



# ORRA NEWSLETTER

Summer 2020

Dear Residents

I hope you and those you care for are safe and well and managing to live a relatively normal life during the imposed restrictions due to Covid 19.

I would like to welcome the new residents in The Grove and the new tenants in Manor Way. We very much hope you enjoy living here.

Due to being unable to hold an AGM and given the unusual circumstances we find ourselves in, the committee has decided not to increase the annual maintenance charge this year.

Activity on the estate has been relatively quiet and the only matters brought to my attention have been dangerous parking, dead wood falling due to high winds, a couple of planning applications, bonfires and hedge/tree maintenance.

The high winds did result in the odd bit of deadwood falling but it was relatively insignificant and shows our tree maintenance schedule has been successful.

All maintenance works, of any kind, had virtually come to a standstill but I am pleased to confirm we do now have the go ahead on a couple of projects.

As far as I know, we have two building projects on the go at the moment and I have to say I have been impressed by the level of tidiness and the way the builders have gone about their business with minimum impact on surrounding neighbours.

The road survey will be completed this month and we are expecting recommendations for work to be carried out. I have requested information on work that needs immediate attention; works in 2 years and works in 5 years. The idea is to have a plan going forward and to be able to cost all road maintenance within our budget.

The tree report for 2020 will be completed soon.

Work to repair the pillars in Ratton Drive will commence in June.

The lampposts will be repainted within the next few weeks.

There is a very aggressive plant called Alexandria (horse parsley) which has started growing in some parts of the estate, along Link Way and on the banks of Ratton Drive, it is very invasive and will soon be covering a much wider area. It is very important that we eradicate this particular plant as soon as it appears in our gardens and on our banks.



There is quite a bit of the plant at the side of 45 Ratton Drive, it is also in the wooded area opposite the houses in Link Way, it is on the lower banks in Ratton Drive and will quickly spread across the whole bank area especially those parts that are not regularly maintained. New plants have been spotted on the grassed area next to 4 Walnut Tree Walk and the grass bank at the end of Parkway.

This plant has taken over the small wooded area in Wish Hill, it is all along a stretch of Willingdon Road, in fact, all over the place. When you spot it please remove it asap.

Finally, can I remind you that it has long been common practice to discourage bonfires on the estate and this was confirmed unanimously at last year's AGM.

From a personal point of view, can I request that if a resident wishes to raise an area of concern, which could be resolved by a quick neighbourly chat, they please do just that.

Many thanks.  
**Rose Kiley**  
ORRA Chairman

## FINANCE

I had intended to provide a copy of the latest accounts with this newsletter but, as you will appreciate, our auditors are taking a little longer than usual. I hope they will be signed off soon and I will forward a copy to Residents when I receive them.

As the Chair noted, we have not made any increase in the maintenance charge this year and you will find your payment request accompanying this Newsletter. I would very much appreciate your use of our internet banking facility if possible, to cut down on unnecessary trips to the bank.

I am pleased to say that a total of £1,810 in arrears was collected last year, leaving us with just two accounts outstanding.

The three main areas of expense this year will be on road repairs once the independent survey has been received, maintenance of trees following the biennial tree report and the repair of the stone pillars on Upper Ratton Drive.

**Angela Potter**  
ORRA Treasurer

## TREES

I am pleased to say that after many delays and cancellations the estate tree survey will be completed this month and any required tree work can then be attended to by a tree surgeon. Once I have the survey report, I will obtain quotes from different tree surgeons to secure the best man for the job. Work will be carried out on a traffic light system of the most urgent attended to first.

