

CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

Welcome to the Autumn 2013 edition of Knoll News. The most important news is that the Association's 39th AGM will be held on Tuesday 12 November in the main hall at St John's United Reformed church at the corner of Lynwood Grove and Mayfield Avenue. Proceedings start at 7.45pm and we look forward to welcoming all members on the night.

The meeting opens with a small amount of formal business but the most important part of the meeting is our guest speakers and the chance to question them and our local Councillors about local issues and other matters of concern. This year I am pleased to say that we have some very relevant and interesting speakers – so please do come along and hear, and question, them. We have:

Paul Donohoe from King's College Hospital trust to talk about proposed new developments at the PRUH and Orpington Hospital;

Sia Bodbin from Orpington Business Improvement District ("BID") to talk about BID's plans to reinvigorate Orpington High Street;

Rob Vale from Bromley Council's Trading Standard's Unit to talk about some of the scams that are being perpetrated by dodgy tradesmen and others; and

Phil Waller from Orpington History Society

We will also have our local Councillors (Douglas Auld, Simon Fawthrop, William Huntington-Thresher and Tony Owen to date) who will be on hand in the general question and answer session that follows the speakers to answer questions about what is happening, or not happening, in the Knoll area.

As usual, the meeting will conclude with drinks and light refreshments and the chance to talk to Councillors, guest speakers, members of the KRA Committee and, of course, your neighbours in a friendly and informal environment.

A copy of the Agenda is on the back page. Copies of the minutes of last year's AGM are on our website (www.kra.orp.org.uk) and will also be available on the night. Copies of the Association's accounts for the year to 30 September 2013 will also be available on the night. I and members of the Committee look forward to meeting as many members as possible at the AGM.

ORPINGTON HIGH STREET

Sia Bodbin of Orpington BID will be talking to us about BID's plans to reinvigorate Orpington High Street at the AGM; they have already appointed an interim town manager and publicity consultant. In the meantime, we understand that the Walnuts now offers free Wi-Fi access. 20 November is the date for the switch on of the Orpington Christmas lights.

CAMRA

CAMRA ("The Campaign for Real Ale") has been in touch with us. They have recently reformed their Bromley branch, which now has some 1000 members. They are particularly concerned about preserving local pubs, such as "The Cricketers" and "The Maxwell". If anybody would like to find out more about CAMRA or join, please contact Colin Brand at CMBRAND@aol.com.

COLD CALLING

Cold calling by people selling household objects or offering to undertake repairs etc. is becoming increasingly common and is a matter of concern for many members. The standard advice is to refuse any uninvited offers but some people may find this difficult or awkward once they have opened their front door. We have a number of adhesive stickers from Bromley Trading Standards which can be stuck to a front door window and which may help to deter unwanted callers. They state "Warning: We do not deal with uninvited traders. Please leave and do not return. Failure to do so is a criminal offence." The stickers will be available at our AGM, so please come along and take one.

Bromley Trading Standards is concerned about cold calling and has a rapid Response Team helpline on 07903 852090. If you are approached by anybody offering to undertake uninvited repairs to your property, turn them away and report the matter to Trading Standards on the number above

TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

If you feel there are trees in need of protection in your locality, contact Bromley Council online with details and reasons why you think the tree should be protected and they will assess the tree and make the necessary order if appropriate. The online form can be found at

http://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/508/trees/195/tree_preservation_orders/4

FIX MY STREET

Experiencing problems regarding local services? London Borough of Bromley have a page on their website where you can report issues online. The page is accessed at

<https://fix.bromley.gov.uk/>

PRIORY GARDENS

The Borough of Bromley in conjunction with the Friends of the Priory and its Garden has decided to undertake a make-over of the formal gardens which are adjacent to the museum (the old library building). Apparently they were laid out in the 1920s to a design by the famous garden designer Gertrude Jekyll who was a friend of the owner at that time.

The Borough is now looking to restore them to their former glory and is inviting people to volunteer to help with the research, the design and / or the digging!

Also in the garden are three beds of irises which were planted in the 1990s to commemorate the famous Orpington Iris Nursery that was based in Crofton Lane from the 1920s to the 1950s and it is hoped to restore those too.

Come and visit the gardens to watch as the work takes place or if you have ideas or want to volunteer to help please contact caroll.long@bromley.gov.uk

JOIN THE HEALTHWATCH BROMLEY NETWORK – MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD

Healthwatch is the new independent consumer champion created to gather and represent the views of both adults and children in health and social care. Healthwatch Bromley works to help local people get the best out of their local health and social care services. Whether it's improving them today or helping to shape them for the future.

If you are interested in volunteering or joining the Healthwatch Bromley network to be kept updated on local health and social care issues, please visit their website at www.healthwatchbromley.co.uk, email admin@healthwatchbromley.co.uk or call on 0208 315 1916.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The Orpington Methodist Church is having its now annual Christmas Tree Festival from Saturday November 30th to Sunday December 8th.

Community Groups and / or individuals are invited to enter a decorated tree to publicise their activities or just for fun. For an entry form contact ctf.orpington@yahoo.co.uk

Alternatively, just go along and enjoy the experience once all the trees are in position! The church which is in Sevenoaks Road just past the War Memorial will be open all day throughout the 8 days of the festival.

