

# Knoll News



## Knoll Residents Association Autumn 2012 Newsletter

### CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

*by Paul Savage*

Welcome to the Autumn 2012 edition of Knoll News. The most important news is that the **Association's 38<sup>th</sup> AGM will be held on Tuesday 13 November** in the main hall at St John's United Reformed Church at the corner of Lynwood Grove and Mayfield Avenue. Proceedings start at 7:45pm and we look forward to welcoming you on the night.

The evening opens with the formal business, including this year some proposed changes to the Constitution – see aside. The agenda is on the back page. The heart of the meeting, however, is our guest speakers and the chance to question them and our local Councillors about local issues and other matters of concern. This year we are lucky to have as our speakers Stephen Carr and Cheryl Curr. Stephen Carr is the leader of Bromley Council and will be talking to us about the efficiency and other savings the Council is making through such initiatives as sharing services, library back office and similar, with neighbouring councils. Cheryl Curr is the Orpington Town Centre Manager and will be talking about the Walnuts redevelopment and the proposed Orpington Business Improvement District and the changes that this might have on our High St. We also expect to have representatives from the local Safer Neighbourhood Teams to update us about local crime developments and the on-going changes to the structure of the teams themselves.

After the speakers, there will be a general question and answer session, which will give you the opportunity to ask local Councillors questions about what is happening, or not happening, in the Knoll area. As usual the meeting will conclude with drinks and light refreshments and the chance to talk to Councillors, guest speakers, members of the KRA Committee and, of course, your neighbours in a friendly and informal environment.

Copies of last year's AGM minutes are available on our website ([www.kra.orp.org.uk](http://www.kra.orp.org.uk)) and will also be available on the night. Copies of the Association's accounts to 30 September 2012 will also be available on the night. I and members of the Committee look forward to meeting as many members as possible at the AGM.

### CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

As mentioned in Chairman's Corner, it is proposed to make two small changes to the Constitution as part of a tidying up and modernisation exercise. The first part of this is a proposal to increase the number of Committee members from 12 to 15. This will help in managing and sharing out the work of the Committee.

The second part is to remove the references in the Constitution to the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. The links between KRA and the Neighbourhood Watch scheme are lost in history but for many years the Association has not acted as part of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and it would be unreasonable to ask our road wardens en masse to also act as Neighbourhood Watch wardens, although, of course, individually they may wish to do so, and indeed some already are.

The relevant sections of the Constitution to be amended and the proposed changes are:

**2)d)** To conform to the Neighbourhood Watch constitution as prescribed by the Metropolitan Police. **(To be deleted)**

**5)** The management of the Association between general meetings shall be in the hands of the Committee comprising not more than 12 members elected at the Annual General meeting. **(Amend 12 to 15)**

**17)** The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of November every year and the business to be transacted shall include matters relating to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, the election of the Committee... **(Delete " the Neighbourhood Watch scheme" )**.

### SITUATIONS VACANT

*by Paul Savage*

Road Wardens are at the heart of the Association, delivering the Knoll News three times a year, collecting subscriptions and providing a link between members and the Committee. We have a vacancy for the area from 17a to 31 and 34 to 50 Knoll Rise as the old Road Warden has moved out of the area. Would anyone who would like to take on this role please contact either me or Richard Burton (contact details at the end of this newsletter). The existing Committee will stand for re-election but assuming the proposed increase to the number of members of the Committee is passed by the AGM, there will also be three vacancies on the Committee. Miriam Harries, who has been attending Bromley Road Traffic Safety meetings on behalf of the Association, will be standing, which leaves two positions vacant. If anyone would like to stand, please complete the Nomination Form at the end of this Newsletter. If you would like to discuss what is involved, please contact me and I will be happy to talk over the various roles on the Committee.

# ORPINGTON HOSPITAL

by Paul Savage

As you may know, the proposals about Orpington Hospital have been put out for public consultation. The consultation period runs to 29 October and the consultation questionnaire can be accessed and completed on line at [www.selondon.nhs.uk/orpingtonconsultation](http://www.selondon.nhs.uk/orpingtonconsultation) or hard copies are available from local libraries, GP surgeries or by calling 020 7861 3080.

