

Monks Orchard Residents' Association

www.monks-orchard-web.org.uk
email: monksorchardweb@btinternet.com

Croydon

(Non Party)

(Independent)

NEWSLETTER - Autumn 2010



*The Shirley Poppy is back in
St John's Churchyard.*

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The Monks Orchard Residents' Association was founded in 1923, and represents approximately 2,500 residents.

Chairman's Comments

We hope that members have enjoyed the fine weather during the summer and have topped up their quota of sunshine & vitamin D.

The coalition government is making bold decisions regarding Government and Council spending but it doesn't seem to be having much effect on the salary awards to Councillors and senior Council Managers. It has been reported that Councillors have awarded themselves a whopping 34% increase in pay but there have been other reports that some councillors have deferred their increase until next year. In a time of frugal restraint and people losing their jobs they obviously have not got the message!! We shall see!

It is somewhat disconcerting that the coalition government and the council planning authority are in diametrically opposed policies. The government are proposing a "Big Society" calling for involvement of volunteers and Residents' Associations to contribute more in the decision making process but the Council Planning Authority are proposing the exact opposite in their "Core Strategy". In fact, the LPA are significantly reducing the influence that Residents' Associations can have on Planning Applications and development proposals [see page 18]. We have obviously been too effective in getting applications refused.

Not wishing to remain on planning issues, but we cannot ignore the diabolical results of changes to the Town & Country Planning "Permitted Development" Act, which allows developers to circumvent the Unitary Development Plan's requirements [see page 10]. It seems that developers can apply for a Lawful Development Certificate for development proposals which completely ignore any UDP planning rules or even recommendations from the Planning Inspectorate. We have written to the Rt. Hon. Gregg Clark MP, Minister of State for Communities & Local Government, on 15th July on this issue but have not yet had an answer to our letter. We will report in due course.

Dave King
Chairman

The Shirley Poppy is back in St John's Churchyard

The Vicar of St John's the Evangelist church in Shirley between 1880 and 1912 was The Rev'd William Wilks. During his time as Vicar he also became Secretary of the Royal Horticultural Society and tended a large garden at the Vicarage in Shirley Church Road.* In this garden he discovered an unusual strain of the wild poppies of the neighbouring fields. He propagated this over several years as a new strain and called it "The Shirley Poppy." It varies in colour from bright scarlet to pure white with all shades of pink often edged but unlike the Flanders Field poppy it has a white base instead of the usual black.

The poppy became a symbol of Shirley in Croydon and a local hostelry bore the name. It appears on the welcome sign outside Shirley library. However the flower disappeared from the area and had not been seen for several years.

St John's Church has a traditional churchyard covering about three acres with many historical graves and monuments dating back to the 1830's and it was decided a couple of years ago to create a conservation meadow area following discussion with the Diocesan Advisory Committee, who have been encouraging parishes to become more environmentally aware, and The Nature Conservation and Countryside Manager of Croydon Council.

Last year several wild flower species flourished and it was decided that this year it would be appropriate to attempt to reintroduce the Shirley Poppy around the grave of Rev'd William Wilks. To the delight of the churchyard maintenance team the meadow has become a blaze of colour with even more wild flowers and pride of place is taken by a colony of "The Shirley Poppy."

**The Rev'd William Wilks also founded The Chelsea Flower Show and the gardens at Wisley.*

Sarah Bitmead, St John's Environmental team (Churchyard maintenance)

Bernard Maguire, St John's church Communications Officer
Tel: [REDACTED]

See more about St John's Church at www.stjohnsshirley.org.uk

St John's Shirley Church & Churchyard Open Day

Saturday 18th September

1.30pm to 6.00pm

Guided tours of historic Church & Churchyard (Including Rev'd Wilks grave, John Ruskin's Parents, Lloyd (Lloyd park) family monument etc.

Discovery trail in church for children and "Safari Hunt" in church for Noah's animals for the pre-school Children.

Traditional Tea & Home-made cakes available!

St John's Church - Shirley Church Road
<http://www.stjohnsshirley.org.uk/>



Area Managers and Road Stewards

We still require additional Road Stewards for the distribution of newsletters each quarter and the collection of membership subscriptions once a year. Any member willing to assist in this important activity please contact: *Diane McInerney* on [REDACTED].

