

Monks Orchard Residents' Association

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email: monksorchardweb@btinternet.com

Croydon

(Non Party)

(Independent)

NEWSLETTER - Spring 2007



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT **CHANGE OF A.G.M. DATE**

The 83rd Annual General Meeting of the Association is to be held on Friday 20 April beginning at 8.00 p.m. in St. George's Church Hall, Elstan Way, Shirley.

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

Chairman's Comment

It has been confirmed that there will be an increase of 4.3% in Council tax for the year 2007/2008 but this will only be achieved by reducing services. Council tax continues to cause real hardship for those on fixed incomes and mortgages. Research shows that a third of people on the lowest incomes are now spending more than ten per cent of their household expenditure on town hall bills. This position is not sustainable while the Basic State Pension and most mean tested benefits continue to rise only in line with official inflation rates. This is the reason why this association supports the Isitfair campaign for a move to a new system of local government finance.

The concern expressed in previous issues of this newsletter about the soaring costs of the Olympic games is being proved correct. The original estimate of £2.375 billion is predicted to rise to £8 billion but the true cost is still to be calculated. The additional money will have to come from somewhere and the taxpayer and good causes will probably be penalised. Taxpayers will continue to pay for the 2012 Olympics long after they have been forgotten with the passage of time.

Important Notice - Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting has been moved to Friday 20th April to make possible the attendance of local Councillors, Member of Parliament and others that make a useful contribution to the proceedings by reporting back and responding to questions.

Holding the meeting later in the year offers the advantage of longer daylight hours and the prospect of improved weather conditions. In order to comply with the association's constitution the annual reports will be completed by the end March. The meeting is to be held on Friday 20th April in the main hall of St. George's church, Elstan Way beginning at 8.00 p.m. Members and those interested in the welfare of the local community and an affection for the neighbourhood are invited to attend. The topics to be covered are listed on the page opposite.

Please note this new date which is different to that published in the previous issue of the newsletter.

Annual General Meeting 2007

The eighty third Annual General Meeting of the association is to be held on Friday 20th April beginning at 8.00 p.m. in St. George's church hall, Elstan way, Shirley. There will reports from Local Councillors and Andrew Pelling, Member of Parliament and Member of the Greater London Authority.

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 2006/2007 Annual Reports
5. Report back by Elected Representatives
6. To Elect Officers and Executive Committee for 2006/2007
7. Any Other Business
8. Presentations:

The minutes of the previous A.G.M. are available on our website and were published in the May 2006 issue of the newsletter. A copy of the audited financial report is printed on page 19 of this newsletter.

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 9th April to Dave King, Secretary of Monks Orchard Residents' Association, [REDACTED] or emailed to monksorchardweb@btinternet.com.

At the invitation of the Executive Committee there will be a representative from the Council Finance Department to report and answer questions about The Council's Finances, Council Tax and Council Expenditure. Andrew Pelling M. P. has agreed to give a presentation entitled 'Initial Reflections on Entering the House of Commons as an Elected Member'.

Membership Fees

This issue of the newsletter arrives at a time when the decision to increase membership fees takes effect and your Road Steward will mention the need to pay the increase if you wish to continue as a member. If you wish to complain or know why the decision was taken to increase the fees at this time please do not trouble the person delivering this newsletter and/or calling to collect the annual membership fee. The Road Steward will be a neighbour who cares about the local community and whose work for MORA is freely donated.

If you wish to have more information please contact one of the elected members of the Executive Committee whose telephone numbers are printed on the back page of each newsletter. It should be remembered that the members at the Annual General Meeting agreed the increase in fees unanimously; it is the first increase for fourteen years and the additional income will be used to maintain and possibly improve the MORA fighting fund because we never know when it may be necessary to seek and use legal help to protect the local community and this could prove to be highly

expensive. It has also proved necessary to increase membership fees because the cost of printing the newsletter has also increased over time. The extra finance will also provide greater flexibility to financially help worthy causes that offer benefits to the local community. Furthermore, the opportunity has also been taken to simplify the fee structure and the membership fee will apply to households and not individual members. Following the increase, many of our long standing members will only pay an annual fee of £2 which is little more than the cost of a couple of daily newspapers. To see how the money is being spent on your behalf, why not attend the Annual General Meeting to see how volunteers that freely devote their time and efforts for the benefit of the local community manage the association on your behalf?

