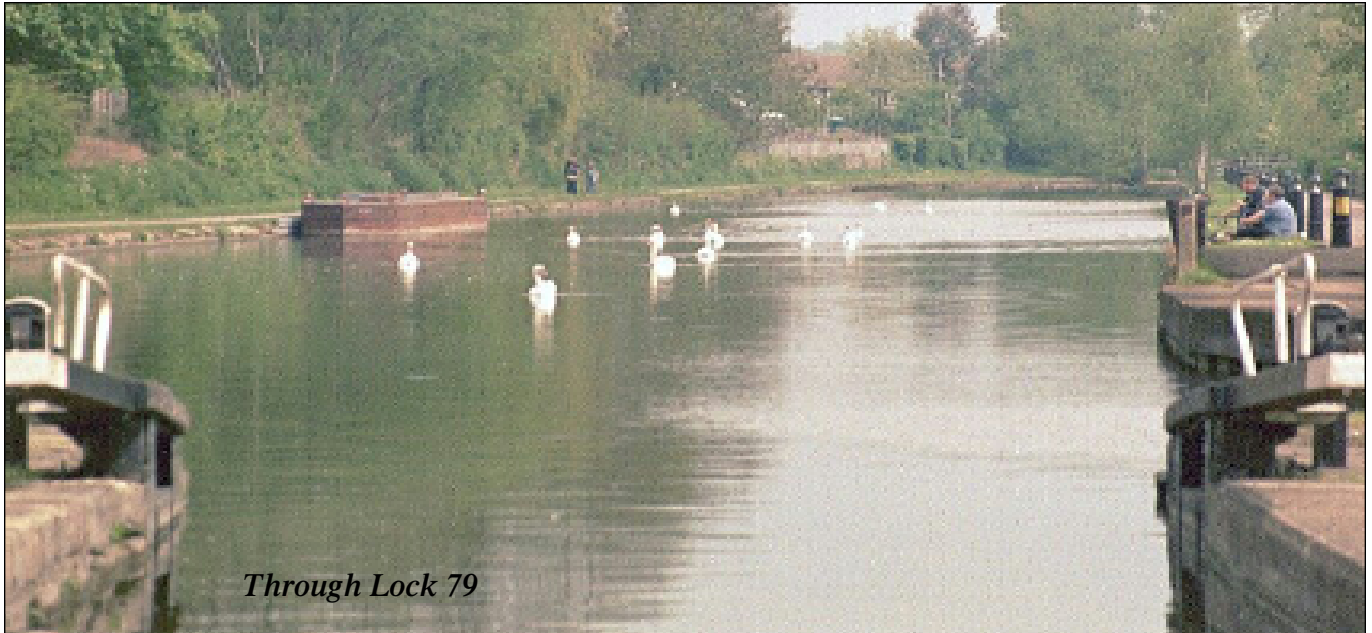


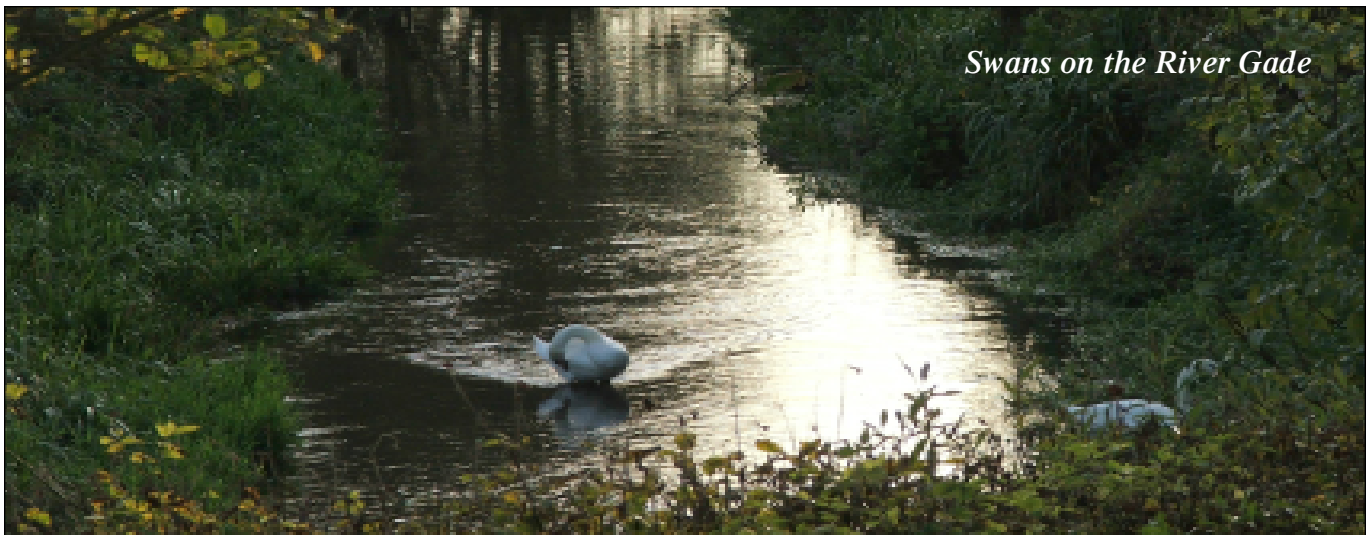
BYEWATERS RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

THIS IS AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION COMPILED AND EDITED
BY A BYEWATERS HOME OWNER FOR ALL RESIDENTS

MARCH 2010



Through Lock 79



Swans on the River Gade



Congratulations to Jennifer and Gary – residents of Byewaters – celebrating their wedding in August 2009. And Lock 79 has got in on the act too!

Please send articles,
advertising, photographs etc.
for the June 2010
Newsletter to Fran, 78
Byewaters or email
fran.koster1@gmail.com



Hi,

A very belated Happy New Year to all, well it didn't start too well with all that snow!! Of course it looked absolutely fantastic on Byewaters. The canal was frozen and completely white but the poor wildlife were suffering. One particular day a swan came to my garden gate, when he saw me he put his head on my gate, if he hadn't been a mute swan I am sure he would have actually asked me for food. I only had some bread which I gave him and he could not eat it fast enough, I know that is not the best food for them but in an emergency! The wildlife and I are certainly not sorry to see the snow go, but we did get plenty of

photographs for the winter editions. We are now starting our third year of newsletters; please send me articles and anything that you think would interest everyone on Byewaters, always pleased to have more residents contributing articles to the newsletter. Remember we have our web page for advertising too, you can always view newsletters in full colour with the extra web page on www.byewatersnews.co.uk and our blog site www.byewaters.blogspot.com Let us hope 2010 is a great year for us all on Byewaters.

Fran - Editor

Thanks go to:- Mike Weintraub (Page layout), Imagehaus Ltd (Printing), Les Koster, (Cover photos), Byewaters Residents for their contributions, David Whittaker (web version) and Parkheath Estate Agents (Sponsorship).

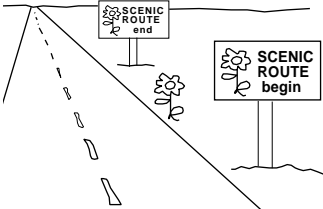
Condolences

Our deepest condolences go to Jill Butler and family on the untimely passing of her husband Alan. Alan had written quite a few articles for our newsletter and was always willing to get involved in all things Byewaters - he will be sorely missed.



