



ALDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2020

It seems only yesterday we were writing to tell you that we had been appointed joint Chairs of the Council. However, the last month has passed by very quickly and much has happened in that time.

As you know, the Government announced further easing of the lockdown situation and the re-opening of much of the retail and hospitality industries.

We are delighted to see our local shops trading again and although there is now restricted parking in the slip road at Newberries Parade to help with the social distancing guidelines at least they are now open for vehicles to enter and exit.

It would be so good if residents could shop locally as much as possible to help our businesses get through this difficult time. Likewise, now that the restaurants, cafes and pubs have opened too, it would be lovely to see our community out and about socialising sensibly. Don't forget to take advantage of the Government's 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme to get up to a £10 discount on participating venues valid Monday-Wednesdays from 3rd-31st August.

With the School summer holidays starting we are pleased to let you know that the children's playground and outdoor gym at the Phillimore Recreation Ground are open again. There is some social distancing and stay safe rules to follow but hopefully children can start to enjoy all the play equipment that has been cleaned and maintained so well by the Open Spaces Team.

The Council continues to meet virtually and Officers are working from home whilst the Radlett Centre is closed. However, they can still be contacted by phone on 01923 856433 or by email manager@aldenham-pc.gov.uk should you need any advice or assistance. The Council website www.aldenham-pc.gov.uk is being

updated regularly and we would encourage you to visit it in order to know what is going on in the area.

The Government has given the go ahead for theatres to re-open from the start of August to run pilot productions with the audience social distancing. For many theatres this will be very difficult to achieve and it is therefore a worrying situation for those working in the creative industries. However, we very much hope it will not be long before everyone can once again enjoy the varied productions that have been brought to Radlett over the years.

The community has been especially caring and sensible during the coronavirus pandemic in order to keep the Parish of Aldenham safe. It is lovely that we can enjoy some more freedom now but it is equally important that we all continue to follow the Government guidelines.

We hope you find the August Newsletter of interest and that the sun continues to shine throughout the summer. At least we won't have to apologise for our 'bad hair days' anymore!



Councillor
Estelle Samuelson
*Joint Chair of the
Council*



Councillor
Jackie Lefton
*Joint Chair of the
Council*



A spotlight on some Youth Issues from the RYC:



As school begins to wind down for many young people, we are considering the possibility of mixed learning in September. Teachers or students joining lessons remotely and having to adjust to normal school while continuing with remote learning will certainly be a challenge. For many, an end to the difficulties of distance learning may bring hope but for those more concerned about the virus or its impacts on their family, this may bring concern.

However, especially looking into the summer, many young people will also be contemplating socialising with their friends either at a distance, outside or with face masks on. While this will be much nicer than digital interaction, each will bring its own difficulties.

The most pressing consideration for young people and the one most specific to young people is that of qualifications. As we await results day, many young people will be worried about the integrity and fairness of the qualifications they receive, but others will be worried about how their exams can go ahead next year.

There are many stresses for young people right now, but the Youth Council hopes to be able to relieve some of that by running some

events, perhaps at the Winter Fair and we're always looking for new members aged 11-18 who might want to help with organising and running these as well as raising local youth issues.

Jacob Hougie (Chair), Ethan Katz (Vice Chair) and the whole of RYC





CHILDRENS' CREATIVE SUMMER COMPETITION

Calling all kids to create a piece of art or write a poem on the theme of 'This Year'.

Submission deadline 31 August 2020

Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place

See APC website for details and an entry form

Or follow us:

Twitter @AldenhamPC

Facebook 'APC Aldenham Parish Council'

email - community@aldenham-pc.gov.uk



Aldenham Parish Council Newsletter



‘I only came for a Summer job’ 40 years later and he is still here

On 16 May 2020, Gary Hall, a member of Aldenham Parish Council (APC), open spaces team celebrated a unique anniversary. He had been employed by APC for forty years. In this interview he reflects on his time working for the council, including all the changes, funny moments and other memories.

In 1980, Gary, after having had a couple of other jobs came for an interview for a job on the Groundstaff team for APC. I thought I would only be there for the summer and then move elsewhere, he says. He was interviewed for the job by Peter Bowen, the first of five Clerks he has worked under, and started in May 1980. His first wage was £56 per week (I don't get much more now, he says with a smile).

The Groundstaff Team

When he joined the team, he was one of only three people, with a Head Groundsman (who took very long lunch breaks, and one of Gary's job was to pick him up from where he had lunch and take him home) and one other part time person.

At the time, the Groundstaff only looked after Phillimore Rec, including the Children's Play Area (then split into two parts, including the famous castles) the main field, Bowls Club and two tennis courts situated where the Multi Use Games Area is now. Radlett Gardens, Tykeside, Aldenham Green & Letchmore Heath were contracted out. KGV Playing Fields were looked after by farmers, with Salters Field used for growing hay. It wasn't until the mid-1990's that the then Clerk, P Truppin started to bring the maintenance of these areas 'in-house'. Interestingly the team is still only four people.