Public Services in One Place

The world wide web continues to expand, and regular users are known to spend at least an hour each day surfing for information. Owing to the massive number of pages posted on the web, searching can be time-consuming, and the responses received from a random search can be numerous and sometimes misleading. However, there is a safe and secure website that contains a wide range of useful information which makes it unnecessary to waste time surfing widely over the net. To reflect the changing demands of citizens who want to efficiently manage their lives electronically, the government has established a website www.direct.gov.uk that brings public services together in one place.

This may appear to be too good to be true, but if you want information it's all there at a click of the mouse. A whole range of information is available on the site - from finding a local childminder, to what to do when buying a property. Customers can also access services, for instance when searching for a study course or taking a mock theory driving test. Transactions such as applying or renewing your car tax or planning a journey on foot, by car or by public transport are also on the site. If you wish to learn more about benefit entitlement, find out about training, or check your council's recycling facilities, then there is no longer any need to surf around – it's all there in one place!

To list all the contents of the site would fill this newsletter, but there is a section on home and community which should directly interest those that own, rent, and intend to buy or sell property. Included with other useful information is a section that makes it possible to check the council tax band of your property and that of any other property. Therefore, if you wish to know the property banding of the nearby property which has been extended, this site will provide the answer - this information could prove even more useful, if and when the revaluation of properties takes place. The information provided has already been used by some to claim back overpaid council tax because of valuation inconsistencies.

If you want to know how much your house is worth, the section on property

value and valuations gives information on property prices and getting your home valued. Insert your post code and a breakdown of property prices by type and region, and the number of properties sold each month appears (information provided by the Land Registry). Those planning to move to a new area can check the local air quality, the risk of flooding, the position of phone masts and the nearest local doctor or dentist.

This site is well worth adding to your 'favourites' list - the address again, is www.direct.gov.uk



Prescription Medicines

In an attempt to restrict the spiralling cost of prescription medicines, the National Health Service has negotiated price reductions with the pharmaceutical industry for some commonly prescribed generic (non-branded) medicines. The expenditure on prescription medicines, especially newly developed drugs absorbs an increasingly large proportion of the health budget and financial control is essential, but this can sometimes present unexpected difficulties for those who regularly take prescription medicines.

Patients, especially those taking more than one prescription medicine each day, become familiar with the colour and appearance of their medication, and recognise the colour and design of the packaging in which tablets are presented, and unexpected variations can be confusing. Any change often remains unnoticed until the medicine is removed from the bag and the first reaction is to question whether or not you have been given the correct prescription. The reason for these sudden changes, is that to keep within the set budget community pharmacists are obliged to obtain generic prescription medicines from suppliers offering the lowest price, and this can mean that they may come from a variety of manufacturers based in this country or overseas. All the suppliers have to meet strict criteria in order to obtain a licence for their products, which ensures that the quality of the medicine is maintained. Although the name of the medicine and strength will be the same, visual changes can occur to the lettering and colour of the packaging and also the way in which the tablets are packed and presented. Furthermore, the familiar pill, tablet or capsule may have changed shape or colour and this can create problems for those who are easily confused or have visual difficulties.

Greater difficulties can be experienced with medicines presented in blister packs, which can contain from seven to twenty-eight tablets or capsules. Individual tablets or capsules are usually easily released by being pressed free with the finger tips but some blister packs have a covering membrane of plastic coated paper rather than the normal thin metal foil and this can make the removal of the tablet extremely difficult, especially if you have arthritic fingers. There are occasions when the tablet or capsule cannot be removed without being broken or crushed.

Most patients will not wish to trouble those working in the pharmacies, especially those situated in the larger stores, but the pharmacist will always be available if you ask to speak to them about any doubts or problems with prescribed medication. Difficulties can be avoided to some extent by using the local community pharmacy and getting to know the pharmacist who will help and advise. For example, if a tablet or capsule is proving difficult to swallow, it might be possible to obtain the same medication in liquid form. Should tablets be difficult to release from a blister pack, perhaps a carer or relative can offer help? If you are taking prescription medicines and decide to purchase 'over the counter medicines', always check with your pharmacist because many cold and flu remedies already contain paracetamol, ibuprofen or aspirin. Using several products together is very dangerous and can lead to overdose.

The number of prescriptions for medicines in England has increased by fifty percent in the past ten years and it seems that most of us are taking at least some form of medicine. Being prescribed medicines by the Doctor incurs responsibilities. It is important to keep your medicines in a secure, dry and cool place, out of sight and reach of children. Keep medicines in their original container and don't store or use medicines that are past their expiry date; your community pharmacist will dispose of them for you. Before using a medicine, always follow the instructions on the box or label. This tells you what it is for, how much to take, when and how to take it. It is particularly important not to share prescription medicines with others.

