



Newsletter

www.hillsamenitysociety.co.uk

Email: info@hillsamenitysociety.co.uk

Autumn 2006

Have a thought



Fireworks can be great fun for those taking part in the party but have a thought for neighbours as well as those nearest and dearest to you:

- Tell neighbours in advance (especially those who are elderly or have pets or young children)
- Use fireworks appropriate to where you are
- Finish by 11pm latest
- Make sure pets and young children are kept safely away

*Advice from NSCA www.nasca.org.uk

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Update of local Crime



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One sign down...



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Goodbye to comms mast



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So this is what 'conservation' means?

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From Head to screen genius

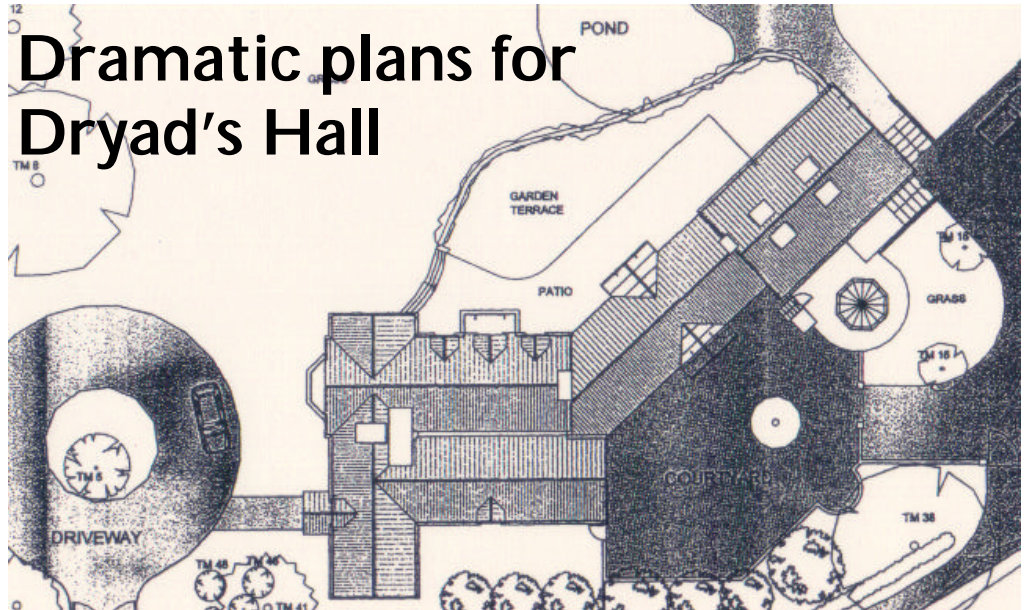


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Bid for your favourite tree

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Dramatic plans for Dryad's Hall



Dramatic plans for "extensions and alterations", a new circular drive, tennis court (top right), pond, creation of an ambitious "garage court" (below right) and link between the enlarged house and

replaced laboratory (upper right) have been submitted for Dryad's Hall. A meeting of the Hills Committee welcomed the scheme for a single domestic property. It was agreed not to op-

pose if there were firm restrictions on commercial use, protected trees were not felled and access was maintained to the forest. Said a local resident: "Obviously we are concerned. This is one of the nicest parts of Loughton and easily devastated by the wrong use." The application is by Mr and Mrs Docker of Roebuck Lane, Buckhurst Hill.

Hills Autumn Lunch

and result of

Garden Competition

come and join us on

Saturday 18 November

from midday to 2pm

at 2 Potters Close

(by the Hills Board off York Hill)

Estate Agents...

..now have the Hills Amenity Society letter to give to buyers of homes in the Conservation Area together with the Council's Conservation Area leaflet. See Page 4.

Thank you...to Jane who removed unsightly graffiti from the Hills notice board and adjoining bench.



Hillswatch – Update on our Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch Signs – the Council has requested completion of additional paperwork before we can receive a price for purchase and erection of the signs. This is being progressed.

Obstruction of pavements – Since the last newsletter Hillswatch received a couple of requests for 'Do not obstruct' fliers to leave under windscreen wipers of offending cars. Don't forget these can be obtained by emailing hillswatch@mywebspaces.co.uk or by calling Susan Mushtaq on 020 8502 2665

Crime Watch Report

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

The most frequent crime seems to have been theft of number plates. This occurred in Staples Road and York Hill and twice in Baldwins Hill.

Other incidents included the theft of tools from a locked garage in Wroths Path, and a break in and vandalism at Dryads Hall.

A family car window and mirror smashed in another pointless attack in Staples Road; nothing taken; older cars often targeted in this way.