New Shirley-based football club for boys under 14

A new, family-run football club, Shirwood Eagles FC, has been formed to serve 13, and 14-year-old boys from Shirley and the surrounding areas.

The club is primarily for boys who will be in school Year 8 or 9 this September, who really love playing football, would like coaching and an opportunity to have supervised training. Coaching and training is from 10am to noon on Saturdays in Spring Park, Shirley.

Shirley Eagles will compete in the Tandridge League in the 2010-11 season, playing matches on Sundays.

Contact the coaches (Corrado on [REDACTED] or Colin on [REDACTED]) or email ShirwoodEagles@hotmail.com

Planning Report — (from 23 April 2010)

New Applications:

59 Greenview Avenue Ref: 10/02218/P

Full Planning Permission

Demolition of existing building; erection of two/three story building with accommodation in roofspace comprising a **30** bedroom care home for the elderly with associated communal landscaping; alterations to vehicular access and provision of associated parking area.



MORA objection letter sent 1/08/2010. Target date for decision 08/10/2010.

The appeal Ref A/10/2125625/NWF against refusal **40 bed care home** is still current (see page 6).

31 Woodland Way

Ref: 10/02329/P Full Planning Permission

Demolition of the existing building; erection of three bedroom detached chalet bungalow; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking.

89B Gladeside

Ref: 10/02160/P Full Planning Permission

Erection of 3 bedroom detached house and provision of associated parking.

This application replaces application ref. 06/04296/P for a similar property for which planning approval was given. The position of the property has been skewed to avoid a major public sewer. The target date for decision is 30/08/2010.

Decisions:

31A Woodmere Avenue

Ref: 10/01082/P Full Planning Permission

Alterations; erection of a single story side/part single/two story rear extension; erection of dormer extensions in the side roof slopes. MORA objection sent 09/05/2010. **Planning permission refused 02/06/2010.**

26-28 Tower View

Ref: 10/00641/P Full Planning Permission

Erection of a detached two bedroom chalet bungalow at rear; formation of vehicular access onto Edgwood Green and provision of associated parking. MORA Objection sent 29/03/2010.

Permission refused 23/04/2010. N.B. See also planning ref. 10/01669/LP

28 Tower View Ref: 10/10669/LP

Lawful Development Certificate [LDC]

Erection of a single story detached building at rear.

MORA objection letter sent. Permission was granted for a LDC (proposed) by the **Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development)) Order 1995 (Article 3 and Part 1 Class E of Schedule 2)**. The purpose of the building should be incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling house (leisure activities) and any other use would require the benefit of planning permission. (See Page 10).

102, 104A & 104B The Glade Ref: 10/00630/P Full Planning Permission

Formation of crossover and retention of vehicular and pedestrian access serving 102, 104A and 104B The Glade and the retention of revised curtilage for 102 and 104A The Glade.

MORA objection letter sent 27/05/2010.

Permission Refused 13/05/2010.

93a Orchard Avenue

Ref: 10/00711/LE. LDC (Existing)

Application, to use as a two bedroom house. The Certificate was refused on 02/08/2010

Appeals:

59 Greenview Avenue

Ref: 09/03647/P Full Planning Permission

Demolition of existing building; erection of 2/3 story building with accommodation in roofspace comprising a **40 bedroom** care home for the elderly with associated communal landscaping; alterations to vehicular access and provision of associated parking areas.

MORA objection letter sent 25th January 2010. Planning permission was refused on 15/03/2010, however an appeal was lodged on 31/03/2010 under ref. **A/10/2125625/NFW**. The appeal has not yet been decided. See also the new application for a 30 bedroom care home [page 5].

151 The Glade

Ref: 10/00374/P Full Planning Permission

Demolition of the existing building; erection of a terrace of 3 two story three bedroom houses with accommodation in the roofspace; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking, cycle and refuse storage. MORA objection letter sent 08/03/2010. Planning permission refused 27/05/2010. N.B. The applicant has appealed under Appeal ref. **A/10/2131258/NWF**. **MORA has provided a submission to the Planning Inspectorate.**

Update on Charity Skydive

Dear MORA members, some of you may remember in the last edition of the MORA booklet, my father-in-law, Terry Greenwood, Treasurer of MORA, wrote a piece about the importance of first aid training for parents and carers. This all came about when we suffered a very traumatic experience in December

2009 when our then 5 week old son Max had a life threatening experience to which my husband had to administer CPR.