The Croydon Museum

The Croydon museum centred in the Clocktower complex opened in 1995 with an exhibition called 'Lifetimes' that was based on real life experiences of Croydon people from 1830 to the present. The museum made use of contemporary information media, and interactive touch screens could be used to call-up the stories of local people that had lent the items on display. The arrival of this new centre of learning in the borough was reviewed in the winter 1999 newsletter.

The museum has recently reopened with a new exhibition after being rebuilt to provide a new gallery space at a cost of £1 million pounds (including a grant of £993,500) from the Heritage Lottery Fund to house an exhibition using new, less crowded displays to impart knowledge and information about the borough's long and interesting history. Visitors are greeted by a guide who explains how to access information about the exhibits, which is helpful to those that may be intimidated by the use of modern technology. The aim is to put people at the heart of the museum and use new media to facilitate interaction. As with most modern museums the illumination is kept low to protect the artefacts and to allow the information monitors to be viewed clearly. The majority of the interpretation is delivered through 29 touch



screens that are distributed throughout the displays and bring together the object, oral history, contextual information and lifelong learning opportunities under the headings Show, Tell, Explain and Explore. Only passing mention is made of the two world wars that had such a tragic impact on the local community but perhaps such tragic human conflict is more appropriately confined to a dedicated war museum. To add to the information there are hands-on exhibits, one of which allowed the author of this report to fully understand the operation of the atmospheric railway that was built in 1847 to connect Croydon with Forest Hill. It is pleasing that the cinematograph films made in the borough during the early part of the twentieth century have been retained from the previous exhibition, their inventiveness and naivety never fails to attract and amuse. Croydon museum is not crammed full of dull and dusty exhibits with hard to read descriptions, it offers an interesting and exciting experience even for a generation being reared on computers. A visit to your museum offers some fascinating glimpses of a bygone age – so recent, yet already seeming so long ago.

Adjoining the display is a digital Memory Room where local people can add their own stories of life in the borough. This method has proved valuable in collecting memories and experiences from people before they become lost forever.

The museum is open Monday to Saturdays 10.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with late openings on Mondays and Thursdays until 8 p.m. There is no charge for admittance. A web version of the museum can be accessed on www.museumofcroydon.com at any time and this can provide a preview and information but cannot replace the satisfaction or pleasure gained from a personal visit.

Sunshine in Suburbia

This is the title of an exhibition, held recently in the Clock Tower Complex, which explored the development of Croydon and surrounding areas in the 1920's and 1930's. The exhibition is now closed but much of the information contained in the displays will be of interest to local residents. During this period, a massive expansion took place in Croydon and other semi-rural areas on the fringes of large towns and cities. Today it is more fashionable to live in the centre of town rather than the suburbs, but 80 years ago things were very different. People wanted to escape from the noisy and overcrowded towns and cities and have a taste of the quieter and healthier country life. The demand for affordable homes resulted in houses being built around the perimeter of Croydon, and fields were swallowed up as estates were constructed. Developers attracted families with promises of a home and garden of their own made possible by the availability of low interest long-term mortgages. Many of the properties in Monks Orchard, Eden Park and Shirley were built at this time. Once families had bought a house they wanted to



make it a home and they experimented with different styles of décor. Electricity and indoor bathrooms also helped to make peoples lives more comfortable. Shops, factories and offices in Croydon gave both men and women employment and the opportunities to learn new skills, while many, as today, travelled on crowded commuter trains to work in the city. Many people had a garden for the first time, where children could play and parents could grow flowers, fruit and vegetables. The suburbs were often considered a dull place to live, but close communities were established and clubs, churches, sports and social events were well attended. The introduction of radio, followed by television, bought about an increase in home entertainment. Most of us live in suburbia; however, lifestyles and expectations are much different and car ownership offers greater mobility. Eighty years have passed since the suburbs came into existence and one can only wonder what changes will take place in the future. The danger is that with the growth of high-density housing, loss of green spaces, congested roads and anti-social behaviour, the suburbs will become the overcrowded, noisy and polluted areas that families once hoped to leave behind them.

Older Persons Network

Older residents often form the opinion that they have somehow become invisible, socially excluded and feel that they have little influence on the things that shape their daily lives. This is curious because older people are important consumers that are growing in numbers and have a wealth of experience to offer. Awareness of the growing problem of age isolation resulted in the establishment of the Croydon Older Persons Network (OPeN) that is an independent, non-political network of older people that is run by older people.