Carol Singing For The Peace Hospice

Our annual charity event had come around again and unfortunately on the first night the rain got the better of us and we had to abort and everyone went home hoping that the following night would be dry. Thank goodness it was cold but dry on the Wednesday and our small troupe set off singing our hearts out. This year we even had a few children singing with us, they were brilliant. Beth was busy knocking on doors collecting from residents and by the end of the night (with money also collected from relatives and friends) we had managed to gather £252 for the Peace Hospice. A big thank you to Mary, who had very generous friends and family, so helped boost that final figure. We took the money to Gill Crowson the Community Fundraising Manager and she has sent a thank you letter to all of Byewaters, this can be viewed on our website www.byewatersnews.co.uk An extra thank you must go to Dawn who was very heavily pregnant at the time but still joined us, which was greatly appreciated. Dawn gave birth to a little boy in January and we send our congratulations to her and Steve. See you all next time, so get practising.




SIGHT SEEING AT HOME

How many times have you come back from a holiday abroad where you did lots of sightseeing and then thought that there must be similar things to see close to home? I thought this last year and have since explored parts of London and the South of England. I used to drop into the Tate Gallery in lunch breaks for half an hour, there can be so much to enjoy from just a short visit to Art Galleries or Museums around town, and some are free. In London there are some good but inexpensive restaurants or bistros as well - see the likes of Timeout or Hardens guides or a Smartphone makes these even easier to find. It just strikes me as crazy that we visit exotic faraway places but ignore those close to home.

Two hours drive takes you to Bath, I found a great pub for both beer and food in the Good Pub Guide; it looked nothing from the outside but was a 10 minute walk from the centre. Another trip was to the spectacular gardens at Hidcote Manor in the Cotswolds, I passed Blenheim Palace on the way back, so that is another day out. Or you can get to the coast from Bournemouth to almost anywhere round to Essex in about two hours. There are vineyards to sample in Kent and Sussex. Closer to home, why not get out on the bike to places like Sarratt or Flaunden, when the weather hopefully improves, where you can sit outside a country pub, there are many to choose from. We have so much to enjoy right under our noses without spending a fortune. The joys right outside our own back door.

Mike - Longmans Close



Watford, the club up for another "Football League Community Club of The Year" award offer a "kids for a quid" deal and adults for a tenner to see the Peterborough home game on Family Day, Saturday March 13th - phone the club on 0844 856 1881. It'll be safe as Hornets fans were officially the best-behaved fans in the league judged on arrests and ejections, home and away last season. So far 2010 sees Watford Football Club unbeaten at home - not so hard as due to snow and a broken boiler for the under soil heating there weren't any games 'til February! Away from The Vic they've not won since beating Middleborough 2-0 on October 17th, conceding 25 goals in those nine ties. Because of that away form, a once hopeful play-off place looks unlikely. A saviour for our leaky defence has been signed in the form of hulking great centre back Martin "Tiny" Taylor from Birmingham City and since his arrival we've had only one goal conceded and

opponents look scared again. Rightly so, as "Tiny" will be remembered for posterity as the fella who badly broke Arsenal star Eduardo's leg. An accident, gov'nor. Signing any players at all looked unlikely as two very rich men's stand-off for control of the club saw a very real threat of administration before Xmas. This was averted by the largesse of major shareholder, Lord Michael Ashcroft, again underwriting another share issue. The tip here is to never play poker with one of the richest men in England, or Belize, as you can never win. The Heidar Helguson show has an extended run due to H being signed on loan to the end of the season. He has 8 goals in 12 starts and has had two decent ones disallowed too. Those of you that have watched Sky's "Football's Next Star" show may not know that the runner up, Irish u17 international Connor Smith, has signed for Watford's academy and is living in Croxley. Its surely nicer round here for Connor than Inter Milan and Lake Como, dontcha agree?

