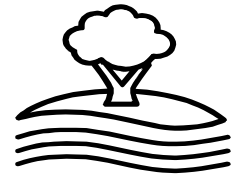


Knoll News



Knoll Residents Association Summer 2012 Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

by Paul Savage

Welcome to the summer edition of "Knoll News". Although the weather up to the time of writing has been fairly dire, the Queen's Jubilee was a great success in our area with a number of street parties and the Beacon event at St John's church.

From a KRA perspective, the major event was the meeting with the Road Wardens on 25 June. This meeting was held to say "thank you" to the Road Wardens for all their hard work and to get some feedback on what the Association is doing, or should be doing, and how to increase our membership. To set things in perspective, members of the Committee gave brief outlines of the work they do for the Association and this was followed by an open forum Q&A session. Discussions continued after the end of the formal business over a glass of wine and a selection of cheeses.

One big issue quickly emerged: some members do not have a full picture of what the Association is for and the activities it undertakes for its members. So in the Spring newsletter, which is the one that is delivered to all Knoll residents, we will have a series of articles explaining what we do which will hopefully make the work of the Association more relevant to its members and encourage new members. Until then, below is a short list of some of the activities we undertake:

- review of local planning applications with a view to maintaining the character of the Knoll;
- representing local residents' interests to Bromley Council re parking, upkeep of roads, paths, pavements, Council owned trees etc.;
- liaison with local Safer Neighbourhood Team and policing;
- liaison with Bromley Neighbourhood Watch; and
- membership of Bromley Federation of Residents Associations (Borough wide issues such as Biggin Hill airport) and Bromley Road Safety.

Other issues that arose at the meeting were requests for more dog refuse bins and local parking issues. We will be taking these up with Bromley Council shortly. The question of overgrown paths also arose. Please remember that if you live beside a path and you have trees or bushes overgrowing the wall or fence, it is your responsibility to keep the tree or bush in reasonable shape by trimming or pruning on both sides of the fence. In extremis, where a path is obstructed by an overgrown bush or tree from someone's garden, the Council have the power to cut the offending bush etc. and bill the resident for the privilege. So beware!

ORPINGTON AND AROUND

by Paul Savage

Orpington has a new, although not enviable, first in that the South London Healthcare NHS Trust, which runs the PRUH and other local hospitals, has become the first to be put into the NHS' "unsustainable provider's regime", which effectively means that the Board has been suspended and replaced by a special administrator. The Trust is effectively bankrupt because of the costs of the PFI deal for the PRUH; one would have thought that one does not have to be a brain surgeon to work out that fancy HP deals are rarely the cheapest way of purchasing something but that obviously passed the then Government and the Trust by.

Where this leaves the plans to close Orpington Hospital is uncertain. My own view is that the closure will go ahead but that some of the other likely cuts that would have been required to meet the huge Trust deficit might be avoided if the new arrangement brings in some extra money.

Changes are also proposed to the current Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Following the Olympics, it seems likely that, although the Teams will remain, their staffing will be reduced. Some or all of the "surplus staff" will be allocated to a central team, which will deal with local policing matters and anti-crime campaigns. How this will affect the Knoll is as yet uncertain, but with the proposed sale of Orpington Police Station, seems likely to make local policing more remote than before.

On a more positive note, it is proposed to redevelop part of the Walnuts by demolishing Crown House and building on most of the square in front of it a new seven screen cinema and four retail units with three restaurant units. Although the cinema seems a good idea, and Crown House and the square in front are hardly things of beauty, whether Orpington needs a further three restaurants of the High Street chain variety seems at best a moot point. The four new retail units might be helpful in regenerating the area but a lot depends on the shops attracted and they are probably not large enough for a major M&S type store. Subject to planning, it is intended to open the stores in late 2013 and the restaurants/cinema in spring 2014. Planning approval may take some time, so please let our planning officer (Kra.planning@gmail.com) or chairman (kra.chair@gmail.com) know what you think.

INTERNET MATTERS



As you may know, in addition to past editions of "Knoll News", which we post on our internet site (www.kra.orp.org.uk – the simplest way to find it is to "Google" Knoll Residents Association; not KRA as otherwise you will end up with the Kenyan Revenue Authority!) we also post details of upcoming events and news. One of our members has suggested that to avoid missing these events, we should e-mail details to members in addition to putting them on the web-site. We are happy to do this if there is sufficient interest. If you would like us to send you by e-mail details of current events/news etc., could you please send your e-mail address to our web-site co-ordinator Deepa Gadkary at kra.website@gmail.com.