The Head Groundsman lived in a house in Elm Walk owned by APC, next door to Phillimore



Rec (so no excuse to be late, although Gary remembers often having to wake up the occupant). In fact, the gate at the end of the garden which was used as a shortcut into Phillimore Rec is still there.

Accommodation and equipment

The Groundstaff's first 'home' was the Bowls Pavilion, which the council allowed the Bowls Club to use at the weekend for their teas and to change. The football team also changed in this pavilion. They also had a small 6x4 shed for the equipment.

The Groundstaff moved out of there in the 1990's when a new pavilion was built on the main field of Phillimore Rec. The Head Groundsman had an office, with staff in the corridor outside. The



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building also had the football changing rooms and public toilets. The staff mainly used the other shed which was where the depot is now. When it was nearly going home time, they would hide in there rather than go to the pavilion, as the Head Groundsman would always find them something to do.

In the early days, all the equipment the Groundstaff had was an agricultural size tractor with a cutting unit, and a mower for the Bowls Green surround (not the actual Green). The main field at Phillimore Rec took one and a half days to cut with a push along mower. Gary recalls asking once for a strimmer. He arranged for a demonstration attended by many councillors and other Groundstaff. This request was rejected by the Council as being 'too dangerous'.

Gary tells me that the move into the purpose-built depot in 2011 was one of his best moments. They finally had a warm and dry place to work, and all the equipment was in one place.

Health & Safety

One of the biggest changes that Gary has seen has been the council attitude to Health & Safety. This probably dates from when C Lloyd became the Clerk in November 2001. Before then, Gary recalls moving a concrete shed from the old council offices to the Bowls Club, full of asbestos. Also, he remembers leaning off the back of a moving trailer to pick up stones, glass and metal, which had been 'dumped' on Salters Field, when the Rugby Club first pitch was being constructed.

He also recalls being sent into the house owned by APC to clear it out after a Head Groundsman retired and moved out. It took four people one week to tear up the carpets and burn them in the garden where the occupant had kept chickens and ducks. No masks or even gloves were provided.

He also recalls tipping over a trailer, a tractor and various knocks, and dents in council equipment. He is known affectionately as calamity Gary.

Gary's career

Having just come for a summer job, the Clerk at the time encouraged Gary to go to college (paid for by APC) to study for a horticultural qualification. This was followed by one year obtaining a management diploma. The Clerk thought that Gary could be the next Head Groundsman as the current one was retiring. By the time that event happened, the Clerk had been replaced and the new clerk, D Evans, advertised the Head Groundsman's role. Gary applied, but was not appointed. Gary thought about leaving the council at this point and moving elsewhere, but decided to stay. Later, under P Truppin, Gary was made 'Asst Head of Groundstaff'. He felt this was an honorary title as there was no pay increase and eventually this title disappeared.

Gary has had some health problems, which the council has supported him through, and he is very grateful for this. He now works twenty hours per week, and he says he enjoys coming to work for the comradery that there is in the team, and the support they now get from the council. Finally, he says that this has also been the biggest change for him, now the councillors, office staff and open spaces team all work together with a clear vision of what they are hoping to achieve.

It was great to have nearly two hours in Gary's company as he recalled his time at APC. I then asked, So when do you plan to retire, you have surely earned it? He just smiles.

Peter Evans (Parish Council Manager) in conversation with Aldenhams Parish Council's longest serving staff member, Gary Hall.



ManAlive Fitness helps guys 30+ who don't enjoy the gym to get back in shape. We run two unique programmes: Live and Online. Both are designed to help men improve their health, weight and fitness without the need to join a gym or hire a personal trainer.

Our Live programme is a 'face to face' training programme held at two sites; Fullerians RFC and Tabard RFC with both early morning and evening training sessions to suit most schedules. Guys train at our private locations, using varied and interesting equipment as part of a motivated, supportive and like-minded group – all under the watchful eyes of our expert coaches.

As well as training, they receive structured education and support on nutrition, supplements, recovery and goal setting and access to our private on-line members' area to stay motivated in between sessions. It's the complete programme for any guy wanting to get back in shape.

Our Online programme is designed for guys who cannot make our Live one and provides the exact same training system, support and education as Live. It's ideal for guys with busy or erratic schedules, those who work shift patterns or simply those who cannot get to our Live locations.

For more information on our programmes please visit www.manalive.co.uk

Social Channels

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/ManAliveFitness/>

Youtube

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI2sZr5_g9VMLnKcGRy1iPUA

Instagram and Twitter @manalivefitness



Aldenhams Sailing Club

Aldenhams Sailing Club leaves after 83 Years

Earlier this year, Aldenhams Sailing Club took the sad decision to terminate its lease, close its clubhouse, and pack up its boats and bags after sailing on the reservoir, with a break for the war, since 1937.

