



## ALDENHAM RESERVOIR AND COUNTRY PARK



Aldenham Country Park is owned by Hertfordshire County Council and leased to a not for profit Community Interest Company, Aldenham Renaissance, who run the park and facilities there. The Reservoir is owned by a private company Liberty Lake Leisure (LLL).

### Water Level in the Reservoir

LLL opened the sluice in January 2020. Their original stated intention was to lower the water by 1m to relieve pressure on the dam but it has dropped by significantly more than that. The water flows into Tykes Water so into Radlett and has raised water levels and caused some damage to the banks by Newberries Car Park.

The Sailing Club can't sail so has been forced to close. The anglers have few fish so may follow suit.

As the water has been let out the mud on the edges of the reservoir is now exposed. DO NOT try to walk on them even if they

appear to be solid as they are not and are extremely dangerous. Under no circumstances should anyone let children or dogs go onto this mud as it is like quicksand.

### The Fence

During the Summer LLL Ltd built a 2.2 m high fence around the perimeter of their land. This has prevented people walking around the whole of the reservoir although they can walk on the public footpath around part of it.

### The Footpath

The order to make the footpath round the lake a Public Right of Way is still with Herts County Council (HCC). Evidence of use from 1954 to 1974 was gathered by Aldenham Country Park Trust Ltd (ACPT) and presented to HCC some years ago.



It was rejected but then the Secretary of State upheld the appeal from ACPT Ltd. Negotiations are ongoing.

### Negotiations

After many months of trying to get a dialogue going between the reservoir owners LLL and Hertsmere as the local planning authority, negotiations have been agreed starting in September 2020. It is hoped agreement can be reached involving the restoration of the water level in the Reservoir.

### Aldenham Renaissance

Many visitors come to Aldenham Country Park to view the reservoir and walk around the perimeter. Aldenham Renaissance is a not for profit Company and gets most of its income from car park charges, the Farm, the shop, the cafe, Glamping, Camping, events etc. Blocking the footpath and erecting the fence has had a significant impact on their business. Their staff clean the toilets, clear the litter and keep ACP a pleasure for us to enjoy. The Farm Shop is open providing food for the local community and is well stocked with fresh meat, eggs, vegetables and other essential items. You are recommended to pre-order and pay for their veg or meat food boxes under their click and collect scheme from their online Farm Shop. <https://churchfarm.shop/> Parking is free when you collect your food box. All of the produce is farmed with high animal welfare standards and always with the environment in mind.

*Clive Glover*

**Our AGM scheduled for Wednesday 18th November has had to be cancelled because of the Pandemic restrictions.**

The formal tasks will be carried out by the Committee meeting via Zoom and members are invited to send any comments/questions on the agenda items to our Secretary before 18 November. There will be a report back on our website.

**We will ask our proposed speaker Stuart Nagler MBE, Chairman of the Trustees of Radlett and District Museum to provide a summary of his proposed talk about the Radlett Museum which we will also put on our website on**

**This newsletter has been delivered to all members**

Additionally, to encourage new members to support our activities, it has been circulated to all residents of the Parish of Aldenham, who are invited to complete the membership application form on the back page. Thank you.

***Members: if you pay your membership fees annually by cheque, please ensure you have sent this year's payment in order to retain your membership!***



## From the Chairman

Welcome to the 2020 edition of our Newsletter. In trying to review the last year or so of our activities, it is hard not to focus on the lockdown and slow relaxation of recent months. It is equally hard at times to remember that for much of the year covered by this report we were operating as normal, representing residents' interests at Council and other meetings, and making regular submissions on issues.

We were very pleased to be able to welcome our local MP, Oliver Dowden, to our AGM where he kindly spoke to the meeting and took some questions from the floor. I think all present went away feeling that he understands the sort of issues that concerns the Society and residents – for example Green Belt, planning generally, local amenities – and is sympathetic. Hopefully, he hasn't forgotten us now he is in the Cabinet!

All of us have had to adapt to these changed times and the Society, in common with all other Radlett Societies, has been operating differently. Face-to-face meetings are currently off the agenda but thanks to modern technology we have been able to carry on with our regular business, including virtual meetings, submissions and discussions with the local Councils. The Society maintains good contact with Aldenham Parish Council (APC) on many community issues and it is clear that APC have been working hard to help the community during lockdown.

## Planning matters

One result of lockdown does seem to be that more residents have decided to extend their houses. We receive weekly lists of Planning Applications from Hertsmere Borough Council (HBC), but we only have the resources to take up a few, major items. We focus on the community aspects, major developments and Conservation Area applications. We still need interested members with expertise or just interest to help those of us who look at planning matters.

