

# **NEWSLETTER**

## **HILLS AMENITY SOCIETY**

### **SPRING 2002**

**Do join us for our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday 24 April 2002**

**7.30 pm**

**Function Room, The Gardeners Arms, York Hill**



## ***Letter from the Chairman***

Dear Member

This is the first time in my role as Chairman that I have had the opportunity to wish you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

### **Carol singing – Saturday 22 December at 5.30pm**

Whether you can sing or not do come and join us for our annual Carols in the Hills. We will meet outside The Wheatsheaf in York Hill at 5.30pm on Saturday 22 December and will be singing in Staples Road and Shaftesbury. If you have any suitable lanterns or Christmas outfits do bring them. After a couple of hours singing we shall return to The Wheatsheaf for refreshments. All proceeds will go to The Chigwell Riding Trust which helps disabled children by teaching them to ride.

### **Secretary wanted**

As reported in our last newsletter, our secretary of seven years, Lyn Orton, has retired and will be greatly missed for her support of the Committee. This has created a vacancy and if anyone would like to assist us in this role we would be delighted to hear from you. Do telephone a committee member if you would like more details.

### **Autumn lunch resounding success**

Our annual Autumn Lunch was held on 13 October and hosted by Peter Tidmarsh. We were again blessed with good weather and everyone had a most enjoyable time.

### **Garden competition winner**

The annual Front Garden Competition was won this year by Mrs Joan Warner of Kings Hill who was presented with a framed photograph of her garden, the Front Garden Shield and a flowering plant.

### **Quiz Night**

The Hills Committee are planning to hold a Quiz Night in the first quarter of 2002 and are looking for a suitable local venue. More details as soon as we have them.

### **Any suggestions for Queen's Jubilee?**

We are wondering whether the Society would like to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee which takes place in June 2002. This event is being celebrated throughout the United Kingdom and if anyone has any suggestions on the matter, again please contact a committee member.

Thank you for your support. I look forward to meeting more of you in the year ahead.

Yours sincerely

Peter Smith

## **Woodbury Hill “mansion” plans rejected second time**

Revised plans for a large extension to the front, side and rear of 11 Woodbury Hill have been rejected by Epping Forest District Council.

Southbank, York Hill has changed hands again. Orchid Homes were understood to have had an asking price of around £700,000. Estate agents' boards were in evidence for less than a month.

At this time we have no knowledge of any proposed plans. It will be recalled that two sets of plans were rejected for two houses on the site.

## **Tree Warden News**

Applications received for consent to work on TPO'd trees in the Hills area and trees in the Conservation Area:

Loughton Lodge, Steeds Way  
Walnut Tree Cottage, Stony Path  
2 Potters Close

## **Local tree problems**

Honey fungus is something all gardeners should dread. This virulent and fast spreading fungus manifests itself in large creamy white mycelium at the base of old shrubs and trees. The disease spreads through the roots killing as it goes. The recommended course of action is to immediately fell affected trees and shrubs plus any others within approximately six feet to establish a “fire break”.

The ground then has to be treated chemically and nothing replanted for six to nine months. Anyone suspecting they have this fungus in a tree should immediately contact Chris Neilen in the Planning Services department at EFDC.

Three large mature trees in a garden in Staples Road had to be felled this summer as they died simultaneously.

Despite initial worries that these tree deaths might have been caused by the dreaded honey fungus none was found. Expert advice was obtained from a tree officer from Epping Forest District Council Planning Services and a local tree surgeon who both formed the opinion that the cause was waterlogging following the preceding record breaking wet twelve months. A difficult problem to solve as improving drainage in sloping ground on heavy clay soil is not easy.

*Ian and Valerie Locks/Amanda Gotham*

## **Enjoy the woods- with reasonable care!**

One of our local residents has alerted us to a potential hazard to be found in the forest. Having suffered from flu-like symptoms combined with swelling of some joints and a rash she was finally diagnosed as having Lyme Disease, a disease usually transmitted by the bite of an infected tick which can affect the skin and in some patients the nervous system. If you are bitten try and remove the tick as soon as possible by “grasping it as close to your skin as possible ...taking care not to break the head off”. Always check pets that are walked in the forest for any evidence of ticks.

The above is extracted from an article on the web and more detailed information can be found on <http://amm.co.uk/pubs/fa/lyme.htm> and <http://www.wadhurst.demon.co.uk/lyme/lyme2.htm>

*Peter Smith*

## Mystery of Pump Hill plot is solved

At the AGM, the question was raised what, if anything, once occupied the plot at the top of Pump Hill, which is now vacant.

Richard Morris found this photograph in W C Waller's collection whilst researching his book on Waller (recently published by the Historical Society, price £7.50). The photograph shows the site of 10 Pump Hill and the vacant plot. This confirms that in 1906 there were two contiguous timber barns on the site.

They appear to be 17<sup>th</sup> –18<sup>th</sup> century in date, from the wide elm boarding, which is tarred in the usual Loughton style. Note the early 19<sup>th</sup> century window in the nearest elevation and the rather strange box (possibly a dove box?) to its left.

What became of these barns is not known but one imagines they fell into disrepair and were demolished before the Second World War as they do not feature on later maps.

Does anyone know what the tall brick chimney adjacent to the furthest barn served?

Perhaps the barns were used for purposes ancillary to the pub such as a brewery or for light industry.

The land is now owned by HAS member David Keating who said at the AGM he would eventually like to build a small house on the site. Perhaps he could model it on what was there before?

*Chris Pond*

## Octavius Deacon – A Loughton Artlst

AN exhibition of recently discovered watercolour sketches by Loughton amateur artist, Octavius Deacon (1836 – 1916) will be on display at Loughton Library between Tuesday 4 December and Sunday 7 January 2002.

Deacon's cartoon style sketches

show a humourous and

sometimes surprising side of

Loughton village life in the late

nineteenth century. Look out for

the Gigantic Rooster, in front the

'The Hole' cottages, Woodbury

Hollow – an amusing example of

Deacon's delightful watercolours.

This unfortunate goose is about to

meet his end! Location not

identified but almost certainly in

Loughton. Note the woman in the background, who has hung her washing over the

hedgerow to dry, a common practice in the Victorian countryside.

*Researched by Jane Bowen*

### Committee Members

Chairman

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Vice Chairman

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