It would not have done so without good reason. However, the fact is that late last year, the reservoir's owner, Liberty Lake Leisure Limited, announced that they were dropping the water level by one metre following an engineer's report on the dam which suggested that such a drop would ease pressure and so minimise the risk of any movement in the dam. The sailing club employed its own engineer to counter this argument but Liberty Lake Leisure held firm and in March this year its joint owner Mahesh Gosrani confirmed to the club that the water level would not be raised back to what it was and that it might even be further reduced if necessary.

The club took legal advice but was told that it had no right to demand any minimum level.

The one metre drop rendered the club's launching and landing facilities – jetties, hardened banks – useless. We suddenly found them stranded out of the water. There was some debate as to whether we could rebuild these assets but there was no guarantee that any re-engineering would not itself be made redundant by future decisions on the water level. In addition, the drop in the level reduced the sailing area and the shallower water raised questions about the safety of the reservoir for sailing.

The club therefore felt it had no option but to end its lease. It came as a shock to members who last year joined so many local groups in successfully opposing a plan by Liberty Lake

Leisure to build, in effect, a hotel along the eastern shore with a string of holiday pods, a big new hub building and extended car park. That battle, it turned out, was won but then the war was lost. It was not as if the club was oblivious to the responsibility of the owners to maintain the dam. The club had previously supported Liberty Lake Leisure in their application to build housing near the Fishery pub and finance the dam from the profits of that development. Hertsmere Borough Council turned down the plan on the grounds that it did not meet the "very special circumstances" needed for building in the Green Belt.

The lake is now like an orphan. The dam, its owners say, has no proper means of financial support and it is now being gradually cut off from the local people with the construction of a fence (for safety purposes the owners say) which will block the hitherto open and much-loved path around the lake. The sailing club would like to have been part of solution but a small club with 150 members has few financial resources and, even though the idea was raised, could not take on the task of maintaining the dam and taking on the risks by itself.

So, sorry to say, we are going. Members in many cases have decided to go to other clubs not far away – Rickmansworth, Broadwater, King George, Welsh Harp, Broxbourne among them. But no more will the attractive sight of sails taking part in this quiet and carbon-free sport be seen on Aldenhams reservoir. We wish this little jewel in the Hertsmere crown well but we fear for its future.

Paul Reynolds

Committee member,
Aldenhams Sailing Club



GirlGuiding Radlett District



Rainbows and Brownies from our 4th Radlett Unit have been signing on to their weekly virtual Guiding meetings since the very first week of lockdown. The girls love catching up with their friends each week, and continue to take part in treasure hunts, active games, arts and crafts, adventures out of doors and much more every Wednesday, as well as working hard to keep their Rainbow and Brownie Promises. Leaders are constantly challenging the girls to have fun and make the most of all the opportunities which Girlguiding affords them and in turn both Rainbows and Brownies have responded by working towards nature, drawing, storytelling, fruit and veg, family tree, jobs, aviation, space, grow your own, dance, performing and baking interest badges as well as Walking, I'm a Physicist and Wellie challenges!

Parents have climbed on board and risen to the challenge to help their girls enjoy many of the additional challenges offered such as making and flying rockets, carrying out science experiments, growing vegetables and making delicious cakes during the weekends.

On Wednesday 17 June we held two very special promise meetings where the three Rainbows and three Brownies who joined during lockdown made their promises to their new unit friends, amidst a slideshow of all the lovely photos leaders have been sent of girls making the most of lockdown unit Guiding.

Lots of our members also enjoyed camping out again on Saturday 20 June. Some girls encouraged their dads to join them for a special Fathers' Day treat as they slept in their tents and dens to join Anglia Region's Midsummer Camp Out Challenge! Participants from all over the region had the opportunity to join virtually with each other to try their hand at making sundials, taking a virtual tour of Stonehenge, waking at 4am to see the sun rise, practising yoga and having campfires and treats before bedtime stories and the great adventure of sleeping out!

The final few weeks of the summer term will be dedicated to helping those girls who are moving up to the next section complete their theme



awards. We will also begin learning Makaton sign language together - a very useful 'skill for our future'.

Girlguiding Radlett District would like to thank all of the leaders who have continued to engage with their young people through this difficult time. The girls really do appreciate it. The District team welcome new members and volunteers. We currently have some spaces in the Brownie section (7-10 yrs) and Guide section (10-14 yrs) and are hoping to re-open our Ranger section (14-18yrs) in September. Please contact us if you are interested in learning more. Full support is given to all volunteers.

