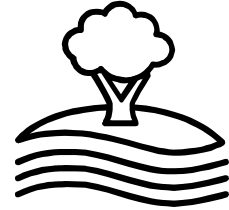


# Knoll News



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## Knoll Residents Association Autumn 2010 Newsletter

### CHAIRMAN'S CORNER *by Paul Savage*

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Knoll News. The most important news is that the Association's 36th AGM will be held on Tuesday, 23 November, in the Main Hall at St John's United Reformed Church, at the corner of Mayfield Avenue and Lynwood Grove. Proceedings commence at 7.45pm and we look forward to meeting & greeting you all then.

The evening opens with the formal business and an agenda for the evening is included within this newsletter. A change is required to our Constitution, caused by the need to update our banking arrangements. See later in this newsletter for a fuller explanation.

We will be joined by our local Councillors and officers from the London Borough of Bromley as well as representatives from the Safer Neighbourhood teams covering our area. Invited guests will give a series of short presentations and, most importantly, you will have the opportunity to ask them, and local Councillors, questions about what is happening, or not happening, in the Knoll area.

As usual, after the AGM there will be drinks and light refreshments and the chance to talk to your Councillors, officials and members of the KRA Committee in a friendly & informal environment.

Copies of last year's AGM will be available on the night and can be accessed now on our website. Copies of the accounts to 30 September 2010 will also be available on the night.

If you have any questions in advance please send them to our Secretary, Hilary Robson, [kra.secretary@googlemail.com](mailto:kra.secretary@googlemail.com) by Friday 5 November. Please submit them under the subject title 'Qs for the AGM' and remember to include your name, house number/name & road in the body of the email.

Work on the new KRA website is continuing and we hope to have the updated and upgraded new website up and running by the time of the AGM. The website address will remain the same - [www.kra.org.uk](http://www.kra.org.uk) If you have any good ideas for website articles or interesting pictures from the Knoll & surroundings please let us know.

### GOOD ADVICE FROM THE PETTS WOOD & KNOLL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM *by Sgt Kemp*



While Halloween can undoubtedly be a great deal of fun, it can also be a particularly distressing time of year for some of the more vulnerable members of our communities - especially the elderly. With this in mind, we would urge trick or treaters and their parents to think carefully about which doors they knock on this Halloween. As an alternative, you could stay at home and have a Halloween themed party with friends. If you do decide to go trick or treating, please respect the wishes of any household displaying a 'No Trick or Treat' poster.

When trick or treating you should also stay as safe as possible by following the 'Halloween Code':-

- Always go trick or treating with an adult
- Only go to houses where you or your friends know the residents
- Don't knock on doors where there is a 'No Trick or Treat' sign
- Stay in areas that are well lit with street lights - take a torch with you just in case
- Stay with your friends - don't split into smaller groups unless an adult goes with you
- Don't talk to strangers on the street or accept a lift in a stranger's car
- Don't enter any house - stay on the doorstep

- Be careful not to frighten vulnerable people, especially the elderly
- Be visible and look carefully before crossing the road, even if you're part of a group.
- Don't vandalise anything or throw things like eggs and flour. This can cause a great deal of damage and misery. What's more it can be classed as criminal damage, or even assault, and a night of 'fun' could end up with you in trouble with the police.

#### Advice to Householders

Householders do not have to open the door or respond to knocks on the door on Halloween. If you do not want to take part you can display a 'No Trick or Treat' sign. The SNT will be on duty on Halloween to deter anti-social behaviour. If you would like a 'No Trick or Treat sign' or need Police advice or assistance either before or on the night, please call us on 0208 721 2609.



Also with November 5th quickly approaching Sgt Kemp would like to remind you all about the recent changes in law regarding fireworks.

Fireworks can be a nuisance and because of this the rules have been tightened. Since January 2005 the sale of fireworks is prohibited except by licensed traders, apart from certain periods for Bonfire Night, Chinese New Year and Diwali and in all cases they can only be sold to persons over 18.

Throwing or setting off fireworks in the street is an offence, as is possession by anybody under the age of 18 and Police now have power to stop and search youngsters for illegal possession of fireworks.

Letting off fireworks, even in your own garden after 11.00pm is now illegal all year round, with the following exceptions:-

- Until 1.00am following the first day of the Chinese New Year;
- Until midnight on November 5<sup>th</sup>;
- Until 1.00am on the day following Diwali;
- Until 1.00am on the day following New Years Eve (December 31<sup>st</sup>).

