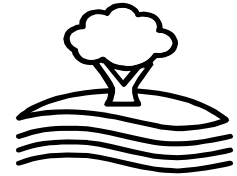


Knoll News



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Knoll News. We all hope for a better summer than last year but the financial news is not encouraging. As a result of the government spending cuts, local councils also have to make savings, many of which may affect local residents. Many of these are still in the pipeline, but one change, mentioned in the Spring issue, relates to the local Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Full details of the proposed changes are still not known but it seems that the current staffing level of PCs and PCSO's will remain unchanged but that staffing at Sergeant level will be reduced so that in many cases one Sergeant will be responsible for more than one team. Measures will also be introduced to allow the temporary deployment of staff from one team to another. As the Knoll is a relatively safe and secure place, it seems probable that staff from the two SNT teams that cover the Knoll may be deployed elsewhere from time to time with the result that there may be a less visible policing presence on the ground locally.

As readers may know, Bromley town centre is to be substantially redeveloped. Work is already underway to refurbish the Pavilion Leisure Centre and there are plans to redevelop the Westmoreland Car Park to build a multiplex cinema, hotel and housing units. There are also plans to develop the old Town Hall into an hotel and housing. All this promises a substantial amount of disruption over the next few years; readers may also wonder whether Bromley needs two new hotels as distinct from some decent shops.

On the subject of development, it is also suggested that Orpington Station Car Park may be substantially expanded by having a second storey build on all or part of the site. Although such a move may in the long run ease parking pressure on the Knoll area by commuters/London bound shoppers etc, it seems likely that there would be increased congestion in the short term as presumably part at least of the present car park would need to be closed during the development. We will continue to monitor the situation and, in particular, any proposals in relation to where cars forced out of the car park during the development will park.

Finally, could I on behalf of the Committee give a big thanks to all our Road Wardens for delivering the Spring issue of the Knoll News to all residents and collecting subscriptions.

CRIME NEWS by Paul Savage

The Petts Wood and Knoll Safer Neighbourhood team, which covers most but not all of the Knoll area, recently gave details of crimes committed during April 2011, with comparatives for 2010, to the Committee. Details are given below but overall the trend is encouraging.

Reported Crime	Apr-11	Apr-10
Domestic Crime	3	12
Burglary Residential	5	8
Burglary Non-Res	5	4
Theft from Motor Vehicle	9	9
Other	19	14
Total	41	47

Most of the residential burglaries are the result of front or patio doors being forced open, either at night or even during the day if the burglars suspect that the occupants are out. Residents should always be careful to double lock their front doors, particularly where they have had the newer type of non-wooden door fitted. Most of the non-residential burglaries are thefts from sheds and garages etc, which again should be kept locked.

A surprising amount of the thefts from motor vehicles do not seem to involve forced entry. Care should be taken to ensure that cars are always locked. Sergeant John Kemp of Petts Wood & Knoll Ward is pleased to report:-

"There have been the 'usual' thefts from motor vehicles etc across the Ward so we recently did 3 night duty patrols in plain clothes.

There were a number of stops and one arrest of our main suspect, as a result this type of offence and overnight Burglaries have tailed off."

There have also been a number of cold calling scams in the Bromley area. These involve a

workman calling to say that work on a neighbouring property has revealed problems with drainage/roofing etc which affect your property. The caller then goes on to ask for a deposit for equipment etc to carry out the work. Needless to say, the price inflates/the work is done poorly or not at all etc.

Finally, care should be taken with a firm calling itself Farrington's Tree Care and Services. If approached or a lorry is seen with this name on it, please call Bromley Trading Standards on 07903/852090.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS by Paul Savage

The London Neighbourhood Watch Association has a new web-site, which among other things enables you to find out details of your local Neighbourhood Watch group. Contact www.inwa.net for details.

TREES by Richard Healey

How old is a tree? Hug it! Try and find the tree's waist – the narrowest point. Hug it. How many people does it take to go all the way round, fingertip to fingertip?

Did you know your height is just about the same as the distance between your finger tips if you stretch your arms out? You could use a tape measure of course, but that would be boring.