Tracey with baby Max



Tracey with Skydiving partner

As mentioned previously, to thank the hospitals that cared for our son Max when he was so desperately ill, myself and a good friend decided to challenge ourselves to a tandem skydive. On 23rd of July we and 20 of our close family and friends set off to Headcorn in Kent. The weather was glorious, perfect for throwing yourself out of a plane, and after a long and anxious wait we finally jumped some 4 hours later. Surprisingly we both felt very calm but of course a little nervous. But without a doubt the skydive was the most amazing and surreal experience that we've both ever had. The focus was quite simple for me. I just had to look at my now very handsome but cheeky

monkey Max, a very busy, healthy 9 month old. And falling 12,000 feet compared to everything that Max has been through was easy!

My main reason for writing this piece is to send a huge heart felt thank you from me and all my family for the kind and generous support from the MORA members. I would also like to thank the MORA committee for so kindly allowing us to highjack a page and for their kind donation. So far we have raised just over £3,000. We are going to donate this money to the Evalina PICU and Farnborough hospitals to buy play equipment, nursing chairs and cot mobiles.

Thank you.

The Greenwood family

Local Wildlife

A few years ago the arrival of a dog fox in our rear gardens was greeted with interest and delight because at that time sightings of urban foxes were relatively rare. The animal sunbathed in an adjacent garden untroubled by the close presence of humans and thrived on the uneaten food discarded by the users of hot food takeaways. Eventually he suffered from the ravages of mange and disappeared. More recently some of the neighbouring gardens have remained untended and become overgrown making them an attractive urban habitat for foxes. The gardens were quickly occupied by vixens that produce cubs/kits. As the cubs developed and ventured further from their den they were a centre of interest because it was like having an episode of 'BBC Spring Watch' in your garden and they were photographed and filmed.



This year the vixens produced a greater number of cubs and they are growing fast but the associated early enchantment has



ended. Sometimes there are seven or more cubs in the garden and they have killed any enthusiasm for gardening. Holes are dug in every part of the garden, newly planted plants are excavated and bulbs dug up and eaten. The once well tended lawn has been ruined. Their droppings of excrement cover the front and rear gardens creating a health

hazard especially for young children. Furthermore they forage for food over a large area and return to consume it in the privacy of the garden. The boxes and wrappings from hot food takeaways and used plastic shopping bags are spread around the gardens along with other trophies such as used nappies, chicken and fish bones and rotting food removed from bins. Neighbours plagued by foxes have sought advice from

environmental experts who suggest the purchase and use of chemical based dog or cat deterrents but foxes are adaptable and there are no chemical or electrical devices that will deter them. The best advice is to get a dog which can prove expensive with food and veterinary bills, and success is far from certain. All the London boroughs have adopted the London Wildlife Trust Fox Code as the best practice. The Trust views foxes as part of the natural local wildlife and opposes their prosecution or control except in exceptional circumstances. Research proves that the majority of people derive pleasure from having foxes in their neighbourhood and they can be a benefit, feeding on rats, mice and feral animals but this may be subject to change as the density of the fox population increases and they become more confident and aggressive in the search for food.



Another species that is surviving in ever greater numbers in London are wild parrots, including parakeets. They have spread from Bromley to Shirley and flocks can be seen in Monks Orchard. Emerald parakeets have made their homes in parkland and sports grounds but flock to local gardens in search of food and are becoming a familiar sight. They swoop and screech on trees and bird tables and will devour the contents within seconds.

Experts predict that they will be London's top bird within a few years thus replacing the diminishing chirpy cockney sparrow. As the numbers multiply, helped by a series of mild winters and lack of predators, they are often viewed as a pest because they can be very destructive. Expensive repairs have needed to be made to the Shirley Windmill and St. John's Church because parakeets have damaged the timber tiled roofs. You will know when the emerald flocks visit your neighbourhood by the persistent loud squeaks usually associated with an equatorial rain forest.

There are a range of theories about the arrival of the parrots including that they were brought in by Jimi Hendrix and they escaped during the making of a film and that they were released from aviaries during the great storm of 1987.

