

Monks Orchard Residents' Association

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

Croydon

(Non Party)

(Independent)

NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2005



This photograph taken in 1920 shows The Glade as a farm track and provides the reason why this heavily used highway has so many curves and bends. At that time wooden huts and old railway carriages were to be seen in the surrounding fields and these were used as weekend retreats by those living and working in central London. Older residents can remember the existence of the temporary constructions especially in Gladeside. The Glade is now a sought after area for even denser housing development.

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

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

A continuing anxiety for householders is the relentless, year-by-year, inflation-busting increases in Council Tax. On average Council Tax has increased by 70% since 1997 and the forecast is that this year there will be another above inflation increase. For the first time the annual Council Tax bill for a typical house in Monks Orchard is likely to be in the region of £1,000 making it one of the biggest bills that any householder has to pay. Paying more for local services and getting less has become the norm. As a consequence of being an area of low crime Monks Orchard is given scant police cover. As a consequence of being a tidy community the roads in Monks Orchard are cleaned only once every four weeks whilst estates that do not care where they throw their litter are cleaned on a daily basis. Local taxpayers are also contributing towards the cost of policing the late night economy in the town centre. The legislation to allow an increase in the hours of drinking is likely to add considerably to this cost.

Another concern is the changes being made by the Primary Care Trust, which has impacted on the service provided by local doctors surgeries, resulting in patients having to wait days for an appointment to obtain medical advice and treatment. These are some of the concerns that MORA is trying to address in an attempt to ensure that local residents receive their equal share of the services they pay for. If you are outraged by the deterioration in local services attend the MORA Annual General Meeting on Friday 18 March, 2005 where you will have the opportunity to voice your views to the local elected representatives.

COUNCIL TAX CAMPAIGN

As instructed by the members at the 2004 Annual General Meeting MORA has continued to support the IsItFair Campaign for the reform of Council Tax. The IsItFair campaign is nationwide, non-party political and for everyone (not only pensioners) who wants the existing unfair system of Council Tax abolished. Council Tax has been rising twice as fast as earnings and has increased; year on year, by three or four times the rate of inflation. It has become one of the biggest bills that any householder has to pay. The Government is mainly to blame. Grants have been redistributed away from areas in London and the Southeast, but that is not to say that the local Councils are blameless. The Audit Commission report stated the waste and inefficiency at the local level accounts for a considerable waste of taxpayer's money. House owners in Croydon have suffered more than most because of long-term financial mismanagement. The Council is continuing to dispose of valuable assets (Car Parks for example) in an attempt to meet the annual budget. These



are one-off sales and will only provide a lump sum for this year! Paying more and getting less in terms of local services now seems to be the 'norm' and the real fear is that there will be no end to continued raids on taxpayer's earnings and savings. There is clear evidence that the homeowners Council Tax has been subsidising the business community. Whilst householders' contribution to local government expenditure has increased from 23% to 29% the business rate has fallen from 31% to 22%. In addition, it looks like that the ratepayer will have to pay an extra amount to fund the extra policing for late night binge drinking in the town centre. If businesses were to go back to paying their fair share of council costs the domestic rate could be lower and extra money made available for schools and street cleaning.

In the meantime, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has raided the coffers of Government departments to come up with a one-off chunk of cash in an attempt to keep Council Tax rises down for this year – a General Election year. Do not be conned by this move, once the election is over normal average rises of two and three times above the rate of inflation will continue.

Furthermore, the property revaluation and re-banding that starts next year could push your home up one, two or even more Council tax bands meaning those of you not on means tested benefits will have to pay even more Council Tax. Not surprisingly, we will not know how much more until 2007, well after the next General Election. The randomly chosen date for re-valuation is 1 April, 2005. Residents will be anxious to know which Council tax band their home will be allotted after it has been re-valued. House prices have increased considerably since the last valuation that took place on 1 April, 1991. A rough guide can be found in the Houses Prices Review, which states that the price of an average Croydon house in 1992 was £65, 339 and by 2003 this had increased to £191,521. Allowing for the additional increase over the past two years the average price would be in the region of £240,000 and this will result in the homes charged at present on the D rate moving to the G rate. At the 2004-2005 rate of Council Tax the amount levied will increase from £1,165 to £1,942, an increase of £777 or £65 per month. Revaluation and the re-banding of property have already taken place in Wales. Some house owners have been told that their homes have gone up four bands and that they will have to pay 75% more Council tax.

