

Knoll News



Knoll Residents Association Autumn 2016 Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Welcome to the Autumn 2016 edition of Knoll News. The most important news is that the Association's 42nd AGM will be held on Tuesday, 22 November in the Morton Hall at St John's United Reformed Church at the corner of Mayfield Avenue and Lynwood Grove. Proceedings start at 7.45 and we look forward to welcoming all members on the night. Please make a note in your diaries.

As usual, the evening will start with a small amount of formal business (see Agenda on back page) but will quickly move on to the most important part of the evening – the chance to hear and question our guest speakers and local Councillors about issues which affect the Knoll area and which matter to you. We always try to get interesting and relevant speakers. This year we have:

- Sally Pennington from the Orpington Priory Community Hub; and
- Sharon Baldwin from Orpington Business Improvement District ("BID") to talk about the latest developments on the High Street.

The Orpington Priory Community Hub is seeking to take over the running of the Priory Building, which was the old Library and Museum, from LBB and turn it into a community asset. It has some exciting plans and is hoping for Lottery funding to help turn them into reality. On the High Street, this year has seen the opening of the cinema and hotel and we are all interested in future plans to reinvigorate Orpington.

We will also have representatives from our local Councillors, who will be on hand in the general question and answer session that follows our guest speakers to answer questions about Bromley Council actions and what is happening in and around the Knoll area.

As usual the meeting will conclude with drinks and light refreshments. This gives us all a chance to talk to Councillors, guest speakers, members of the KRA Committee and, of course, friends and neighbours in a friendly and informal setting.

A copy of the Agenda is on the back page. Copies of the minutes of last year's AGM are available on our website (www.kra.org.uk) and will also be available on the night. Copies of the Association's accounts for the year to 30 September 2016 will also be available on the night. I and the rest of the Committee look forward to meeting as many members as possible at the AGM, so please make a note in your diaries and come along.

ASRC

As mentioned in the Summer edition of Knoll News, the original LBB response to our petition for most of our area to be made an ASRC ("Area of Special Residential Character") was to restrict the area to part of Dalewood Road, part of Broxbourne and (all of) Lynwood Grove and Mayfield Avenue. This was based on a very detailed review of the roads we asked to be included in the ASRC, including descriptions of the type and style of houses in the road, the extent to which the roads were wooded, comments on front gardens etc., accompanied by photographs of "typical" houses and the area in general.

The reasoning behind LBB's decision was that the new criteria for becoming an ASRC (these have changed and become more restrictive since we undertook the petition) include a requirement for properties to be of a "similar style" and, while the properties inside the Dalewood/Broxbourne area are arguably reasonably homogenous in style, those outside that area are more diverse.

We met with Council Officers on 27 April to discuss the position and as a result I am pleased to say it appears that at the time of writing (23 September) LBB have now agreed to extend the area to include most of Dalewood (excluding the newer build houses towards the station), nearly all of Broxbourne and the various closes and roads off Lynwood and Mayfield. This extends the original area put forward by LBB by about 25%.

In consultation with our local Councillors for Knoll and Petts Wood, we have carefully considered what, if anything, we should do further. Given that the criteria for becoming an ASRC have changed since we originally set in motion the petition, we have reluctantly come to the conclusion that we are unlikely to be successful in persuading Council officers to extend the ASRC further. Provided that the revised boundaries are incorporated in the draft version of the Local Plan that should be public by the time you read this, we therefore will accept the Council's proposed boundary.

SITUATIONS VACANT

As I mentioned in the Summer Newsletter, my wife and I are planning to move away from the district after some twenty seven years. The Referendum, and subsequent confusion in the housing market, has somewhat delayed the move but it seems likely to happen in the next month or two, although I hope to be still around for the AGM.

As none of the existing members of the Committee wish to take over as full time Chair, this means that there will be a vacancy as Chairman of the KRA. We are also short of Committee members. Could I therefore ask all members to consider whether they would like to join the Committee, either as a member or, in due course, Chairman. We meet about 8 times a year and each Committee member has a role but the duties are not too onerous. If you would like to join the Committee or become Chairman, please contact me (contact details are on the back page) and I will be happy to discuss what is involved. Or, of course, you can simply complete the nomination form on the back page of this Newsletter.

We are also in need of a Road Warden for White Hart Road. Duties are fairly light – delivering the Newsletter three times a year and collecting subscriptions once a year. If you live in, or near, White Hart Road and would like to become a Road Warden, please contact Simon Wood (contact details on back page).

THE KNOLL HISTORY PROJECT

The ideas for the project are slowly evolving and those putting it together are delighted that there has been such a positive response. Do you have neighbours or friends who have lived in the Knoll for a good length of time and are keen to reminisce. Does anyone have any old photos?

Start thinking... There will be a definite start to this project next year and we hope to have more information in the spring edition of Knoll News.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE SOME FUN!

Were you or your children Brownies, Guides, Cubs or Scouts? Or maybe Rangers or Venture Scouts? Or more recently, Rainbows, Beavers or Explorers? Was it fun? Would you like to help that fun to continue for the next generation of young people? If you've never belonged to Scouting or Guiding, would you be interested in finding out what it's all about?

There have been uniformed organisations at St John's Church for over 60 years, and I have to say that the adults have just as much fun as the young people. Now a number of the current leaders are moving on or retiring, and we are loath to see any of the units close. We already have several committed people, but if we are to continue this great tradition, we need more!

There are all sorts of different opportunities for adult volunteers to get involved, from actually leading a unit, to spending a small amount of time helping with admin. The only qualifications you need are enthusiasm, and a willingness to share fun with young people. Adults who become uniformed leaders will be given all the training they need.

