

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

by Paul Savage

Welcome to the Autumn 2011 edition of Knoll News. The most important news is that the Association's 2011 AGM will be held on Tuesday, 15 November in the main hall at St John's United Reformed Church at the corner of Lynwood Grove & Mayfield Avenue. Proceedings start at 7.45 pm and we look forward to welcoming you on the night.

The evening opens with the formal business and the agenda is on the back page. As in previous years we will be joined by our local Councillors, officers from the London Borough of Bromley, representatives from the local Safer Neighbourhood Teams and James Cleverly our GLA member. The formal part of the evening ends with a general question & answer session, which will give you the opportunity to ask local Councillors and the officers from LBB 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 Councillors, officials, members of the KRA Committee and, of course, your neighbours in a friendly and informal environment.

Copies of last year's AGM minutes are now available on our website (www.kra.orp.org.uk) and will also be available on the night. Copies of the accounts to 30 September will also be available on the night. As well as being the venue for our AGM, St John's also holds & hosts a wide variety of other events. See details on page 3.

PLANNING – CORE STRATEGY DOCUMENT

Bromley Council is currently developing a new broad sweeping policy document which will guide long-term planning strategy for the next 20 years. You can read the consultation document via the Council's website: http://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/200024/consultations/649/core_strategy_issues_document If you prefer, there is a paper copy in the new library. Please enquire at the desk upstairs.

The first stage of the consultation closes at the end of September, but there will be further opportunities to contribute comments as the document will go through several draft stages before being finalised. The Council would like to hear from residents in response to the following questions:

- ⤴ How can Orpington's role as a town centre and employment focus be maintained and enhanced?
- ⤴ How can the presence of Orpington College and concentration of employers be used to provide greater opportunities for local residents?
- ⤴ Are the shops along the High Street too dispersed? Should the retail centre be redefined?
- ⤴ What opportunities are there to manage the pressures related to Orpington Station and the Town Centre in terms of congestion and car parking?
- ⤴ What can be done to maintain the feeling of openness in residential areas?

You can respond using their online consultation portal <http://bromley-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/cs/csissues> or you can email: ldf@bromley.gov.uk, or you can write to: Strategy and Renewal Team, Planning Division, London Borough of Bromley, Stockwell Close, Bromley BR1 3UH

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS

The Knoll area is covered by two Safer Neighbourhood teams: Petts Wood and the Knoll; and Orpington. The Orpington SNT covers Orchard Grove, Vinson Close and the bottom half of Knoll Rise; the rest of the area is covered by the Petts Wood and Knoll SNT. Currently the Petts Wood and Knoll SNT has 2PCs, 2 PCSOs and 5 Special Constables, while the Orpington SNT, which covers a more diverse area, is slightly bigger with 2 PCs, 6 PCSOs and 5 Special Constables.

As mentioned in the last edition of "Knoll News", as a result of budget cuts, it is proposed to reduce the number of Sergeants in charge of SNTs. Sergeant Lamb of Orpington SNT will therefore take over the running of the Petts Wood and Knoll SNT, although we understand that the numbers of PCs and PCSOs will remain the same. We are sorry to say goodbye to Sergeant Kemp of the Petts Wood and Knoll SNT under whose watch crime in the Knoll area has fallen significantly (see the crime figures in the last issue of "Knoll News") but look forward to having greater contact with Sergeant Lamb.

Both SNTs hold regular surgeries where the public can raise matters of concern, ask for advice etc. Details can be found on their websites (Google "Orpington SNT" or "Petts Wood and Knoll SNT" for further details).

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MP

Jo Johnson will be busy at a late-night sitting in the House of Commons on Tuesday 15 November. He has therefore sent this message with his AGM apologies.

“Like the overwhelming majority of residents, I was disgusted by this summer’s outbreak of looting, thuggery and arson on the streets of London, and, in particular, the opportunistic attacks on a handful of mobile phone and videogame stores in the Nugents and on Orpington High Street. I pay tribute to Bromley Borough Police and the safer neighbourhood teams, for the part they played in restoring order to our streets. As your Member of Parliament, I maintained close contact with the police and shopkeepers during the riots, and when Parliament was recalled for an emergency session, I asked the Prime Minister to look into why many of the 5000 Special Constables available for duty in London struggled to secure permission from their employer.