A consequence of Council Tax having increased at more than three times the rate of inflation is that more and more residents have been forced to apply for means tested Council Tax benefit in order to be able to pay this unfair taxation. However, those with a small annual pension or modest savings are usually ineligible for Council Tax relief. This questions the wisdom of contributing during your working life to a pension fund or saving towards a retirement.

The leaders of the IstFair campaign have been very active on behalf of all those that pay Council Tax. Evidence has been presented to the Bennett Committee along with a proposed system for funding local services that would be fairer, simpler and far cheaper to administer. They also attended some of the Party Political Conferences held last autumn to express their views. The latest move is for a leading U.K. Council Tax campaigner to present his case together with a petition at the European Parliament In Brussels.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The eighty first Annual General Meeting of the Association is to be held on Friday 18 March beginning at 8.00 p.m. in St, George's Church Hall, Elstan Way, Shirley, There will be reports from the Local Councillors, The Member of the Greater London Authority and a report back by Geraint Davis M.P.

Anyone wishing to become a member or wishing to help with the work of the Association is asked to let the Chairman know before or after the meeting.

Meeting Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
3. Matters Arising
4. To receive and adopt the 2003/2004 Annual Reports
5. Report back by Elected Representatives
6. To Elect Officers and Committee for 2004/2005
7. Any Other Business
8. A presentation by Peter Gibson of the Croydon Pensions Alliance.

The minutes of the previous A.G.M. are on our website and were published in the May 2004 issue of the newsletter. A copy of the audited financial report is printed on page 15.

Reports from the local Councillors and the Member of Parliament form an important and informative part of the Annual General Meeting. Those presenting the reports usually agree to take questions from the audience. However, members wishing to have a more considered answer to a complex question are asked to give advance notice so that a more accurate response can be prepared. Questions should be sent in writing, with the name and address of the sender, by 10 March to Anne Johnson, Vice Chairman and Secretary of Monks Orchard Residents' Association, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] or emailed to monksorchardweb@btinternet.com.

In addition to the usual general business and reports from the elected representatives the meeting will provide information on the important issue of pensions. Mr. Peter Gibson of the Croydon Pensions Alliance has agreed to give a brief presentation about the organisation, its objectives and answer questions. Pensions are an important national concern for all members of the community and this is an opportunity to find out more.

For some time the Association has recognised the growing interest in alternative health therapies a number of which, such as acupuncture, have found general acceptance. In order to provide information and availability of other health therapies Dian Crowley of the Complementary Health Clinic has agreed to attend the meeting. After being formally introduced, she will make herself available at the rear of the hall to answer questions and deal with inquiries from those wishing to know more of the treatments available for a variety of common health problems.

PLANNING NEWS



There is essential need for sustainable development because the earth's resources are being used up faster than they can be replaced. The air we breathe is being polluted and the demand for water and land is increasing. As a result plant and animal species are being lost and changes such as global warming threaten the planet's ability to support human life in its present form. National and local governments have started to prepare action plans for what is called 'sustainable development' with the aim of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone now and for generations to come. Additional pressure for change comes in a 106-page report prepared for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister that stresses the need for planners to respond now. The report states: The impacts of climate change are not remote risks for sometime in the future, they are already with us and we need to respond now. An important part of the strategy is to design and construct energy efficient houses that conserve fossil fuels, recycle water and reduce emissions. New building regulations are in the process of being drafted that will completely change house design and construction to produce environmentally friendly efficient homes.

Furthermore, the Mayor of London has issued a directive to ensure that 'the vast majority' of new houses in London are powered by solar panels. A few new housing developments have already been created to satisfy the new criteria, for example the BedZed (the Beddington Zero Energy Development) which was featured in the February 2004 issue of this newsletter. Planners have available conditions, agreements, obligations and informatives, all of which can be used to encourage and force developers to erect energy efficient homes. Curiously, the Croydon Council Development Control Committee appears unwilling, unable or very reluctant to use these new powers.