Nicola Day - District Leader

nicola1.day@hotmail.co.uk



Aldenham Parish Council Newsletter



The Radlett Murder October 1823

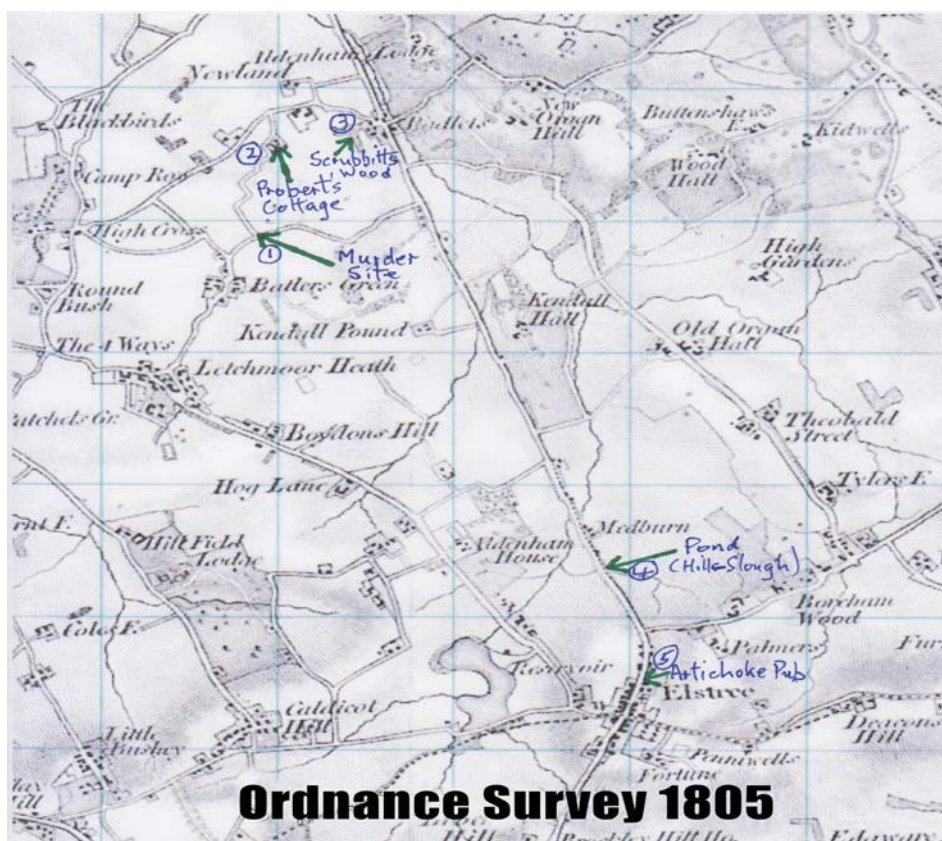
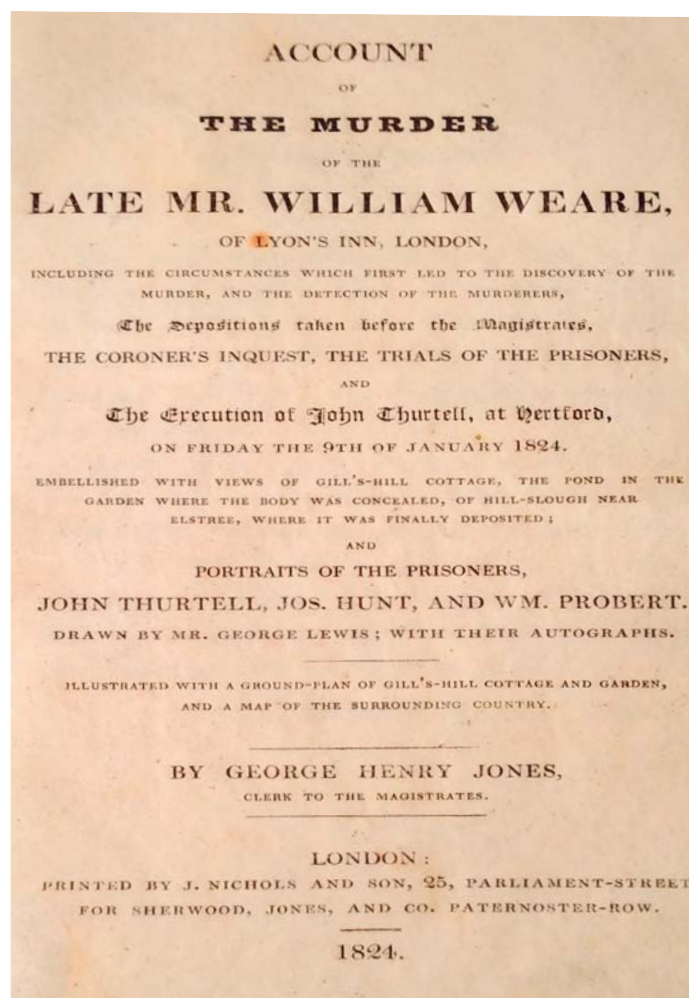
One of the pleasures of being interested in local history is time spent in Archive Libraries reading contemporary newspapers and books - the old normal! In the British Library reading room, I put in a search for "The Radlett Murder" and was amazed by the amount of material that was delivered up, including lurid newspaper accounts from all over the country of the murder, trial and execution. Clearly, in the early 19th century this event made the hamlet of Radlett notorious. Here is the story.