TfL CONSULTATION

Between April 2009 and December 2012 the bridge on Chislehurst Road was closed to buses. Routes 61, 273 and 661 were diverted via Poverest Road, Cray Avenue and Leasons Hill - (St Mary Cray). Following reconstruction, the bridge reopened to all vehicles in December 2012.

During the closure we reviewed the use made of the diverted services. As a result route 61 returned to its original routing but routes 273 and 661 continued to use the diversionary routing via St Mary Cray pending a further review, which we have now carried out.

We would like to know what you think about our proposal to keep routes 61, 273 and 661 on their current routings.

For further information regarding this proposal, a map of the routes affected and to share your views please visit <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/buses/routes-61-273-and-661>

The consultation is due to close on **Friday 8 November 2013**.

SITUATIONS VACANT

We have three vacancies for new KRA Road Wardens. Road Wardens are the heart of the Association and we urgently need replacements for the people who have left or moved away. The duties are not onerous: delivering the Knoll News three times a year and receiving/collecting subscriptions. The three positions vacant are:

Station Road (33 houses)

Knoll Court (20 residents)

17A to 31 and 34 to 50 Knoll Rise

Please step forward and help your Association!

Following the appeal in the Summer edition of Knoll News, two volunteers have come forward and expressed an interest in joining the Committee. However, there is always room for more! If you would like to join the Committee, please give me (Paul Savage) a call or send me an e-mail - contact details are on the back page - or simply complete the nomination form on the back page.

A TIME TO REMEMBER

St John's Church, Knoll Rise will be open between 6:30-8:30pm on Friday 1st November, offering our neighbours an opportunity to spend a short time in quiet remembrance of those they love who have died. You are welcome to come in at any time, light a candle if you wish, and just spend some quiet time in precious memories. There will be people around if you need someone to talk to but if you prefer to be alone then no-one will bother you.

At 8:15, there will be a short act of remembrance led by our Minister, for any present who wish to take part.

ORPINGTON CHORALE

To all budding singers, Orpington Chorale wants new members.

They give four public concerts a year – a mixture of popular and classical music and meet at Christ Lutheran Church, Poverest Road every Wednesday in term time at 7.30.

If you would like to join (sight reading is useful but not essential) and sing in a friendly group, please e-mail orpingtonchorale@hotmail.com or call Elizabeth Blackley on 0208 769 1272.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

The following information has been passed to us from Rob Vale, Head of Trading Standards Bromley regarding suspicious activity in our area:

'We have had two reports in the last week from Orpington carers about a gardener who would appear to be visiting elderly residents and claiming to need payment for work that he has allegedly done.

In one instance an elderly gentleman paid £50 to have his hedge trimmed and nothing was done, the following week he was called on again and invited the caller inside where he was told he had to pay more money, the caller then took money and a photograph from the gentleman's wallet.

The second incident involved another elderly resident, when the carer attended a man was in the house and claimed that the resident owed him £100 for gardening work. This raised suspicion as the resident had recently had gardening work done by a reputable trader.

The only description we have is a 40 year old man and a white van.

If you have any concerns of a similar nature please can you notify Bromley Trading Standards on 07903 852090.'

POSSIBLE DISRUPTION TO FREEVIEW TV RECEPTION BY 4G MOBILE SERVICE

There has been a lot of information in the press recently regarding the possible disruption of TV reception (Freeview) by the launch of 4G mobile service. However, **at800**, the organisation responsible for protecting Freeview when 4G at 800 MHz is rolled out across the UK, has produced a report which shows there are no apparent problems in our area - see report below:

at800 today announced the results of its recent trials in south east and west London. It revealed that there were no confirmed Freeview problems as a result of the 4G at 800 MHz testing. **at800** is the organisation tasked with ensuring viewers continue to receive Freeview when 4G at 800 MHz is rolled out across the UK.

The results reflect the fact that there is a very strong digital terrestrial television signal in London, and that this is transmitted at frequencies clearly separated from the frequencies on which new 4G at 800 MHz mobile services will be carried. Similar results could be expected in other areas of the UK with the same characteristics.

Simon Beresford-Wylie, chief executive of at800, said, "London is a big and important market for 4G services and also has millions of Freeview viewers. Clearly it was essential for the broadcasters and the mobile operators that we run trials in London before a rollout of 4G at 800 megahertz. Whilst it seems unlikely that there will be issues for the vast majority of television viewers in the capital, we will remain alert to any possible interference when rollout commences."

CONTACT US

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

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Treasurer & vice-chairman Ian Black kra.treasurer@gmail.com
Planning Miriam Harries kra.planning@gmail.com
Tree warden Brian Wilkin kra.treewarden@gmail.com
Road warden co-ordinator Chris Tait 831709
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Road warden secretary Kay Wilkins 878603
Items for the KRA website to knollnews@gmail.com
Road Safety matters to kra.roadsafety@gmail.com

Our Newsletter is delivered to all households 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 in the Spring 2014 edition please email to knollnews@gmail.com by Friday 14 March 2014, thank you.