It is also an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to animals, with a fine of up to £5,000 and/or 6 months in prison. As well as the Police, the local authority has powers to issue fixed penalty notices or prosecute if rules are broken, so if you are troubled by nuisance fireworks at this or any other time of year then please report it.

Finally, please take care and do not become one of the statistics this year as over a thousand people each year suffer injury as a result of Fireworks.

**This is the ideal place for your Committee to let you know that this year's Orpington Christmas lights 'switch-on' event is on 24 November.**

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#### **Modernisation of Banking Arrangements**

*(AGM agenda item 3)*

##### Background

We have banked with the Nationwide Building Society for a number of years, but unfortunately Nationwide has introduced restrictions to the operation of the account we use. The two restrictions that most affect the KRA are that the depositing of coins is no longer possible and only two deposits are permitted each month, with a maximum of 10 cheques. Because many of our subscriptions are paid in coinage and, during the period that subscription payments are banked, we would almost certainly exceed the banking limits, we have no choice but to seek alternative banking arrangements. This will also allow us to modernise our banking arrangements so that we can benefit from internet banking and the use of debit cards where appropriate.

### Change to the Constitution

The KRA constitution currently only permits us to bank with a building society. As it does not appear that there are any suitable building society accounts, we need to extend this to banks. Furthermore, the constitution requires all withdrawals or transfers to be signed by two of the Officers of the Association. To allow internet banking and the use of debit cards, we need to change this to the prior approval of two designated Officers of the Association, with the payment being made by one of them, which will usually be the Treasurer.

To allow us to modernise our banking arrangements in this way, we need to amend the KRA Constitution. Paragraph 15 of the Constitution currently reads as follows:

*“The Treasurer may open an account with any building society as shall be determined by the Committee. The mandate for the operation of the account shall state that all withdrawals or transfers therefrom shall require the signature of two of the Officers of the Association, all of whom shall be named in the mandate”.*

We will therefore be requesting KRA members at the 36th AGM on 23 November 2010 to approve that paragraph 15 of the constitution should read as follows:

*“The Treasurer may open an account with any UK authorised deposit taker as shall be determined by the Committee. The mandate for the operation of the account shall state that all withdrawals therefrom shall require the signature or authority of any one of the Officers of the Association, all of whom shall be named in the mandate, and following the prior approval of two of the Officers named in the mandate. Transfers between accounts in the name of the Association held by the same deposit taker may be made at the discretion of the Treasurer.”*

If you would like to see a copy of the Constitution it is available in pdf format and can be emailed to you by our Secretary, Hilary Robson. Please contact her at [kra.secretary@googlemail.com](mailto:kra.secretary@googlemail.com) as necessary.

### **TREES**

*edited highlights from a Forestry Commission Report by Richard Healey*



You may have noticed over recent years how the horse chestnut (conker) trees seem to be dying earlier, around August. This is caused by the leaf mining moth. First sightings were in Macedonia in 1985 and the problem has spread over the years to arrive in the UK (Wimbledon) in July 2002. The result is the premature defoliation of many horse chestnut trees (as we have in the Knoll area).

It has been suggested that the rapid expansion of this moth is linked to human transportation, particularly of infested leaves accidentally carried on vehicles.

#### Symptoms

As the common name suggests, the larvae of this moth produce mines within the leaves, feeding between the upper & lower surfaces. The resulting serpentine mines, which are at first translucent, may reach 4cm in length. On heavily infested trees with multiple attacks on the same leaf, the mines often merge together. This leads to browning and drying of the leaves, which eventually curl upwards & inwards at the edges and fall early. Early leaf-fall can affect 70-100% of the leaves on a single tree. By August, the entire tree can appear autumnal.

#### Lifecycle

Adults appear from April onwards, initially from pupae that have over-wintered. The adults are up to 5mm long, eggs are laid from May to August along the lateral veins on the upper-side of the leaflet; each female lays 20 to 40 eggs. Eggs hatch in two to three weeks. Larvae pass through five stages and complete their development in about four weeks. Pupae develop in a silken cocoon in the mine, which takes about two weeks, but this stage can last for six to seven months in the over-wintering generation.

#### Control options

- Biological - mainly parasitic wasps, but populations of these are low, 1-8%
- Chemical insecticides – but these can be difficult to use
- Good hygiene - removal & destruction of dead leaves in the autumn. 1Kg of over-wintering leaves could result in the emergence of 4500 moths the following spring.