We have also found a local Orpington web-site with details of Residents Associations, local clubs and activities and some local news, which might interest readers. You can find details at <http://orpingtoncommunity.weebly.com>.

A YEAR OF CELEBRATION.....

Following on from the successful Diamond Jubilee events, the 2012 influence continues in our Borough when the Olympic Torch passes through from Lewisham to Crystal Palace Park on Monday 23 July 2012.

One leg will be run by John Powell from Orpington. Read his nomination story at <http://www.london2012.com/torch-relay/torchbearers/torchbearers=john-powell-287/index.html>

Orpington Chorale October 13th 2012 - Bach Christmas Oratorio Parts 1& 2 Rutter Magnificat. Venue All Saints Church Bark Hart Road. For details contact orpingtonchorale@hotmail.com or F ☎ 872231

.....THANKS & PRAISE

Thank you to all our neighbours and friends in the local community who joined us for all, or part, of our Jubilee celebrations at St John's URC Jubilee Beacon Event on 4th June. It was a joyful occasion, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. We were so pleased to welcome so many people – the place was a hive of activity for young and less young. We hope to see many of you again. If anyone would like to share ideas for other community based events please contact Dave Thomas (thomas.dave@ntlworld.com).

The Abbeyfield Society is delighted to see that in the June 2012 Queen's birthday honours list, one of their long-term volunteers, Diana Campbell, has been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the community. Diana has been involved with Abbeyfield Orpington since 1981 and was the Society's Chairman from 2004-2009. She has many charitable interests in the local area and pleasingly remains very involved with the society.

Congratulations also, to Robin Boshier who received a knighthood for services to education in the Queen's birthday honours list. Robin Boshier, was Head Teacher at Perry Hall Primary School for a number of years until the end of 2001. Sir Robin started his teaching career 34 years ago, 24 years of which have been as a Head Teacher. His first post as a Head Teacher was at Clare House school in Beckenham before moving to Perry Hall where he was a popular and effective Head. The last Ofsted inspection before he left rated the school as outstanding, a rating only achieved again at its most recent inspection last year. He left the school for a short tenure with LB Bromley dealing with secondary school admissions before returning as a Head Teacher in LB Lewisham. His last post there was as an Executive Head Teacher ("super head") of a Federation of 3 primary schools. Recently he has become Director of Primary Education at the Harris Federation, which comprises 13 academy schools, mostly in south London.

CALLING the POLICE

Call **999** in an emergency. An emergency is when:

- a crime is happening;
- someone suspected of a crime is nearby; or
- if someone is injured, being threatened or in danger.

Deaf and deafened people using a Textphone (minicom) should dial 18000 in an emergency.

Call **101** to report a crime that has already happened, seek crime prevention advice or make the Police aware of any policing issues in your local area.

Call **101**:

- If your car, bicycle or mobile phone have been stolen
- If your garden shed has been broken into
- If your property has been damaged
- If you want to report a minor traffic collision, or
- If you want to provide the police with information about a crime in your area.

Using 101 for situations that do not require an immediate police response (such as those outlined above) helps keep 999 available for when there is an emergency.

A BRIDGE SO FAR

by Richard Burton

On the 19th June I was invited through K.R.A. to a inspection of the new replacement Chislehurst road bridge (A203). It was back in 1860s that the first single arch brick bridge was built to span the 2 tracks of the new Victoria to Ramsgate railway line. In 1958 a new bridge was built to cross the now 4 track layout.

This bridge, a post tensioned beam bridge radical in design spanning 38m (125ft) in one arch relied on tensioned steel cables for strength. These were anchored below ground to steel plates. It was only 15 years on that problems with the ingress of salinated water started severe corrosion and, despite major refurbishment in the 1970s, some of these joints had failed completely by 2004. A bridge of the same design in Wales had collapsed without warning in 1984.

In 2009 a 7.5t max weight limit with width bollards was installed. The bridge owned by L.B.B. had to be replaced and after tender in 2010 the contract was awarded to Hochtief. Their design uses massive steel beams (14 in total) with concrete incorporated.

A lower safety deck used during the construction has enabled the works to be carried out whilst the railway is running and has limited the number times night-work is required. This lower deck is strong enough to contain any catastrophic collapse during any stage of demolition.

At the time of our visit the safety deck was in place and the Petts Wood side of the new bridge is now complete. The next stage is working from the new section and the Orpington side is about to be demolished.

