

Monks Orchard Residents' Association

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

Croydon

(Non Party)

(Independent)

NEWSLETTER - Autumn 2011



Shirley open gardens - local resident's garden magic
Shows what can be achieved in a small garden

I N T H I S I S S U E :

Page 2	Chairman's Comments	Page 17	The Shirlley Green Triangle
Page 3	Planning Report	Page 18	Our Boys in Afghanistan
Page 5	Correction to Summer Issue		Shirley Charity Fayre
Page 6	Macmillan Coffee Morning	Page 19	Hall Grange Charity Christmas
Page 7	The POP Service		Card Sale
Page 8	Bethlem Museum		Jumble Sale
Page 10	Lanfranc School Tragedy		Area Mangers & Road
Page 12	Croydon Council Road		Stewards
	Shows	Page 20	Scambuster
Page 14	The Benefits of Green	Page 21	Walk in Croydon
	Spaces	Page 22	Shirley Lunch & Supper Club
Page 15	Green Open Spaces at Risk	Page 24	MORA Committee 2011 - 2012

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

Chairman's Comments

London's burning, London's burning, fire, fire, pour on water, pour on water, so goes the nursery rhyme following the conflagration of 1666. That fire was an accident in Pudding Lane. 345 years later we witnessed some shockingly similar scenes of destruction in our own neighbourhood. Residents were shocked and horrified by the damage caused by the recent disturbances in Croydon town centre.

On a television programme Diane Abbott said 'they have been left behind.' WRONG! they have left themselves behind. The free education facilities are there to be used.

It is extremely disappointing that those who committed these vile acts were largely people the taxpayers have to support, while Pensioners, the Disabled and others have to struggle through life with little or no help at all. It is right that those that took part in the arson and looting should be subject to the full force of the law. In order to regain public confidence urgent action must be taken to ensure such an occurrence never happens again.

It is quite ironic that only two weeks after such devastation was wreaked on our streets, young people of all races and socio-economic backgrounds received their A-Levels and GCSE results, and it is heartening to see that applications for Universities were at an all-time high as these youngsters try to better themselves through education and training, with a rise in the number of students taking Maths and Science subjects. It is good to see those who are taking positive steps in their lives as opposed to the witless, moronic acts of the idiotic few who tried to wreak havoc on their communities and whose only desire in life was to help themselves to others people's belongings.

On another more positive note, I was engaged in my professional capacity to carry out a report on a property in Lavender Hill just opposite Debenhams. Fortunately the property I inspected escaped any damage, but I noticed a crowd of people outside Debenhams inspecting the boarded up windows. I decided to investigate. I found the boarding covered in graffiti, not the normal type of graffiti we normally see but of support of the local community. It was also great to see the community

rising up in assistance for those who have lost homes and are trying to rebuild their businesses as well as cleaning the streets in the immediate aftermath.

On a totally unrelated subject I have to report that one of our local development companies, Greenacres, have gone into administration. This company mainly produced homes for housing associations which will mean that in the short term there will be less homes built. This also means there are hard working people who have lost their income, and they also have, like most of us, families to support and mortgages to pay. This is currently the situation in the construction industry which historically has been the barometer of the growth of the British economy. We hope things will gradually improve.

Dave King
Chairman

Planning Report

New Applications:

33 Brookside Way
Ref: 11/02054/P

Full Planning Permission

Alterations; use of ground floor as day nursery for max 14 children; erection of single storey extension.

Consultation Closes: 26/08/2011

Target Date for decision: 12/09/11

Mora has prepared and distributed a flyer informing all local residents of the application and MORA has objected.



161 The Glade **Ref: 11/01727/P**

Full Planning Permission

Use as a day nursery for a maximum of 16 children

Consultation Closes: 01/09/2011

Target Date for decision: 21/09/2011

Mora has prepared and distributed a flyer informing all local residents of the application and MORA has objected.

Triangular land between Shirley Avenue, Valley Walk and Shirley Road

Ref: 11/01999/P

Erection of buildings to provide up to 50 assisted living sheltered apartments for the elderly with assisted landscaping and parking

Consultation Closes: 01/09/2011

Target Date for decision: 21/09/2011

Although the application site is in the Heathfield Ward, we do have a number of members in the area.

