

# Spring 2010 Newsletter

## SPRING 2010 EDITION

### CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

#### Paul Savage writes...

This is my first Knoll News as Chairman and I have to lead with the very sad news of the death of the previous Chairman, Mike Fogden. As those of you who attended the AGM in November will be aware Mike died on October 10, just after the last issue of the Knoll News went to the printers. Mike was a larger than life character, who had a very distinguished Civil Service career as well as giving many years of service to the Knoll Residents' Association. He will be sorely missed.

#### The Committee

We now have a full Committee with one new face, Deepa Gadkary, who has replaced Dinesh Gupta. Details of the Committee and how to contact us are given towards the end of this edition of Knoll News.

#### Knoll News

This edition of Knoll News has a new format, which we hope you will find more handy and easy to use than the old. It has also been produced on a more collegiate basis than was perhaps the case in the past with more direct contributions from relevant Committee members (planning , trees etc), with the overall editor being our Secretary, Hilary Robson, with help from Deepa Gadkary. We hope that you find the new format and approach both useful and helpful. I would welcome any comments from members about the new format; details of how to contact me are given towards the end of this Newsletter.

#### KRA Website

You may not know but the KRA has its own web-site ([www.kra.orp.org.uk](http://www.kra.orp.org.uk)). This currently contains copies of the last edition of Knoll News and some earlier editions. The minutes of the November 2009 AGM can also be reached by a link from the Autumn 2009 Knoll News.

There is also a contact page, although the best way to contact Committee members is through their Google e-mail addresses. We are hoping to update the website and make it more relevant to members but are struggling with a lack of technical know-how. If any member has experience of setting up/maintaining websites and would be willing to help the Committee update it, we would be very grateful. Please contact me via the [contact page](#) in the first instance.

### SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Sergeant Kemp from the Petts Wood & Knoll SNT has sent this message and the Committee are aware that the Orpington SNT are carrying out the same process in their ward.

*Neighbourhood Team pledge to visit every residential address on ward In support of the priority set by the local ward panel - and as part of the Metropolitan Police's Operation Bumblebee burglary initiative - PCSOs from the Petts Wood and Knoll Safer*

*Neighbourhood Team will be calling at all residential addresses in the ward to offer individual Crime Prevention Advice around burglary and to also raise awareness of the team and its work.*

*PCSO Joanne Matthews from the Petts Wood and Knoll Safer Neighbourhood Team said: "We were determined to ensure that everyone had an opportunity to speak to their local officers, so rather than expect the community to come to us, the team will be visiting every street in the area and speaking to householders. We are looking to tackle the issue of burglary and ensure Petts Wood remains one of the safest places to live. Also, by completing our initiative and visiting every residential address on the ward we will ensure that each resident has had the opportunity to get to know the team and tell us if they have any concerns".*

## **TREES**

Although at the time of writing it is still cold and wet, spring is round the corner and trees and bushes will start to grow again. While we all welcome the warmer weather, what may not be well known is that householders have a responsibility for the upkeep of vegetation on their property which overhangs public walkways.

If you have trees, hedges etc which are growing over your fence, and which obstruct or restrict a pavement or public footpath, please give them a trim. The same applies to any vegetation which is growing over or obstructing street or footpath lights, which may create shadows, and can be intimidating for women and young children walking along footpaths at night.

This is really all part of being a good neighbour, although in the worst case scenario if there is a complaint, and there have been several in the past, and the Council has to take action and cut back any overgrowth, they could send you a bill.

The Borough is to receive 208 trees under the street trees initiative - read more at <http://www.ltwgs.org/>.

## **GOING OUT?**

The **Petts Wood & Orpington branch of the WEA** have the following Saturday lectures planned:

- **20 March** - The Founding of the State of Israel by Ibrahim Noori, a former Reuters correspondent.
- **17 April** - to complement the exhibition at the Dulwich Art Gallery, Paul Nash and his Contemporaries.
- **24 April** - Patricia Melville on A Day in Prague.

The lectures take place at St John's URC (2-5.00 pm) and the entry fee of £8.50 includes refreshments.

The **WEA** is also arranging a three-week post Easter course (14/21/28 April at St John's URC) on Art of the Medieval World. For details and to book a place, please send a message via the [contact page](#).

The **Woodentops Wood Carving Group** meet on the first Saturday of each month at St John's URC. They are looking for new recruits and anybody interested should contact Tom Young via the [contact page](#). The Group are holding an Open Day at St John's on 5

June so this would be an opportunity to see them at work and to admire some of their excellent carvings. Refreshments will be available and the proceeds will go to charity.

The **Orpington U3A Handbell Team** meet on Thursday afternoons at 22 Lucerne Road. The team is in need of a few more players with musical experience. They would welcome enquiries from any retired or semi retired people who may be interested. Please contact Terry Rayfield for more information via the [contact page](#).

The **Complete Driving Course**. Five, two-hour classroom sessions & an optional observed drive in your own car. The classroom sessions are interactive & make learning enjoyable. It doesn't matter if you have been driving for 12 months or many years you will gain something from this course, improved driving skills, better fuel economy and reducing your risk of being involved in a crash. Course cost £27:00. Apply at [www.bromley.gov.uk/roadsafety](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/roadsafety) or 020 8313 4546. Next courses start on 2 June, 2 Sep & 23 Oct.