Gambler John Thurtell was humiliatingly cheated out of £300 by William Weare at cards. He resolved to murder Weare, aided by his accomplices Joe Hunt and also William Probert, who owned a cottage in Radlett (2 on map). In the event, the crime was carried out by Thurtell alone at the junction of Loom Lane and Gills Hill Lane (1), using a pistol which is now at Hertford Museum. The body was dumped in a small pond at Probert's cottage, and then removed to another pond near Elstree (4).

Weare's coat was found cut up and buried in Scrubbits Wood (3). After a confession from Hunt, Weare's body was retrieved and an inquest was held at the Artichoke Pub (5), now a Jewish Shtiebel.

The trial was sensationalised by the burgeoning national press and Thurtell was executed at Hertford Gaol before a vast crowd on 9 January 1824. The gallows used were said to have been designed by Thurtell himself! They were later acquired by Madame Tussauds for a Chamber of Horrors tableau using a waxwork of John Thurtell.

By Eric Hill



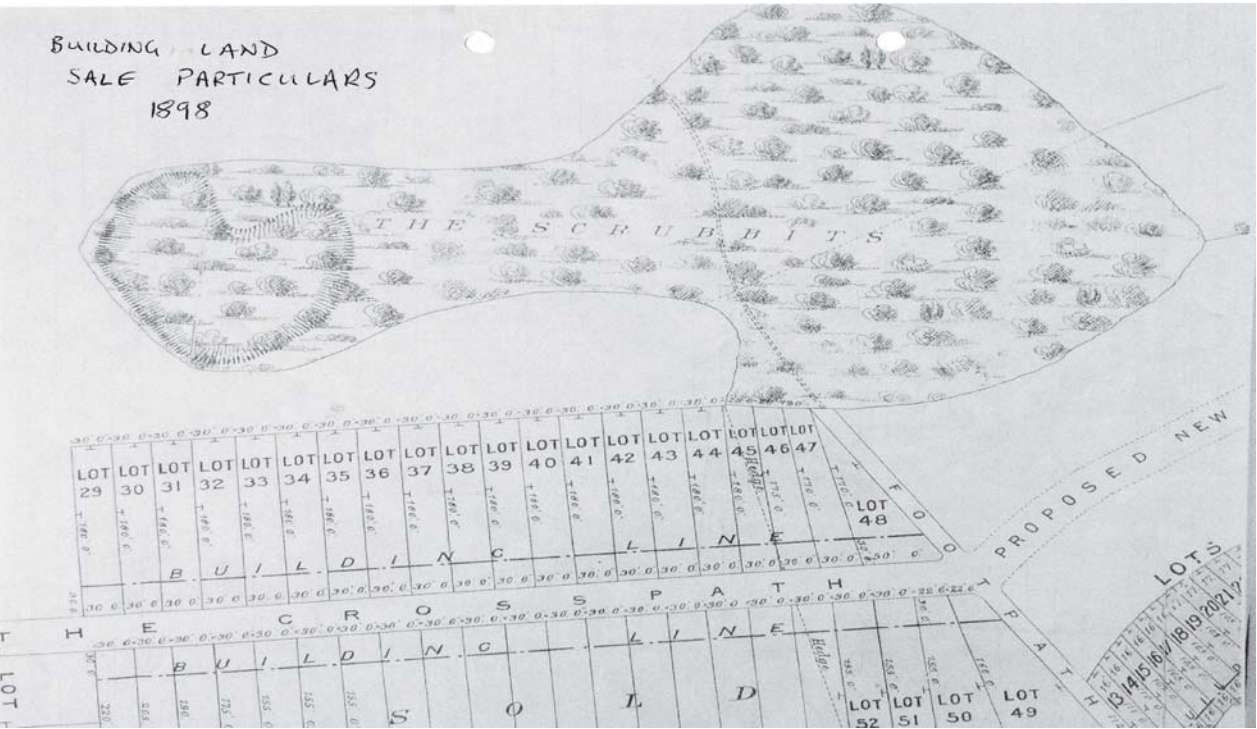
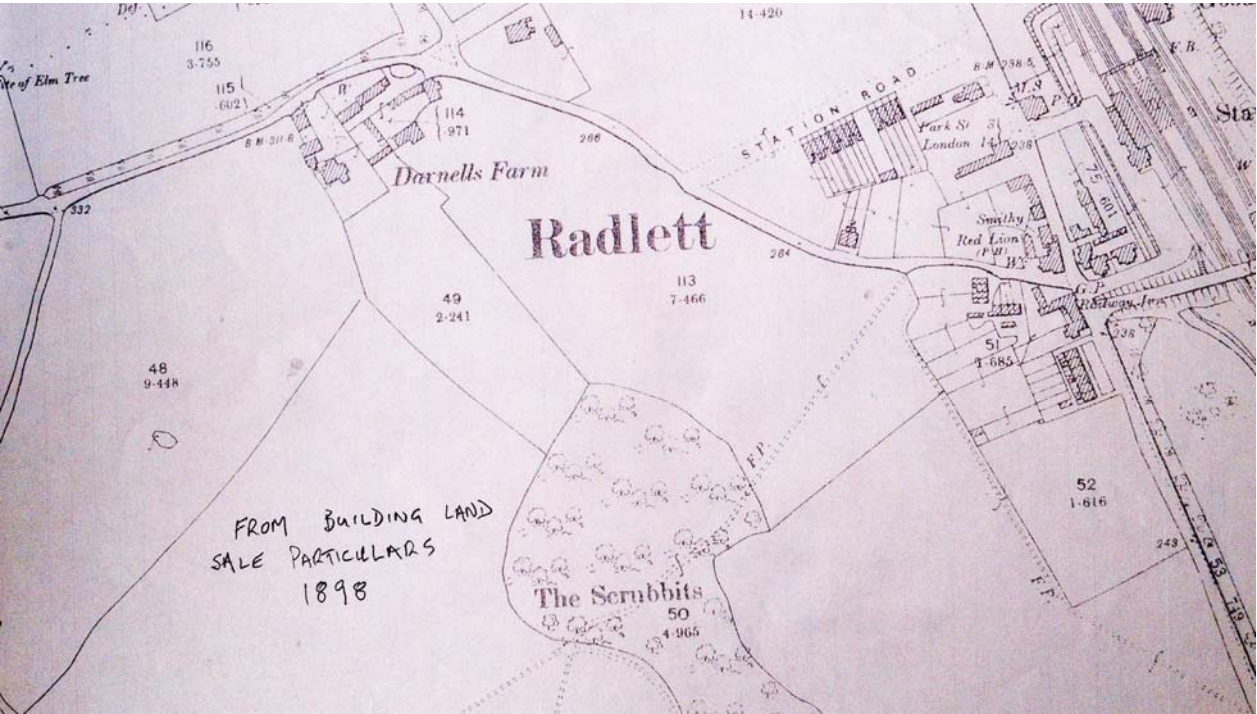
Crosspath