MORA has distributed a flyer to all residents backing onto the triangle and MORA Has formally objected on 31st August 2011

LPA Decisions:

Monks Orchard Primary School, The Glade,

Ref: 11/01676/P

Erection of conservatory to existing nursery

Delegate Decision: 05/08/2011

Decision: Permission Granted

81-83 Orchard Avenue

Ref: 11/01884/P

Full Planning Permission

Retention of 4 two storey detached four bedroom houses with accommodation in roofspace, and a pair of two storey four bedroom semi detached houses with accommodation in roofspace; retention of vehicular access and provision of associated parking (without compliance with conditions 1 approved details, 5 landscaping ,10 existing access & 11 kerb reinstatement attached to planning permission 06/05147/P)

Consultation Closes: 23/08/2011

MORA objection sent: 11/08/2011

Permission Granted 25th August 2011

Appeal Decisions:

2 Greenview Avenue

LPA Ref 10/02764/P

Appeal Ref:

APP/L5240/A/10/2142873

Erection of two storey two bedroom detached house at side; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking

Registration Date: 26/08/2010

LPA Decision: Permission Refused 21/10/2010

Inspectorate Decision: Dismissed 03/08/2011

7-10 Oak Way

Ref. 10/03557/P Appeal Ref: A/11/2148021

The demolition of existing buildings (numbers 7, 8A, 9 & 10), erection of 15 three bedroom two storey houses; formation of an extension to the existing road to include a turning head and provision of associated car parking.

Registration Date: 25/11/2010 Application Type: Outline planning permission

Decision Date: 11/02/2011

MORA objection to application: Yes

Appeal Dismissed 22/08/2011

Ongoing Applications

2 Greenview Avenue Ref 10/03899/P

Erection of a two storey, two bedroom house at side; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking.

Note: This is a modified version of an earlier rejected application. MORA have objected to this application.

Target date for decision: 08/02/2011

Applications Pending

104A The Glade

Ref: 11/00505/P

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

Registration Date: 17/03/2011

Target Date: 12/05/2011

Decision: No Decision

MORA objection: Yes

Correction:

Cllr. Steve O'Connell requires a correction to his item. In the Summer Issue Page 9—"Transport problems for the community are one of Boris Johnson's concerns: The number of trams is planned to increase as is an extension to West Norwood."

Should read "extension to Upper Norwood."

Macmillan Cancer Support

Most of us are aware of the huge importance of the work carried out by the Macmillan nurses, helping people living with cancer and their families receive essential medical, practical and emotional support.



Every year, to help raise funds for this vital work, Macmillan Cancer Support asks people to hold an event, on or around 30th September. It doesn't have to be a coffee morning, it could be a tea party, a wine tasting or even a karaoke session or pub quiz. The important thing is to get people together to enjoy



each other's company and raise money. All types of events, big or small, can contribute much needed funds. I usually just have a few friends round for a meal, they pay, and a good time is had by all.

Events may be held at home, in the workplace, at school, in the park. Fund raising packs, with everything you need to make your event a success are available if you register with Macmillan on 08443751453 or online at coffee.morning.org.uk/biggestever.

Come on, let's show them that Croydon is not all about rioters and looting. We can spare a little time and effort to help those in need. If anybody does have a really successful event and wants to tell the world, or at least Monks Orchard, we will be happy to include a piece, and photograph in the winter edition of the newsletter.

THE POP SERVICE

Partnership for Older People

Bringing Services to Older People in Croydon.

Anyone over the age of 50 can get initial support from the **POP Service** Team and its specialist advisors, free of charge.



You may need help and advice in order to cope with everyday life. The **POP Service** is a mobile service that aims to bring together a number of specialist advisors to various venues in the Borough as part of a planned programme advertised in advance.

