

## Knoll Residents Association Spring 2016 Newsletter

### CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Welcome to the Spring 2016 edition of Knoll News. We had a very successful AGM on Tuesday, 24 November which over 120 members attended, together with local Councillors, and invited speakers from King's College NHS Trust, Orpington Business Improvement District ("BID") and the Local Policing Team.

Paul Donahoe, Deputy Medical Director, and Paula Townsend, Nursing Director, from King's gave a presentation about the ongoing integration of the PRUH and King's. Although some of the problems at the PRUH have proved to be more difficult than originally thought, progress was being made, which was being reflected in improved CQC inspection markings. Finances were still an issue but additional savings were being made and the use of agency nurses reduced. Orpington Hospital is now an important part of the plan going forward being a centre for elective surgery and steady progress was being made in better liaison with Social Services for the discharge and aftercare of patients.

Sharon Baldwin from Orpington BID outlined High Street developments, including the new cinema, hotel, restaurants and shops. To cope with the expected extra visitors to the cinema and hotel, opening hours at the multi-storey car park would be extended. Orpington BID is also working with local Community Groups to develop a plan to run The Priory as a local Community asset.

Finally, Sergeant Nick McLoughlin of the Local Police Team outlined new police initiatives designed to make policing resources more mobile to deal with issues as they arise. Dedicated officers for Orpington High Street were being introduced, although the Knoll area was generally a low crime area, with most crime being opportunistic car crime and burglary.

Since then, of course, the new cinema has opened and let's hope it helps to reinvigorate Orpington High Street – and also shows some decent films. As at the time of writing, the PRUH has also recently had to close all wards to visitors because of a norovirus outbreak. Although it cannot be easy working in the NHS these days, this does not seem to bode well for future improvements at the PRUH.

I write below about progress in the Knoll's bid to become an ASRC, but in the meantime could I urge all readers to join the Knoll Residents Association. Subscription is only £1 per adult person, which I hope you will accept is good value. Please complete the form on the back page and return it with your subscription to your local road warden (details on page 3) as soon as possible.

### ASRC NEWS

I, supported by other members of the Committee, presented our Petition to have the Knoll Area made an Area of Special Residential Character (an "ASRC") to a meeting of the full Council on 22 February. We were warmly supported by local Council members Tony Owen, Douglas Auld, Simon Fawthrop and William Huntington-Thresher. The Petition was submitted to the Council's Executive for further consideration in conjunction with the Local Plan. Areas can only become ASRC's through being adopted as such in the Local Plan. LBB is currently in the process of updating its Local Plan, which gives us the opportunity to have the Knoll area adopted as an ASRC. The updating process is somewhat convoluted and drawn out. The initial consultation was in September and October last year. The Council is now in the process of drawing up the new plan. The draft plan is expected to be issued for further consultation sometime in April. The final version of the plan will then be submitted to the Secretary of State in September for review, with a view to being formally adopted by LBB in January 2017.

### MEETING WITH COUNCILLORS

We will be meeting with our local Councillors in mid-May. If you have any issues you would like us to raise with them, please let Paul Savage know by the end of April (contact details on the back page).

### ORPINGTON PRIORY

There have been some encouraging developments with regard to the Priory Building. The Orpington Priory Community Hub (OPCH) has been set up by local residents and they hope to take over the running of the building as a community facility. The OPCH is a limited company and registered charity with nine trustees headed by chairman Sally Pennington.

By registering the Priory as a community asset the team have won a six month moratorium on the sale or disposal of the building. This means the OPCH has until 30th May to present their business case to Bromley Council who could then grant them a lease to run the site. The group is working hard to get it ready and in the meantime OPCH needs to look for funding - they have a target of £600,000. Refurbishment will be broken down into phases to make it easier and it is hoped that the Council will help with some of the costs.

The aim is to keep the building in the public domain and restore it - OPCH hopes to involve local students and apprentices in the restoration work. The building has both small rooms and large areas so it is suitable for a wide variety of different activities and events - dance and keep fit classes, music groups, concerts, craft and antiques fairs, business meetings and conferences, exhibitions, workshops, educational visits and as a wedding venue. They also plan to have a tea room called The Priory Pantry. More detailed information is available on the Orpington Community website and on [orpingtonpriorycommunityhub.wordpress.com](http://orpingtonpriorycommunityhub.wordpress.com).

### **SITUATIONS VACANT**

We are still one or two members short of a full Committee and we also expect a resignation later in the year because of moving out of the area. If you would like to become a member of the Knoll Resident's Committee, please contact Paul Savage (contact details are on the back page). We meet for a couple of hours on a Monday about eight times a year. There are a variety of roles, none of which are too demanding. This is your chance to input on developments in the Knoll area and make it a better place to live – come and join us.

We also need some new Road Wardens. Duties involve delivering the Knoll News to your area, three times a year and collecting subscriptions. We have vacancies for:

Devonshire Road  
Somerset Road  
Wiltshire Road  
White Hart Road  
Lynwood Grove (42-58 & 45-85)

For details of the first four of these, please contact Simon Wood and for Lynwood Grove, Kay Wilkins (contact details on the back page).

### **SPANISH COMES TO ST JOHN'S**

Experienced native teacher offers a 10 week beginners course commencing Wednesday 11th May from 8.00pm - 9.30pm. The same course is also offered on Thursday 12th May from 11:30am-1.00pm.

This short course will enable you to achieve a good level of communication to speak and understand Spanish in a variety of situations.

For more information ring 07504 086443 or email [dpetronsdospanish@gmail.com](mailto:dpetronsdospanish@gmail.com)

**ORPINGTON CHORALE** will be performing Mendelssohn's "Elijah" at 7.45 pm on Saturday, 23 April at All Saints' Church, Bark Hart Road, Orpington

Tickets are £10 (£5 for under 18's), either on the door or contact 020 8325 3633

### **A HISTORY OF THE KNOLL** - stories and anecdotes

Are there any budding or ex talents in collating and editing this project? We know there are a number of very long term residents who recall when Mayfield Avenue was a cul-de-sac and there was a prep school opposite St John's.

There are some very interesting stories and facts which are in danger of being lost forever if we can't collect the information soon. Perhaps we could create a working party to interview and organise this. If you feel you could help please contact me, Jo Wyton, at [jowyton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jowyton@hotmail.co.uk)

### **BOWLS**

If you are interested in taking up bowls, the Orpington Excelsior Club plays at Poverest Park. They have an Open Day on Saturday, 4th June from 10am to 4pm for taster sessions, followed by a number of free training sessions.

Bowls etc are provided – just turn up with a pair of trainers.

### **MASTERMIND IS COMING TO LONDON**

BBC Mastermind is coming to London to do auditions for the next series.

If you think you have what it takes to sit in the famous black chair and have your general knowledge and choice of specialist subject tested to the limit by quizmaster John Humphrys, apply online at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/showsandtours/takepart/mastermind>

## CONTACT US

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

**Chairman** Paul Savage 820912 [kra.chair@gmail.com](mailto:kra.chair@gmail.com)

**Secretary** Miriam Harries [kra.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:kra.secretary@gmail.com)

**Treasurer & vice-chairman** Ian Black [kra.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:kra.treasurer@gmail.com)

**Planning** Sue Smith [kra.planning@gmail.com](mailto:kra.planning@gmail.com)

**Tree warden** Brian Wilkin [kra.treewarden@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:knollnews@gmail.com)

Our 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 Summer 2016 edition please email to [knollnews@gmail.com](mailto:knollnews@gmail.com) by Monday 13th June 2016. Thank you.