Where You Live

In 1868, the Watford and Rickmansworth railway opened. This used some of the existing tracks and a new branch to Rickmansworth to provide a passenger service to the town. Another branch formed a link to sidings along the Grand Union Canal so that goods could be interchanged between canal and rail. This would have proved very useful for the Croxley Paper Mill. Soon a new passenger service was created along the branch line originally created to serve the Grand Union Canal etc. Stations were built at Watford West and the line terminated with a station at Croxley Green. 1912 saw regular services between Watford Junction and Croxley Green with Watford West opening the following year. This was run as a steam service and was electrified in 1922. In 1952 it was decided to close the Rickmansworth branch as it was felt the service was now duplicated by the Metropolitan Line. The tracks were lifted, but even today you can still follow the line for most of its length as a paved footpath (Rickmansworth to Croxley Green). Then in 1996 the service that had continued to run between Croxley Green and



A recent picture of the platform at Croxley Green Station

Watford High Street was also terminated. On Friday, 22nd March 1996 the last train left the station. The Ascot Road Bypass was built to service the business parks, and eventually Byewaters. The tracks were left in place and most of the line still exists today although slowly rusting away. As everyone locally knows there are possible plans to extend the Metropolitan Line. We may have a new bridge to rejoin the line near to the Ascot Road bypass. The trains would stop at West Watford, then on to Watford Junction Station, (possibly with other stops on the way). West Watford station would be refurbished there

would be a new station probably named Ascot Road Station. The old stations are still there but rather forlorn; Croxley Green Station has vegetation growing up between the lines. The staircase up to the platform is completely overgrown. The platform itself has decayed and is rapidly disintegrating to reveal the rusting pipe work beneath. We will have to wait and see what is to become of our local Stations but you can be sure of one thing with or without the new tube and rail links your fares will go up!!

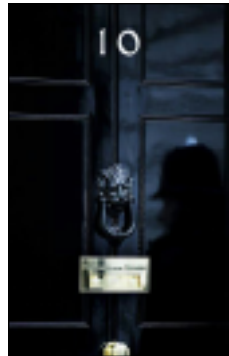
ROAD GRITTING

Weren't the roads and pavements terrible during the recent heavy snow!! Well we all know that they were running out of grit and salt almost from day one! The cry always seems to be, 'we were caught unaware', even though the weather forecast had been giving out severe weather warnings! On Byewaters it was particularly treacherous and we even had a mystery, our gritting bin disappeared or did it?? It certainly would be a good idea for everyone to have at least one bag of grit in their garage or shed so that a little outside your house on the pavement and road could be sprinkled. If everyone did this then Byewaters would be fairly well gritted. When our roads adoption does eventually happen, I doubt very much that the 'gritters' will be coming to us. Let's try and work together on this as it looks like our winters might be harder for at least a few more years, while this cycle of colder winters continues. Your ideas are always welcome.



STOP PRESS: The grit bin has been found in the water under the bridge and is going to be fished out by Greenhills, reinstated and will have grit in it!

FRONT DOORS



Just in case you are having problems with your door furniture hope this information is of use to you. It seems the make is AZBE and is Spanish! I have been on the internet but have not found out that much. Although I have been reliably informed by Andrew of Lock & Key Services, 32 Market Street WD18 0PY that they are fairly expensive. He has suggested

that he can either order replacement door handles through Azbe or can repair with alternatives satisfactorily and this will probably be less expensive. They also carry letter boxes that fit our doors, which are larger than the average. If you are having any problems with your door furniture you can try Azbe direct or maybe telephone Andrew 01923 222145 (emergency mobile 07860 435525). Hope this information is helpful or maybe you have some information you wish to share with us on this subject, please let me know.

Fran

BRAG (Byewaters Road Adoption Group)