The **POP Service** offers advice and services on topics such as:

- Healthy diet
- Exercise & how to keep fit
- Medication checks
- How to avoid falls
- Staying safe and secure
- Debt Management
- Nail cutting
- Specialist equipment & adaptations
- Benefits and entitlements
- Hearing loss support
- Coping with Diabetes
- Dementia
- Blood Pressure checks
- Support options for carers
- Handy person's service
- Home Care

The **POP Service Team** consists of specialists from:

- Age UK Croydon
- Health visitors for older people
- Croydon Hearing Resource Centre
- Croydon Council
- Alzheimer's Society
- Welfare Rights
- Pharmacist Advice Service
- Stroke Association
- Crossroads Care Croydon
- Neighbourhood Care
- Various other agencies

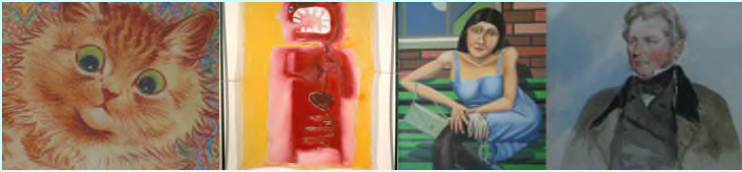
**Thurs 27th Oct 1pm-3pm, Shirley Methodist Church,
Eldon Avenue, Shirley, .**

Tues 15 Nov 9am-11am Bywood Avenue Shops, Shirley,

Please Contact the office on
020 8654 4440

www.croydonpop.org.uk email: info@croydonpop.org.uk

Bethlem Museum is having a much-needed make-over and wants YOUR help!



What do we do?

The Archives & Museum at Bethlem Royal Hospital care for an important and well-respected collection of documents, photographs, artefacts and works of art dating back to the 12th century.

The collections are accessed by over 4,000 visitors a year, and are of both national and international significance.

Works of art from Bethlem are regularly requested for exhibitions at museums and galleries such as the Victoria & Albert Museum and Tate Britain. There is also considerable demand for our loan exhibitions, which include the works of Louis Wain and Richard Dadd.

Museum visits and loans to other institutions are all offered free of charge, as are our educational activities, which benefit hundreds of students and adult learners each year.

Why do we need to move?

The Archives & Museum are currently operating out of a dilapidated 1960s building (with attached portakabin) which is no longer fit for purpose so we plan to re-locate to an existing building on the Bethlem Royal Hospital site which will be adapted for our needs:

From this...



...to this...



There is insufficient space to house the collections, some of which have had to move off-site with the result that they can no longer be seen by the public.

The archive storage area has large cracks in the walls and an ageing environmental control system which no longer operates reliably.

The cramped nature of our museum display space means that only a tiny proportion of our collections are ever on view.

We have no dedicated education space.

The move will enable us to:

Preserve the collections on one site in appropriate environmental conditions.

Make a wider range of art and artefacts accessible to the public.

Expand our educational activities to reach a wider audience.

Develop our volunteering programme.

Our fundraising target to achieve the move is £3 million by April 2012.

Your local museum

As local residents, your opinions and ideas are very important to us so please share your answers to the following questions with Annabel by end October 2011:

What would make you visit this local museum or recommend it to others?

What would you like to **SEE at your local museum of mental health? (e.g. special exhibitions, gift shop, cafe, volunteers...)**

What would you like to **DO at your local museum of mental health? (e.g. workshops, guided tours, lectures, inter-actives...)**

email:

Tel:

The Lanfranc School Tragedy



On 9th August 1961 an airliner carrying a party of 34 teenage schoolboys and 2 masters from Lanfranc Secondary Modern School in Croydon to a holiday in Norway, crashed into a mountainside near Stavanger in southern Norway. All members of the party and 3 air crew were killed. At the time this was the worst disaster in Norwegian aviation history. The result of the Air Accident Enquiry was that no one thing was to blame for the crash.

In the sixties international travel was much less common than it is now, and many of these boys had never flown before. Some had taken on paper rounds to help fund their flights. Many boys had wanted to go but were unable to do so. As it turned out these were the lucky ones. The news of the tragedy was widely circulated and many in Croydon were in mourning as almost everyone knew of someone involved in the accident.