Permitted Development Planning Anomaly

In 2008, substantial changes were made to the rules on Permitted Development which allowed householders to convert lofts, build rear extensions to their homes and erect outbuildings without planning permission. Furthermore, providing the proposed project is within the new limits neighbours do not have the opportunity to object.

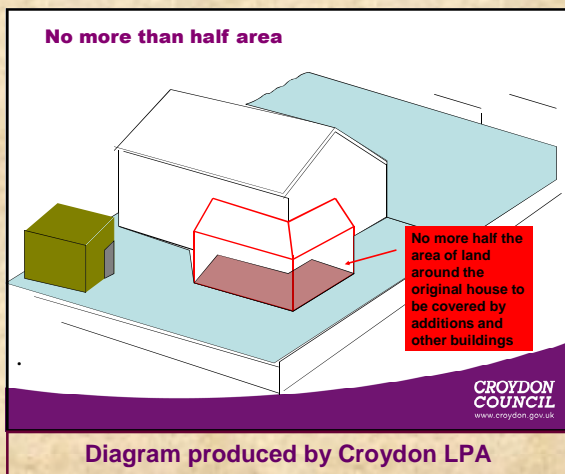
MORA had serious concerns about these new rules, which were outlined in previous newsletters, because some owners have no consideration as to how their proposed building project will negatively affect neighbours. Under the previous planning regime Monks Orchard suffered from a number of inappropriate and obtrusive home extensions. MORA are concerned that the Permitted Development regulations continue to contribute to the degradation of our area.

Under the new rules outbuildings are considered to be permitted developments not needing planning permission subject to the following limit and conditions “no more than half the area of land around the ‘original house’ would be covered by additions or other buildings”. Unfortunately, there are householders who consider their front and rear gardens potential sites for building development. If the garden is of a sufficient size they will readily submit an application to erect another property, i.e. house or bungalow, which can be sold or leased for profit. This may not receive planning permission from the local authority and if a subsequent appeal against the decision fails to gain the support of the Minister of State, the developer will explore alternative routes e.g. Lawful Development Certificates (LDC’s) in order to get round the problem.

Residents living in Tower View and Edgewood Green are greatly troubled by a back garden development that would adversely affect the distinct spacious character and appearance of the area by creating a stronger sense of enclosure and reduce the outlook of the residents of adjoining gardens.

Using the new permitted development rules, the developer has been able to achieve his aims without the need of full planning permission and at the same time prohibiting the residents from having their views considered.

The owners of properties in Tower View have submitted a number of planning applications for bungalows on extremely restricted plots to be erected in rear gardens. Residents living nearby, supported by MORA, have objected to these proposals and each



one has been rejected, including one which went to appeal, because the proposals would substantially contribute to the reduction of amenity space and the spaciousness of the area. Using the new rules for permitted home developments the applicant applied for a lawful development certificate for the erection of a single

storey detached building, similar in appearance to a bungalow, on a restricted site in one of the rear gardens that would have a similar adverse impact on local residents as the previous applications that failed to gain planning permission. The wording of the application states that the building will be used for leisure activities and would contain a gym, games room, study and shower room, all of which could easily be converted for living accommodation without access to gardens space or off street parking. This follows similar activities by developers in other boroughs to circumvent planning law.

Croydon has the highest number of inappropriate buildings in back gardens despite the call on Councils to use their powers to stop such developments. MORA's original concerns about the new rules for permitted home development have been proved correct and local residents can expect more of these applications that take no account of the affect on those living nearby.

This summer it has been interesting to note how those residents who have erected multiple large buildings in their rear gardens have been forced to hold their garden parties or barbeques in the shady small corner patch of their once spacious recreational amenity space.

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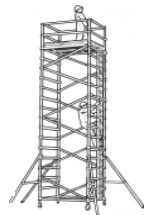
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The Fly Tippers

The neighbourhood in which a person chooses to live is usually selected with considerable care and can contribute to a feeling of pride and contentment. For many, the personal preference is a quiet tree-lined avenue lined with well-maintained properties and gardens. Importance is given to the street scene because people prefer to live in a road that does not contain large commercial vehicles, boats or mobile homes blocking the view. Unfortunately the satisfaction of living in a good neighbourhood is under constant threat from those that do not place importance on the appearance of the street scene and use their gardens for the storage of building equipment, collections of unused vehicles and mobile homes. Furthermore, unused rusting vehicles parked for long periods outside your property can be an annoying eyesore.

