

Knoll News



Knoll Residents Association Spring 2011 Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

By Paul Savage kra.chair@gmail.com , ☎ 820912

A big thank you to all our members who attended the AGM on 23 November 2010. In addition to the formal business of the evening, and meeting with friends and neighbours over a glass or two of wine, those attending also had the opportunity to question local Councillors about a variety of parking, pavement maintenance and other issues. There were also interesting presentations from two Council officers: Colin Brand and Rob Vale.

Colin outlined the Council's plans for the existing Library and Museum site. These involve extending the existing Museum to include meeting rooms and a café. An application has been made to the Lottery Fund for 90% funding, with the intention to start work in 2012. Although any plans to develop Orpington's amenities is to be welcomed, these plans do seem ambitious, particularly at a time when economies are being made in other areas, and I suspect that some scepticism may be in order.

Rob Vale is a member of Bromley Council's Trading Standards team and gave an interesting talk about rogue traders and callers. Rogue traders particularly target the elderly and vulnerable with unnecessary and high-priced work. Any concerns about possible "rogue trading" can be referred to the team on: 07903 852090.

For those who were unable to attend, a copy of the minutes of the AGM can be found on our new web-site (www.kra.orp.org.uk), which also has copies of previous issues of Knoll News, a map of the area covered by the Association and an outline of some of the issues we take an interest in on behalf of our members.

Finally, this is the issue of Knoll News when we ask for membership subscriptions. At only £1 per adult household member, I hope you agree that it is a bargain worth supporting. Please help your local road warden by competing the slip on the back page of this issue and putting it and the subscription fee in an envelope through the road warden's door (addresses are on the back page) as soon as you can. Thank you.

CHISLEHURST ROAD RAILWAY BRIDGE

As most residents will know, the road bridge over the railway at the start of Petts Wood just before Marlings Park Avenue has had weight and width restrictions for

several months. The bridge is, however, still deteriorating and will have to be replaced.

It is expected that work will commence in October 2011 and will lead to the closure of the bridge for several months. As this is a busy road, it is likely that there will be significant traffic problems and congestion. As a result, road journeys to Chislehurst and beyond will take significantly longer. You have been warned!

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS

The Knoll area is covered by two Safer Neighbourhood Teams: one based in Petts Wood and one based in Orpington. Together, these have led to a significant reduction in crime and nuisance over the last few years. Unfortunately, as part of the ongoing cuts to public services, the current set up and staffing of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams all over Bromley is being reviewed.

We have written on behalf of the Association stressing the good work done by these Teams and that any cuts should be made to the back office rather than policemen and PCSO's on the beat.

At the time of writing, the results of the review are not known but it is thought that consideration is being given to leaving the present structure of the Teams in place but having one Sergeant to run two Teams, rather than each team being run by its own Sergeant as at present.

ORPINGTON LIBRARY

Orpington Library is moving into the town centre, next door to Sainsbury's. The old library at the Priory will close its doors for the last time at 5pm on Saturday 16th April, and the new library will open a fortnight later on Tuesday May 3rd.

The new library will be on two floors, with a bright new children's area on the ground floor, and a quieter, more bookish atmosphere upstairs. In addition to lots of new books, there will be DVDs, music CDs and audio books to borrow that you can listen to in the car.

The library will have lots of computers and Internet access is free for members. If you haven't yet got the hang of computers and the Internet, there will be free introductory sessions.

Everyone is expecting the new library to be much busier. If you haven't been in the habit of using the old library, you might want to avoid the queue and join up before the move - you just need to take in something official showing your name and address, such as a driving licence, gas bill, or bank statement.

We are lucky Bromley Council put aside the money for our new library before the financial crunch. Let's make the most of it!

TREES

By Richard Healey kra.treewarden@gmail.com

Following on from the article in the last issue of Knoll News about the Leaf Mining Moth in Horse Chestnut trees. These trees also suffer from Bleeding Canker.

The Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) is a native of the Balkans region of south-eastern Europe. It is believed to have been introduced to Great Britain in the 1500s.

Bleeding Canker is like a 'running sore' consisting of an area of dying bark on a tree's trunk or branches that oozes or 'bleeds' liquid.

It is caused by *Phytophthora cilricola* and *Phytophthora cactorum*, which are well known fungus-like organisms from the large *Phytophthora* genus.

Recent samples analysed have identified another bacterium known as *Pseudomonas syringae* pathovar *aesculi* to be the cause.

There is no chemical treatment available to cure or arrest the development of Bleeding Canker. We know some trees survive it, some die and some are felled for safety reasons.

You can find out more at <http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6KYBGV>



If you have a new sapling planted in front of, or close to, your property please remember it would benefit from a regular drink until its roots are well established. The Borough's tree contractors will have sunk a tube close to the sapling's base for the purpose of delivering the water to where it is most useful to the future tree.

