

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Welcome to the Spring 2014 edition of Knoll News. 2014 is the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Association way back in 1974. To celebrate the occasion, this edition includes a Treasure Hunt type quiz to get you spotting notices, signs and landmarks in the Knoll area with prizes for the best answers for both adults and children. Why not take a stroll around the Knoll with our quiz and see what new you find? Further details are below.

The 2013 AGM was held on 12 November to a packed house at the Morton Hall at St John's URC church. We had four speakers in addition to our local Councillors and a very interesting meeting. Paul Donohoe of Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust gave an informative talk about the future of the PRUH and Orpington Hospital: including the plans to turn Orpington Hospital into a specialist orthopaedics centre, the retention of the hydrotherapy pool and existing pain management, diabetes, radiology and gynaecology clinics. Sharon Baldwin and Sia Bodbin of Orpington BID, who now effectively run Orpington High Street, outlined their future plans to reinvigorate the High Street and Rob Vale of Bromley Trading Standards outlined some of the latest scams by fraudsters. As a reminder, the Bromley Trading Standards Rapid Response number is 07903 852090 if you see or suspect anything "dodgy". Finally, Phil Waller of Orpington History org. gave a talk about his new book of photographs and other visual memorabilia of Orpington past. A full report of the AGM can be found on our website (www.kra.orp.org.uk) or just Google "Knoll Residents Association".

We also held a meeting with most of our local Councillors (Douglas Auld, Lydia Buttinger, Simon Fawthrop, William Huntington-Thresher and Tony Owen) on 3 March, including developments in Orpington (see separate article). Other points were likely ongoing travel disruption from next year with the redevelopment of London Bridge station, possible parking restrictions in the small cul-de-sacs off Mayfield Avenue, and possible closer liaison between Residents Associations and LBB over such matters as street cleaning following a pilot scheme in Shortlands. Finally, some advice on planning applications: if a planning application of any sort adversely affects you, contact your local Councillor as soon as possible; there have been some instances of complaints being received after development has commenced when it is too late. KRA, of course, keeps an eye out for unreasonable planning applications and will object if an application seems out of line with the general tone of the area but ultimately it is your responsibility to object if an application in your immediate area seems unreasonable.

Finally, it is with this issue of Knoll News that we ask for subscriptions. At only £1 per adult household member, subscriptions are modest and I would strongly urge all local residents to join. Please complete the form on page 4 and pass it, together with your subscription, to your local Road Warden, whose address is in the list also at the back of the Newsletter.

Thank-you.

Knoll Residents Association 40th Anniversary Quiz Trail

As Paul writes above, this is KRA's 40th anniversary and that's a good reason to get out and explore our 'patch' this summer.

The trail at the end of this newsletter is circular so you can start at a point that's most convenient or local to you. The trail should take 45-60 minutes to complete; although you might extend the time enjoying the views, taking photographs, visiting friends' houses en route or having a refreshment break at the Cricketers or in the High St.

The answers to the 'clues' are either letters or numbers. There are 17 clues with 18 answers to collect. The letters and numbers will make a statement but don't worry if anagrams aren't your thing. All entries from our members will be scored. If there is a tie the top entries will be entered into a prize draw. There will be a £25 token for the winning entry.

For our members' children there will also be a £25 token for the best photograph, drawing, painting or collage of a tree seen during on the trail.

Quiz trail and children's art entries to be submitted by **Sunday 31 August 2014**. Winners will be notified after 8 September KRA Committee Meeting. The correct answers and anagram will be printed in the Autumn 2014 Knoll News.

Good luck and happy trailing.

DEVELOPMENTS IN ORPINGTON

At long last, and after what seems to have been several false starts, plans are now becoming clearer about the development of Orpington High Street, the Walnuts and surrounding areas.

Orpington Cinema

Work has now started on the new Cinema, which it is expected will open in Spring 2015. There will also be three new restaurants and four retail units; although at the time of writing details have not been released of which shops/restaurants will occupy the units. There is also some talk of a possible hotel. Berkeley Homes have also acquired the old Police Station, which will be turned into a mixture of residential flats and a new health centre/GP practice.

Visitors to the Walnuts Shopping Centre will have seen excavations around the site for the proposed cinema. The excavations are by BT, they are on site re-routing cables to prepare for construction.