Where did The Crosspath get its name from? Here are two maps from the original Robert Phillimore land sale of 1898.

1. This map shows agricultural land before the proposed building plots.
2. This map shows where the newly created road and first batch of houses were to be built.

The new road crosses over an existing ancient footpath that led from the Red Lion to Battlers Green; hence “The Crosspath”. The path through Scrubbitts Wood later became “Scrubbitts Park Road”.

By Eric Hill





Aldenham Parish Council Newsletter



As a synagogue, we are of course built on our services and social activities, however being in lockdown has sadly brought an end to that.

But Zoom has proved to be a saviour in many ways. With some services going on line people have still been able to engage with Rabbi Hughes on a thrice weekly basis as he assists with prayers together with and on behalf of the community. Not to mention the times that talks have been given both by him and also by guest speakers. And of course the Shabbat doorstep sing along that brought together so many members of the community in a simple and enjoyable way.

It is at times like these that people enjoy and need their spiritual leader and Rabbi Hughes together with his family have been a massive part of this for Radlett United Synagogue and we hope with the greater community.

Radlett United Synagogue is fortunate to have a Care Team whose job it is to provide support to people within the local community.

The team operates with a great number of volunteers and they have provided their valuable time and help during this Covid-19 pandemic. As you can imagine we have many members who fall into the shielding and “stay

at home” category and who have many different needs.

The volunteer’s role includes making regular calls to these members to check on their welfare and to have a friendly chat, providing a link between the outside world and the synagogue community. Sometimes the volunteers may do some shopping or run other simple errands, for example collecting prescriptions.

Many of these members are usually very active and enjoy social events or meeting up at synagogue when they attend services, or just going about their daily routines, so one would imagine this lockdown has been an extremely frustrating time, and it’s nice to think that we can provide a little light relief from time to time.

The feedback we have received from these members has shown that they find the support invaluable as some have families far from their homes or indeed may be shielding themselves. It has also been rewarding for our volunteers and they have been surprised how such little time goes a long way and how much people have appreciated a listening ear, the friendly chats and sharing their stories of lockdown.

We are currently supporting a community initiative of collecting non-perishable food items. These can be donated by placing any appropriate non-perishable items in the box outside Silverman’s Butchers, 257 Watling Street, Radlett, during usual shopping hours. These items are being made up into food packages, for those in need and for those who are still shielding.



Radlett Bowls Club is compiling a list of people who are interested in learning about the game of Lawn Bowls. Tuition is free with our trained coaches and all equipment is provided for you. Fresh air and exercise is always there and is free too!

If you are interested, please send your name and email address to radlett.secretary@gmail.com.

Your email will be acknowledged with information about the Club, and we will contact you promptly.