I will mention two examples by way of illustration of where we have been active. The Abbeyfield development at 1-3 The Drive was passed for development with the demolition of the original building. This will provide 14 two-bedroom apartments with a site entrance on Beech Avenue, but we share residents' concerns on traffic manoeuvres and sight lines coming out of Beech Avenue into The Drive. Edge Grove School submitted two applications over the summer for improvements, alterations and construction of a new two storey science block. This application was refused on Listed Building constraints; it also had Green Belt aspects. We will be monitoring how it is taken forward and hope the school and HBC will work together to resolve issues.

Decisions on Hertsmere's Local Plan for Growth have been delayed, due to the pandemic, until no later than 6th May 2021.

## Trees and conservation

Loom Lane conservation area has received a number of applications this year and the Society has been concerned on the loss of trees and change of character in their responses to HBC officers.

We have noted that permissions granted to take down trees do not always come with conditions insisting on replanting, as in previous years. This in our view does not comply with Conservation Guidance to preserve and enhance the character of the area. It isn't just a case of planting lots of trees – they have to be suitable trees, bearing in mind the locality and the maintenance the trees will require as they grow. A recent application in another conservation area was turned down because the proposed trees intended to screen the development from a public area were unsuitable for these reasons.

## Car Parking

This remains a thorny topic and we continue to campaign against parking that damages verges (do ask for a supply of our parking cards!). The County Council's attempts to change parking in Newberries Parade to aid social distancing has been of great concern. Its intentions may be laudable but the way it has been handled has been poor and the consequent impact on struggling shops unwelcome.

We have taken up the matter with our MP, County and Borough Councillors, and through the County's website. We have made constructive suggestions for improvement, including that the opportunity should be taken to double the number of disabled bays from 4 to 8 in the Parade. We share the frustrations of the community and local shops that have suffered in the way the scheme has been handled and would encourage residents to use the County's website to register their views.

Before I close, I would like to register our thanks to County Councillor Caroline Clapper who has been very energetic and diligent with our concerns. Her efforts on the Harper Lane/Watling Street junction last year and more recently on safety issues for traffic and pedestrians around the Watford Road apartment developments have been very helpful and much appreciated.

These strange times have probably meant more staying at home and in our locality, but hopefully you will have appreciated even more the environment around Radlett with our wonderful network of footpaths and open spaces. We will continue to campaign to maintain and improve our local environment and hope we can count on your active support.

**Rosamund Gray**

## LOCAL PLANS POSTPONED

### Neighbourhood Plan

Electors were due to vote on Thursday 7 May 2020 to decide if the Radlett Neighbourhood Plan would be formally adopted and become part of the process when making planning decisions for the area. However, the referendum has been postponed to Thursday 6 May 2021.

### Hertsmere Local Plan

The publication of the new draft Local Plan for Hertsmere has been delayed to Spring 2021. The plan will be used to guide decisions on the delivery of new homes, schools, employment and services across the Borough up to 2036. Following the publication, there will be a six-week consultation period when members of the public and other interested parties will be asked to give their views on the plan, before it is submitted to the Secretary of State for examination.

## PARKING & NEWBERRIES CAR PARK



The Lockdown period provided a unique opportunity to see the effects of the removal of all parking restrictions in Newberries Parade and Watling Street. Many shops were closed and there were far fewer vehicles in the early days so plenty of places to park. As traffic increased it seemed most drivers did keep to the rules, including avoiding the Disabled bays, but many stayed longer than the usual short period allowed.

However, there have been problems with parking in the bus stops and on the access road to Newberries Car Park. With the bus services restored this is causing blockages in Watling Street as the buses can't pull in to their stops. There has been no parking enforcement for some months now as Hertfordshire County Council has failed to enact the necessary legislation so Hertsmere's wardens cannot issue penalty notices.

Hertsmere stated before Lockdown they were offering Newberries Car Park for sale to developers but have been silent on the results. It may be that potential developers are aware of the controversy around such developments so are not interested.

