

CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

The Committee held a very interesting meeting with local Councillors on 15 April. We would like to thank Messrs Douglas Auld, Tony Owen, William Huntington-Thresher, Simon Fawthrop and Lydia Buttinger for attending. Some of the items discussed (local policing, no cold calling areas and Orpington High Street) are mentioned in separate articles in this Newsletter; others are summarised below.

There is still relatively little information about the proposed redevelopment of Orpington Station Car Park. The work is expected to take place during the summer and last for about a month and provide a further 150 car parking spaces, but as we go to press with this newsletter, planning permission has not yet been sought. It was hoped that the summer build time would mean that disruption caused by overflow parking during the build would be minimal.

On the subject of roads, to reduce queues (or possibly move them from one place to another) and help manage access to Tesco, KEEP CLEAR signs have been written at various points around the War Memorial roundabout already and, as I write, the works to move the bus stop is under-way. There will also be changes to the A224 at the Homebase and Nugent Centre turns to help manage traffic flows. The continual road and pavement works in Orpington High Street should also reduce; the issue has been poor quality materials, which the contractors are now addressing.

Bromley Council is also introducing new long life, but lower wattage, street lighting with a light management system. While this is anticipated to produce long term savings, we shall have to see whether this is at the cost of road safety. As part of its cost management program, LBB is also reducing the incidence of street cleaning from weekly/fortnightly to a minimum of once a month.

Finally, there is concern about a shop called Skunkworks, which apparently sells "legal highs". While the substances sold are legal, there are issues about possible abuse, particularly by young people. Anybody with knowledge or concerns about this issue should contact Councillor Tony Owen at tony.owen@bromley.gov.uk.

POLICE AND FIRE SERVICES

There is good news and bad news here.

Fire Service:

The good news is that following the review of fire fighting services in London, Orpington will retain its fire station, which will be modernised, and will gain an extra tender.

Police:

The bad news is that the local SNT teams will be much reduced to one PC and one PCSO. The balance of existing staff will be moved into four crime fighting clusters. Bromley Police Force is also under strength and is likely to remain so until 2015. It seems likely, however, that the existing SNT "station" in Petts Wood, which covers most of the Knoll area, will be retained until 2015, when we understand the lease runs out.

The Orpington SNT will continue to be based in St Mary Cray, as they are now, following the closure of Orpington Police station.

While we understand that the Met regards the new set up as the best way of tackling crime in general, we will have to see the effect of this on crime in our area, which regrettably is unlikely to be considered a high priority by local police chiefs.

ORPINGTON HIGH STREET

The redevelopment of the Walnuts continues and it is expected that the new shops will be open in early 2014, with the new multi-screen cinema opening its doors late Spring 2014.

At the same time, following the ballot of shop owners and businesses earlier this year, responsibility for much of the running of the High St has devolved from LBB to Orpington First, a consortium of local businesses. Orpington First has plans for revitalising the High Street with markets, special events, filling vacant premises, and managing access and waste disposal.

Details of their plans can be found on www.orpingtonbusinessforum.co.uk;

Frank Levett, OBF Executive has recently contacted our Secretary with the following update: 'The tasks performed by Cheryl Curr (former LBB Town Centre Manager), will in future be delivered by the new company Orpington1st Limited, which is still in its early formative stage. They are currently recruiting for a manager...'

KING'S & THE PRU

The following is an item from the e-newsletter of Kings College Hospital:

Sharing our plans

Welcome to the second issue of our e-newsletter, providing an update on the possible acquisition of the Princess Royal University Hospital (PRUH) by King's. We are further ahead in our plans now, in that we have prepared a Full Business Case (FBC) for the acquisition. Our Board has agreed should be sent to Monitor (the Regulator for Foundation Trusts), for their consideration. Monitor will provide a full assessment and revised risk rating based on the FBC, which will be considered at King's September Board of Directors and Governors meetings, and at that time a definitive decision on the acquisition will be made.

The FBC includes reference to Orpington Hospital, and we have provisionally agreed with the Department of Health that Orpington Hospital should also become part of King's for the next three years (as part of the PRUH deal). We feel that the hospital would provide very useful extra capacity for patients of the newly enlarged Trust over this period and we hope to be able to give you more details in future issues of this newsletter.