Two youths on motorbike with no number plate crashed into a Mercedes parked in Staples Rd and ran off. Police called. Motorbike left in Staples Road until a day later it is found burned out on the triangle of forest in Shaftesbury.

Anti-social behaviour

Two topics that crop up regularly are antisocial behaviour and illegal and dangerous parking.

If you see groups of youths (for it is usually thus...) who you believe may be **smoking marijuana or feel are generally causing a nuisance** - particularly through the use of benches close to houses—please report such incidents. All being well 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. **The number to call is 01279 641212 for the Western switchboard.**

Obstruction of the road and pavement at the bottom of York Hill continues to be a nuisance and a danger to all those using York Hill, especially to those in a wheelchair or with a pushchair who can't get past. The Police issue fliers to warn drivers that they will be fined for such contravention. Hillswatch has its own notice to put on windcreens warning of dangers.

Please contact hillswatch@mywebspaces.co.uk

*Please display
your Crime
Watch sticker*

The Hills Watch coordinators

Key Coordinator and York Hill, Wallers Hoppit and Potters Close: Susan Mushtaq, hillswatch@mywebspaces.co.uk 020 8502 2665

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

Staples Road: Mary Erwin, hillswatch@hotmail.co.uk 0795 154169

Steeds Way: Martyn Soul-Gray, martynsoulgray@hotmail.com 078751 32058

Baldwins Hill (Foresters to Goldings Hill) Whitakers Way and The Lanterns
Grahame Williams, grahamyra@aol.com
020 8508 6204

Baldwins Hill (up to Foresters), Ashfields and St John's Road: Norman Hall, norman.hall3@ntlworld.com 020 8281 1890

We are still looking for coordinators for Queens Road, The Summit, Stony Path, and Wroths Path, Woodbury Hill and King's Hill, Forest Way.

Protect yourself and others

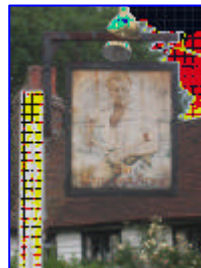
Please email the coordinator for your street or telephone me on 020 8502 2665 if you hear of any criminal activity in the Hills catchment. If you would like to receive emailed news from the Watch please email me via:

hillswatch@mywebspaces.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**

Save our historic pub signs

One down...

The disappearance of traditional signs on the three public houses in the Hills Conservation is a matter of concern to the Hills Amenity Society committee which believes that the signs form an important part of the Conservation Area. The committee objected to new lights and signs at the Foresters' Arms but the plan was passed by Council and the pub's owners have now removed traditional pub sign (top left) opposite and replaced it by a modern sign (left) with F.A and Forester's Arms underneath. The Committee felt that this was not very tasteful for the Conservation Area but recognised it was a case of "one down...and hopefully not two to go! The Wheat-sheaf sign (centre right) is still in place.



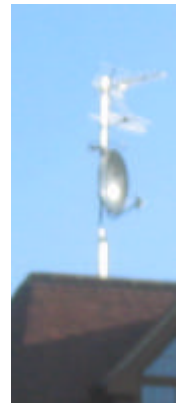
Rumours that the Gardeners' Arms Public House was to be renovated have

proved incorrect—and its sign (bottom and above right) is still in place!

Planning Update...

from the Hills Committee

11 Woodbury - A communications mast was erected without permission and Council enforcement officers required its removal. It will be replaced with 'something of reduced height'—despite the existence of cable facilities. Planning permission for metal gates is also being monitored to ensure compliance with Conservation Area sensitivities.



Portland House, Baldwins Hill—It was agreed to raise no objection to the plans presented to extend this property.

20 The Uplands - An objection will be made to the scale of the development planned.

1 Forest Way. No objection to a two-storey side extension.

Woodbury House—Concern to be raised over potential usage of two new sheds planned on land adjoining the forest

11 Wroth's Path - At the last meeting the Committee agreed that inquiries be made about the installation of dormer windows. The Enforcement Department at EFDC said that no permission was necessary for extension in a roof especially as it was outside the conservation area

73 Baldwin's Hill (Nr the Summit) - Dormer window to rear of property. Although planning for a dormer window was refused, the proposal was not necessary - only a certificate of lawfulness was required.

1 Forest Way - Original plan for 2-storey extension rejected. New plan submitted which is slightly less wide, but still will affect the hedge and tree and this point would be raised.

1 Church Hill (Montessori Nursery) - Replacing with two blocks of flats - 10 apartments - rejected by Council. Gone to appeal and Hills Committee has reiterated its objections in writing.