Oak tree ready reckoner

<u>Girth of tree in metres & centimetres</u>	<u>Equals approx age</u>	<u>Historical connections</u>
1m 85cm	77	1930 George V
2m 48cm	104	1903 Edward VII
3m 10cm	139	1868 Victoria
3m 70cm	182	1825 George IV
4m 33cm	233	1774 George III
4m 95cm	292	1715 George I
5m 58cm	369	1638 Charles I
6m 20cm	434	1573 Elizabeth I
6m 80cm	516	1491 Henry VII
7m 43cm	607	1400 Henry IV
8m 03cm	705	1302 Edward I
9m 28cm	925	1082 William the conqueror
9m 88cm	1047	960 Edgar

ANOTHER PENNY FOR.....

The Junior Church at St John's United Reformed Church are again collecting 1ps for the penny mile they are aiming for this autumn. This involves collecting 79198 pennies which will weigh 282kg. They are half way to their target. If you would like to contribute please contact Wendy Swan ☎872231.

Monies contributed go to the URC 'Commitment for Life' overseas work. You can read more at http://www.urch.org.uk/what_we_do/commitment_for_life/commitment_for_life

From 1971 to 1992 pennies were made in bronze, from then on in copper plated steel same size 20.32mm, weight 3.56 grams but different thickness.

PLANNING from Carol Gray

If you are thinking of making alterations to your home you can get information on whether you need planning permission via the Internet from the government's planning portal at <http://www.planningportal.gov.uk>. If a planning application is needed, Bromley Council now offers a pre-application advice service (020 8313 4956). Do think about discussing your plans with your neighbours. No-one likes to receive a council notification out-of-the-blue, and if you have already broached the subject it may be easier to reach a compromise acceptable to both sides.

It is now possible for everyone to keep an eye on planning applications which may affect their property. On the council's website you can register your email address. You can then ask to receive an email when a new application is received: in your road, or your postcode, or whatever search criteria you choose. You can also track an application and be notified automatically as the application progresses through the system.

If you are thinking of commenting on a planning application, the Campaign for Rural England has a useful leaflet, "How to respond to planning applications". It is available to download from their website: <http://www.cpre.org.uk>. They also have loads of useful information about the planning system here: <http://www.planninghelp.org.uk>. Be aware that your letter or email goes into a file which your neighbours can ask to see.

As with so many things these days, anyone without access to the Internet is at a disadvantage. But help and free Internet access is available in

<p>from www.woodland-trust.org.uk leaflet</p> <p>our new library.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">ALL OUR YESTERYEARS <i>by committee member Richard Burton</i></p> <p>If anyone is to be credited with putting Orpington on the world map it is William Cook (Snr 1849-1904) Born in St Neots Huntingdon he started working life as Coachman in Chislehurst in 1863 and developed an interest in Poultry from an early age. His experiments with cross breeding must have been successful as by 1869 he had moved to Tower House in Sevenoaks Road Orpington with his wife Jane.</p> <p>It was here in 1886 the Black Orpington was launched to world acclaim followed by the White in 1889; he also published many books on the subject and was Proprietor of the "Poultry Journal". By 1890 he had outgrown his Orpington base and moved to Walden's Manor St Mary Cray which he renamed Orpington House, with his wife and five children.</p> <p>His business prospered opening a London office in 1890 and by 1902 had poultry farms in South Africa and America. He became a world renowned expert in his field and undertook extensive lecture tours. During his absence the business was looked after by his very capable eldest daughter Elizabeth Jane and her siblings.</p> <p>By 1894 the Buff Orpington was introduced followed by the Diamond Jubilee in 1897. In 1902 William Cook was awarded the Poultry Club medal which was a mark of great distinction.</p> <p>In 1901 a family rift developed between William (Snr) and his eldest son William Henry who, having borrowed a sum of money from his father, left home to start up a poultry concern in his own right, at Derry Downs, St Mary Cray. It appears that the loan of £750 was not repaid. This situation was not helped when, on a visit to see her son, William's wife Jane was killed in a violent gas explosion.</p> <p>By 1904 William (Snr), now in failing health due to overwork and loss of his wife died in Skegness, while on holiday after returning from another visit to the U.S.A. He is interred in his wife's grave in the Star Lane Cemetery, St Mary Cray. William Henry was left no part of his father's business but continued in his own right as W.H. Cook Ltd and by 1911 had moved his farm to Tubbenden Lane, Orpington which continued until he retired.</p> <p>Elizabeth Jane now ran William Cook & Sons having bought out her remaining siblings' interests</p>	<p>And by 1907 had produced the Cuckoo Orpington, followed by the Blue Orpington in 1910. This was followed by numerous Ducks and Bantam types</p> <p><i>To learn more about our area's local history why not pay a visit to the Walnuts and</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">ORPINGTON LIBRARY</p> <p>The new Orpington Library opened on 16th May. The library is now open six days a week, but with no additional staff, so there have been queues as hundreds of new members have joined. Visitors have commented positively on the cheerful colourful décor. There are loads of computers for residents to use, and the building has free WiFi.</p> <p>The new location is busier, but noisier, than the Priory. The new library had more than 20,000 visitors in its first fortnight, which compares with less than 7,000 visitors to the Priory in the same period last year. Some KRA members will find the new town centre location more convenient and some will find it less convenient - it really depends on your personal situation.</p> <p>An official opening, with Jo Johnson and "chick lit" author Adele Parks, took place on 2nd July.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the Council is preparing a bid for Heritage Lottery funding to extend Bromley Museum into the space vacated by the library, with improved access for disabled visitors, and better facilities for visiting schools.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The library opening times are :- Mon 10am-8pm; Tues/Wed/Thur/Fri 9:30am-6pm; Sat 9:30am-5pm Sun Closed</i></p>
<p>WEA COURSES 2011/12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CHISLEHURST ROAD BRIDGE</p>