Radlett Lawn Tennis & Squash Club

keeping the community active

- **TENNIS IS OPEN – COME AND PLAY (booking essential) JOIN UP TO OUR TEMPORARY COMMUNITY TENNIS MEMBERSHIP:** Membership requests can be made through this link: https://rltsc.mycourts.co.uk/member_registration
- **FRIDAY PAY AND PLAY TENNIS - FOR TEENAGERS 12-17YRS:** We are running Junior Teen Doubles sessions on Fridays at 5.30-7pm through the summer for just £3.50 – **no membership necessary**. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL:** Please call Jordan (Director of Tennis) 07845039715 or email coaching@rltsc.co.uk
- **SUMMER HOLIDAY KIDS TENNIS AND SPORTS CAMP:** BOOKINGS TAKEN NOW! VISIT: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/CoachingatRLTSC/Coaching/Camp?courseID=807b0169-2362-4b9d-a376-997c9e38b8ae>

All tennis is currently played in accordance with the latest LTA guidelines and would remind members and non-members to please familiarise themselves of the latest LTA guidance for Players which can be found on the LTA website www.lta.org.uk

- **SQUASH:** Following latest Government announcements about the return of indoor sport on 25th July, England Squash have issued the following statement:

England Squash updates (last updated 9 July)

9 July: Today, the UK Government announced that indoor sports facilities in England can reopen from 25th July with social distancing in place. In the meantime, we are interpreting the newly-released Government guidance. We will finalise and release full guidance for clubs and venues to facilitate safe play during the week commencing 13th July. Please keep an eye on social media and email for further information. Thanks for your patience, we look forward to seeing the safe return of the game.

We will inform you further just as soon as we receive the full guidance. Thank you for your patience.

For more information on tennis or squash, please email: admin@rltsc.co.uk or call 01923 854523

You can also follow us on FB, Twitter and Insta

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON!



Behind the Scenes with the Open Spaces Team

During the summer months the Open Spaces Team are busy maintaining our open spaces for the safety and enjoyment of the community. Here are some 'before and after' examples of their work:



Phillimore Recreation Ground and Letchmore Heath Play Area

We hope that you are enjoying the play areas again. While they were closed the Open Spaces Team took the opportunity to paint and jet wash the equipment, and tidy the grounds.

If you are in Letchmore Heath, younger children can now explore the new equipment installed by Aldenham Parish Council earlier this year.



Keeping the Open Spaces clean and tidy

We have seen an increase in litter especially at Phillimore Recreation Ground and Radlett Gardens. The Open Spaces Team regularly empty the bins. Please help them by keeping the areas tidy and, if the bins are full, use another bin or take your rubbish home.



Repairs and General Maintenance

Accidents do happen and, where possible, the Open Spaces Team carry out the repairs themselves. If you notice something which is damaged, please email us at openspaces@aldenham-pc.gov.uk and, if possible, attach a photo.

Flower Displays in the Village

The Open Spaces Team continue to water and maintain the beds, containers and hanging baskets in the High Street and at the Radlett Centre.





Aldenhams Parish Council

PLAY AREA RULES



This play area will be inspected and cleaned once a week



If the play area is busy come back later or visit another play area



Bring hand sanitiser/gel to wipe equipment and your children's hands before and after use



Do not eat and drink in this play area

**MAXIMUM
CAPACITY
20
INCLUDING
PARENTS/CARERS**



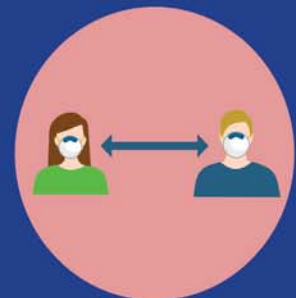
This play area has limited capacity



Please dispose of any rubbish sensibly or take it home



Do not touch your face or put your hands in your mouth



**Give each other room
Please keep social distanced**

**STAY
ALERT** 

**CONTROL
THE VIRUS**

 **SAVE
LIVES**



Aldenham Parish Council Newsletter



Hertfordshire Mind Network – remote support through Covid-19 and beyond

Hertfordshire Mind Network is an independently registered charity affiliated to National Mind. We deliver essential mental health support to Hertfordshire residents, providing a diverse range of services from our seven Wellbeing centres and other venues across all ten districts of the county. We believe anyone experiencing a mental health problem deserves to access support free from judgement and strive to create opportunities for individuals to make choices, find their own solutions, build resilience and manage their whole life and wellbeing.