Orpington Station

The redevelopment of Orpington Station will now include an additional tier of car parking and a redesign of the station forecourt. The purpose of the redesign is to offer more parking, improved station access reducing congestion and better way-finding to Orpington High Street, all resulting in an improved station experience for passengers. LBB has provided input to the Network Rail scheme on behalf of residents. Currently the final layout of the scheme is being finished it will then need to be finally agreed by Network Rail. It is expected that the scheme will take 4 months to complete, the length should mean that disruption will kept to a minimum.

Orpington Toilets

Orpington 1st BID has now taken over responsibility of the Orpington Town Centre toilets in College Square. The toilets have been completely refurbished to improve the experience for shoppers in Orpington, Orpington 1st BID report "The public toilets in Orpington have had a complete makeover and it has to be said the new facilities look amazing. The loos look fresh and inviting and have been decorated to a very high standard." The new toilets were officially opened by Orpington 1st BID team on 19th March. The toilets include a baby care room in the ladies facilities and will include baby care facilities in the gent's facilities. The toilets are partly supported by a council grant.

Up to date information and news on the latest projects and events in Orpington can be found on the Orpington1st website at www.orpington1st.co.uk Also on the Orpington1st site you can find offers and discounts offered by local businesses.

Bromley Museum

LBB has put in a new bid for Lottery funding to redevelop the Orpington museum site. This would see an extension of the museum facilities, a new café and some office space available for leasing. Quite why Orpington needs a new café is uncertain but any plans to develop this area for the Community must be welcome.

The Priory Post - Exhibition Update

An exhibition entitled 'The Best of Bromley' is currently showing at the museum located in The Priory, Church Hill*, Orpington. It runs from 10th March to 30th May 2014 and the opening times are: Monday to Friday, 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month: 10am - 12.30pm & 1.30pm - 5pm

For more details phone 01689 873826 or email bromley.museum@bromley.gov.uk

*access via Aynscombe Angle

Electrifying numbers - for new collection service

Over 75 tonnes of electrical waste has been collected during two months alone from residents in the free collection service. The convenient door to door electrical recycling collection service generated a staggering 36.5 tonnes of unwanted electrical items during December and a further 41 tonnes in January. The additional service helps divert from landfill, which is a better financial disposal option. Last year 35,000 tonnes of borough waste was sent to landfill, costing Bromley taxpayers in excess of £2.2 million in landfill tax costs alone. This will rise to over £2.5 million this year unless more is recycled or less is thrown away.

Residents with broken or unwanted items, large or small which need a plug or battery to work, can use this weekday collection service by calling the hotline 017954 34114 or email bromley@swEEP.co.uk giving their name, address, and contact numbers and a list of the items to be collected.

For more information on all the waste and recycling services available go to www.bromley.gov.uk/wastenews

Age UK Bromley & Greenwich services

Age UK Bromley & Greenwich provides free weekly information and advice sessions on a range of issues that impact on the lives of older people - from money matters, to housing and community care.

Come along to the Age UK Shop in Orpington High Street, and meet our adviser or call 020 8315 1878 to make an appointment.

If you are having problems cutting your own nails, you can book an appointment for toe and finger nails to be cut at our clinic in the Age UK Shop. Call 020 8315 1853 to make an appointment.

For more information about the services that we provide visit www.ageukbromleyandgreenwich.org.uk or call 020 8315 1850.

Age UK Bromley & Greenwich is the trading name for Age Concern Bromley, Registered Charity No. 1060861

Carers Bromley

The March/April 2014 issue of Carers Bromley's Concerning Carers newsletter is now available and can be viewed on our website at <http://www.carersbromley.org.uk/publications/current-newsletter.html>

We hope that you enjoy reading our newsletter. If you have any suggestions for future articles please email us at help@carersbromley.org.uk To ensure future emails from us are delivered to your inbox and not treated as spam, please add us to your email address book or safe list.

Planning for a better Bromley

Residents and interested groups are being asked for views on detailed planning policies and key priorities for the future development of the Borough.

The consultation about the Local Plan includes suggestions as to how issues may be tackled through the Council's broad planning approach and takes into account responses from earlier consultations.

Please give your views through the Council's consultation portal www.bromley.gov.uk/localplan

Have your say on 22nd May

Make sure you are registered to vote in the local and European elections being held across London on Thursday 22nd May. The 2013/2014 register was published on 17th February based on information given by residents. If you think you might not be on the register or if you've moved house or changed your name since you last registered you have until 6th May to make sure you can have your say on 22nd May.

Please contact electoral@bromley.gov.uk or call 0300 303 8665 for more information