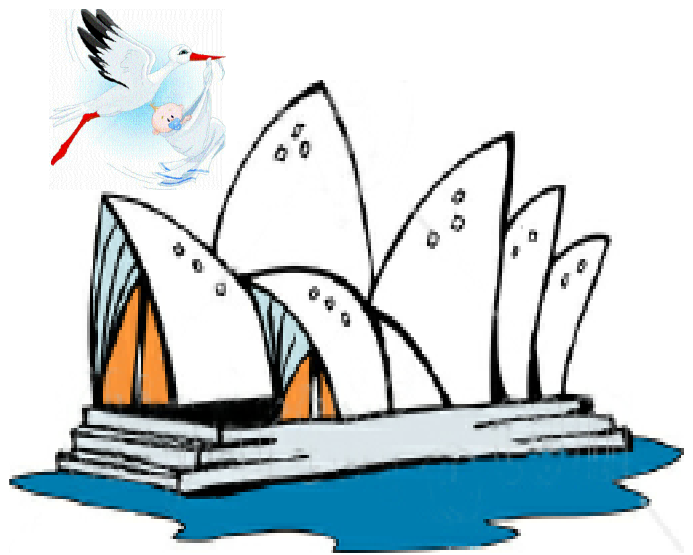
Some progress. Additional work on Blackmore Lane has been completed to bring the access road and kerbs up to HCC standards. An inspection of the sewers on the estate has now taken place and sewer remediation work has commenced. The completion of these works and a subsequent approval by Thames Water is required as part of the roads adoption process. Additional work on the roads and associated footpaths to bring them up to council approved standards and work on the pumping station have yet to be completed by Barratts.

BRAG continues to monitor the process. Councillors responded positively when we wrote requesting that discussion of Byewaters roads adoption is properly reported in the minutes of the joint TRC/HCC meetings.

David Whittaker - Byewaters

We finally arrived in Australia

It was a no brainer really; obviously we were going to Australia to meet our new grandson. We had booked our flights and Rebecca knew that she had to give birth on or around our arrival time! Well Baby Daniel had other ideas. As we knew he would, he timed his arrival perfectly, 5 days before we arrived. He gave his mummy and daddy a few days to bond with him and then he could bond with his Nana and Grandad. After a very long flight via Dubai, we took a hire car from Brisbane Airport and made our way very slowly. Daddy Dan, Rebecca's husband met us at the local garage and drove in front of us right up to their front door. Rebecca opened the door and put this little bundle in my arms that feeling is something I will never ever forget. My love for this child was instantaneous, he looked at me and I looked at him and we fell in love! It would have been a good idea for us to go to bed then to try and sleep off our jet lag, but I just couldn't put this little person down. In fact the only time he left me was to be fed by mummy. Oh yes I did give him back to his daddy and occasionally to his Grandad for cuddle time. We got into a routine, every morning after his 6.00 am feed, a little tap on our bedroom door meant that Baby Daniel was waiting for his Nana to bath him and get him ready for his day. This also meant that Rebecca had an hour or so to herself which she really appreciated. However giving Baby Daniel his first bath was a bit daunting, after all it had been over 30 years since I bathed a baby. I was in charge of getting Daniel ready for his bath while Grandad Neil filled the bath tub and tested the water. This was such a special time for me, as Baby Daniel and I got used to each other. We especially enjoyed



our little chats, he honestly listened to every word I said to him and cooed and chatted back. Oh my goodness I can't tell you how much I enjoyed this special time. Neil took some film and it brings tears to my eyes when I watch it back. I am pleased to report that Baby Daniel really enjoyed every bath I gave him, and after the first bath I wasn't scared of dropping him - which helped! Grandad Neil was always on hand with a nice warm towel to wrap him up in and we soon had him creamed and talc'd and smelling gorgeous. We never would have thought all those years ago that our little rebel, Rebecca, would settle down. We had a wonderful time but seeing our beautiful daughter become such an amazing mum is a memory that will stay with me forever.

Val - Gill Close



FOOD CADDIES OR SLOP BUCKETS!