26 Stony Path - Planning for a detached house on land has been rejected by the Council and the Hills Committee has reiterated its objections in writing.

25 Staples Road - Detached house in garden. The Committee agreed to object to this planning proposal due to infill of land and no vehicle access.

Church Hill flats and shops plan

The latest version of a controversial scheme to demolish the row of shops at 12-30 Church Hill and build three new blocks with flats over at the bottom of Church Hill, Loughton has been submitted to Epping Forest District Council. The scheme would see the demolition of the existing buildings and erection of three linked blocks of three storeys with accommodation at roof level. The development would create 24 apartments, 3 retail units and 27 car parking spaces. The application is the latest in a series of ambitious schemes to replace this parade and infill through to Queens Road properties behind.



To this...?



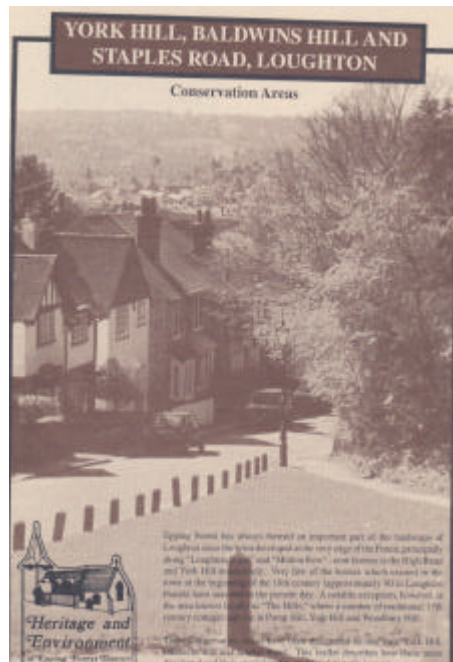
Welcome letter to The Hills

Estate agents support idea of handing information to potential residents, says Juliette Harvey

Can you recall how you first heard about the Hills Amenity Society? Was it via word of mouth, our newsletter or at a time when you needed help or advice? When I first moved to the Hills some six years ago, the first I heard about HAS was when we needed to build an extension to our 180 year old cottage. We had no bathroom, no - really - we had no bathroom ...

So, as a Society, we have decided to broaden our reach by welcoming all new residents to the area via direct means ie the estate agent. We have provided all local estate agents with copies of the following welcome note along with a copy of Epping Forest Council's Conservation pamphlet.

If you haven't seen it, the pamphlet is fascinating to look at - it provides a small bit about the history of this area with pictures, boundaries (old and new) and the 'dos and don'ts' on any changes to property within this very special and characterful part of Loughton. We have also provided useful contacts within the Council's Planning Department should anyone need further information. By



doing this, we hope to ensure that all new residents give full consideration to enhancing and protecting the Hills.

Talkback

Having endured even worse traffic jams than usual in Loughton High Road we are now presented with a large "pedestrian friendly" pavement in Centric Parade. The parking spaces appear much reduced as apparently the Landlords, who own half the pavement, did not want parking on their land.. They have also had the trees removed as they felt that people could not see the shops properly. One can only hope the expensive—and expensively removed—pavement bricks were recycled.

***Apparently the refurbishment scheme has now run out of money and will stop, for the time being anyway, at the crossroads - leaving 'our' end of the High Road untouched and a noticeable 'them and us' situation between North and South Loughton. Nothing new there then...Ed.**

Please could you ask residents with hedges on to the narrow Hills roads to keep them well-trimmed to avoid scratching our cars? Thank you.

Pleasure! Ed.

A reminder of what 'conservation' means

Above all we hope everyone enjoys living in the Hills Conservations Areas. The areas are special—and that means changes should enhance rather than depreciate the area for all. Planning controls are an essential part of this—controls that are in addition to normal planning controls - your solicitor or estate agent will have mentioned them but in brief:

IN ALL 3 CONSERVATION AREAS:

The size limit for extensions without applying for planning permission is 50 cu. metres or 10% of the house's original volume to a maximum of 115 cu. metres.

Consent must be obtained for **the demolition** of any structure including out-houses, gates, walls, fences etc.

The District Council requires six weeks notice of any **works to trees** (with an exception for cultivated fruit trees and any tree that is dead or less than 236mm in circumference when measured 1.5m above the ground).

You are advised to seek advice before installing **satellite dishes** or any advertising.

IN STAPLES ROAD AND YORK HILL AREAS:

Council permission must be obtained for changing or erecting **any fence, wall, hedge** etc visible from the street.