During our visit we descended below the safety deck to view the jacks holding the deck up and then on to the new side where the massive beams were observed. On the deck we saw the joint where the failing cables of the old bridge have been cut.

We learned that the problems incurred so far include the logistics in getting the main beams from Wales and then taking six hours to reach the site from Chislehurst due to the unexpected extent of the amount of cars parked on the route overnight. The next seven beams will come from the Orpington direction.

Another problem was uncharted communication cables running through the bridge - one being a fibre optic London to Prague link - these all had to be cut. Theft continues to be a big issue even with four engineers living on-site and weekend security. On one occasion the fuel tank was drained.

The bridge is on target to be finished in the late Autumn and 13 nights of track closure have been booked with Network Rail for the removal of the safety deck.

A very interesting visit organised by L.B.B. The original bridge lasted nearly 100 years and was still robust. The replacement one only has an expected lifespan of 55 years - the Victorians certainly knew something about design and construction!

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

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

Road Safety matters to kra.roadsafety@gmail.com

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 Autumn Newsletter, please email the Secretary by Friday

KNOLL LAWN TENNIS CLUB



Did you know you have a highly successful tennis club in your local neighbourhood? This year the Knoll Lawn Tennis Club had no fewer than 6 teams winning their division in the Kent Winter Tennis League. The Club has 5 all-weather tennis courts plus a modern, spacious clubhouse with a well-stocked bar, all set in beautiful grounds. It is tucked away behind residential houses and can be accessed on foot from Lynwood Grove or Mayfield Avenue (parking is available nearby if you need to drive).

As well as offering a wide range of Mens, Ladies, Mixed and Veterans teams for the more serious players, the club has an active midweek section and a great coaching programme for adults and children run by local coach, Heath Anthony. He offers two weeks free coaching to adult beginners in his Intro to Tennis sessions on Tuesday evenings. He is also happy to arrange a free juniors' coaching afternoon before the schools break up and families go on holiday.

There are also a number of sessions available for social play at the weekends and weekday evenings at this friendly tennis club.

The Knoll offers a range of competitively priced membership types and these include provision of tennis balls, a number of social events and entry into a Wimbledon ticket ballot every year.

For further information on Membership, please contact Pam.Gadston@btinternet.com for Finals Day tickets Grant.Hills@willis.com and orpingtontennis@yahoo.co.uk for coaching. Or simply visit our website: www.kolt.org.uk.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Bromley Neighbourhood Watch Association has undergone many positive changes in the last 18 months. There is lots of useful advice and recent news on their website at <http://www.bnwa.co.uk/>

.....or why not enter your postcode here http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/your_local_area/

to find out what Neighbourhood Watch are doing in your road. You can register to receive their electronic newsletters, look for volunteering opportunities, read safety advice and lots more.

LOOKING FOR LOCAL ACTIVITIES?

The premises at St John's URC in Lynwood Grove are used for many activities across all ages – for a comprehensive list see the Autumn 2011 Knoll News or visit www.stjohnsurc.org.uk. New members are always welcome, and the following would be happy to hear from you:

- Karate for 5-13 year olds (020 8462 0697) – meet Mondays
- The Knoll Bridge Club (01689 828396) – meet Wednesdays
- Petts Wood & Orpington Chess Club (07976 726765) – meet Fridays

WEA COURSES 2012/13

The WEA has a varied and interesting programme of courses starting locally in the Autumn. Now is the time to start thinking about booking a place:

The Legacy of History & The Contemporary World

20 sessions, Monday mornings from 17.9.12
at Petts Wood Memorial Hall

'Less is More' – Small Worlds In Short Stories

10 sessions, Monday afternoons from 17.9.12
at Petts Wood Memorial Hall

Art (details tbc)

10 sessions, Tuesday afternoons from 18.9.12
at St John's URC, Orpington

Europe 900-1100

10 sessions, Wednesday afternoons from 26.9.12
at St John's URC, Orpington

Europe 1789-1914

20 sessions, Thursday afternoons from 20.9.12
at the Poverest Centre, Orpington

Everyday Lives of Mediaeval Folk

20 sessions, Friday mornings from 21.9.12

at the Poverest Centre, Orpington

For further details of dates, venues and costs, please contact Penny Stewart on 01689 827420 or Martine Haynes at haynes.martine@gmail.com

STOP PRESS – *as an outcome of the Road Warden event the Chairman has just heard, via Councillor Tony Owen, that it is not Bromley Council's policy to install dog waste bins in roads because of the cost.*