The Croydon Draft Unitary Development Plan promotes energy efficient development but a search of the planning decisions made over the past few years shows that only one application was refused because of its failure to offer sustainable living. In recent months a number of large housing developments in Monks Orchard i.e., Woodmere Avenue, Cheston Avenue, The Glade, Orchard Way, have received Council approval and each have been for luxury four or five bedroom houses costing in the region of £500,000 but built to traditional designs not sound environmental principles. Surely, these high quality new-build estates are the very type of high profile housing developments that should be energy and water efficient thereby contributing to sustainable living and show the way forward.

Existing owners are being urged to make their home more energy efficient and Government grants are available for this purpose. Many homes now have roof insulation and double-glazing but there is pressure to do more. Probably the next step is to provide environmentally friendly heating for household water. Solar domestic hot-water systems are now much more efficient and easier to install. The systems collect the sun's energy to heat air or a fluid. The air or fluid then transfers solar heat directly or indirectly to the home, water or the swimming pool. To take full advantage of solar energy, you usually need to have an unshaded area that faces south, southeast, or southwest, such as a roof. Although solar water heaters cost more initially than conventional water heaters and it will take many years of usage to recoup your investment, but the fuel they use - sunshine - is free. It is difficult to estimate whether or not solar heating adds to the selling price but it should make the house a more attractive investment to a potential purchaser.

New technology now provides home owners with an alternative and cheaper method of becoming more energy efficient, saving money and doing something positive to save the planet in the form of a wind powered home electricity generators which are capable of harnessing energy at low wind speeds and are whisper quiet in operation. Small in size and costing approximately £1,000 a rooftop-mounted generator is a practical solution to rising energy costs and environmental concerns. The downside is that wind is intermittent and is unlikely to produce enough electricity for domestic properties to be self sufficient unless the electricity produced can be stored in batteries for later use which adds greatly to the cost of purchase and installation.

Another way for homeowners to help the environment is to use water more efficiently. Water is a precious natural resource as a result of climate change and an increasing population. It will soon be a requirement for all new build houses to have a water saving device that will be able to make the most use of rain and recycled water. Homeowners can also help by fitting a 'hippo' device in their toilet water cistern or agreeing to have their water metered.

Having a water meter means that in addition to the fixed charge you only pay for the water you use and your bill can be reduced. Domestic customers who get their water service from Thames Water can choose to have a meter fitted, normally without charge. The savings can be greater for those living alone or as a couple but larger families may not benefit. Residents that had a hosepipe licence were required by Thames Water to have a meter installed and many house owners have requested that their water usage be metered in an attempt to reduce their water and sewage bills. Thames Water aims to help the environment by reducing water consumption and there is no doubt that having a water meter does encourage more thought being given to water consumption, especially that used for garden watering and car washing, and this prevents wastage. The problem will become more pressing because water usage continues to grow as more power showers, bigger baths, washing machines and pressure car washers are used. It is interesting to note that forty years ago every person in the U.K used approximately 45 litres per day compared with the present usage of 155 litres a day.

PLANNING REPORT



Subsequent to a busy spring and summer on the planning front there has been relatively little planning activity in Monks Orchard during the winter. The possibility is that this lull will be followed by a storm because news have been received that developers are active in the area. The low density housing, large areas of garden and open space are a compelling attraction for developers seeking building sites. Their task is becoming easier because a high percentage of the occupants of the bungalows in the local area are entering the twilight years and their heirs are likely to want to maximise on their legacy.

There is clear evidence throughout the area, of work being done on house extensions and improvements to property. The continuing fashion is to extend and improve property rather than incur the high costs of moving elsewhere. Most of the applications awaiting decisions are for side and rear extensions. It is perplexing that a number of planning applications monitored and sometimes opposed by MORA fail to progress further than the first stage, not being approved or refused. It is as if they have fallen into a black hole in the planning system.