I applaud the robust sentencing that helped bring the violence to an end. Both the police and the courts worked around the clock so that anyone who looted met the full force of the law. The Government has also put in place measures for water cannons to be made available to the police at 24 hours’ notice, given them powers to remove face coverings and is considering the implications of blocking websites and text services if there is reasonable evidence that they are being used to coordinate violence. We must take this opportunity to tackle the many social challenges we face in our country. We need to take on a culture that glorifies violence, has no respect for authority and understands rights but not responsibilities. That is why the coalition is launching the most radical reforms to welfare so that we have a benefits system that rewards work; why we are giving teachers greater powers to enforce discipline in our schools; and why we need to refocus our efforts on street gangs in the UK, so that they no longer blight life on estates, trap local residents in gang-on-gang attacks, and draw young people into a violent life of crime and drugs. The Home Secretary and Work and Pensions Secretary will be working with other colleagues to develop a programme of action to obliterate the scourge of gang crime from our society.

While the London riots have brought great shame upon our Olympic city in the eyes of the world, the response by law-abiding citizens has shown that the Capital will recover. The Prime Minister has told the nation: “We will not allow a culture of fear to exist on our streets, and we will do whatever it takes to restore law and order and to rebuild our communities.” He has my full support and I will be working with colleagues in both Parliament and Bromley Council to ensure we never again witness such dreadful scenes on our streets.”

WHO KNOWS WHERE THE TIME'S GONE?

by Richard Burton

At the turn of the 19th century the Oast House complex at the end of Knoll Rise consisted of the older, rounder Oast Houses probably dating from the 17th Century and the newer square ones built for Addis Jackson around 1850, who resided at Mayfield Place with his large family. The new ones were built of marl & flint, faced with brick and overlooked the High Street.

Hops were the principal crop and were grown all over the Knoll. During the hopping season in September the men who tended the furnaces in the Mayfield oasts wore distinctive red smocks and caps. In the central bay at the front of the new oasts was a large clock which was used by local villages to set their time. In 1924 the oasts were no longer in use, so their top storey was removed and the lower part was used as offices by the O.K.T. newspaper until 1938, when the oasts were demolished.

The village clock was transferred to St Nicholas School in Lynwood Grove opposite St John's Church and was set in the front of the central bell tower. When the school was closed and demolished in 1969 the clock disappeared and it is now lost.

The attached building to the right of the oast houses remained until the 1960s as Pipe brothers men's tailors, and all that remains now are the 2 stones set in the front wall of Your Move estate agents. These had a date on the back of 1768 so must have come from the circular oasts. On the stone nearest the door are the initials C.B for Charles Bristow the first hop drier and G.L. George Laslett builder and bricklayer, who worked for the Mayfield Estate. On the second stone are those of James Wink farrier and church warden, J. Bond master plumber, William Laslett and R. Pettitt Mayfield estate workers. It is unclear why these four workers were thought worthy of commemoration on this stone.

ST JOHN'S URC – YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY CHURCH

by Dave Thomas

St John's United Reformed Church sits on the junction of Lynwood Grove and Mayfield Avenue. As well as being an active place of Christian worship, the premises also supports a great number of thriving activities of which you may not be aware, but might well be interested "if only you knew". In addition to a number of church-supported organizations, which covers all age ranges and several uniformed organizations, there is a diverse range of secular activities carried out in the various halls at St John's. So from a very long list (and apologies in advance for missing out any groups), we see babies and toddler groups with parents and carers, along with youngsters and adults who participate in ballroom and Scottish dancing, bridge, wood carving, quilting, stitching, badminton, karate, reading etc. We would encourage you to get involved in one or more of these activities – for fun and for friendship within our community. We list below some of those groups keen to see new faces, with appropriate contact details. However if you have any particular interests not detailed here and you'd like to get involved, please contact the Church and Community Elder at St John's via e-mail thomas.dave@ntlworld.com. Groups looking for new faces are listed on the right:-

ACTIVITY

Monday

Pre-school (2 1/2 to 5 years)
Karate Classes (5 to 13 years)
Ballroom/Latin dancing

Tuesday

Boppin Tots (musical fun for babies and toddlers)
Scottish Dancing
Pilates

Wednesday

Toddlers (1 to 3 years)
Mothers & Babes (birth to 1 year)
Men of leisure
Knoll Bridge Club
Beavers (6 to 8 years)
Cubs (8 to 10 1/2 years)
Zumba Dancing
Lynwood Stitchers