Love 'em or hate 'em! Our new buckets can work for you once you get into the habit of using them. The important thing is to have plenty of old newspapers and string, the old fashioned cotton type (no plastic coatings). Unfortunately

in our borough they do not allow corn bags, as they do in other boroughs. The newspaper packaging does seem to work ok; this is going to be especially important when our summer eventually arrives. Just throwing in food scraps without wrapping it up securely will produce maggots!! I have learnt my lesson well, as in a previous house I did not follow this guide and threw my food into my brown bin uncovered. This particular year we had a very hot summer, remember them?? I paid the price, my bin was alive, I had never seen so many maggots all crawling up the side of the bin towards me! Let me tell you they were not easy to kill either the little devils would not stop crawling upwards and closer to me!! Of course if this happened again I could just tilt my bin in such a way that the maggots could escape straight into the canal and make lots of our fish very happy. But to be honest I'd rather not have to deal with them again and so I am happy to keep making my parcels. Just a little tip!

Fran



CRIME IS DROPPING IN THREE RIVERS

Safety Experts have published their figures and listed vehicle crime as down 14%, criminal damage down 5%, violent crime down 19%.

Unfortunately burglary was up 2% but the overall trend, thank goodness does appear to be down. With regard to burglary it is a good idea not to leave expensive items on full view for burglars to see what you have in your home, as it becomes a bit like a shop window for them!

You can always take part in a survey being run by Hertfordshire Constabulary www.herts.police.uk and click on 'Make Criminals Pay' on the 'New in Herts' section. Neighbourhood Watch work hard with the Police to improve crime levels and we are always looking for new recruits.

Please call Brian 07951 037130 or email brian.meehan@hertswill.co.uk
Working to make us all safer.

Brian - Heckford Close

Food on the wing

An article has appeared in the Three Rivers Times regarding feeding our wildlife. It states that bread does not contain the ingredients that swans and ducks need and it can kill ducklings! It suggests that birds should be fed seed and grain or even breakfast cereal, porridge oats and potato. As for the swans and ducks maybe we should enquire at the local pet shop or RSPB for the correct food.



BEMC (Byewaters Estate Management Company) Director's Report

AGM - Looking to hold in 2nd or 3rd week of March.

Directors - Two Directors have stood down - Three or more new Directors are being co-opted.

Canal lights - Repairs carried out on 26th October have improved the reliability of the lights so they are rarely tripping out, even through all the heavy rain and snow. However, we have recently had further incidents of vandalism to the lights. Recommendations for further work to improve the situation long term together with associated estimates have been provided by 3 companies. A survey carried out by an independent electrical consultant (who would have no interest in quoting for any recommended work). The report includes recommendations/options regarding the work needed to bring the lights up to a good standard and working reliably. We are investigating options.

Gardens - We are reviewing the provision of gardening services which maintain all the communal landscaped areas on the estate & have 2 tenders and a 3rd in progress.

Byewaters Website - Thanks to the efforts of a number of Byewaters residents, we are now close to getting the Byewaters website back up and running. We shall let everyone know when it's ready to use.

Dog Fouling - All sightings of dog fouling should be sent to debbie.sandling@threerivers.gov.org with supporting evidence. Peverel is currently following up on an evidenced supported dog fouling complaint

Daryl Conn on behalf of **BEMC Directors**

DEER HUNTING ON CROXLEY COMMON MOOR

A recent article in My Croxley reported that five Muntjac and one Roe deer have been killed on our Moor. The killers left the carcasses having stripped the animals of their meat and skin. Many of us hope that one day we will see these timid lovely creatures roaming the moor but if this is left to continue that will not be happening! Please keep your ears and eyes open and let us hope that there will not be any more killings. My husband was lucky enough to see a Roe deer early one morning when he was on his way to work. I look forward to seeing a Muntjac or Roe deer one day on the Moor, you probably do to. If you have any information that can help catch the culprits please call Hertfordshire Constabulary on 0845 3300222.

Household Tips

To keep potatoes from budding, place an apple in the bag with the potatoes OR buy smash and keep it in the cupboard for up to a year - no budding there!!

POETS CORNER

The Beech Tree by Rose Fyleman



I'd like to have a garden
With a beech tree on the lawn;
The little birds that lived there
Would wake me up at dawn.