Last year was the driest since 2003 and if we are lucky enough to have a continuing drier-than-average spring & summer this year the saplings will definitely need our help to flourish.

ARE YOU CUT OUT TO BE A BASAL GROWTH BUDDY?

Not a question you get asked everyday but this is another way you can contribute to helping your local trees, your street and your fellow residents. You can read more at <http://www.bromley.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/389FBB50-E559-49A3-BE7D-4B44007C54A7/0/StreetFriendsnewsletterissue2December2009.pdf>

And Bromley's Street Friends scheme has lots more ideas for practical ways to improve your locality. For those who are Street Friends for a road's trees there are Summer Tree Identification training courses running this year at:-

- Kelsey Park, Beckenham on Saturday 21st May, and
- Chislehurst Recreation Ground on Saturday 11th June.

Contact Jenny Price, High Elms Countryside Officer for more details ☎ 862815.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

More help needed

Bromley Local Involvement Network – Bromley LINK have sent me an information letter and questionnaire regarding hospital discharge.

If you have recently had a stay in hospital and would like to complete such a questionnaire please let me know and I can email the pages to you. Or contact Nicki Rigby from Bromley LINK, ☎ 020

8315 1982 for paper copies.

In the news

If you are involved with any local groups/activities that would be suitable for inclusion in Bromley Borough News you can get in touch with Luke King, Editor, Bromley News series via the web pages below.

Bromley Borough News is distributed to more than 30,000 homes in the Bromley borough, the majority in Orpington and surrounding areas. In addition, news is also available on their website at www.bromley-today.co.uk

Dates for your diaries

All Saints Festival Choir & Orchestra have two more performances this year and I have included the rehearsal start dates for any interested potential new members:-

- Saturday 2nd July – O Sing unto the Lord, **Purcell**, Te Deum, **Charpentier**, Cantique de Jean Racine & Requiem, **Faure** (*rehearsals begin 26/04/11*)

- Saturday 19th November – Nelson Mass, **Haydn** and Mass in C, **Beethoven** (*rehearsals begin 06/09/11*)

For more information contact ☎ 020 8467 9470 or see www.allsaintsfestivalchoir.co.uk

Knoll Residents Association contacts

The Chairman's, Tree Warden's, Secretary's & Road Warden Secretaries' details are given at the appropriate point in this newsletter.

For planning queries contact Carol Gray at kra.planning@gmail.com or ☎ 872931

Items suitable for the website should be sent to Deepa Gadkary c/o kra.website@gmail.com Important information from the Police, London Borough of Bromley, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators, Trading Standards etc regarding current threats, concerns or incidents in the area will be posted there and regularly reviewed. Your contributions & visits to the website will make it a valuable addition to the KRA's activities.

General enquiries can be forwarded to kra.enquiries@gmail.com and future newsletter articles to kra.knollnews@gmail.com (next deadline for copy 24th June 2011).

Hilary Robson kra.secretary@gmail.com , ☎ 825422

ALL OUR YESTERYEARS

By Richard Burton



ORPINGTON

1910

Francis William Austin was a surveyor who bought up most of the local land in the early 1900s. He lived at "The Knoll" and his office was at "Hillview", both in Station Road.

By 1910 he was starting to develop the Knoll estate but was interrupted by the First World War. After the war for whatever reason Aubrey Mullock became the major developer.

The High Street is shown at the bottom of the map with the Mayfield Estate in white on the west side of the High Street. The map is taken from a display board somewhere near Orpington Station.

ROAD WARDENS *By Paul Savage*

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, we are "missing" a few road wardens. The posts open are:-

- 33 to 52 Hillview Road;
- Bramley Court in Orchard Grove;
- Braeburn Court in Orchard Grove; and
- Blossom Drive leading off Orchard Grove.

The duties are fairly light, consisting of the delivery of the Knoll News three times a year and the collection of the annual subscriptions. If you would like to volunteer, or would like to know more, please contact me, kra.chair@gmail.com ☎ 820912, or one of the Road Warden Secretaries listed at the end of this section, thank you. Meanwhile I am grateful to David Simpson & Brian Wilkin for their continuing cover.

Richard Burton ☎ 810561, Ray Vaughan ☎ 839473, Kay Wilkins ☎ 878603 & Alison McCartney ☎ 823082.
Road warden co-ordinator Chris Tait ☎ 831709. Brian Wilkin ☎ 836728



Knoll Residents Association Membership Subscription Form 2011

Please enter your details below and deliver with your subscription (£1 for each adult household member) to your road warden. Subscriptions for 2011 are due **by 30 April 2011**.

Name(1)

Name(2).....

Name(3).....

Address.....