Thursday

Friendship Club
Pipsqueak Dance - first steps into dance (3 - 5 years)
Rainbows (5 to 7 years)
Brownies (7 to 10 years)
Scouts (10 to 14 years)
Explorers (14 to 18 years)

Friday

Boppin Tots (musical fun for babies and toddlers)
Le Club Francais (French for beginners 2 1/2 - 4 years)
Orpington Chess Club
Guides (10 to 14 years)
Crofton Rangers (14 to 26 years)

Saturday

Woodcarvers
X Box Group (under 5's and the men in their life)
Orpington Quilters
OK Ladies

CONTACT

01689 876695
020 8462 0697
07713 571023

07541 966872

01689 829584
07758 192596

01689 898492

01689 872468
020 8462 2296
01689 828396
01689 835681

07795 118139
01689 835186

01689 832204
01732 741335

01689 831335
01689 820987
07764 755257
01689 835681

07541 966872


01689 831755


07976 726765
01689 829584
01689 816878

01689 829646
01689 872468

020 8289 9096
01689 822130

OTHER ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST

 You may just have received this Knoll News in time to make **Orpington Chorale's** concert on Saturday 15th October 2011 in the hall, St Olave's School, Goddington Lane at 7.45pm. The special concert celebrates the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Choir. They are performing Haydn's Nelson Mass, Vivaldi's Gloria and a special setting of Psalm 100 composed by their conductor, Michael Blackley. Tickets £8 (£5 for under 15s), including programme & refreshments. Their next performance is the Christmas Concert at All Saints, Bark Hart Road on Saturday 10th December at 7.45pm, with a repeat concert at the Lutheran Church in Poverest Road at 8pm. For full details see www.orpington-chorale.com

 In a new book, "**Chelsfield In From The Cold**", local author Alan Cheesman gives a personal view of the village of Chelsfield. He describes the history of the village and its interesting old buildings in the form of a walking guide. This a lively and informative book brightened with a wide variety of photographs, old and new. Copies of this 120 page paperback are available from the author at 5 Eton Road, Orpington, price £14.95.

 This year **Remembrance Sunday** falls on 13th November. Look out for details of services & ceremonies at the War Memorial, and around Orpington. Orpington Royal Legion ☎820162

CHISLEHURST ROAD BRIDGE *by Paul Savage*

As mentioned in previous editions of "Knoll News" Chislehurst Road bridge will be closed while it is being replaced, preliminary work commenced the end of September and it is planned to close the bridge for vehicle traffic (pedestrian and bicycle traffic will be allowed) for about a year from 7 November. Traffic will be diverted down Poverest Road, Sevenoaks Way, Cray Avenue and Leasons Hill. To help manage the increased traffic, no right turns will be allowed at Station Road and Leasons Hill. As the bridge is rapidly becoming unsafe, there is no option to the closure. The length of time the bridge will be closed at first glance seems excessive but I understand that this is caused by the need to manage the rail traffic under the bridge and the number of services (BT, Virgin, electricity etc) which also use the bridge. Travel along the Sevenoaks Way will, however, become increasingly congested and journey times to Chislehurst, Sidcup, London or even the Nugent Centre will become significantly longer, particularly at peak times.

AGENDA FOR THE 37TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF KNOLL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Meeting commences at **7.45 pm** on **Tuesday 15 November 2011** in the Main Hall, St. John's United Reformed Church, Lynwood Grove, Orpington, BR6 0GB

- ⤴ Chair's opening remarks
- ⤴ Confirmation of the 36th AGM Minutes
- ⤴ Treasurer's report
- ⤴ Election of the committee
- ⤴ Election of the auditor
- ⤴ 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.

Want to know more about your Association? Visit our website <http://www.kra.orp.org.uk/> and come along to meet us on 15 November.

CONTACT US

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

Chairman Paul Savage ☎820912 kra.chair@gmail.com

Secretary Hilary Robson ☎825422

kra.secretary@gmail.com FF

Treasurer & vice-chairman Ian Black ☎831014

kra.treasurer@gmail.com

Planning Carol Gray ☎872931

kra.planning@gmail.com

Tree warden Richard Healey ☎812662

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

Road warden secretary Alison McCartney ☎823082

Items for the KRA website to Deepa Gadkary

kra.website@gmail.com

The Spring edition of the Knoll News is delivered to all houses 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, please email the Secretary by Friday 2 March 2012. kra.secretary@gmail.com



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 11 November 2011. 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**.....