And in the summer weather
When all the leaves were green,
I'd sit beneath the beech boughs
And see the sky between.

REMEMBER –

*By the time a man realises that his father
was usually right, he has a son who
thinks he is usually wrong!*

*They say hard work never killed anyone,
but why take the chance?*

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Still collecting email addresses, very useful when information needs to reach you quickly. During the heavy snow I was able to pass on up to date information regarding refuse collections. Please send to fran.koster1@gmail.com

**JADE – hairdressing in your home
for your convenience**



To book an appointment Telephone (mobile): 07826 855053
or (home) 0208 428 7404 Blow-dry £14.00 Cut and blow-
dry £25.00 - for a full price list please telephone Jade.



Don't have time to keep
your garden tidy OR need a
cleaner OR a dog walker -
give me a call. I live on the
estate and charge very
competitive rates for local
residents.

Tracey - 07507 059065

**THE RADLETT CENTRE BOX OFFICE -
01923 859291**

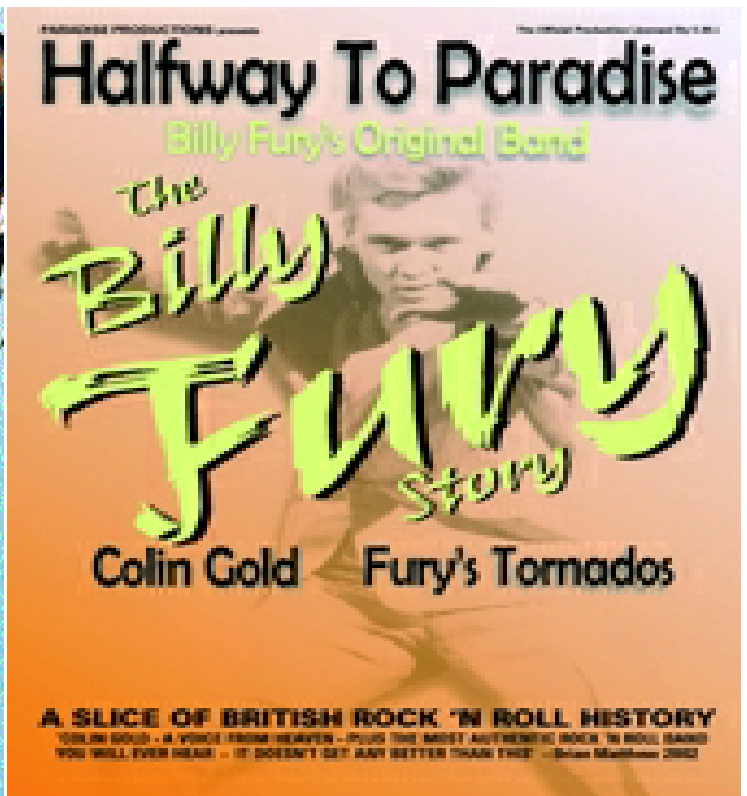
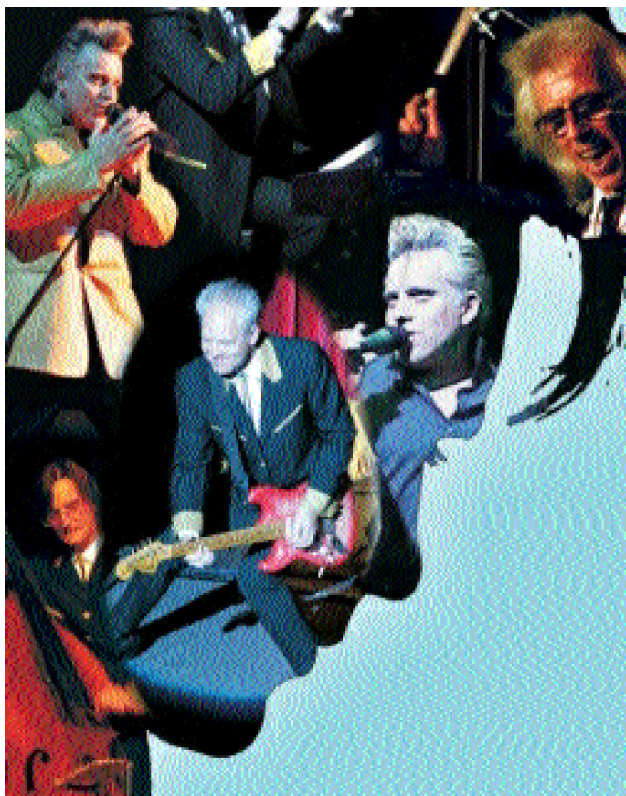