## **ALL OUR YESTERDAYS**

*by Richard Burton*

100 years ago Orpington was changing from a sleepy village towards a town. The census of 1911 shows only 5036 residents. The ancient Manor of Mayfield or Little Orpington which included all the surrounding farms, including our area on the Knoll, was being broken up and sold for development. The first houses had arrived in Keswick, Lucerne, Stanley, Oatfield and Orchard Grove. Interestingly these had only names and not numbers some names are to be seen today, Berrow and Logmore in Stanley and Lamorna in Keswick. Prominent among the population were the Vinsons. Mrs Mary Vinson lived at Mayfield, her son William jnr at the Walnuts and grandson Ronald (father of the present Lord Vinson) at Scads Hill house.

William Cook breeder of the Buff, White and Black Orpington hens introduced the Blue Orpington. Smith and Milroy, the future builders of the Orpington Car, were producing a light delivery van in Wellington Road. Orpington had a roller skating rink, the Palace, opposite the Priory pond, soon to be turned into our first picture house by Albert Spencer-May who later lived in Stanley Road. The Commodore Cinema opened in 1933. Malcolm Campbell of Chislehurst was seen to be flying his aero plane from Broomhill Common in preparation for an aborted flight to Manchester.

Though the railway had arrived in 1868, and by 1910 the station had 6 platforms, Orpington was largely self-sufficient. The High Street and surrounding streets providing a wide range of goods and services. There was a watchmaker, coach builder, two cycle manufacturers, three boot makers, flyproprietor\*, masseuse, marine store dealer but only one bank, Martins (and it was only open part time Wed 11-2, Sat 10-12am). For leisure there were four pubs, the golf links (18 holes) on the Knoll, chess & tennis clubs and the allotments in Lower Road. The F Company 4th Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment (Territorial) had their headquarters in the High Street village hall.

\* A flyproprietor drove a "fly" one horse two-wheeled light carriage.

## **AND LEST WE FORGET**

*with thanks to the Royal British Legion*

### **Two-minute silence at the Walnuts Centre**

**, Thursday 11 November 2010**

- 10:30 Colour Party leaves Royal British Legion HQ, Church Hill
- 10:40 Colour Party arrives at the Walnuts Centre
- 10:50 VIP party arrives & met by RBL
- 11:00 Last Post, Exhortation, Silence, Kohima epitaph, Reveille
- 11:05 Inspection of Colour Party
- 11:00 Colour Party marches back to HQ

## **BERWICK WAY**

*by Paul Savage*

We have had a number of complaints about rubbish in Berwick Way, off Vinson Close. The Council has contracted out daily rubbish collection from Orpington High St to Kier, who use Berwick Way as a collection & storage point, prior to it being collected and moved.

The rubbish should be collected from Berwick Way daily but on a number of occasions this has not happened or has happened very late. As is the nature of things, rubbish tends to attract more rubbish with dumping. Foxes also tend to attack the rubbish bags if they are left a long time. An unsightly mess ensues.

KRA has been in contact with Bromley Council about this and as a result the Council has erected a fence and gated area for the storage of the rubbish. We shall of course continue to monitor the position, not least the performance of Kier in regularly collecting the rubbish from Berwick Way.

## **PARKING**

*by Paul Savage*

Bromley Council has now concluded its review of parking in the Orpington area. Based on the results of the questionnaires sent out to local residents, most residents were in favour of retaining

the restrictions introduced while the Orpington Tesco was being built but there were mixed feelings about the introduction of "free" parking bays.

KRA met with Bromley Council officials to discuss the proposed plans and, in accordance with local residents' wishes, pressed for changes to the proposals to Lucerne Road and the Mayfield Avenue/Knoll Rise area around St John's Church. We also pressed for the introduction of restrictions on St Kilda, where there are currently no restrictions due to technical issues caused by the fact that it is an unmade road.

Although the original proposals were somewhat amended due to pressure from Councillors outside the Orpington area, worried about parking problems in Orpington simply being transferred to their areas, we understand that the changes to St Kilda, Lucerne, Mayfield and Knoll Rise have been retained and will be introduced in the near future.

The Council intends to review the proposals again in about six months to make any final changes and has promised that prior to this there will be a local exhibition of the changes made, to allow local residents the chance to make representations about any points that particularly concern them.

We will report the exhibition details on our website if they precede a planned newsletter issue.