A constant threat is that of fly tipping and green open spaces that are used for the dumping of used mattresses, furniture, and garden waste, used vehicle tyres and builders' debris. The ancient woods in Bywood Avenue and Ashburton Playing fields are



much favoured spots used for the nocturnal disposal of unwanted rubbish by people that are unwilling to make use of the Council collection services. Such illegal activities can quickly transform a pleasing street scene to one of dereliction and this can attract others to add more rubbish. There are those with no civic pride who undertake such activities with little fear of being punished. Those residents that strive to protect their environment from being destroyed will sometimes record the registration number of the offender's vehicle and take a photograph or video but are frequently disappointed when the Council and other bodies responsible for law enforcement show a complete lack of interest when the evidence is offered to them.



**Mud Slurry dumped
the length of
Chaffinch Avenue**

The rising cost of using authorised sites for the disposal of waste material has served to increase the amount of fly tipping not only on green spaces or the gardens of empty properties but on the public highway. A large tipper lorry laden with waste material can be driven at speed at night or the early morning along a quiet road in Monks Orchard with the tailboard down and the waste material can be dumped without stopping, leaving tons of rubbish along the public highway. Apart from early morning dog walkers these incidents are mainly unobserved before the culprit has departed from the scene. Fortunately the Council is equipped to deal with such problems

and the material is gathered and removed at the cost of the taxpayer. An event which occurred in the early part of this year created more environmental problems than most. At approximately 6.30 a.m. a large tipper lorry dumped tons of what can only be described as mud slurry along the front of the Bywood shopping parade and almost the full length of Chaffinch Avenue. This coated the surface of the highway to a depth of three or four inches, spattered the sides of parked vehicles, and transformed the area into a swamp resembling the after-effects of a major flood. Those pedestrians trying to cross Bywood Avenue found themselves adhering to the cloying depth and vehicles were forced to slowly plough through the mud. The council street scene team, who responded to the numerous calls from residents, shop and garage proprietors, are not really equipped for the collection and removal of such a large quantity of liquid waste spread over a wide area. Two vehicles fitted with rotary brushes and a suction device made repeated runs in an attempt to remove the glutinous

mess but tended to make the situation worse. These were eventually joined by two drain cleaning tankers and high pressure hoses were employed in an attempt to wash the slurry into the side of the highway. Failing to make much of an impression the next attempt involved filling the tankers with water from nearby fire hydrants and emptying this in the centre of the road with the hope of washing the offending mud into the drains. This partially cleaned the surface of the road but large quantities remain on the edge and as a consequence of the long spell of dry weather the area still has the appearance associated with a farm track. It is always possible that the material dumped was toxic and should have been transported to a specialised facility but as far as it is known no tests were undertaken to ascertain the nature of the material. On the same morning reports were received that debris was also dumped in Firsby and Woodmere Avenues.

Ed. - Beware when the rains come, as the drains could well be blocked!



High pressure hose used to wash away the mud slurry

Open Spaces in Monks Orchard

In the Borough of Croydon there are over 120 open spaces. The area covered by the Monks Orchard Residents' Association is fortunate in containing some interesting open spaces. The largest open area is the Ashburton Playing Fields. The playing fields run from Bywood Avenue in the north to Chaucer Green in the west and Woodmere Avenue in the east, the houses in Stroud Green Way are along the western boundary. The area is 45.50 acres, 20.03 hectares. This flat area of land has been associated with various sporting events over a long history. The Chaffinch brook runs north across the playing fields. In Victorian times a

racecourse was here. Croydon has a long history of horse racing. The earliest record is from 1286 when Lord William de Warrenne was killed in a tournament in Croydon. It took place on Duppas Hill, then known as Dubbers. In 1586 Queen Elizabeth I visited her Archbishop's Palace in Croydon and there were race meetings. Racing was held at a number of sites and when the Park Hill Course was sold, the farm land at Stroud Green Woodside was secured on a 14 year lease.