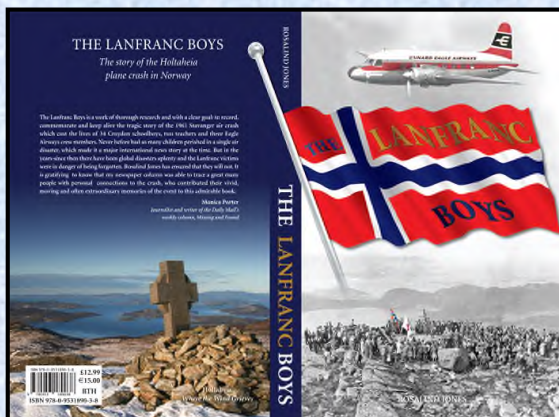
Services of Remembrance were held at 3pm on 9th August 2011 at Croydon Cemetery and simultaneously at the memorial on the site of the accident in

Norway. Many of the Norwegian Red Cross who had been involved in the incident as young people, attended the Norwegian service.

A Civic Service was held on 14th August in Croydon Minster, at which the Mayor of Croydon welcomed the Deputy Mayor of Stavanger, Mrs Bjorg Tysdal Moe. Over 300 people attended this service.

Although many of the relatives of those lost are no longer with us, the tragedy will not be forgotten. To mark this anniversary an exhibition will be staged in the Museum of Croydon from September 17th.

Mrs Rosalind Jones, a sister of one of those who died, has written a book about the tragedy. This recreates life in Lanfranc School in 1960-1962, and tells the stories of the boys, their friends and families. It goes on to deal with the tragedy as it unfolded, from eye witness accounts and news items from Croydon and Stavanger.



The book also deals with the aftermath of the accident and how far reaching its effects were. Even those only involved on the periphery were to carry scars for the rest of their lives.

The book may be obtained online at www.lanfranc-holtaheia.co.uk. All profits from the sales are to go to the Red Cross, and buying online means that more money is raised for the Red Cross.

Permission has been obtained from the copyright owners to publish all pictures in this article.

Croydon Council Road Shows

Question Time events:

The fourth Road show, Question Time Event, was held at the Shirley Methodist Church on 19th July was well attended. Both Cabinet and senior council officers were present to listen to any local concerns and to answer questions.



During Mike Fisher's Croydon Council's Leader's, opening address he attributed the inspiration for their road shows to MORA's AGM a couple of years ago, when all Shirley and Ashburton Councillors' were given an opportunity to answer a series of questions from the committee and the audience. In their view that had proved to be a very useful event.

Subsequently, assurance was given that any special issues put to them, which could not be fully answered that evening, would be addressed and the outcome made known. The audience took full advantage of the session, voicing many of their concerns and putting numerous questions, which received positive responses from the council's officers.

One particular concern was raised by several people in respect of anti-social behaviour around Parkfields and what appears to be inappropriate equipment in the play area. This was taken on board by Councillor Hoar and Police Inspector Skehin.

The updating of street lighting across the whole of the borough was confirmed, beginning with New Addington in September; the provisional plan is that most of Shirley and part of Addiscombe will be done in the first half of next year, the rest of Addiscombe, Woodside, Park Hill and Croydon town centre in 2013/14 and upper Shirley, Addington Village, Forestdale and Monks Hill in 2014/15. The A232 has already been upgraded and is thought to be the responsibility of TfL

A résumé of the first series of road shows was published in the August issue of 'Your Croydon' and a full account of the question and answer sessions can be seen on Croydon Council's website at: www.croydon.gov.uk/questiontime

Hopefully the roadshows will continue and be well supported as they can provide an excellent opportunity for debate.

Refuse and Recycling Bin Collection Update

In addition to recently distributing leaflets throughout the borough about the forthcoming changes in refuse collections, which will start on October 3rd, the Council decided to hold road shows about the changes during August and September, in order to address and answer questions put to them by local residents. The changed service will include separated food waste. Collections of refuse as a whole will take place over two weeks.

Week one will be collection of food waste; bagged textiles; paper and card recycling and the landfill bin.

Week two will be collection of food waste; bagged textiles; cans, glass and plastic bottles recycling.