We had a very positive response to our first issue and I hope that our stakeholders and members of the public will continue to share this resource and provide us with feedback.

Previously, we asked readers which areas of the acquisition you would like to know more about. Further to your feedback information on staffing and clinical services posts have been included in this edition.

For the past two months, the King's team has been out and about around Bromley to share our proposals with members of the public. This issue reflects these on-going conversations and aims to answer some of the questions we have received. Whilst we recognise that there will be large challenges ahead, it is very pleasing to hear praise from the local community for some of the exceptional staff and services at the PRUH.

You are telling us that there is a strong base of healthcare provision at the PRUH for us to build on and create a sustainable future for the hospital.

Engagement with the local community and patients of the PRUH is one of our most powerful tools in helping us to prepare for this acquisition. Your feedback is helping to shape our plans and I look forward to hearing more of your thoughts over the next few months.

*Tim Smart
Chief Executive,
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust*

For more information, or to sign up to receive this newsletter, go to
www.kingshealthpartners.newsweaver.co.uk/PruhKings/

NO COLD CALLING AREAS

Some residents have expressed interest in "No Cold Calling" zones. These are usually set up on a road by road basis and require the support of Bromley Council Trading Standards unit. They are usually only set up where there is evidence of doorstep crime or distraction burglaries. This makes it difficult to set up zones for large areas like the Knoll but the Committee will support people in any particular road who want to set up a "No Cold Calling" zone, although it should be noted that "No Cold Calling" zones have no real legal effect; that is to say that a cold caller within a zone can't be prosecuted for cold calling per se, although it makes it clear that they are not welcome and should make it easier to turn away any cold callers.

A guide to the steps involved is available at www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/policy/doorstopperswelcome.cfm.

Bromley Trading Standards are supplying to KRA a number of front door stickers stating: "Warning: We do not deal with uninvited traders. Please leave and do not return".

The stickers will be available for collection at our AGM on Tuesday 12th November 2013 and Rob Vale of LBB Trading Standards is being invited along to speak on this subject and other concerns or current scams etc.

Bromley Trading Standards are particularly concerned about rogue traders and advise anyone cold called by someone offering to undertake house, drive repairs etc. to say "No" and call their Rapid Response Team on 07903/852090.

SPEED AWARENESS / ROAD SAFETY

We are aware that a number of roads in our area, for example Tower Road, Vinson Close and Mayfield Avenue, suffer from traffic travelling at excessive speed, and residents are often in contact with us to ask for help in highlighting this dangerous problem which they experience on a daily basis.

Whilst we are sure that all residents in the Knoll are aware of local speed limits and always drive safely within these limits, we feel it is useful to raise this issue occasionally in the hope that we can help to reduce the number of accidents, not only in our area, but also throughout the Borough.

LBB do have a page on their website which highlights the measures being taken to reduce speeding and increase road safety. There is also a link where you can report road safety issues:

www.bromley.gov.uk/info/200082/road_safety/624/accident_reduction_measures

LOCAL HISTORY

The Orpington History Organisation was set up in 2006 to get an online presence for Orpington and its District local history and is organised as a body of people led by myself (Phil Waller). We do meet occasionally to discuss any activities, articles and general progress and we attend local heritage events and give talks. The 'OHO', as we are commonly known, is a founding member of the London Borough of Bromley Heritage and Arts Group and I am the inaugural Chairman.

We are constantly after more material to add to the 'Orpington History Organisation Collection'. Anything loaned to us is carefully copied/scanned, catalogued and archived. We then share this with as many people as are interested. If anyone has any images or articles on the area which they are happy to share, we would be most interested.

Here are our vital statistics: 1800+ FaceBook Followers – the reach has the potential for any one update to be seen by 247k people, 230 Twitter Followers, 61,000 visits to our website since relaunch in Jan 2012 – this year we are on average 600% up on all website metrics, 350 people subscribed to our free quarterly newsletter. We have over 2000 items in our collection and some are original and very rare. We are supported and endorsed by more well-known Local Historians, our local Councillors and Jo Johnson MP.

For more information on OHO visit our website at www.orpington-history.org

Phil Waller

ORPINGTON LOYALTY CARD

Local business leaders have launched the Orpington Loyalty Card, an initiative designed to incentivise local residents into using local businesses by offering exclusive discounts with many local retailers – both national and independents – in Orpington.

