

Knoll News



Welcome to the Summer 2020 edition of Knoll News

Message from the New KRA Chair:

I am very honoured to be appointed as the KRA chairman and I have huge admiration for the strength of the Knoll and surrounding neighbourhood.

Although, over the past month we have all been part of a changing world, our strength as always been in having excellent local services, shopping and entertainment available without the need to travel more than a few miles. Our focus must remain our strengths.

As we prepare for the government lockdown rules to be lifted, the most important focus is to keep the Knoll and surrounding area businesses strong.

I am very proud to be a resident of the Knoll for the past 30 years and have always had pride in the local community.

In support of the lockdown measures introduced from March we have decided to waive the 2019 -2020 subscription fees and not ask our road wardens to distribute this publication into the homes but use a carrier service.



2019 Annual General Meeting

We had a very successful AGM on Tuesday, 19 November attended by around 80 members, together with local Councillors, and invited speakers.

The meeting opened with a welcome from Rev Jennifer Millington Minister of St John's United Reform Church, whose hall we were of course using.

Sharon Baldwin, Executive Director of Orpington 1st provided an update on the High Street.

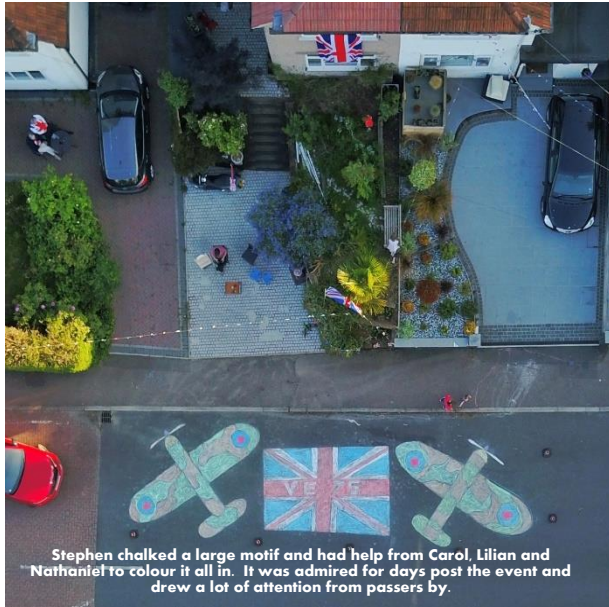
The main speaker was Gareth Bacon, the London Assembly member for Bexley and Bromley (and now our MP) who provided an update on the London Mayors Plan.

Update on KRA request for volunteers

We are pleased to report that the letter we sent out to you all resulted in a great response. We now have a full complement of committee members and currently holding our meetings via Zoom.

We also had replies from some residents who agreed to act as Road Wardens, although we will need to wait until social distancing is relaxed before we can expect them to be active.

We also need to say thank you to Christabel Drakes, Kevin and Kate Tunstall who have now left the committee.



KRA is on Facebook - join our group!

We recognise that the KRA needs to move with the times and we hope to be able to improve our engagement with the neighbourhood by becoming increasingly digital and connected. In the near future we hope to establish an E-newsletter to save costs and bring you local information direct to your inbox! We have also established a Facebook group that we hope can be a place to share Knoll news, issues and help for our fellow neighbours. Search for 'The Knoll Residents Association (KRA)' on Facebook and click join - we look forward to seeing you there! If you are not on Facebook, don't worry we will continue to communicate via the newsletter.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3046131395453100/>

Classic Newsreels about Orpington and the Surrounding Area

The OVFM has provided us with the following report:

As well as making a wide variety of films including dramas, documentaries and comedies, for over 30 years Orpington Video & Film Makers (OVFM) has been filming in and around Orpington to produce a newsreel of the previous year's events to include in our Spring Show. To try to relieve any boredom you may be feeling during the lockdown we have made our two oldest newsreels available and we hope these will interest and entertain you.

Look back at events such as The Great Storm of 1987 as captured by our members or the end of the red telephone box in 1988; see how the shops in the area have changed and watch out in case you recognise people, perhaps yourself, in any of the scenes!

To join in this activity go to <https://www.ovfm.org.uk/ovfm-classic-newsreels/> Please pass this message on to anyone you think may be interested.