The first meeting was on 27th and 28th November 1866. The race course was 1 mile 3 furlongs; it was egg shaped. The north west boundary was Long Lane with the Chaffinch brook to the south east. The fence enclosing the racetrack is where the Fire Station is today. The grandstand stood where there are now the playing fields

to the south west of Chaucer Green. The ground was well drained though it was pointed out that the sub-soil was clay and so it could be prone to heavy going. Flat races and steeplechase events were held. An important feature of the new course was the 'Great Water Jump', which was opposite the stand. There were plenty of complaints about the



lay out and in 1867 a case was reported in the Croydon Chronicle, concerning alleged cruelty to a horse called 'Voightlander' at the water jump.

From the 1860's to the 1870's the number of meetings increased. The most important race was the Grand Metropolitan Steeplechase. The Woodside railway station opened in 1871. A ramp was built to walk the horses out of the station as the station was lower than the road. Trains brought the race-goers from London. The railways had been encouraged to increase the number of visitors but this led to the eventual downfall of the racecourse. It was noted that the attendance of the general public was extremely numerous however the professional element was sparsely represented. The transport brought the 'undesirables'. The course did not attract the more select race goers so that Croydon could be known as a 'swell' race meeting. The Croydon Chronicle reported cases of pick-pockets, gambling, and card-sharpers being brought

before the magistrates. Riots happened as well. The loss of public order around the race course caused a lot of dissatisfaction to the residents. One resident said that 'the races were a positive curse'. When the licence was submitted for renewal in the late 1880's, the councillors deliberated in private, as huge rows occurred with Q.C.'s engaged.



In 1890 the last meeting was held. The local movement for the abolition of Croydon races was successful. In the sporting papers 'In-Memoriam' poems were composed, in 1890 the course died of County Council Disease said one. The last flat racing meeting was on 14th and 15th October 1890 and the last Steeplechase was on 25th and 26th November 1890. Gatwick was the next place where they raced from 1891 to 1940. In 1893 Beckenham Golf club took over the area and it was in regular use until the WW2.

Then an ack-ack battery was stationed there. The council acquired the area in 1942 for housing and playing fields. The golf club pavilion was used in 1950 for extra classrooms for Ashburton School while the new school was being built. The Chaffinch brook is now piped and a line of trees marks its position. It rose behind the pumping station east of Shirley road, then it flows towards Elmers End before becoming the Pool river and joining the Ravensbourne river and reaching the Thames at Deptford Creek.

The playing fields have football pitches for senior and junior players. There used to be cricket pitches. There is a children's playground. The ground is



open all the time and along the path running from Woodmere Avenue towards Stroud Green Way there are 3 new benches and there are seats along the side of Bywood Avenue. On the other side of Bywood Avenue are the Long Lane Woods which will be the

subject of the next open space article.

Information has come from the London Borough of Croydon at www.croydon.gov.uk <<http://www.croydon.gov.uk>> , books 'Croydon Parks an illustrated history' by Mrs.M.A.Winterman, 'The Croydon Races' by Jim Beavis, Local History Publications, Croydon Central Library Local Studies Archives and local residents.

Rosemary Rabin - Trees & Open Space Officer

VOLUNTEERS CORNER

This is the first in what we hope will be a regular feature in the newsletter, when members provide information on activities undertaken on a voluntary basis, to provide a service to the community and offer pleasure to all those involved.

"Contact the Elderly"

I became involved with this charity several years ago. The organisation brings together elderly people who would otherwise find difficulty in going out, volunteer drivers, and hosts to provide teas. I had been retired for some time, and was looking for additional interests. I enjoy cooking and entertaining so offered my home for regular teas.



I have to say it was a real eye opener. You have no idea how noisy and lively half a dozen elderly people (mostly in their late 80s) can be. Some of the ladies (we tend to out live men) have become real friends and we all look forward to meeting up. They have a fund of stories and some of their life histories would make my teenage grandchildren's hair curl.

We chat, drink tea or occasionally something stronger, eat sandwiches and cakes and generally have a wonderful time. It is often somebody's birthday so I put candles on a cake and we sing Happy Birthday.

Volunteer drivers collect one or two guests from their homes once a month and take them to the hosts. Some advice is given on helping the frailer guests. You are given tea and participate in the fun, then drive them home.

As a host, you must have a house with few steps and a downstairs toilet. You also need a big teapot! I enjoy baking so make cakes, scones and quiches but if this is not your forte it is the company that the guests need, and shop cakes are fine. You also need obliging friends or family to pass things round, provide another listening ear, and most importantly help with the washing up.