The Glade and Watlings Close

Residents of Watlings Close and The Glade continue to be mystified by the activities of Hillcrest Homes (UK) Ltd in connection with the site at present occupied by two bungalows at 102 & 104 The Glade. In February 2003 an application was submitted to demolish the existing bungalows and to erect 4 two storey three-bedroom houses with accommodation in roof space plus a pair of three-bedroom semi-detached houses with access onto Watlings

Close. This application was refused after objections from residents living nearby and MORA. An appeal was then made to the Secretary of State. Two further applications for outline planning permission were made in March 2003. The first was almost identical to the previous application whilst the second referred only to 104 The Glade and was for a pair of three bed-roomed semi-detached houses. This application was granted permission in September 2003. The most recent application for outline planning was made in December 2004, referring to the site of 102 & 104 The Glade and the proposed demolition of the two existing bungalows and the erection of a terrace of 3 two storey three bedroom houses with accommodation in roof space, and the erection of a pair of three bedroom semi-detached houses with vehicular access onto Watlings Close. This cavalier approach by Hillcrest Homes serves to illustrate how objectors to contentious proposals can be worn down by having to continually object to many separate applications for the same site.

Wickham Road

Those residents interested in the future of the Esso Garage site at 251-261 Wickham Road will wish to know that in November 2004 Horizon Developments Ltd submitted an application for full planning permission for the erection of a three storey building comprising 10 two bedroom and 4 one bedroom flats; formation of vehicular access onto Wickham Avenue and provision of associated parking. There is local concern about the loss of retail space, parking, and the disruption of the building line. A decision on this proposal is awaited.

Orchard Way

Another site that has a chequered planning history is that at 164 Orchard Way which is surrounded by the Lawdon Estate. The owner of the original bungalow with a garage and long narrow garden refused to sell to the developers when the Lawdon Estate was built in the 1960's and so it remained untouched until it came up for sale in 2001. Soon after Greenacre Homes Limited submitted an application to demolish the existing bungalow and to erect 4 three bedroom and 3 four bedroom houses on the site. This application, opposed by local residents was refused permission and an appeal was made to the Secretary Of State; this was also refused.

In the spring of 2002 the owner Mr. J. Hadjimina submitted an application for the demolition of the existing bungalow and the erection of 3 two storey buildings comprising a total of 8 two bedroom and 2 one bedroom flats. This application was also refused. In June 2003 the owner submitted a further application for the demolition of garage and side/rear extension of the existing bungalow and the erection of 2 one bedroom and 2 two bedroom flats. This application was also refused. In May 2004 yet another application for the same site was submitted for the demolition of the garage and the erection of 2 two-bedroom bungalows at the rear. Access to the proposed rear properties

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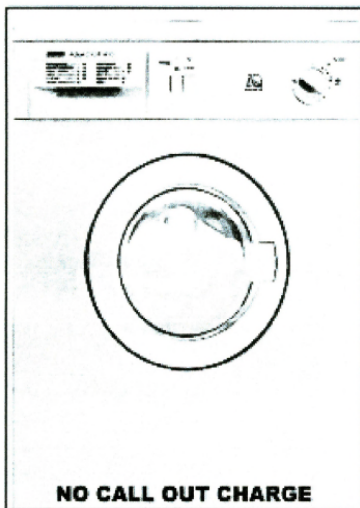
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would be limited and parking and waste removal would need to be done at the front of the existing bungalow. This application was approved and the owner has subsequently offered the site for sale to maximise on his profit now being able to sell with planning permission. If a new owner is found and denser occupation is sought the whole process could start all over again.

PLANNING WATCH

It is always helpful to have advanced notice of the activities of planners and developers. If you receive an approach to sell your land or property, please contact Bob Akers telephone number [REDACTED]. If you have access to the web and wish to know what is happening in your locality a full list of planning applications received and decisions made can be viewed on the Council web site; <http://www.croydon.gov.uk>

THOUGHTS ON THE LONDON PLAN



The Mayor of London's Plan anticipates a population increase of 800,000 in the capital over the next ten years. This is the equivalent to a city larger than Leeds to be fitted within London's existing boundaries – apparently without encroaching on our precious green spaces. This is to be achieved by increasing the density of new developments. Local residents are concerned about the threat posed by higher density development on the character of Monks Orchard. Whilst it is important to maximise the use of land, it is equally important to ensure that new development complements local context and is well designed. There is little desire for the dismal and soulless high-rise Council estates constructed in great haste after the end of the 1939-1945 war. Residents recognise that the London Plan cannot realistically prevent the rapid growth of people and jobs but there is a need to explore more carefully the ways of engaging the local community and ensuring that the growth in housing is not at the expense of local character and sense of place, green belt and open land. There are examples that prove urban housing design can be achieved with sustainable development and buildings that respect their context.