A large number of Shirley residents have fruit trees in their gardens which invariably means there is either excess or fallen fruit. In respect of waste textiles, ideally they should be put into clear plastic bags but at this stage it is not mandatory.

The council will provide everyone with a small kitchen caddy for food scraps plus a larger lockable food container for outside. Initially they will also provide 100 caddy liners, which will be compostable. They stress that plastic shopping bags cannot be composted so should not be used.



The new food waste bins are expected to be delivered during September, together with a list of the relevant collection dates.

The roadshow representative was also asked about the future of the collection of garden waste which, this year, ceases on October 7th. Assurance was given that, currently, there are no plans not to continue next year, but for a shorter period.

Contact details about the new food waste service are Croydon Council website: croydon.gov.uk/foodwaste; Email: streetscene@croydon.gov.uk; Telephone 020 8726 or text 60660."

For your convenience we have detailed in the table below the availability and current cost of the food waste bags once your initial supply has been exhausted.

Supermarket	Bags on a roll	Cost £
Tesco	25	2.75
Asda	25	2.94
Sainsbury	20	2.00
Ocado	20	2.55

Please note that the prices are reflective of August 2011 and may increase when it becomes time for you to purchase.

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The Benefits of Green Spaces

Green open spaces provide many benefits; they provide areas for people to walk, exercise, breath fresh air, walk pets, and see the horizon, cloud formations, the sun rising and setting, and a clear view of the sky at night. They also provide a traffic free safe area for children to play, games and sports to be played, kites to be flown and people to simply enjoy sunshine and open air. Another often ignored result when the areas are all built on, it becomes difficult for the emergency air ambulance to find a spot to land; we have recently had landings on Parkfields and Ashburton Playing Fields to take seriously injured accident patients to hospital.

These numerous benefits are rarely taken into account when decisions are made about granting planning permission for buildings and other developments and in selling off green spaces such as playing fields.

Monks Orchard is fortunate in having a number of green open spaces but over recent years many of these have been lost and used for development and those that remain are under constant threat from speculative developers and others. Once used for construction, a green space becomes a brown-field site and is lost to the public for ever. As the population continues to increase, fuelled by mass immigration, there is a compelling argument for more housing, schools, shops and factories to be built but experience shows that high density urban areas are not natural environments for humans to live. They provide a poor quality of life unless sufficient consideration is given to the natural human needs in addition to being somewhere to live. Furthermore, the inability of people, especially young couples, to rent or purchase a home of their own is making it common for two or more generations to share the family home. This increases the need and importance of having safe places nearby to walk, rest, and simply get away from it all.

The modern trend is to construct large high density housing blocks or little compact boxes designed for two purposes, car parking and maximising profit with little thought being given to the need of recreational space. It is not surprising that children growing up in this unnatural type of environment behave differently, have no pride or interest in their concrete habitat and may act to destroy it.



Ashburton Playing Fields

For the first time the benefits that the nation gains from its natural landscape has been quantified and a monetary value placed upon them. The recent assessment by National Ecosystems has calculated that living with a green view space is worth up to £300 per person per year in part by providing areas for people to exercise but also simply looking at nature lifts people's spirits according to scientific research. Living close to rivers, coasts and wetlands is also a boon and benefits to residents are about £130 bn. a year. It is safe to assume that these additional benefits are rarely taken into account when decisions are made about granting permission for development and selling off green spaces such as playing fields.

Further Reading: National Ecosystems Assessment: <http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/>

National Planning Policy Framework: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding>

Green Open Spaces at Risk

Ashburton Playing Fields

MORA became aware of a threat to local Metropolitan Open Land when Crystal Palace Supporter's Trust (CPFT) announced that they are seeking a new permanent training facility for CPFC and that Ashburton Playing Fields was one of the preferred sites. The Trust had already lobbied Croydon Council and is to arrange a number of public meetings to petition support for the proposal the first of which was held on the evening of 17th June at St. George's Church Hall, Elstan Way, Shirley.

(See Summer Newsletter).