The WEA has a varied and interesting programme of 10/20 week courses starting locally in the Autumn:

Great Leaders & Their Impact on History
(Monday mornings starting 19.9.11 at the Memorial Hall, Petts Wood)

Repression & Revelation in the Modern Novel
(Monday afternoons starting 19.9.11 at the Memorial Hall, Petts Wood)

Hidden Meanings in Paintings (Tuesday afternoons starting 20.9.11 at St John's URC, Orpington)

From Oil Lamps to Candles - Illuminating the Dark Ages 400-900 (Wednesday afternoons starting 28.9.11 at St John's URC, Orpington)

Europe - War & Change 1600-1789 (Thursday afternoons starting 22.9.11 at the Poverest Centre, Orpington)

Rule Britannia - Concepts of Empire, From Small Beginnings to A Global Economy (Friday mornings starting 23.9.11 at the Poverest Centre, Orpington)

For further details of dates, venues and costs - and to book a place - please contact Penny Stewart on 01689 827420 or Martine Haynes at haynes.martine@googlegmail.com

The Committee are grateful to Councillor Tony Owen and the London Borough of Bromley for the following:-

The council executive committee have now approved a contractor to construct the new road bridge across the railway. Work will start in October and it is hoped that work can be completed within a year. It is intended that pedestrians will be able to use the crossing except when major works, such as moving beams into place, are being undertaken.

Apart from works duration, the other major issue is how the traffic diversion will be managed. The details of the proposed measures and temporary road restrictions etc are being put onto our website.

It is suggested that the following schools may be impacted by the works to the bridge:-

Kemnal Technology College; Leasons Primary; Poverest Primary; Grays Farm Primary; Midfield Primary; St Peter & St Paul RC Primary; Riverside (SEN school that buses in the majority of pupils, the remainder arrive by taxi or private vehicle) and St Philomena's Catholic Primary (relatively large catchment area) and with the possibility that the following schools may be affected, although to a lesser extent. Perry Hall Primary; Coopers Tecnology College; The Priory; St Mary Cray Primary; St Paul's Cray CE Primary; Blenheim Primary; St Olave's; Manor Oak Primary; Southborough Primary and St James' RC Primary

ORPINGTON & DISTRICT CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

For more information about Scottish Dancing Classes being run at St Paul's Church Hall, Crofton Rd and in Petts Wood please contact Ann Atkinson ann.74@hotmail.co.uk

CONTACT US

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

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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

Road warden secretary Alison McCartney ☎823082

Items for the KRA website to Deepa Gadkary kra.website@gmail.com