There are also a number of public events, unfortunately over by the time that this newsletter will be available but I attended the first of these at Crofton Halls on 9 August. The meeting was not very well organised and the speakers from the local clinical commissioning group, who are in charge of the Orpington Hospital proposals, were not overly impressive in front of a mainly angry audience. Matthew Kershaw, the new administrator of South London Healthcare Trust, who was impressive, also spoke.

The background to the proposals is that NHS services are being re-organised. The more complex procedures are being centralised into centres of excellence, while simpler procedures are being localised. Orpington Hospital, given in my view years of underinvestment, falls between the two stools. It is too big as it stands for the local services and it would cost too much to bring up to centre of excellence standard. Hence the closure with the two options for local services being a large local centre carrying out more local procedures, including X-ray and physiotherapy, and a smaller one carrying out fewer; both being combined with three local GP's surgeries. The new centre will be somewhere in Orpington but the location is not yet known and might even be on part of the Orpington Hospital site. The funds from the sale of the site will go back into a central NHS pot rather than SL Healthcare Trust.

There are a number of issues with either option that have not been resolved: where some of the new central services will be provided given the review of services overall by Matthew Kershaw, parking availability at the PRUH etc. but given that Orpington Hospital will close, the better option seems to be for the larger local service provider rather than the smaller.

Matthew Kershaw spoke about the review he is undertaking of the SL Healthcare Trust, which in crude terms is bankrupt. Part of the reason for this is the various PFI contracts for the PRUH and Woolwich Hospitals but a significant factor is that the Trust is not as an efficient provider of services as many others. His remit is to introduce efficiencies and so make the Trust more cost effective and sustainable. If this can be done, extra funding will be available from the NHS. His recommendations, which will take account of the closure of Orpington Hospital and the new local centre in Orpington, and also include decisions about Beckenham Beacon and Queen Mary's at Sidcup, will be drafted by the end of October and will be followed by a further consultation exercise, probably in December, with recommendations to the Secretary of State in the New Year.

While I think we can have some sympathy with Mr Kershaw for what must be a very tough job, we will have to wait for the consultation exercise to see to what extent increased efficiency means reductions in services. In any event, it seems likely that some hard choices will have to be made.

## UPDATE ON THE BRIDGE SO FAR.....

Following Richard Burton's visit to the Chislehurst Road bridge site in June, he has recently received this update (abridged version) from the **HOCHTIEF (UK) Construction Ltd Project Manager**.

***"We plan to open as planned on (or before) 16 November, so "in the Autumn" as the leaflets advised when they were distributed last September before we started. ..not every project keeps to its programme and HUK and LBB are pleased with this result. All of the main structural works with the bridge are now complete, and the huge protection deck was removed....when the site was operating 24 hours a day for 10 days, but we have plenty of works under the bridge to complete before we can waterproof the new bridge and carry out the major roadworks either side of the bridge including drainage, kerbs, new islands and new lamp posts and white lining etc. The brickwork facings to the parapets will be the next major change that pedestrians will notice and these works should commence on or about 1 October. The contract value is approx £4.6m, the HUK construction section is considerably less than the total as LBB have had to carry out surveys, design, supervision and have also had to pay Network rail a considerable sum for land access and insurances etc."***

**Meanwhile there are indications that the bus route diversions have actually benefited some passengers & visitors to the Nugent Centre and some diversion routes may be retained. You can watch the bridge**

## WEA SATURDAY LECTURES

Why not brighten up those wintry Saturday afternoons by trying one of the WEA's Saturday lectures. They take place at St John's URC, Lynwood Grove, Orpington from 2:00-4.30pm and tickets cost £8 including refreshments. To apply for tickets, contact Yvonne Tapper on 01689 877372 or [yvonne\\_tapper@hotmail.com](mailto:yvonne_tapper@hotmail.com)

**3 November - The Golden Age of Venice** Before its spectacular decline, Venice was a major power; famous for its wealth and political stability and as a centre of culture. A look at the city in the 16th century and the factors that created its 'golden age'.

**1 December - Wren & His City Churches** Wren is one of the most highly acclaimed architects in history but his achievements extend far beyond into the realms of science and astronomy. This talk will trace the life of Christopher Wren from parson's son in rural Wiltshire to respected Oxford professor and his triumphs in architecture and science.