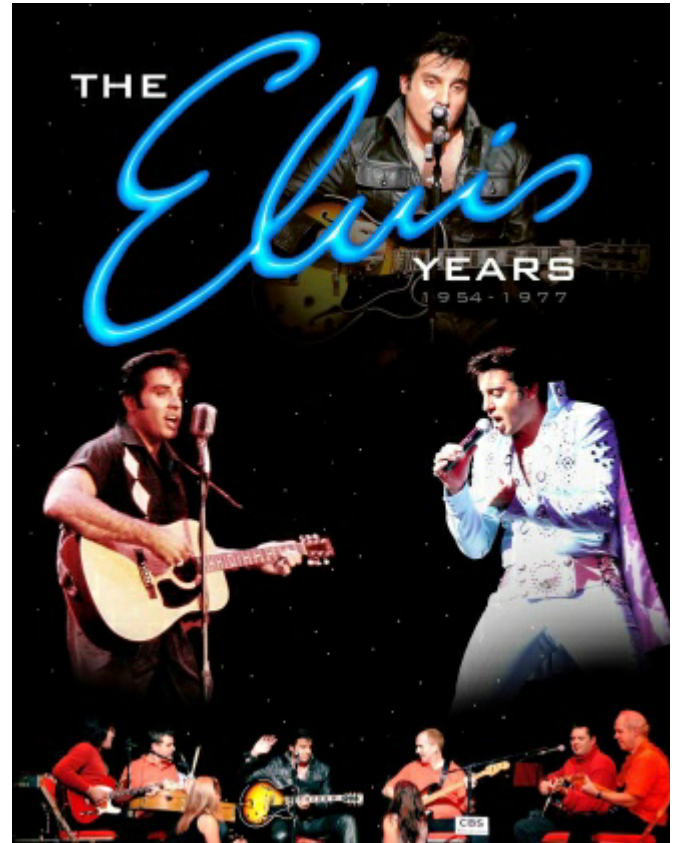
**The Elvis Years (1954 - 1977)
Saturday, 13th March 2010**

If you love Elvis you will love this, over 40 of your favourites
songs performed by Mario Kombou. Mario took the lead in the
West End production of Jail House Rock and Donna Presley
(a cousin of Elvis) thought he was 'The best Elvis since Elvis'.
The show starts with the early Sun record years and finishes
with the Las Vegas years.

**Half Way to Paradise: The Billy Fury Story
Friday, 23rd April 2010**

Or perhaps you were a Billy Fury fan, spoilt for choice. This
has Colin Gold taking on the part of Billy with Charlie Elston his
original musical director, from the 1970's, with his group Fury's
Tornados.

A real treat for Elvis and Billy fans at the Radlett Centre this
year, enjoy.





Support Us!



PARKHEATH

THE PARKHEATH SALES AND LETTINGS TEAM ARE TAKING PART IN THE SPORT RELIEF RUN THIS YEAR!

WHEN: SUNDAY 21ST MARCH. 10AM – 3PM
10.30am - 6 mile run, 12pm - 1 and 3 mile run

WHERE: AQUADROME, RICKMANSWORTH

COME JOIN US. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE!

ANY DONATIONS WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.