills by providing an internet listings service to help people give unwanted items to someone else for free in their own community. Keeping stuff out of landfills helps build a sustainable future, is good for the environment and builds local communities.

Freecycle (officially known as The Freecycle Network) is made up of thousands of groups with millions of members across the globe. It's a grassroots and entirely nonprofit movement of people who are giving and getting stuff for free.

All sorts of items are exchanged, and the listing includes both wants and offers. In London the organisation is set up on a borough basis, and you can join the appropriate groups when you sign up. Their web address is <https://www.freecycle.org/>. Membership is free, and everything posted must be free, legal and appropriate for all ages. As a non-profit organisation, The **Freecycle** Network's server and operating expenses are funded by corporate underwriting, on-site advertising (in the form of a Google sponsor bar), grants and individual donations. By giving freely with no strings attached, members of The Freecycle Network help promote a sense of generosity of spirit as they strengthen local community ties and promote environmental sustainability and reuse. People from all walks of life have joined together to turn trash into treasure.

I have been a member of the Freecycle organization for a while now, and have made good use of it to find people to take my unwanted items, and also acquire some items that other members want to dispose of. Exchanges in these times are by arranging a pick up time for the item and then leaving them on the doorstep, to enable the process to be contact free and safe.

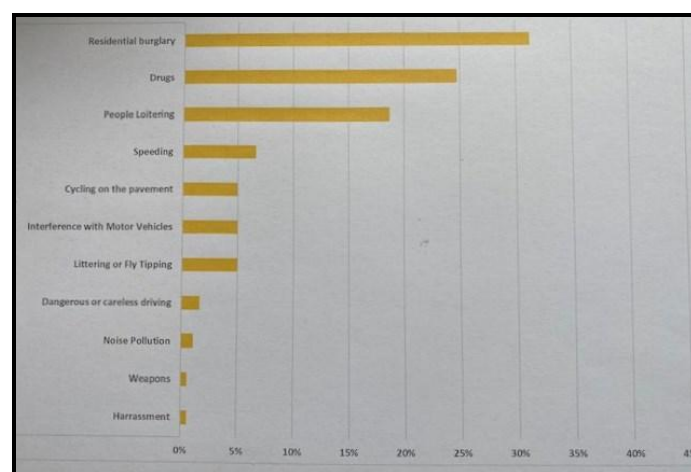
Good idea from Geoff Quantock – committee member

POLICE MATTERS

Our SNT have been out and about throughout CV19, there have also been other officers from our BCU patrolling the area.

The response to the Crime Concerns Survey operated through OWL has had a very positive response. The survey is split into wards across the borough. It shows issues residents are most concerned about and gives targets for the police to prioritise.

TEN TOP CRIME FIGURES FOR SOUTH RUISLIP



The South Ruislip results show data referring to 4 top concerns of residents in our patch they are - residential burglary (32%), drugs (25%), people loitering (18%) and speeding (8%).

Neighbourhood Watch identifies the actual increase in **reported** burglaries- April (3 burglaries) May (5 burglaries) June (6 burglaries). These results are a close match to the concerns of residents in other wards across Hillingdon.

The police now also have powers to move on gatherings- resistance may incur a fine.

Bogus callers have been targeting residents pretending to offer CV19 tests. The police warn do not open the door to a stranger or part with money. The monthly newsletter from the SNT is available online – contact SouthRuislip.snt@met.pnn.police.uk. Or can be viewed on both the South Ruislip Notice boards

Information from the SNT

ALLOTMENT NEWS

South Ruislip Allotments

The growing season is now in full swing and crops from our allotment have been enjoyed. Peas, onions, French and runner beans and strawberries in particular have done well. Both the allotment sites in South Ruislip (Field End Road and The Fairway) are currently fully booked. If you would like to be added to their waiting list, please contact Carina Browne at fairwayallotment@gmail.com or Bob Weeks at bob.weeks07@gmail.com.

Rich produce from a local allotment.



Call to GET FIT

Remember we are all being encouraged to get fit and loose some weight – lockdown gave a new importance to snacking which I know we all regret – on went the pounds!!