The scheme has been set up and managed by My Loyalty Card and was launched during April.

Orpington Loyalty Cards are free and are available from the following locations:

Orpington Library
The Walnuts Orpington BR6 0TW

The Gift Outlet
12 The Walnuts Orpington BR6 0TW

Orpington Business Forum would like to hear from local residents and shoppers. If you have any comments please go to www.orpingtonbusinessforum.co.uk/page4.html

WEA COURSES 2013/14

Now is the time to start thinking about booking a place on one of the varied and interesting WEA courses starting locally in the Autumn:

Crisis & Decision: from Thermopylae to Suez	20 sessions, Monday mornings from 16.9.13 at Petts Wood Memorial Hall
Literature – Mapping Time	10 sessions, Monday afternoons from 23.9.13 at Petts Wood Memorial Hall
Art & Architecture in the Byzantium Era	10 sessions, Tuesday afternoons from 17.9.13 at St John's URC, Orpington
Mediaeval Women	10 sessions, Wednesday afternoons from 25.9.13 at St John's URC, Orpington
Europe of the Dictators 1917-1953	20 sessions, Thursday afternoons from 19.9.13 at the Poverest Centre, Orpington
Creative Writing	5 sessions (fortnightly), Thursdays midday from 26.9.13 at Petts Wood Memorial Hall
Life in Mediaeval London 500-1500	20 sessions, Friday mornings from 20.9.13 at the Poverest Centre, Orpington

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

And why not come along to one of the WEA's Saturday afternoon lectures at St John's URC, Orpington. They last from 2 to 4.30pm and tickets cost £8, which includes refreshments:

21 September	Three Tragic Emperors
5 October	Art, Life & Influence of I.A.M Whistler
2 November	Dr Johnson & his Circle
30 November	History of the Crystal Palace

To apply for tickets, contact Yvonne Tapper on 01689 877372 or yvonne_tapper@hotmail.com

SITUATIONS VACANT

We are sorry to lose two Road Wardens, Alice Smith and Donald Bisset, who have given our Association many years of stirring service and to whom we send our grateful thanks. This creates vacancies for two road wardens: one covering Knoll Court, Station Road and the other covering the remainder of Station Road. Duties are relatively slight: delivering the Knoll News three times a year and receiving subscriptions. The Association really does depend on its Road Wardens to exist and thrive so I would urge anyone with a little spare time to think about volunteering. Please contact Richard Healey who is the Road Warden Secretary covering this road.

Following the increase in the number of Committee members at the last AGM, we also have four vacant places on the Committee. We would love to have some new members, so if you would like to do "your bit" for the area, please contact Paul Savage (contact details for Richard and Paul are in the Contact Us box at the bottom of this page).

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

This year St John's Church collected £1,628 during Christian Aid Week from the house-to-house collection from roads in the Knoll allocated to us by Churches Together in Orpington. This sum is £130 greater than last year, so thank you to all those who gave so generously. Christian Aid works in partnership with the other major aid agencies. The money given is used wisely and makes a big difference to people living in the poorest areas of the world.

I would like to give my personal thanks to the residents of Broxbourne Road who make my annual round such a pleasure. A few people prefer not to give and some give regularly to this or other charities but everyone is courteous and welcoming. This really makes a difference and is much appreciated.

Thank You

Johnstone Brown

Our Secretary has been notified of this valuable resource for carers living in the Bromley area.

CARERS BROMLEY

Carers Bromley provides support to the people in the London Borough of Bromley who provide care for others who, due to disability, long term illness (mental or physical) or frailty, are unable to cope on their own.

Our Strategic Vision—Seeking and Supporting Carers

Carers Bromley aims to increase the number of carers it supports, find hidden carers (those who do not know they are carers) and offer a range of services to carers in Bromley.

If you are a carer, or know someone who is, more information on this organisation can be found at:

www.carersbromley.org.uk/

Alternatively, you can phone the Carers Helpline on: 0800 015 7700

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

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 kra.website@gmail.com

Items for KRA newsletter knollnews@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 kra.secretary@gmail.com or Janet Whitehead at knollnews@gmail.com by 20th September 2013