### Sunday 11 November

*with thanks to the Chairman, Orpington Royal British Legion*

We will be holding the Remembrance Day Parade this year on Sunday 11 November, the 11th day of the 11th month. We usually hold a small parade in the Walnuts for a two minutes silence too, but as the 11th falls on the Sunday this year there will only be the one parade.

Our Remembrance Day is in three parts:

- The parade starts at **10:00 at the War Memorial**. After a short service at the Memorial the parade moves off down the High St to All Saints Church, Church Hill.
- Part two is a service at All Saints and includes the two minute silence at 11 o'clock.
- Finally part three is a service at the Commonwealth War Graves. Local cadet units line the head stones of the fallen for a very moving service.

Poppy sellers will be out and about from the 3rd of November and all monies collected go to the support of ex-service members and their families.

### Wednesday 21 November

Is the annual Orpington Town Centre Christmas Lights switch on with fireworks, local school choirs and more.

Look out for posters on the High Street notice boards & in the local press. And *do* come and get the full low-down on the event and the rest of the Town Centre news from Cheryl Curr and our Ward Councillors at our 38<sup>th</sup> AGM on 13 November.

### Oh Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree, how lovely .....

Orpington Methodist Church will be hosting its Christmas Tree Festival again this year following the enormous success of 2011. The Festival runs from **Saturday 1 until Sunday 9 December**. You can read more about the Festival and see last year's winners at <http://www.orpingtonmethodist.org.uk/christmastreefestival-latestnews.htm>

## ANY VIEWS?

Our Secretary has received the message below (abridged version) from a local student. [You can contact her at kld22@student.le.ac.uk](mailto:kld22@student.le.ac.uk) if you have any questions or require any further assistance. The link to the survey is 'live' on our website too. Kirsty writes:

*"I am a resident of Bromley Borough and a student at the University of Leicester. I am conducting dissertation research that is evaluating the coalition government's devolution of planning power and exploring Bromley's community's and citizen's attitudes towards this. Being part of a community/resident association within Bromley your assistance is very much needed and would be invaluable to the research project. I would be extremely grateful if you could please take the time to participate in a short online survey. I really do hope to make a positive difference towards citizen's experience of planning in Bromley. For the survey itself & more information please visit the website <http://fluidsurveys.com/surveys/kirsty-dougan/survey-for-bromley-borough-citizens/> If you feel unable or uncomfortable answering any of the questions please just leave them blank. Be assured that your privacy will be entirely respected. Any answer you provide will be treated with the strictest confidentiality and you will remain anonymous in any written work based upon this project. I would be extremely grateful if you could*

*please forward this on to others within your community group or any friends, family and colleagues that may be happy to complete the survey."*

## CONTACT US

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

Chairman Paul Savage (820912 [kra.chair@gmail.com](mailto:kra.chair@gmail.com))  
Secretary Hilary Robson (825422 [kra.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:kra.secretary@gmail.com))  
Treasurer & vice-chairman Ian Black (831014 [kra.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:kra.treasurer@gmail.com))  
Planning Carol Gray (872931 [kra.planning@gmail.com](mailto:kra.planning@gmail.com))  
Tree warden Richard Healey (812662 [kra.treewarden@gmail.com](mailto:kra.treewarden@gmail.com))  
Road warden co-ordinator Chris Tait ( 831709)  
Road warden secretary Ray Vaughan (839473)  
Road warden secretary Richard Burton (810561)  
Road warden secretary Kay Wilkins (878603)  
Items for the KRA website to Deepa Gadkary [kra.website@gmail.com](mailto:kra.website@gmail.com)  
Road Safety matters to [kra.roadsafety@gmail.com](mailto:kra.roadsafety@gmail.com)

Our Spring Newsletter is delivered to all households in our 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 publicised in the Spring 2013 edition please email to [kra.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:kra.secretary@gmail.com) by Friday 15 March 2013, thank you.

**Agenda for the 38th Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 13 November 2012**  
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 37th 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) Proposed changes to the Association's Constitution (as described on the front page. Please email the Secretary at [kra.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:kra.secretary@gmail.com) if you wish to see a copy of the current Constitution)
- 5) Treasurer's report and the Association's accounts to 30 September 2012 (copies of the accounts will be made available at the meeting)
- 6) Review of the year's activities
- 7) Guest speakers
- 8) 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.

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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 the Secretary, Mrs Hilary Robson, 35 Tower Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 0SG, by Friday 9 November 2012. 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.....**