What better place to get the exercise and grow health giving produce as you can see in the picture posted by Geoff?

Please send any pictures you have of amazing produce grown in your allotment or garden.

LOCAL SHOPS OPEN FOR BUSINESS



Our South Ruislip Shopping Centre was devastated by the virus – while supermarkets remained open, small traders were forced to close. Never daunted by problems some of the local traders looked for a solution and applied to Hillingdon Council for an opening date. They were given permission to open on 15th June! Sarah led the charge and was followed by Coopers, the Carpet Shop and gradually most stores in the parade are open, **PLEASE TRY TO SUPPORT THEM.**

Hillingdon Council have put out a plea to support our local shopping parades.



Hillingdon Council supports local businesses.



What has given South Ruislip Residents a positive lift in those dark days from the start of March 2020?

The story starts in March



The second year of bulbs blooming on Victoria Road. Resident Rachel Felstead's idea to plant bulbs to replace the roses lost from the front of the Victoria Road flats, supported by Hillingdon Council's Green Spaces is a real winner. It has set the scene for the future plantings.. The bulbs gave a bright start to lockdown so at least the hour walk we were allowed was brightened up!!



The South Ruislip Ward Councillors used their Ward budget to extend the display of bulbs to the area outside Curry's and opposite Queens Walk. Hopefully more plantings are planned from the Dutch company that can plant huge quantities of bulbs mechanically.



The beautiful Planters, which are here for 3 years and planted with winter and summer blossoms by Window Flowers.

The planters were requested by the South Ruislip Residents and funding provided by Lagams, the South Ruislip Ward Councillors, the local Chamber of Commerce and the SRRA..



The team mechanically bulb planting



In South Ruislip, thanks to residents requests, the support of the Ward Councillors and the work of Green Spaces from Hillingdon Council we have received over 25 new trees planted to improve the street scene in South Ruislip Centre. Next year we hope we have more planted. This year the trees suffered from the dry weather but local residents and shop keepers kept the trees hydrated. Many thanks for the watering they did!



On a blustery day before lockdown local residents young (like Lily Rose) and older. Members of SRRA braved the high winds and biting showers to plant 1500 of the 5000 trees to be planted. The donation was from a family in memory of a loved one. Trees for Cities led the planting and pictures below show the results have started to flourish during lockdown.



Beautiful wild flower meadows sprung up along the Victoria Road showing just how much South Ruislip has blossomed during tough times. Thanks to Green Spaces again.



During lockdown our notice board was there to help with suggestions from the police on security, details about our local Ward Councillors, a map of the area, activities that are happening in South Ruislip and details about SRRA updates. Many thanks to local couple. for working on the board.



Gardening became a good antidote to lockdown and many gardens in South Ruislip took on a new look plus the addition of hanging baskets perhaps getting ready for Hillingdon in Bloom (virtual competition). Have you entered yet?



During our many walks allowed during lockdown many residents have uncovered often little known history of some of our South Ruislip monuments. This has been really relevant this year with commemorations of bravery during WW2 with VE and VJ being organised in virtual events restricted by lockdown.

In our libraries (although South Ruislip is not open yet) There is a remarkable book that documents the memorials of all those who fought in the war and some who did not return. The Polish Airforce Memorial in our area is one such site. You will recall this memorial is used annually by the residents for Remembrance Day, Importantly the SRRA have taken the image of this site as their logo.



So the story goes on... here we are in August and nearly in September gradually coming out of lockdown?

Now a final word about lifting spirits; we want to highlight the wonderful customers of our local supermarkets in South Ruislip. Grateful thanks to staff who have worked throughout the pandemic. Customers have carried on donating amazing amounts of food to the many families and individuals who have suffered throughout isolation, lockdown and job losses. Food donations go to Hillingdon Food Bank for distribution.



PS. During Lock down our Vice Chairman continued his craft of carving – here is a butterfly on a leaf.....- a work of art! How has your art and craft flourished during lockdown? Please send any examples of crafts you have developed.

The SRRA committee want to reiterate the mantra of
HAND WASHING, SOCIAL DISTANCING and common sense to avoid a new spike in infection.
PLEASE STAY SAFE.