This is a carefully choreographed professional campaign that aims to obtain a 125 year lease on a large expanse of pre-prepared open green space at a bargain price. The money gained from the sale could be tempting to a Council strapped for cash; in addition money would be saved by having a smaller green space to maintain. The training facility requires a cordoned off piece of land able to accommodate six football pitches, a two storey building to house a range of supporting activities including showers, a gymnasium, physiotherapy, medical suite, a canteen, offices and classrooms and parking space for 36 cars. This will occupy 30% of Ashburton Playing Fields leaving residents with only a narrow green corridor to walk through.



Ashburton Playing Fields

Check out the view toward the Croydon Golf Driving Range in Long Lane for the results of High Netting (see photo below). Who in their right mind in the planning department allowed such a blot on the landscape?



There are urban wasteland brown-field sites in the borough that could do with being cleared and put to better use but the Crystal Palace Football Trust, *[the club went bankrupt last season]*, may find it difficult to raise the money for such a purpose so have targeted a pre-prepared green-field site. The people organising this campaign claim that the site suffers from anti-social behaviour but those living nearby know that such problems are few when compared with the anti-social behaviour experienced in other parts of the borough. According to the Metropolitan Police, Monks Orchard has always been an area of low crime. Most will agree that it is preferable for adolescents to let off steam and misbehave in the middle of an open space rather than in local streets, shopping parades or churchyards. Some residents may find themselves in agreement with the promises given by those fronting this campaign for gaining ownership of our land but those with memories will know that once planning permission has been gained the original application can be amended to include less acceptable proposals.

It is unfortunate that this application has been timed for when the Government has announced a radical overhaul of the planning system with the proposed introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework. This aims to reduce the protection available to green-field sites and stop directing development to brown-field sites: post industrial wastelands that do nothing to enhance the urban environment. This controversial legislation is likely to meet strong opposition but is already capable of being considered in planning cases. Should the present system of checks and balances be removed the new situation will readily be taken advantage of by developers. *It is hard to see how this new legislation will operate alongside the much publicised Localism Bill that proposes that planning decisions should be taken as close as possible to the people they effect rather than politically led councils and the GLA. [Our elected representatives should take note ...].*

The Shirley Green Triangle

At the rear of the shops facing the roundabout in Shirley Road is a triangular piece of land bordered by the domestic properties in Valley Walk and Shirley Avenue that is a verdant oasis containing large mature trees, shrubs and bushes. This is an undisturbed haven for



wildlife that makes it a site of nature conservation importance. Apart from those residents that live adjacent to the green triangle few people will be aware of its existence. Approximately six years ago a planning application was submitted to develop the site but the local residents, supported by MORA, successfully ensured that the planning permission was refused.

Now there is a new threat to the green triangle, Hunter Page Planning have submitted an application for outline planning permission for the erection of buildings to provide up to 50 assisted living sheltered apartments for the elderly with associated landscaping and parking that would cover all the land. Those living nearby consider the wildlife habitat as being essential for the quality of life in Croydon and as stakeholders have joined with MORA to resist any more open green land being covered in concrete.

The rush to build on every bit of available green space in the borough will cause future generations to ask how we allowed the once semi-rural nature of Monks Orchard to be lost to the insatiable demands of speculative developers?

A concerned resident

The conclusion is that if residents sit on their hands and fail to make their views known the Ashburton Playing Fields and the Shirley Triangle will be lost. Residents should contact their local Councillors and Gavin Barwell M.P to inform them of their views of these clever campaigns. Those that care for their community and environment will want to keep these valuable pieces of green space untouched for future generations to enjoy. However, consultation closed for the Shirley Triangle on 1st September. Please watch for future planning applications when they are published on the Council Website. Do not be tempted by the offer made by Crystal Palace Football Trust that you will be given the opportunity to influence the proposal which assumes that this take over by stealth is a done deal.

If you want to be kept informed when a planning application is presented, please email your contact details to the Editor at:

monksorchardweb@btinternet.com

OUR BOYS IN AFGHANISTAN

Thank you to all those 'knitters', those who have collected hat patterns from me and the hats I have been sent. Also the donated items for the care boxes we are filling.

The following are extracts from letters we have received from Afghanistan.