Remember you can also watch the video on Facebook.

The London Plan

At the AGM Gareth Bacon provided an update on the London Plan. At that time the three Inspectors had carried out their review and reported in October. On the good side the Inspectors recommended that the development of small sites, conversion, infill and redevelopment should be reduced by half and that the restriction on local authorities setting family homes targets be removed. On the bad side the Inspectors retained the density matrix set out in the Plan, upheld the policy of leaving brownfield sites untouched (so

cannot have houses built on them even if they are derelict) and retained the planned review of Green Belt land. The Inspectors retained the policy of permitting developments in back gardens and supported the recommendations regarding parking. Most new developments would therefore not need to have any parking facilities.

Unfortunately, the Mayor was unwilling to accept the majority of these amendments, but since the Inspectors published their report, we have had a change of Government and one with a large majority so the complexion of the discussions has changed somewhat. Final approval of the Plan lies with their London Assembly but the Secretary of State has the right to amend the report before that point. In March he wrote to the Mayor advising that the plan could not be adopted unless it included the amendments he required, which address the bad news above. At the moment there is impasse with the Mayor faced with the task of revising the Plan to accommodate the direction from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government.

Planning news: The White Hart Pub

LBB has approved the application of the White Hart to extend the hours of opening from the current hours of 10.00 until 23.30 Monday to Thursday and midnight on Friday to Saturday to 08.00 to 00.30 hours the following day, seven days a week. The hours for the supply of alcohol would be extended from the current hours of 10.00 until 23.00 hours Monday to Thursday and 23.30 hours on Friday to Saturday to 08.00 hours to midnight seven days a week.

Although there were a few objections from nearby residents there had not been any reports to either the manager or to the police about any problems or disturbances. The pub has recently been refurbished including good CCTV coverage. The new hours match those of Wetherspoons in the High Street so it would not lead to customers going from one premises to another late at night which had been a concern raised. To keep up to date with much of the High Street News please see <https://www.facebook.com/Orpington1st>

The Knoll celebrates VE75 in style



Many of the roads or communities around the Knoll have made great efforts to spend fun times together in a safe way. Neighbours have commented on how they have been able to get to know their neighbours where possibly they wouldn't have if this pandemic hadn't hit. These images are from Broomhill Road residents enjoying a socially distancing VE celebration with bunting, outfits and decorations to honour this special occasion. Guests young and old enjoyed the music and chatter whilst Carol Bisley took photos to mark the occasion.

Message from Neighbourhood Watch

A QUICK AND EASY WAY TO REPORT SCAM E-MAILS

The National Cyber Security Centre (part of GCHQ) has launched a suspicious e-mail reporting service to take phishing scams down – all you have to do is forward suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk.

Once reported, the NCSC will analyse the e-mail and any websites it links to. If it believes it's malicious, the NCSC may:

- Seek to block the address the e-mail came from, so it can no longer send emails;
- Work with hosting companies to remove links to malicious websites; and
- Raise awareness of commonly reported suspicious e-mails and methods used.

While the NCSC is unable to inform you of the outcome of it's review, it assures us it acts upon every message received. Within the first week, the new service received over 25,000 reports and, as a direct result has already removed over 400 phishing campaigns

Example when to use the NCSC from KRA Secretary: I used this service to report a recent email which purportedly came from TV Licensing. It said there was a problem with my payments and my TV license was being withdrawn. I knew it was fake because I pay by direct debit and my payment had just gone through. Also the amount it quoted was wrong. The NCSC website said such emails want you to panic and respond to them - but be on your guard and report anything suspicious.

Residents are asked to not light Bonfires during the COVID19 pandemic

The action group 'Ban Bromley Bonfires' have been in touch to request residents refrain from lighting bonfires during the COVID19 pandemic. Not only is the smoke highly toxic and contributing a threefold incense in PM2.5 levels in Bromley in recent months, it can cause serious harm to vulnerable residents during a respiratory pandemic. The Waldo refuse site has now reopened, by appointment, and Bromley Council provide a green waste collection bin for £60 a year so there is no need to burn waste in the back garden. Salt depot open Saturday / Sunday for garden waste