CROYDON PENSIONS ALLIANCE

In every community there are those who have retired and find that because of ever increasing rates and domestic bills the basic pension fails to provide an adequate standard of living and who are forced to face 'means tests' in order to secure extra funds to meet their needs, which causes them distress and worry. There are also those looking forward to retirement but have constant concerns as to how they are going to manage on the basic pension, and wonder if they will be able to get any extra money to help them meet their needs. It is because all generations face these problems that two local residents have launched the Croydon Pensions Alliance. This newly formed

and completely independent organisation aims to contest local and General Elections in Croydon to focus attention of all parties on the problems facing all generations over pensions. Britain is the fourth richest country in the world, yet it has the lowest state pension of any developed country. The Report of Pensions Commissions states: "The UK state pension is clearly less generous than Continental European systems, most of which provide the average earner with at least 70% of working life earnings."

It is easy to compare; Holland provides a pension of 70% of working life earnings, France a pension of 71% and Sweden 76% whilst Britain provides only 37% of working life earnings. At present the British Government spends just 5.5% of the GNP (the national wealth) on public pensions. The value of the British State Pension is falling; in 1958 it was worth 19.5% of average earnings, in 1976 it rose to 23.4% but last year it fell to just 14.7%. In 1980, the Government broke the link between pensions and earnings. This means that a couple are £50 a week and single pensioners are £30 a week worse off. It is common knowledge that Britain's pensioners are badly off, many scrape along on inadequate incomes and far too many are living in real poverty. Almost everyone understands this, not just pensioners. Millions of working people are deeply worried about what will become of them after they retire. The present government has introduced means testing for those pensioners on low incomes. In Croydon there are 56,000 pensioners of which only 7,700 receive the Minimum Income Guarantee, and only 10,457 receive the Pension Credit. This shows that means testing is not working because many pensioners are too proud to subject themselves to this inquisition.

If you care about age discrimination and many other issues affecting the old and vulnerable, you might consider joining the Croydon Pensions Alliance and, if you are able to, offer yourself or a friend for consideration as a Pensions Alliance Candidate and thereby give Croydon's present and future pensioners a strong and true voice among decision makers! Please contact Bernard Rickman, CPA Campaign Organiser, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. Telephone [REDACTED].

Pensions are such an important issue that The Executive Committee has decided to invite The Croydon Pensions Alliance and Age Concern to give presentations at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday 18 March, 2005. Please refer to page 4 for further information.

MICRO BIKES

In recent months a few local parents have purchased miniature motorbikes for their children. Mini bikes, often called pocket bikes, were one of this year's must-have gifts. Retailers describe them as the ultimate boys' toy and they have speeds of up to 40 mph using small gas powered engines and cost between £200 and £1,000.



They are classified as mechanically propelled vehicles and require a moped licence, insurance, road tax and a crash helmet before they can be ridden in public places. MORA has dealt with calls from residents, who are concerned because children are riding them late at night without lights, crash helmets and without due care for the safety of pedestrians and motorists, The noise created is also causing problems with parents with young children especially in the late hours. The Police and Council have been informed of the problem and it is understood that appropriate action is being taken.

SOUTH NORWOOD COUNTRY PARK



If on a bright fresh spring day, residents of Monks Orchard wish to take a walk in the country there is no need for them to travel far. The South Norwood Country Park has many areas where a great variety of wetland grasses and vegetation grows virtually undisturbed and being situated away from the traffic routes it is not hard to imagine that you are deep in the country and away from the urban bustle. The early spring is a particularly good time to take a health promoting stroll as the trees and bushes are ablaze with blossom. Furthermore, there are wild flower meadows, wet land and a shallow lake on which there is a small island with a sandy beach. A wide variety of birds live on the site or regularly visit and these include Mallard, Kestrel, Pheasant, White Geese, Canadian Geese, Swans, Gulls, Skylark, Warblers, Tits, Finches and Linnets. A special treat is the annual visit of the exotic and colourful Mandarin Duck. Over twenty varieties of butterflies have been spotted on the site and also several varieties of Moth. Two small streams run through the site and the reeds, water plants and trickling water add to the country feel.