### **WEA SATURDAY AFTERNOON LECTURES**

With the prospect of those miserable wintry Saturdays to come (or to escape the football?!), why not spend an interesting afternoon instead at one of the WEA Saturday lectures:-

#### **9 October - A 15th Century Man of Medicine**

The mysteries of medieval medicine revealed by a manuscript of 1454.

#### **6 November - The Romans in Bromley & Building Over Bromley**

Consideration of the three Roman sites in Bromley and exploring through photographs and paintings how Bromley has changed over the past 150 years.

#### **11 December - Royal Imagery in the Middle Ages**

From 1066 to 1485, the King as a warrior, saint, lover and fool.

The Saturday lectures take place at St John's URC, Orpington (from 2.00 - 4.30 pm) and tickets (£8 including refreshments) can be obtained from Audrey Foord on 01689 850585 or at [audreyfoord@aol.com](mailto:audreyfoord@aol.com)

### **CONTACT US**

For general enquires about the Association please email us at [kra.enquiries@googlemail.com](mailto:kra.enquiries@googlemail.com)

Any items for the Spring 2011 newsletter to [kra.knollnews@googlemail.com](mailto:kra.knollnews@googlemail.com) please

Contact email addresses for specific officers & topics are given below with telephone numbers:-

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Committee are grateful to Alfred J Kennedy, Treasurer of The London Neighbourhood Watch Association Limited, who attended our July Committee meeting and directed us to this regular communication. The full version is copied below and includes links for more information. We have invited Mr Kennedy to the AGM.

*"Welcome to LNWA Newsletter #36. ACPO, the Metropolitan Police, the Home Office, the Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network and LNWA are anxious information reaches the "grass roots" so I'll be grateful if you can do your best to ensure this newsletter reaches every house in a Watch in your Borough. Our newsletters are also accessible via our website, [www.lnwa.net](http://www.lnwa.net), so pointing people there is an alternative delivery mechanism.*

### Neighbourhood & Homewatch Network

*The recommendation from the Design Council, which has been involved in looking at "re-branding" Neighbourhood Watch, is that the generic "yellow and black" logo should not change but, instead, for it to act as a heritage mark to reflect the organisation's heritage and to continue to act as a visible deterrent. To take the brand repositioning forward, the concept of 'NeighbOURhood WATCH' will be in the forefront for new assets and a new MyNHW website will represent the movement as a modern and revitalised organisation.*

*All Trustees and Regional Representatives were in agreement at a NHCW meeting on 10 August that the work around the brand repositioning should continue without the need for wider discussions or votes as all were in favour with the concept of the re-brand and new website. The target date for the launch of the new website and brand repositioning is week commencing 18 October 2010.*

### Local Authority Publicity

*In Newsletters #14 and #19, I mentioned Barnet had commissioned a 44 page, colour booklet called Barnet Boroughwatch from a publishing company, Local Authority Publicity. Production of the booklet is made possible by the sale of advertising to selected local companies and, through this sponsorship, the Neighbourhood Watch message is carried to a wider audience across the Borough. Roughly half the pages of the booklet are set aside for editorial. All the work of finding advertisers and printing is carried out by Local Authority Publicity which also distributes the booklets to various organisations throughout the Borough and provides copies for the local Neighbourhood Watch Association.*

*This is still a great deal for cash strapped Boroughs wanting to promote Neighbourhood Watch but not having funds or, the all-important, distribution network. LNWA is particularly keen on being involved and has agreed to write an editorial page for inclusion in each Borough's version.*

*Anyone wishing to discuss a similar publication for their Borough should contact Eric Davis by telephone on 020 8905 4455 or by e-mail at: [eric@localauthoritypublicity.com](mailto:eric@localauthoritypublicity.com) and mention my name along with London Neighbourhood Watch Association. As well as producing the booklet for Barnet, Local Authority Publicity is also working with Bexley, Ealing, Haringey and Newham Councils though not (yet!) with Neighbourhood Watch in these Boroughs.*

*What can my mobile do for me?*

1) The Emergency Number worldwide for mobiles is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile network and there is an emergency, dial 112 and the mobile will search any existing network to establish contact with the Emergency Services. This number can often be dialled even if the keypad is locked.