## STONE PILLARS

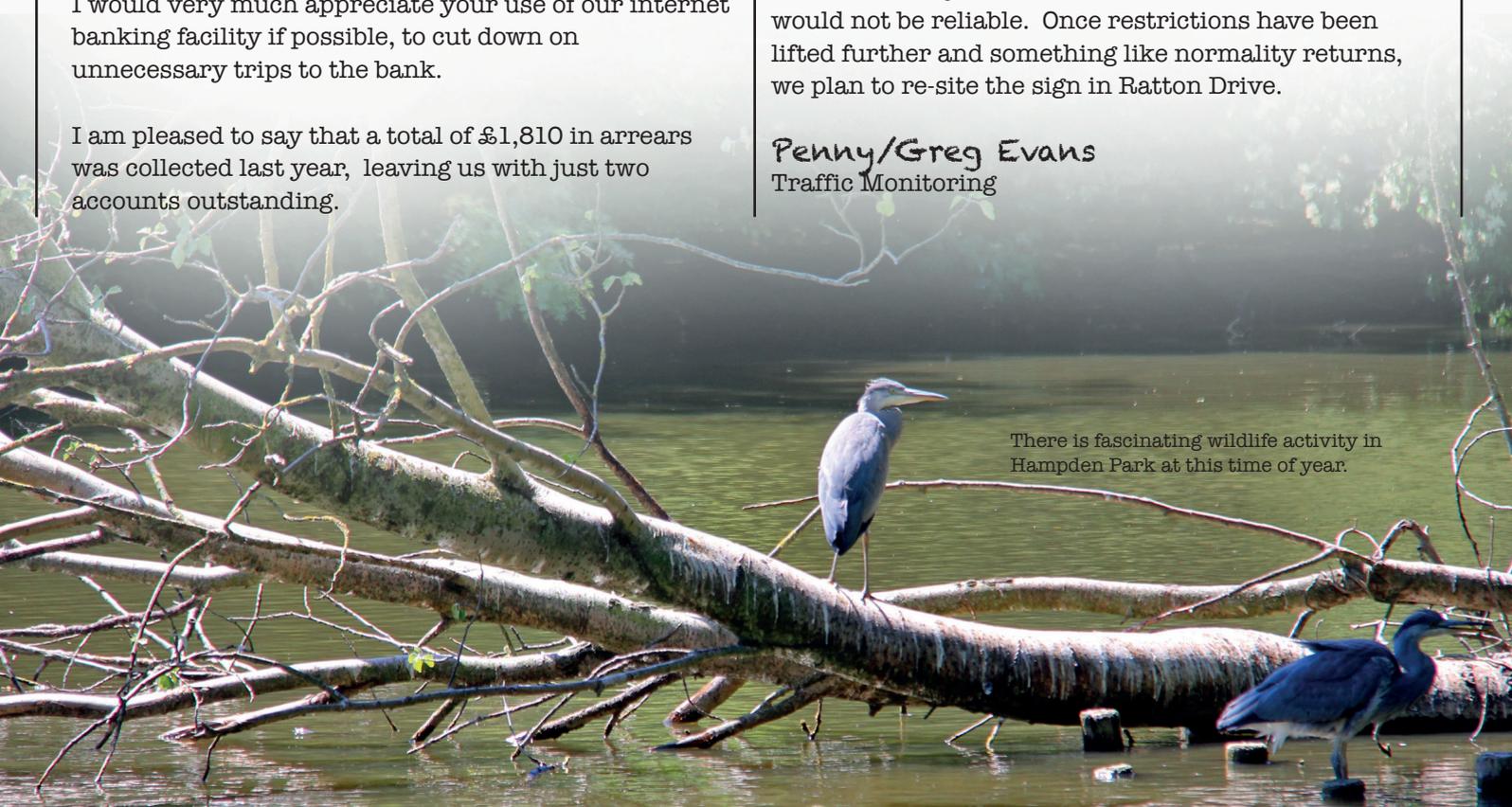
The Stone Mason has now managed to obtain the required stone he needs from the quarry. He will be beginning the repair works and replacement of the stone ball finials on the pillars in Ratton Drive this month. So it's all finally happening.

**Julia Batchelor**  
Trees and Gardening

## TRAFFIC CALMING

The ongoing monitoring of traffic on our estate has been suspended temporarily due to Covid 19 and the sharp decrease in traffic this has caused. Collecting data at this time would not be a true reflection of normal activity and therefore conclusions drawn would not be reliable. Once restrictions have been lifted further and something like normality returns, we plan to re-site the sign in Ratton Drive.

**Penny/Greg Evans**  
Traffic Monitoring



There is fascinating wildlife activity in Hampden Park at this time of year.