Those with sufficient energy to ascend the gentle slope to the top of the viewing mound are rewarded by a panoramic overview of Beckenham and its church spires and towers. On a clear day you can see Canary Wharf with its large tower blocks which appear much closer than they are. The artificial mound was created mainly from hardcore tipping from wartime demolition and was landscaped in 1988 at the beginning of the project to develop a country park. There is a visitor's centre that is open to the public noon to 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. It is usually worthwhile to pass the time of day with one of the Parks Rangers that have a vast knowledge of the park and its inhabitants.

The South Norwood Country Park is a hidden gem that is well worth visiting throughout the seasons. There is a car park, which is approached via the main entrance in Albert Road. To approach on foot the route is Gladeside, Bywood Avenue, across Long Lane to the passage leading to the Arena tram stop, cross the track and bear left into the park. For further information phone [REDACTED].

MORA CAMPAIGNS REVISITED

During the past three years Mora has continually campaigned against the installation of telecommunication phone masts near schools, nurseries and houses containing young children. Therefore, it is interesting to note that Government scientific advisers have now urged an independent review of the planning regime for mobile telephone masts. The call has come from the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB), which has just carried out a review on mobile phones and health, an update of the report produced in 2000 by professor William Stewart.

Professor Stewart, now the chairman of the NRPB (a scientific body which advises the government), said the planning process on base stations "needs to be revisited and updated". He also made it clear he did not favour locating masts near schools. The report highlighted inconsistencies and confusion over the planning arrangements and guidance used in different parts of the UK.

In the spring of 2004 MORA combined with other Resident's Associations to campaign against the expansion of the Medium Secure Unit at the Bethlem Royal Hospital. The campaign was based on the risk of dangerous patients absconding and the resulting fear of crime especially as there is many schools in the surrounding area. The residents of Monks Orchard gave support by displaying posters in their windows, attending meetings and a protest rally. Recently a dangerous patient escaped from the secure unit at the hospital but fortunately left the area. However, with further expansion taking place the situation needs to be kept under constant review.

POLICE: EMERGENCY NUMBERS



Recent information received from members confirms that there is confusion about how to contact the police to obtain urgent help when a crime is being committed. Contact numbers for Community Ward Officers, Beat officers, South Norwood and Addington Police Sectors have appeared in this newsletter at frequent intervals. Those using these contact numbers when requiring an immediate response to a crisis have been frustrated by being connected to an answer machine or redirected elsewhere.

MORA has sought advice from the Metropolitan Police in order to avoid any further confusion or misunderstanding. If you want an immediate response to an emergency the advice remains the same, **dial 999** and have your exact location and telephone number at hand. If you are less certain whether the problem is sufficiently serious to warrant an emergency response the advice is to phone the Metropolitan Police Operator in Central London who will ask for brief details and will be able to advise on an appropriate course of action.

On receiving the details the operator has the power to elevate your call to a 999 emergency response or arrange a less immediate alternative.

To contact the Metropolitan Police Operator switchboard, which is a 24 hours, seven days a week service, residents in the South Norwood Sector should phone **020 8768 1212** and those in the Addington Sector should phone **01689 84222**.

For advice and help on matters such as troublesome adolescents or vandalism it is probably best to involve the local Community Beat Officer Telephone number 020 8649 1216 and leave a message on the answering machine asking for an officer to contact you.

Bogus Caller Alerts



BOGUS CALLER IN SHIRLEY AREA

An elderly resident reported a man calling at her home asking for £100 to finish cutting trees in her garden. Although she recently had work carried out, she let the man in, but he did not carry out the work mentioned. There are reports that this male was calling at all houses in the street. Checks with the firm who carried out the earlier work confirm that they have not been calling at houses. The resident is being visited by local officers to see if any description of the man can be obtained.

Free Guided Walks for Health



Jan - April 2005

Please be at the starting point for each walk 15 minutes before the advertised start time. Some of the routes may be muddy so please remember to wear suitable footwear and bring along an umbrella or raincoat if the weather looks bad. All the health walks are FREE and last approximately one hour (this may vary slightly according to the ability of the group). Due to health and safety, all dogs must be properly restrained for the duration of the walk.

Weekly Walk 1

2 Miles

Meet at Lloyd Park Tram Stop
Every Monday, 11:00 a.m. start.
A circular walk through Lloyd Park and Shirley on flat terrain.
Ideal for beginners.