Boundary Commission Review – changes to ward boundaries

Following the end of the consultation period to 2 September last year the draft report on the above was released in October. The consultation period for the draft report was until January 2020. The draft report re joined The Knoll but as part of Orpington ward, rather than Petts Wood and the Knoll ward. This matter was discussed at the AGM and it appeared that following a near unanimous show of hands the preference of KRA members was to remain part of the Petts Wood and The Knoll ward. We therefore made further representations to the Boundary Commission. It would appear that the KRA and other parties who made representations were listened to as the latest proposals include the whole of the KRA area in the Petts Wood and The Knoll ward, exactly as we asked. We will support the revised proposals before the consultation period end on 27 July. Your support is welcomed and you can make your own representation at <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/17018?bbox=527799,155244.5,556274,174894.5>
We will support these proposals before the consultation period ends on 27 July

The High Street marked this special event with a Memorial Board decorated with crocheted poppies as photographed by Lee Kendall



Key Contacts:

<http://www.kra.orp.org.uk>



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

Chair Lee Kendall 811735 kra.chair@gmail.com

Treasurer Ian Black 831014 kra.treasurer@gmail.com

Secretary Miriam Harries 07539 069756 kra.secretary@gmail.com

Membership Anne Dungan 820987 knollra.membership@gmail.com

Tree Warden Brian Wilkin 836728 kra.treewarden@gmail.com

Items for the KRA website to knollnews@gmail.com

Facebook Administrators Stephen Sangster and Carol Bisley – For any Facebook related enquiries please make contact with either of the administrators using Facebook Messenger.

Our Summer and Autumn newsletters will be delivered to all households in our area for this year only.

Our newsletter is delivered to over 1,500 members in the 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 Autumn 2020 edition please email knollnews@gmail.com by Monday 14th September 2020

Please note

Information on items and activities included in this newsletter and on our website are as received by the Knoll Residents Association.

The KRA is not responsible for these items/activities and the inclusion of such activities does not constitute an endorsement of services or information offered.

Thank you

Do you need help or support

- The Samaritans have a webpage of useful tips and resources including Breathing Exercises if you're worried about your mental health during the coronavirus outbreak. They're updating this on an ongoing basis. www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help
- MIND Elefriends is a supportive online community where you can be yourself. www.mind.org.uk/information-support
- Telephone Befriending: Many churches have set up Telephone Befriending: to find your nearest one see Your Neighbour www.yourneighbour.org or www.achurchnearyou.com
- NHS Every Mind Matters: www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-tips/
- NHS Mood self-assessment quiz and Mental Wellbeing audio guides are here: www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/
- The National Autistic Society series of useful resources for autistic people and their families.
- Bromley Mencap Helpline supports disabled people and their families who may be feeling anxious and worried during these challenging times: Tel Mon-Fri 020 8466 0790 or email support is available at enquiries@bromleymencap.org Visit Bromley Mencap's website www.bromleymencap.org.uk
- Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a 24hr telephone line: 0800 804 8044
- Kent and Medway Community Safe Havens: one-to-one evening access to emotional support from trained mental health professionals for those feeling distressed, overwhelmed, or that things are too much, from 6pm-11pm: www.mhm.org.uk/kent-safe-havens
- SHOUT helpline is a 24/7 text service for anyone in crisis:

text Shout to 85258 to start free texting conversation with a trained crisis counsellor

- Kent and Medway Suicide Prevention Programme:
Text the word Kent to 85258 or phone 0800 107 0160, 24/7 to start a conversation with a highly trained and experienced volunteer www.releasepressure.uk
- The Samaritans Volunteers are available to talk day or night, 365 days a year for free on 116 123

What has lockdown meant for you

During the initial stages of lockdown I felt the pace of life eased and the community reformed. People began to think of others and care for the less able members of our community.

Sadly as we have moved out of the lockdown this seems to have be less of the case. *Jon Sellers*

The best thing about lock down has been getting to know my neighbours better. *Stephen Sangster*

Washing hands a lot and playing with Daddy more, swimming and camping in the garden. But no friends and no hugs and kisses and I can't go to all the places I love. And movie night - I love family movie night. 4 year old *Nathaniel*

A time for grieving as you lose all that you were used to, and a time to regroup and recoup from the business of life. It has been a very special time, a very hard time, a fun time, a productive time and a frightening time all in one. *Carol Bisley*