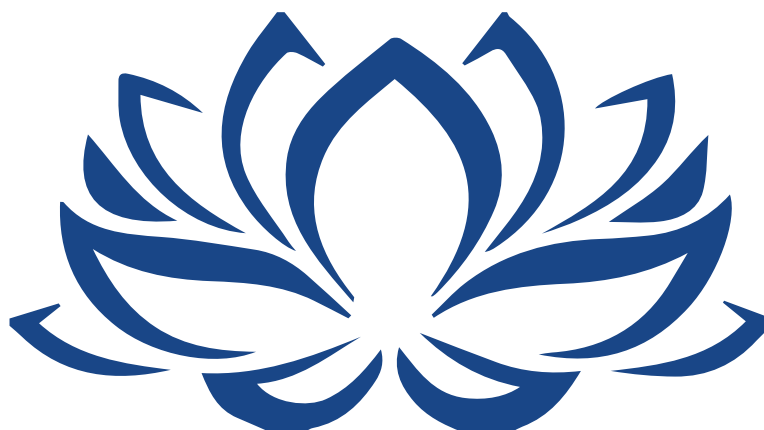
Our centres are closed during lockdown to ensure the safety of our clients and staff; however we are still here to support new and existing clients. Our 1:1 services such as counselling and peer support are being delivered via telephone and video chat and we have a variety of online support groups held via Zoom. If you would like to talk to someone about accessing these facilities, please call 0203 727 3600, e-mail: info@hertsmindnetwork.org or visit our website: www.hertsmindnetwork.org

Our wellbeing through learning courses are also currently being hosted online as webinars and are an opportunity to improve wellbeing and build confidence. You can find more information about the webinars and courses by visiting our website: www.hertsmindnetwork.org.

Our crisis helpline is now available 24/7 for anyone experiencing a mental health crisis. The crisis phone number is 01923 256 391.

We provide a Community Support Service in the areas of Three Rivers and Hertsmere. This Service provides advice, information, onward referral and holistic support to people who are experiencing mental ill-health or need help with their mental wellbeing. To get in touch with the service please contact: css@hertsmindnetwork.org

We also provide a Domestic Abuse Service to support anyone over the age of 18 living in the Three Rivers area suffering from or at risk of Domestic violence. For help if you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, please contact: dac@hertsmindnetwork.org





Summer Hamper Scheme

We are now in Week 18 of the Summer Hamper Scheme. Under normal circumstances we deliver food hampers weekly during the six week summer break. Since families found themselves at home with children and many were unable to work as a result of the pandemic, we have managed to supply 40 local families with weekly hampers. This is funded completely by donations from our parishioners, our Girl Guiding Groups, the Horticultural Society, local residents who have heard of our scheme and many more groups. We could not have continued without such support.

If you wish to donate, you can do this online: Churches Together at Radlett and Aldenham Sort Code: 207409

Account Number: 00816313 (Barclays Bank). If you prefer to donate food items, you can drop these at Pearwood, Watford Road, Radlett WD7 8JZ.

The Summer Hamper Scheme is hoping to continue supporting families until school resumes in September.





Friends of Scrubbitts Wood

The springtime is normally the time when the Friends of Scrubbitts Wood come together to enjoy the results of their work in the Wood throughout the winter. The spring of 2020 was to be particularly special, being the 110th Anniversary of the gifting of the Wood to the people of Aldenham Parish.

For as Mr Breeds, vice chair of the council in 1910 put it: He felt sure that future generations, when the whole of Radlett district was covered with buildings, would thank Mr Philimore for his generous gift, and applaud the action of the Parish Council of the day in accepting it

Although none of us could have expected the disruption to our lives that the Covid pandemic has brought, none of us also could have realised just how important our local green spaces, were to become to our community. We are undoubtedly all much more appreciative of the foresight of our predecessors here in Radlett in securing and maintaining these unique resources for each generation of residents.

As part of the celebrations, the Friends of Scrubbitts Wood had planned to hold an Edwardian Fete on 26 April, featuring traditional attractions including Edwardian games with prizes, a period arts and crafts table, a treasure hunt around the wood, an Edwardian “selfie station”, a maypole display, den building and rope making, informative talks and a well-stocked tea hut.

Even though the celebration has not been able to go ahead as we planned, we have been grateful for the support shown by a wide range of local societies in supporting and contributing to our plans. As a consequence, we have forged deeper links with a greater number of community groups, and look forward to maintaining these into the future. We would like to make special mention of the



Girl Guides, the Scouts, Radlett Horticultural Society, Radlett Museum, the Radlett Youth Council, the RSPB and Aldenham WI. A special thanks must also be given to Aldenham Parish Council for their grant and officer support. We now hope to make a fitting celebration of our wonderful Wood at a suitable time next year.

Due to the restrictions on gatherings, we were also not able to hold our usual volunteering meets. Nevertheless, our volunteers have constantly kept an eye on the wood during their individual walks, and we have been taking care of the newly planted whips, made up of native hedgerow species, which we planted to fill in gaps in the hedge or in areas where we have removed or thinned invasive non-native plants. We are now looking at how and when we might resume meets while keeping all our volunteers safe.

We are determined to re-start our various ongoing projects in the Wood as soon as practical, so if you wish to receive information about joining us and participating in our future work, please contact us using the email address: info@scrubbittswood.com