Perhaps you are elderly yourself, or know somebody who is. Normally to qualify guests should be over 75 and limited in their ability to go out on their own. Groups are kept small so we can all get to know each other. The groups are so welcoming and everybody enjoys themselves.

If you would like to join a group, as driver, host or guest, please ring 0800 716 543, or write to Contact the Elderly, 15 Henrietta Street, London, WC2E 8QG.

Mary Evans - MORA Secretary



Planning Matters - The Council's Problem, or Ours?

Croydon Planning Department has a dilemma. They are committed to providing an estimated 19,000 new homes for 45,000 individuals to cope with the anticipated population increase in Croydon over the next few years. This is the 'Core Strategy'. It is an enormous task involving the provision of new houses and flats and additional services such as gas, electricity, sewerage, schools, jobs, doctors, dentists, etc. All this additional planning will need to be provided on a reduced budget.

How will the Council cope with this increased workload? Croydon have announced a two-pronged attack.

The first is a change in the constitution. This affects how residents and Residents' Associations voice their opinions on planning applications and the influence which they can exert. These changes are intended to complement changes which are being introduced to the pre-application service which the Council hope will improve communications between developers, Croydon Council and

Planning Committee members at a much earlier stage and thus smooth the final decision to accept or reject an application.

These are fine intentions, but will these changes live up to The Councils or our expectations?

Residents and Residents' Associations are now able to exert less influence on the planning decisions made by the Planning Committee and delegated committees. The Council have stated that they had no desire to override the views of residents and Residents' Associations. MORA accepts that while this may be the case, the effect has been to reduce residents influence. The delegated committees, consisting of unelected planning employees, will undertake much more of the Planning Committee's work. It is possible that delegated committees will wish to support those colleagues who have been associated with preparing the planning applications.

The pre-application service is not compulsory. Those developers wishing to take advantage of this service will be charged a fee which will depend on the size of their project. No doubt, developers will expect to receive a return for their additional investment of £2,000 to £5,000. These changes are intended to complement the second set of changes that are being introduced to the pre-application service.

The pre-application service may well improve communications between the developer and the planning department, but there is no requirement for the developer to communicate with residents or Residents' Associations. The Council have accepted that they can only encourage developers to communicate with us at the earliest opportunity.

MORA has sympathy for the predicament of the Planning Department, but has little sympathy for the Council's solutions that have been inflicted upon the residents. The Council have stated that they are leading the way for the other Councils. MORA hopes that they are not taking a leap into the dark. The first opportunity to comment to the Council about these changes will be when the scheme is reviewed in one year. MORA will be pleased to pass on your views at this time.

Ian Fraser - MORA Planning Officer

Events at Shirley Library

There will be a talk by Catherine Evans of Victim Support on Thursday 23rd of September at 2.30pm. She will offer free and confidential practical support and information for victims of crime. Officers from Shirley's Safer Neighbourhood Team will also be present to answer questions. Spaces are limited so please book your place with a member of library staff.

On Tuesday 21st September we will be holding a Coffee Morning and Sale of Craftwork in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. There will be a variety of hand crafted cards, knitted and embroidered items for sale. Anyone who knits, sews or makes any type of craft and wishes to donate items they have made for the sale can bring them in to Shirley Library anytime up to and including the day of the sale.

If you enjoy reading, why not join our fun new Chatterbooks Group? This group is for those aged 8-11 and is free to join. We will be meeting weekly, on Thursdays, between 4.00pm-5.00pm, from September.

We run the following free drop-in events for young children during school term times:

Bookstart Rhymetime:

Fridays 10 - 10.30am (babies and toddlers)

Wiggle and Jiggle: Fridays 11 - 11.30am (18 months onwards)

Storytime: Thursdays 2.15 - 2.45pm (two and a half onwards)

Saturday Rock & Rhyme: Saturdays 10-10.30am (babies and toddlers)

Monthly Story and Craft Workshops for 5 to 10 year olds. 10.30 am - 11.30am and repeated 2.30pm - 3.30pm.

Please contact the library for details of dates and topics.

Reading group:

Our adult reading group meets on the second or third Monday of the month at 7pm.