Weekly Walk 2

2-3 Miles

Meet at Lloyd Park Tram Stop
Every Monday, 1.00 p.m. start
A circular walk through Lloyd Park and Shirley on potentially hilly terrain.
Ideal for advanced walkers.



COULD THIS BE YOU?



Could you spare a little time to help some younger folk?
They're keen to learn, love games and fun and also like a joke.

Do you sometimes wish for company? Has your brood now flown?
Or are you new to Shirley? Living away from home?



The Rainbows at the 4th St George's are feeling rather sad
Their Leader's leaving, and they're really not that bad.



If no one else comes forward their unit may close down
No weekly meetings to enjoy, no walks around the town.

They'll miss the games they love to play and all the things they'll learn
And as for younger sisters - they'll never get their turn.

No special skills are needed just time and patience too
There's a really friendly District team to show you what to do.

But where have all the Guiders gone? I'm sure you'll want to know,
Those maiden aunts and dear old folk who did it years ago.

Those people aren't around these days, its up to me and you
To give our time, make lots of friends and help the youngsters too.

Its all too easy just to sit and hope for someone else
But Guides and Brownies now are run by people just like US!!

If you would like to know more about keeping the 4th Rainbows open or helping with Rainbows, Brownies or Guides elsewhere in Shirley, Jane Marcroft, District Commissioner for Shirley, would love to hear from you. Phone her on [REDACTED] for a chat No strings attached.



Visit to Parliament

Geraint Davies, our MP, has very kindly offered to arrange a Parliamentary Tour for members of MORA which would include the House of Commons and the House of Lords. These tours take approximately 1½ hours and there is no charge.

The tour could take place Monday morning or, if you would prefer, Friday afternoon. We would have to make our own way to London and I would suggest we meet at Elmers End Station to take the train to Charing Cross and, depending on how we feel, we could walk down Whitehall or take a bus or tube.

If you are interested in joining us, please call me on [REDACTED].

Christine Ross-Smith

ACCOUNT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR
ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2004

INCOME	2004	2003
Subscriptions	2717	3800
Bank interest	18	29
Advertising revenue	<u>1295</u>	<u>550</u>
	4030	4379



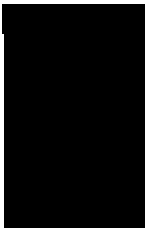
EXPENSES	2004	2003
Printing & stationery	3090	2367
Road stewards	400	400
Hall hire	32	16
Vestry hire	-	187
Chair's/secretarial expenses	39	37
Sundries	256	165
Insurance	166	140
Donations	-	-
Audit	10	10
Website	-	20
Subscription to BCTV	25	25
Total	<u>4018</u>	<u>3367</u>
Surplus	12	1012

CURRENT ASSETS	2004	2003
Current account	3509	3503
Deposit account	4826	4820

CURRENT LIABILITIES	nil	nil
NET CURRENT ASSETS	8335	8323

REPRESENTED BY		7311
Surplus at 31.12.2003		<u>1012</u>
Surplus at 1.1.2004	8323	8323
Surplus for year	<u>12</u>	
Surplus at 31.12.04	8335	

MORA COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2005/6

Chairman:	BOB AKERS	
Vice Chair & Secretary:	ANNE JOHNSON	
Membership Secretary:	ALYCE MENHINNITT	
Hon. Treasurer &		
Advertising Manager:	TERRY GREENWOOD	
Editor:	DEREK RITSON	
Transport & Highways &		
Area Manager:	ELAINE ECKHARDT	
Social Secretary:	CHRISTINE ROSS-SMITH	
Police Liaison/Security:	JEAN COOK	
Primary Care:	MARCIA NASH	
Committee Member + AM:	MICHAEL NASH	
Committee Member + AM:	PATRICIA TURNER	
Committee Member:	MARGARET DOMONEY	
Neighbourhood Watch rep:	ANDREW SEGRAM	
Committee Member:	BRIAN SPIKING	



MONKS ORCHARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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

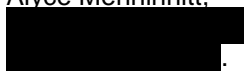
Name:	Signature:
Address:	
Post Code:	

Full Membership £2.00

☐ Senior Citizen £1.00

☐

Alyce Menhinnitt,



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