"Having received your very kind parcel today, I thought I would write a few lines to say thank you and let you know how much we appreciate them. The contents of the parcel are just what I needed, I actually ran out of shower gel this morning! I have distributed the Kit Kats and ginger snap biscuits to the lads to have with some tea later. They all say a big thank you."



"Thank you very much for the 2 welfare packages I received today, it was a very nice surprise for myself and the detachment. The toiletries on tour are quite expensive but thanks to yourselves we have managed to stock up!

The weather is unbearable so the deodorant is very much appreciated! Temperatures

are known to rise to 50°C which can be a nightmare with all the equipment we have to carry.

It's with the support from people like yourselves that makes our job out here worthwhile. Thank you again for your support."

Shirley Charity Fayre

The yearly charity fayre will take place at SHIRLEY PARISH HALL, Wickham Road on SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER from 11.00am to 4.00pm.

A group of us are running two stalls, one for the Royal Marsden Cancer Campaign and the other for Help the Heroes. We will be selling hand crafted greeting cards and home made preserves jams and chutneys. We also plan to run an adult and child's tombola. If you have any unwanted gifts or items you would be prepared to donate for the tombola, they would be gratefully received.

Do try to support us – please put the date in your diary.

Thanks for any help you can give us; even on the day!

Contact: Lesley Plumb

Hall Grange Charity Christmas cards Sale

Charity Christmas Card Sale will be held on Saturday 15th October at Shirley Methodist Church Hall, Eldon Avenue, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. A selection of quality cards, calendars and seasonal gifts will be on sale. Please book this date and bring a friend. The Charities enjoy coming to Shirley and look forward to your support once again. Sales last year were over £1700. Come and make it another memorable and profitable day for the charities this year.

Hall Grange 'Autumn Coffee Morning' will be held at Hall Grange, Shirley Church Road on Saturday 22nd October from 10:00am to 12:00 noon. Admission 50p inc. coffee. A good variety of stalls to suit all needs. All proceeds are in aid of the Residents Amenity Fund which helps to provide those essential little extras for the residents.

Jumble sale

Shirley Methodist Church

1st October 2011

13:30

20p admittance

come one come all

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]



Scams are schemes to con you out of money. They usually come by post, phone or email. There are hundreds of scams - fake lotteries and prize draws, get rich quick schemes, bogus health cures, investment scams, pyramid selling—etc etc.



Every year 3million people fall victim in the UK, often losing hundred or thousand of pounds. The scammers are very clever and all kinds of people from all walks of life get duped. If in doubt. **DON'T REPLY, BIN IT, DELETE IT or Just HANG UP.** Report all Scams to www.consumerdirect.gov.uk. If you think you have been caught by a scam, call Consumer Direct for advice on 08454 04 05. Follow these tips to avoid getting tricked out of your money:

Don't Let Them CON YOU !

Be Sceptical

Beware of extravagant promises. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true—it probably is ... Just hang up, bin it or delete it.

Take Your Time:

Scammers don't like to give you time to think. They will try to pressure you into making a decision by telling you that if you don't act now, you will miss out. Resist any pressure to make a decision right away. Consider asking a friend or family for advice, or even an accountant or solicitor if big sums of money are involved.

Know who you are Dealing With:

Be suspicious if you are contacted out of the blue by someone you have never heard of. Don't be fooled by official looking websites and marketing materials. Scammers are very good at making their marketing materials look authentic.

Protect you Financial Information:

Never give your Bank Account details and Passwords to someone you don't know. Trustworthy firms will NEVER contact you to ask for this information.

Cut Junk Mail and Calls:

Reduce the number of unsolicited phone calls by registering your phone number—for free—with the Telephone Preference Service at www.tpsonline.org.uk or Tel: 0846 070 0707.

Reduce the number of unsolicited letters and other mailings by registering free with the Mailing Preference Service at www.mpsonlinr.org.uk or 0845 703 4599.

Emails:

Install anti-spam software and firewalls– Advice from www.getsafeonline.org

Further information from the 'Office of Fair Trading'

<http://www.oft.gov.uk/news-and-updates/press/2011/93-11>

Walks in Croydon : October November

Sunday 8th October—Autumn Fruit and Fungi in Selson Wood

Meet the friends of Selson Wood and Jane McLauchlin, local ecology expert, at 10:00 am in the Selson Wood car park for a 2 hr walk to marvel at nature's autumn displays.