2) If your car has remote, keyless entry and you lock your keys in the car, having left the spare keys at home, call someone at home on their mobile from your mobile. Hold your handset about a foot from your car door and have the person at your home press the unlock button, holding it near their mobile. In many cases, the car will unlock. Distance is no object; if you can reach someone who has the other 'remote' for your car, you can unlock the doors this way. (Editor's Note: I've not tried this but am told it does work)

3) If the battery on your mobile is very low, press keys \*3370# and it should restart with a hidden battery reserve showing a 50% increase in battery life. This reserve will be included when you next charge your mobile. (Editor's Note: I've not tried this either but am told it does work)

4) To check your mobile's unique serial number, press \* # 0 6 # and a 15 digit code will appear on the screen. You should write it down and keep it safe. If your mobile is stolen, you can telephone your service provider and give them this code. Your Service Provider will be able to block your handset so that, even if the thief changes the SIM card, your handset will be unusable. You probably won't see your mobile again but, at least, you know that whoever stole it can't use or sell it.

## CCTV

New research from Jabbakam has found that 62% of the general public perceive that CCTV is an effective tool in the fight against crime and antisocial behaviour while only 1% sees it as ineffective and a waste of money. With public sector cuts on the horizon, and 'The Big Society' empowering communities, is virtual neighbourhood watch the answer? A link to the full white paper can be viewed by clicking on the following:

[http://www.jabbakam.com/static2/PDF/NetworkedNeighbourhoods-Surveillance\\_wp.pdf](http://www.jabbakam.com/static2/PDF/NetworkedNeighbourhoods-Surveillance_wp.pdf)

An abridged version can be viewed by clicking on this link:

<http://www.jabbakam.com/static2/PDF/RealisingtheBigSociety.pdf>

As always, on behalf of the London Neighbourhood Watch Association, I thank each of you for your work and support.”

## **ROAD WARDENS, THANKS AND A PLEA** by Paul Savage

Some of our existing road wardens are about to move from the area or “retire” after many years service. I would like to thank Tony Brace, David Simpson and Mrs Thomas for all their past efforts. That means we need new road wardens to cover:-

- 1 to 32 Elm Grove
- 33 to 52 Hillview Road
- 1 to 17 and 14 to 32 Knoll Rise

The duties are fairly light, consisting of the delivery of the Knoll News three times a year and the collection of the annual subscriptions. The Association relies on its road wardens and cannot survive without them. I would therefore urge members to volunteer.

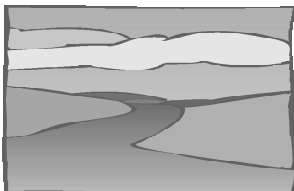
If you would like to volunteer, or are interested but would like to know more, please contact Richard Burton (☎ 810561) or come along to the AGM and speak to any of the Committee members (we

will all be wearing name badges) at the end of formal proceedings. We look forward to meeting you.

It is with great sadness that I report the death of Mr Church, our long-standing road warden from Novar Close. We are all grateful for his sterling work over the years and thank Mr Morrell for taking on the role

**AND THANK YOU AGAIN**

*from Hilary Robson*



..... to everyone who donated their spare 1ps to the Junior Church at St John's URC for their attempt to lay a path of pennies a mile long on Sunday 12 September 2010. As this newsletter goes to print the final total raised is awaited and will be put on our website when known

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2010**

*with thanks to the Royal British Legion*

**9:45** Naval Memorial Guard takes post on War Memorial

**10:00** Service at war Memorial

**10:30** Parade

**10:40** March past RBL HQ

**10:50** Service at All Saints

**11:00** Last Post & Reveille (in Church & outside RBL HQ)

**11.40** Service at Commonwealth War Graves (Canadian Corner) Ramsden Road

**AGENDA FOR THE 36TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
KNOLL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

Starting at 7.45 pm on Tuesday 23 November 2010 at the Main Hall, St. John's United Reformed Church, Lynwood Grove, Orpington, BR6 0GB

- 1) Chair's opening remarks
- 2) Confirmation of the 35th AGM Minutes
- 3) Amendment of the Association's Constitution
- 4) Treasurer's report
- 5) Election of the committee
- 6) Election of the auditor
- 7) Invited speakers and open forum

The evening ends with light refreshments and the opportunity to circulate and socialise with the Committee, members and invited guests.



**NOMINATION FORM**

You may nominate any member of the Association for the Committee provided they are willing to serve and seconded by another member. Completed nomination forms to be sent to Mrs Hilary Robson, Secretary at 35 Tower Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 0SG by Friday 12 November 2010. The new Committee, once elected, will appoint the officers of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary.

**Nominee's**

**name**.....



**Nominee's**

**address**.....

**Nominated & seconded**

**by**.....(name)

.....(address)

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

**Date**.....