ADDITIONALLY IN THE STAPLES ROAD AREA:

'We hope you enjoy living in this unique area'

Council permission must be obtained for changing or installing **any door, window or other exterior fitment** visible from the street.

Changing the colour of paintwork or the finish, colour or texture for any wall or surface visible from the street.

Altering the shape or covering of **any roof** visible from the street.

Installing **dormers, porches or extensions** visible from the road.

Additional controls apply for listed buildings. If you are in any doubt, consult the Epping Forest District Council's Assistant Head Of Planning Services (who deals with conservation issues) Paul Sutton on 01992 564 119.

We hope you enjoy living in this unique area: the higher level of planning permissions is a safeguard for all and surely well worth the effort to protect this very special environment. After all surely that is why you decided to move here in the first place?

Comment

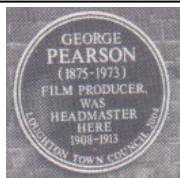
It may not seem much...



The disappearance of a traditional pub sign and the appearance of one featuring the letters “FA” may not seem something about which to get too excited. But if you are interested in preserving the style, nature, tone—the essential features of a Conservation Area—then the disappearance of the Foresters’ sign is certainly another step along the road. Along with those residents in Baldwins Hill who have spoken up we regret the direction this important landmark pub is taking. Shame though...

The series featuring Hills celebs by Jane Bowen

Loughton Head to silver screen



The blue heritage box at Staples Road Junior School honours George Pearson, head from 1908-1913, who went on to be probably the most successful film producer pre 1939. Born on 19 March 1875 in Kennington, London, his father was a craftsman in the silk industry. A happy home and stimulating schooldays led him in 1893 to Culham College, Oxfordshire, where he gained his Teacher’s Certificate—and hence to Loughton. However, he disliked the rigid discipline and curriculum of school-board education. Around 1911, a travelling film show suggested to him the power of cinema as a medium for mass enlightenment through entertainment. By now he was married with four children. In January 1913, aged thirty-seven and having impressed the managers of Pathé, Pearson abandoned his respectable career as headmaster and entered the then disreputable film industry as Film Producer in charge of Pathé’s tiny London studio. Frequently hailed a ‘genius’ - a Dickens or Barrie of the screen. In 1948 the Royal Photographic Society made him an Honorary Fellow, as did the British Film Academy in 1951, when he also received the OBE for his services to the film industry. At eighty he retired, publishing his autobiography in 1957. He died on 6 February 1973.



Jottings from the Hills Committee...

Save these oak trees: At its October meeting The Hills Committee expressed concern at more applications to fell ancient and protected oak trees. “Lop don’t fell” should be the policy. A decision to lop rather than fell an old oak at 7 Ashfields was welcomed. It was agreed to OPPOSE an application to fell an oak adjoining the road at 28 Stony Path.

Continued complaints from residents were received about the behaviour of parents delivering children to and from Staples Road school. The committee heard how a car stopped outside the infant school blocking both directions with car doors open while the mother took her children into school....

The Hills Annual Garden Competition has been won this year by Andrew Reid and Karl Monk of York Hill. The shield will be presented at the Hills Autumn Lunch on Saturday 18 November.

A local estate agent has offered to sponsor a Hills event or project. Thought will be given to what this might be...and there will be **no carol singing** organised by the Hills Amenity Society this year.

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"/> About the same <input type="checkbox"/> Getting worse | <input type="checkbox"/> Gets it about right <input type="checkbox"/> Could do more <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure | |
| Are you aware of the Hills Amenity Society | Would you be prepared to lend a hand | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fully aware <input type="checkbox"/> Just about aware <input type="checkbox"/> Not previously aware | <input type="checkbox"/> Delivering newsletters <input type="checkbox"/> Attending events <input type="checkbox"/> On the Committee | |
| Name _____ Address _____ _____ _____ Phone _____ | | |

HILLS AMENITY SOCIETY

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*

The Loughton Hills Conservation Areas



Now over 30 years old and affiliated to the Civic Trust, the Hills Amenity Society 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. With its narrow lanes hedged with hawthorn and holly edges and views across the Thames valley to the Kent hills, the York Hill Conservation Area was created in 1977. Those of Staples Road and Balwins Hill followed.

The Society works to protect the very special environment of The Loughton Hills Conservation Areas. 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; and responsibility for the Neighbourhood Watch programme—Hills Watch.

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

Choose your own tree

The project to identify local residents' 50 favourite trees by Epping Forest District Council is still open and is an important opportunity to influence future planting patterns. An exhibition is planned based on the results. To find out more, or to nominate 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 household 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