Bus: T33 (Sandpiper Road)

Sunday 16th October—Off the Beaten Track in Happy Valley

Discover some of the less trodden paths of Happy Valley in the company of the Countryside Warden. This walk covers some steep and uneven ground so wear good walking shoes. Please call the Happy Valley Countryside Warden on [REDACTED] for further details. Booking Essential.

Saturday 22nd October—Autumn Tints and Sweet Chestnut

Meet volunteers from Croydon Ecology Centre outside Heathfield House at 11:00am for a tour of the extensive gardens. Bring a picnic if you like. For more information call [REDACTED]

Tram: Coombe Lane. Bus: 130,466 (Shirley Hills)

Sunday 23rd October— Fungus Walk in Littleheath Woods

Meet the Friends of Littleheath Woods at 10:00am, at the Junction of Queenhill and Littleheath Road for a 1½ hour tour to marvel at (not collect) mushrooms and toadstools.

Bus: T33, 64 (Littleheath Road)

Sunday 30th October—Halloween in Haling Grove

Dress up and meet the friends of Haling Grove between 3:00—5:00pm for a scary afternoon in the park, show us your pumpkin and enjoy home made cake. For more information contact friendsofhalinggrove@mail.com

Bus: 405, 455 (St Augustine's Avenue)

Saturday 5th November—Fungus Foray on Croham Hurst

Meet local ecology expert Jane McLauchlin, for a 2 hour ramble over the Hurst to explore (not harvest) the variety of mushrooms and toadstools found on the site. Meet at 10:00am at the junction of Bankside and Croham Manor Road.

Bus 412 (Upper Selsdon Road)

TRIP TO PORTSMOUTH INCLUDING THE SPINNAKER TOWER

What a fantastic day ... once again, hats off to our social secretary Christine Ross-Smith for organising another great trip. On the 28 July a coach party set off for Portsmouth. We had a really lovely day arriving at Gunwharf Quays and visiting the Spinnaker Tower. Some visitors had booked this prior to the trip and others decided to go for it at the last minute.

The weather was beautiful and the views from the tower were really spectacular.

We then had free time and enjoyed ourselves shopping in all the outlets (good bargains to be had and enjoyed by all).



Following this free time, we met up at Raymond Blanc's restaurant for a really delicious meal where we were looked after extremely well. On the journey home we made a short stop at the Devil's Punch Bowl and as the weather was still bright and sunny it was most enjoyable too.

Well done Christine – keep up the good work!

Everyone is looking forward to the next trip.

Carole Greenwood

SHIRLEY LUNCH AND SUPPER CLUB NEWBURY / HIGHCLERE / WINDSOR WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER 2011 £44.00 PER PERSON

This may be the last trip before winter sets in, so let's hope the weather is as good as our trips to Eastbourne and Portsmouth.

The coach will leave the Co-Op in Wickham Road approximately 9.30am and we will make our way to Newbury where you will have some free time

We will then make our way to Highclere for a three course lunch with tea or coffee at Marco Pierre White's 'Yew Tree Inn'.

On the way home, we will make a short stop in Windsor.

If you would like to join us, please give me a call

Christine Ross-Smith, [REDACTED]. 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

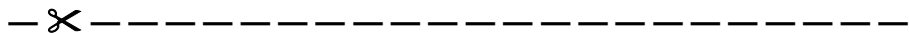
To join and receive regular newsletters
or for general enquiries contact:

Email: monksorchardweb@btinternet.com

Phone: [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

MORA COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2011-2012

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	Vacancy	-
Committee Members and Area Managers	{ Michael Nash { Patricia Turner { Anne Horton	
Committee Member	Nicki Smith	



MONKS ORCHARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

'I wish to become a member of the Monks Orchard Residents' Association'

Name:	Signature:
Address:	
Post Code:	

Please send this completed form to:

DIANE MCINERNEY
[Redacted]

Thank you for supporting MORA.
Please pass on to a non-member.

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