## ELECTED COMMITTEE 2019-20

<b>Chairman</b> .....	<b>Rosamund Gray</b>
Also covers Conservation Areas, Trees	
<b>Vice-Chairman</b> .....	<b>Mike Stearns</b>
Also Elstree Airfield Consultative Committee	
<b>Hon Secretary</b> .....	<b>Beverley Porteous</b>
<b>Hon Membership Secretary</b> .....	<b>Linda Godman</b>
<b>Hon Treasurer</b> .....	<b>Chris Parker</b>
<b>Newsletter &amp; Publicity</b> .....	<b>Clive Glover</b>
<b>Environment</b> .....	<b>Douglas Pollock</b>

Also Aldenham Country Park Liaison Committee  
**Footpaths and Rights of Way**.....**John Whiting**

## NON COMMITTEE

**Gary Harding** ..... **Webmaster**  
**Graham Taylor** ..... **Planning Consultant**

## COMMITTEE VACANCIES

**Green Belt, Planning, Transport & Parking**



## The footpaths year

For many of us who walk the footpaths around Radlett they have become old friends, especially over these months of lockdown. How would they be reporting the last year, one wonders? They would certainly be reflecting on an interesting and varied year....

The winter wasn't great for the network thanks to the very wet weather in late winter/early spring. A number of paths suffered damage as people tried to carry on walking. Although understandable, sometimes it is prudent to abandon the 'off road' experience and stick to firmer ground!

Then lockdown came and many of our paths started to see traffic levels that outdid most of our roads. Thankfully, drier weather, indeed warm and sunny weather, meant that the paths dried out and firmed up, and coped well with the volume of people.

It has been good to see so many people out walking and (presumably!) enjoying our wonderful range of paths and bridleways. Some were clearly relative newcomers to these byways and finding the experience a little novel, occasionally needing directions – sometimes from the Society's map of course. The etiquette of walking has evolved over the Spring and Summer of 2020. Paths such as A5 suffered traffic jams as people tried to observe some measure of social distancing. The result has been that we walkers have developed a variant on those courtly 18th century dances as we step gracefully round each other. But like those dancers of old, the walking community are invariably polite and friendly as we meet and pass. Those of us with dogs have always greeted each other, often comparing notes on our best friends. But it does seem as if one result of lockdown has been that all walkers say hello, as if we're all pleased to be out and demonstrating that we have survived this pandemic.

Another issue for our footpaths network has been the high winds and storms as summer has disappeared into a seemingly early autumn. That has brought a few trees down (as happened in the poor weather in the early part of the year). Credit is due to Herts CC who register any issues that I and my fellow footpaths monitors report and steadily work through the problems.

One issue that cropped up a couple of times this year is the extent to which bicycles can be taken along paths. Bridleways and 'BOATs' are fine for cycling of course, but ordinary footpaths are clearly not suitable for cycling and strictly even pushing a bike along a footpath is not permissible. For a fuller explanation, do have a look at the article on the 'Footpaths around Radlett' section of the website <http://www.rsgba.org/>, but if you have further thoughts on the matter please do let me know.

*If any walkers would be willing to join my indefatigable group of footpaths monitors – very simple duties – please contact me via the RSGBA website. We could do with one or two new members*

**John Whiting, Footpaths officer**

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION PLANS

The Government is promoting a reorganisation of local government to create more "Unitary Authorities" and directly elected Mayors across the country. Unitary Authorities have sole control of local services which in areas like Radlett are currently split between Hertfordshire County Council and Hertsmeire Borough Council. The proposed reforms may also affect Parish and Town Councils who may take on some more local services.

Hertfordshire County Council has made a pre-emptive bid to become the sole Unitary Authority for Hertfordshire but as this would cover around 1.3 million people it is almost certain to be rejected as being too large an area. Most Unitary Authorities cover populations of between 300-400,000 people.

It seems inevitable that there will be proposals to abolish the existing nine local authorities across Hertfordshire, including Hertsmeire, and reorganise perhaps three or four Unitaries over the next 2-3 years. Any proposals will be subject to Public consultation.

## Meeting the challenge of Climate Change

A rapidly growing number of people globally acknowledge that climate change is the defining crisis of our time and it appears to be happening even more quickly than many feared. I believe that we in Radlett should try and make our own contribution to the target set by our government, i.e. for the UK to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. For this reason, I have decided to focus my efforts on 'green initiatives' that will reduce the carbon footprint of our village.

My initial idea is to see whether we can encourage those responsible for managing the various public buildings in the village, such as schools, places of worship, the Radlett Centre etc, to install solar panels on the roofs of those buildings.

Whilst undertaking some initial research to see what, if any, initiatives had already been undertaken, I was very pleased to discover that solar panels are already installed on the roof of Fair Field Primary School. It has not only reduced the need for the school to purchase electricity from the grid for most of the year, but has also provided a revenue stream by allowing them to sell back the excess electricity produced at the weekend.

I am now keen to try and replicate this success and have reached out to another school to see whether they would be interested.

I would welcome the opportunity to speak with anyone who is in a position to help accelerate this initiative elsewhere in the village.