On Monday October 4th we will be having a local history talk, with slides, given by local resident Raymond Wheeler. The talk will take place between 2-3.30pm. Tickets are priced at £1 and are available at the library. Spaces are limited so please collect yours soon to avoid disappointment.

For further information contact Fiona Phillips at Shirley Library Tel: 020 8726 6900 x 14300



HELP for HEROES

Support for our Wounded

Help for Heroes supports our wounded. Help for Heroes provides practical direct support to those servicemen and women wounded in the line of duty in the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

THE CAMEL EXPRESS

My name is Karen Brown, and I'm 45 years old, and I'll be walking the H4H 100k Walk across the Sahara Desert in Oct 2010.

On the 10th July 2009 my family's lives were shattered by the loss of my nephew Rfn. Danny Simpson of 2nd Rifles in Afghanistan.

He has inspired me to take part in this walk, not only in his memory but for his fellow comrades who have also fallen and the many soldiers who have come home injured.

So please help me to raise as much money for Help For Heroes, so they can carry on with their support and provide the essential help for all our Armed Forces both at home and abroad.

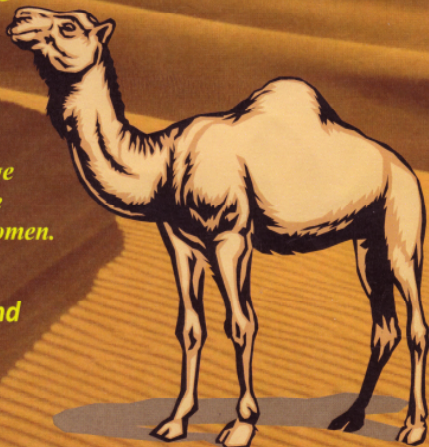
You can sponsor me by donating on the following web links:

➔ www.bmycharity.com/karenbrownsahara10

➔ www.justgiving.com/Karen-Brown2

So go on dig deep and help this middle age woman do the H4H 100k Walk across the Sahara in aid of our Service Men and Women.

Thank you for your donations and support!





CHRISTMAS SHOPPING TRIP



*Dickensian Christmas shopping experience
in Rochester Castle Gardens,
German-style Christmas chalets selling
festive goods and hand crafted gifts,
and then finish your Christmas shopping at
Bluewater Shopping Centre!*



*Tuesday 7 December 2010
£14.50 per person
Coach leaves from Wickham Road.
If you would like to join us
Contact: Christine Ross-Smith
Tel: [REDACTED]*

M.O.R.A.

Monks Orchard Residents' Association



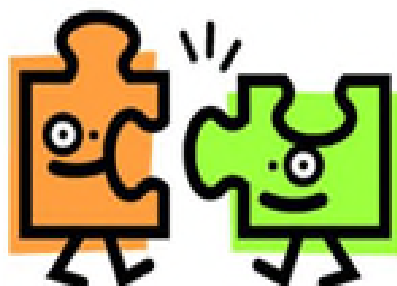
Reporting local news



Protecting our area



Supporting local causes



Bringing people together

Helping to make a happy community

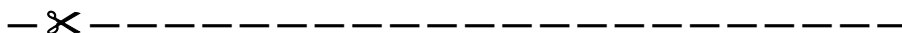
To join and receive regular newsletters
or for general enquiries contact:

Email: monksorchardweb@btinternet.com

Phone: [redacted] or [redacted]

MORA COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2010-2011

Chairman	Dave King	
Vice Chairman	Vacancy	-
Secretary	Mary Evans	
Treasurer	Terry Greenwood	
Planning	Ian Fraser	
Membership Secretary	Diane McInerney	
Editor/Website	Derek Ritson	
Police Liaison	Jean Cook	
Primary Care	Mercia Nash	
Social Secretary	Christine Ross-Smith	
Transport & Highways	Vacancy	-
Neighbourhood Partnership	Joan Pring	
Trees & Open Spaces	Rosemary Rabin	-
Committee Members and Area Managers	{ Michael Nash { Patricia Turner { Anne Horton	
Committee Member	Sheila Wagland	
Committee Member	Nicki Smith	



MONKS ORCHARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name:	Signature:
Address:	
Post Code:	

'I wish to become a member of the Monks Orchard Residents' Association'
Please send this completed form to:

DIANE MCINERNEY

Thank you for supporting MORA.

Please pass on to a non-member.

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