There is lots more going on in the Borough. Whether you are looking for a group to join, a venue to hire or some useful advice the information pages at [www.infobromley.org/BromleyCommunity/Homepage.htm](http://www.infobromley.org/BromleyCommunity/Homepage.htm) will be of interest.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MATTERS**

The Bromley Neighbourhood Watch Association held a number of training days in December and January. The topics covered included Crime Prevention, Anti-Social Behaviour, Trading Standards and Victim Support. Brief highlights are given below.

### Crime prevention

The good news is that burglaries are down in general but unfortunately those involving access through UPVC doors are on the increase. As mentioned in previous issues of the Knoll News, the best solution is not merely to have the door closed 'on the latch' but also to lock the door with the key. Most burglaries are opportunistic and any increase in home security will likely deter most burglars and send them searching for easier targets. While on the subject of keys, please do not leave door or car keys easily accessible from the front door. Car theft is still a problem, and not just high performance cars: thieves are using extending rods with a magnet on the end to fish car and other keys out of the pot on the hall table where so many of us leave keys. On a more positive note, most utility companies now run a 'Password Scheme' to confirm that meter readers and suchlike are who they say they are. This is often a comfort to elderly people and details can be obtained from your utility provider. Finally, and this is really good news, the Petts Wood and Knoll Safer Neighbourhood Teams will be visiting all residential properties in the area to introduce themselves and to advise on crime prevention.

### Anti-social behaviour

The Bromley Anti-Social Behaviour Unit is a Council/Police partnership set up to deal with anti-social behaviour in Bromley. It works with Housing Associations, Neighbourhood Watch and other organisations. It is responsible for enforcing Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) as imposed by Magistrates' Courts, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (under which people agree to behave in more acceptable ways) and other more informal methods of persuading people to avoid loutish and offensive behaviour. Although most (60%) of people dealt with are under 18, the Unit deals with people of all ages, including some over 60! If you are troubled by anti-social behaviour, the Unit should be your first port of call on 020 8461 7907 or [antisocialbehaviour@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:antisocialbehaviour@bromley.gov.uk)

### Trading Standards

One of the most common incidents dealt with by Bromley Council's Trading Standards Unit (TSU) is poor quality and/or grossly over-priced work done by people cold calling on

elderly residents. Cold callers are also involved in 'distraction burglaries'. This is where a cold caller distracts the householder, while his mate gains entry to the property and steals whatever is available. The key messages are don't let any cold callers in and don't make doorstep decisions about work; always get more than one quote.

The TSU makes periodic visits to known 'cold calling' hot spots and there is a Rapid Response number (07903 852 090) for any urgent concerns. Other useful contacts are Age Concern, which has a list of preferred traders, and Consumer Direct, which has consumer advice about disputes with tradesmen. Bromley Council is also considering setting up a list of preferred vendors of household services.

#### Victim support

Bromley Victim Support is a charity designed to help the victims of crime with practical help and emotional support. They have 3 staff and 20 volunteers and are primarily based at Bromley Police Station and Bromley Magistrates' Court. They contacted over 12,000 victims of crime in 2009 and deal with all sorts of crime, including domestic violence. They also have a Safer Bromley Van and carpenter, which will assist the elderly and those at risk to improve security after a crime. Bromley Victim Support can be contacted on 020 8776 7071.

### **ORPINGTON HIGH STREET**

As you know the improvements to the High Street are underway. You can read about the forthcoming week's planned work activity & temporary road diversions or closures (note these are due to start on **29 March**) at [www.bromley.gov.uk/transportandstreets/neatstreet/improvements\\_to\\_orpington\\_high\\_street.htm](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/transportandstreets/neatstreet/improvements_to_orpington_high_street.htm)

Councillor Tony Owen has let us know the latest on the Orpington Parking Review. Councillor George Taylor comments "This is the largest Council review of parking for any area in the Borough since the Bromley Parking Review in 1996. In the first stage of this review, over 7000 properties were consulted and 1200 responses received. The "macro" responses have now been collated and the next stage is developing and then consulting on the consequent "micro" options with the residents of individual roads or clusters of roads where relevant....." The entire process will not be completed until June 2010 at the earliest.

### **CONTACT US**

For general enquires about the Association please use the [contact page](#).

**Chairman** Paul Savage  
**Secretary** Hilary Robson  
**Treasurer & Vice-chairman** Ian Black  
**Planning** Carol Gray  
**Tree warden** Richard Healey  
**Road Warden co-ordinator** Chris Tait  
**Road warden secretary** Ray Vaughan  
**Road warden secretary** Richard Burton  
**Road warden secretary** Kay Wilkins  
**Road warden secretary** Alison McCartney  
**Road warden** Brian Wilkin  
**Newsletter assistant editor** Deepa Gadkary

**OVER TO YOU.....**

As the Chairman asks in his 'corner' do let him know what you think about the style of this Newsletter. What would you like to see in future editions?

And now it is time for you to renew your membership or join us if you are a newcomer. Please complete the slip below and deliver with your subscription (minimum £1 per person) to your road warden as named overleaf, by 30 April 2010. Thank you.

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