**Doug Pollock**

[dpollock481@gmail.com](mailto:dpollock481@gmail.com)

## National Planning Policy Framework

**This is the official Government description of the intentions of the new NPPF which is intended to simplify planning rules to encourage the building of more homes. The Government believes that 300,000 new homes are needed per year.**

### Greater responsibility

Local authorities will have a new housing delivery test focused on driving up the numbers of homes actually delivered in their area, rather than numbers planned for. Developers will also be held to account for delivering the commitments, including affordable housing and the infrastructure needed to support communities.

### Maximising the use of land

More freedom will be given to local authorities to make the most of existing brownfield land to build homes that maximise density. The use of redundant land will be encouraged such as under utilised retail or industrial space for homes, with more flexibilities given to extend upwards on existing blocks of flats and houses as well as shops and offices. This will mean we can build the homes the country needs while maintaining strong protection for the Green Belt.

### Maintaining strong protections for the environment

Ensuring developments result in a net gain to the environment where possible and increases the protection given to ancient woodland so they are not lost for future generations.

### Ensuring the right homes are built

Delivering more affordable homes that meet the housing needs of everyone wherever they are in their life, including sites dedicated for first time buyers, build to rent homes with family friendly tenancies, guaranteed affordable homes for key workers and adapted homes for older people.

### Higher quality and design

Introducing new quality standards so well designed new homes are built in places people are proud to live in and live next door to.

# ADMIN & MEMBERSHIP

## AGENDA for 44th AGM 18th November 2020

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Minutes of 43rd AGM on 20th November 2019
- 3 Treasurer's Report for y/e 30/06/2020
- 4 Annual Report and Discussions
- 5 Election of Officers & Committee 2020/21
- 6 Appointment of auditor
- 7 Resolutions
- 8 Any other business (*please notify Hon. Sec. in advance*)

Nominations for Officers and Members of the Committee should be made in writing, signed by the Proposer and Seconder, and bear the consenting signature of the nominee. The nominations should be received by the Chairman not less than 24 hours before the AGM, that is by Tuesday 17th November 2020.

To contact the Society on such matters please use  
**"CONTACT US"** on our website homepage:  
[www.radlettsociety.org](http://www.radlettsociety.org)

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 30 June

Honorary Treasurer - Chris Parker

	2020	2019
	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions and Donations	2,643	2,646
Footpath Map Sales	200	0
Investment Income	2,164	1,879
Gift Aid Tax Refund	576	534
	5,583	5,059
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Administration and General	406	508
Newsletter and AGM	1,222	1,052
Other Societies	81	18
	1,709	1,578
<b>NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>3,874</b>	<b>3,481</b>

Join Us! Support Us!

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2020-21 with GIFT AID DECLARATION and STANDING ORDER MANDATE



**Radlett Society &  
Green Belt  
Association**

**Please print your details (CAPITALS)**

Title ..... First Name .....

Family Name .....

Address .....

.....Postcode .....

phone .....

Email .....

@ .....

Date of application .....

**Annual** member subscription is at a level you choose; we suggest at least £10-£15\*.

\*Payment is preferred by **Standing Order**, just enter your bank details in next column.

Otherwise, please attach a cheque  
[minimum £5.00], payable to:-

'The Radlett Society & Green Belt Association'

You will be enrolled as a full member and receive details of the Committee and a copy of the Constitution.

### STANDING ORDER MANDATE

Instruction to your Bank/Building Society

NAME: .....

BRANCH: .....

ADDRESS: .....

NAME on ACCOUNT .....

SORT CODE: ACCOUNT NUMBER:

Please pay to NatWest Bank plc,  
Sort Code

A/C No: -

for the credit of:-

THE RADLETT SOCIETY AND  
GREEN BELT ASSOCIATION,

the sum of £ .....

(.....)

Commencing (*please allow 1 month*) :

Day \_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_ Year 20 \_\_\_\_

and **annually** thereafter until further written notice and charge such payments to the debit of my account.

Signed .....

Date .....

Gift Aiding your membership subscription and other donations means we reclaim 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate.

*giftaid it*

### GIFT AID DECLARATION

I want to Gift Aid any donations or subscriptions I make in the future or have made in the past four years to RSGBA.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that, if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in a tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

**SIGNED** .....

**PRINT NAME** .....

**DATE** .....

*Registered Charity #280877*

Please post your completed application form to:-

**Hon. Membership Secretary,  
RSGBA, Little Orchard, Radlett  
Park Road, Radlett, WD7 7BQ**

*Please allow us up to 4 weeks to set up your membership.*

*Thank you*