I have been involved with Guiding and Scouting, one way and another, all my adult life. It has given me some of my best memories, and unmeasurable amounts of fun. Why wouldn't anyone want to be part of that?

If you or anyone you know might like to join in this great game, please email guides@tw.wsn.co.uk or ring me on 01689 829584. We can arrange for you to come and visit and see what you think!

Tina Wheeler (Guide Leader)

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Do you like singing carols?

Would you like to be part of the 'ad hoc choir' which gathers at St. John's to prepare carols and Christmas music for the Candlelight Christmas service? (Service to take place on Sunday 18th December at 7pm)

Interested to find out more?

Details of rehearsals will be posted on our website at the beginning of November - see www.stjohnsurc.org.uk or contact Lesley Clare on 01689 638792 or lesleyclare@talktalk.net

WEA IN THE NEW YEAR

Why not join one of the WEA's adult education courses starting again in January and study interesting and varied subjects such as:

- European History, From Bismark to WW1
- Creative Writing
- Art, Romanticism in Painting
- Social History, Society & Belief in England 1500-1900
- England's Warrior Kings, the Late Plantagenets

Most courses take place weekly at local venues in Petts Wood and Orpington. For further details and to book a place, please contact Penny Stewart on 01689 827420 or Martine Haynes at haynes.martine@googlemail.com

And why not try one of the WEA's Saturday afternoon lectures:

4 February 2017	Abraham Lincoln, Log Cabin to Liberator
4 March 2017	The Architects of London, Part 4
25 March 2017	18th Century Women in Politics

They take place at St John's URC (2-4.30pm) and tickets cost £8 including refreshments. To apply for tickets, contact Yvonne Tapper on 01689 877372 or yvonne_tapper@hotmail.com

TIME TO REMEMBER

On Friday 4th November St John's Church will be open between 6.00pm and 8.30pm for anyone who wishes to come in and spend some quiet time thinking of those they love who have died.

At 8.15pm there will be a short Act of Remembrance led by the Minister, in which all names will be read aloud and commended with love to God.

POST OFFICE CLOSURE

Amidst the good news about the High Street - the cinema and the hotel etc - we also have some bad. The Post Office has announced that it intends to close down the existing Post Office in Orpington High Street and move the facilities over the road into WH Smith. The new "office" will be at the rear of WH Smith and will still be a Crown Post Office with 5 serving positions, although how many will be "open" is, of course, another matter. The move is intended to take place in February 2017.

Presumably this is the case of two struggling organisations seeking to help each other out. The Post Office has a consultation portal for comments on the proposal (comments@postoffice.co.uk; use code 007012), although past history (the Post Office in Beckenham is now located in WH Smith) suggests that the move will take place regardless.

Equally important, however, is the question of what will happen to the old premises. Presumably the Post Office will seek to sell them to raise money but as the premises are one of the more presentable buildings along the High Street, but maybe not easily adaptable to other purposes, there is a real concern that the purchaser may seek to knock them down or at least significantly change them.

WASTE COLLECTION

If any waste or recycling bins have not been collected on the usual day, you can now check the status of a before reporting a 'missed bin' collection to Bromley Council.



The website page is:
https://www.bromley.gov.uk/news/article/184/waste_collection_delays

This page will show if there are any general delays, and there is also a link to enable you to report a missed collection if required.

CONTACT US

The contact details for specific KRA officers & committee members are:-

Chairman Paul Savage 820912 kra.chair@gmail.com
Secretary Miriam Harries kra.secretary@gmail.com
Treasurer & vice-chairman Ian Black kra.treasurer@gmail.com
Planning Sue Smith kra.planning@gmail.com
Tree warden Brian Wilkin kra.treewarden@gmail.com
Road warden secretary Jo Wyton 810622
Road warden secretary Hilary Robson 825422
Road warden secretary Simon Wood 871811
Road warden secretary Kay Wilkins 878603
Road warden secretary Dave Thomas 829646
Items for the KRA website to knollnews@gmail.com

Our Newsletter is delivered to over 1200 members in the area. If you have any articles or news snippets you would like to share, or details of any forthcoming courses, events or talks that you would like published in the Spring 2017 edition please email to knollnews@gmail.com by Monday 13th March 2017. Thank you.

Please note: Information on items and activities included in this newsletter and on our website are as received by the Knoll Residents Association. The KRA is not responsible for these items/activities and the inclusion of such activities does not constitute an endorsement of services or information offered.

Agenda for the 42nd Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 22 November

The Meeting commences at **7.45 pm** in the Main Hall, St. John's URC, Lynwood Grove, Orpington, BR6 0GB

- 1) Welcome and introductions from the Chairman
- 2) Approval of Minutes of 41st AGM (copies will be available at the meeting or can be viewed on our website at <http://www.kra.orp.org.uk/>)
- 3) Election of the Committee (nominations welcomed; see Chairman's Corner & slip below)
- 4) Treasurer's report and the Association's accounts to 30 September 2016 (copies of the accounts will be made available at the meeting)
- 5) Review of the year's activities
- 6) Guest speakers
- 7) Q&A session

The evening ends with wine, soft drinks & light refreshments and the opportunity to circulate & socialise with your Committee, our members and invited guests.



NOMINATION FORM

You may nominate any member of the Association for the Committee provided they are willing to serve and are seconded by another member of the Association. Completed nomination forms are to be sent to: 61 Vinson Close, Orpington, Kent BR6 0EQ **by Sunday 20 November 2016**. The new Committee, once elected, will appoint the officers of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary.

Nominee.....
(name & address)

Nominated by.....
(name & address)

Seconded by.....
(name & address)

Nominee's signature..... **Date**.....