The aim of the network is to bring together older people living in the borough to discuss the issues that matter to them and to influence the planning and delivery of local services. Older people wishing to become involved or have issues to raise are invited to attend the Older Peoples Network Town Hall meetings to be held in the Mayor's Reception on the following dates during 2007, Thursday 8th March, Thursday 7th June, Thursday 6th September, Thursday 6th December. For more information: Phone [REDACTED] email: tba@cvalive.org.uk Website: www.cvalive.org.uk

Planning News

Radical proposals are contained in a recent report by Kate Barker, the economist, commissioned by Gordon Brown to address planning delays, The report makes clear that the market rather than councils should dictate development and calls for an urgent review of the green-belt boundaries and suggests that some of it could meet housing needs.

The Barker Review of Land Use and Planning argues that economic and social benefit should take precedence in siting future developments because the current restrictions stifle competition and choice while more houses are desperately needed. Critics of the report say that uncontrolled development will mean that communities have little or no say in how their community is developed. Most people recognise the need for new homes but they also want development on a reasonable scale and a say on how it is done.



The part of the report that is of direct concern to residents is that householders should be able to build loft conversions, conservatories and kitchen extensions without applying for planning permission involving the preparation of detailed plans, expense and delays. The idea being that if the neighbours have no objection the proposal can proceed. In reasonable instances this suggestion will be welcome but if it has been known for some residents to intimidate their neighbours, especially the elderly, who will agree to anything to avoid bad feelings and this could result in inappropriate and ugly developments being carried out unchecked. It is not necessary to look far to find examples of ill conceived, badly designed and poorly constructed home extensions and these are the result of the current planning and building regulation system. Often such developments fail to reinforce or respect the existing pattern and siting of surrounding buildings and the spaces between them and produce what can only be described as 'legoville'. Ministers have welcomed the overall findings of Kate Barker's report and promised to respond with a white paper.

Another threat to the present planning system is the actions of the London Mayor, Ken Livingstone, who has recently used his powers to reject plans by a London council to reduce the number of low rent housing association homes in a large new development. The mayor is concerned that a number of London boroughs have started to turn down plans for social rented houses in favour of intermediate shared ownership housing (part buy/part rent) and are not following London Plan guidance that requires that 35 per cent of new housing should be for low rent affordable homes with 15 per cent of new housing for higher cost shared ownership. This action by the outer London boroughs is understandable because there is ample proof that residents with a personal stake in their home take better care of the property and have a pride in the local environment whilst councils use some [sink] social housing estates to house all sorts of undesirable social misfits who have no respect for the property which results in the deterioration of the surrounding area.

Planning Report

We have received two independent plaudits in acknowledgement of our representations to the Croydon Planning Authority on behalf of members. It is very nice to receive feedback from our members.

Appeals:

Application 06/01177/P

27 February 2006

21 Cheston Avenue, CR0 8DE

Proposal: Demolition of existing house & garage and erection of block of 9 apartments with associated Car Parking.

LPA Permission Refused: 17 May 2006

Appeal Ref: APP/L5240/A/06/2028389

Appeal Date: 30 October

2006

MORA Submission acknowledged by Planning Inspectorate: 15 December 2006

Site Visit 1st February 2007

Appeal Dismissed - 13th February 2007

Application 06/00904/P

Registration Date: 08 March 2006

Outline planning permission 114 Orchard Way, Croydon, CR0 7NN

Proposal: Demolition of existing building; erection of two/three storey building comprising 6 two bedroom and 7 one bedroom flats; alterations to vehicular access and provision of associated parking.

LPA Permission Refused: 27 July 2006

Appeal Reference: A/06/2030411/NWF Appeal Date: 24 November 2006

MORA Submission acknowledged by Planning Inspectorate: 23 January 2007

06/04811/P

Full planning permission

9 Woodmere Gardens, Croydon, CR0 7PL

Proposal: Demolition of existing buildings; erection of 2 detached four bedroom houses with attached garages; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking.

LPA Permission Refused: 10 January 2007

A/07/2036059/WF 25 / 01 / 2007

Awaiting Decision

Decisions:

79 Orchard Avenue – 06/05070/P

Outline planning permission

Proposal: Demolition of existing building; erection of 1 detached and a pair of semi detached houses ; formation of vehicular access onto High Trees and provision of associated parking.

Approved with conditions.

06/05062/P

Full planning permission 08 / 12 / 2006

3 Lorne Avenue, Croydon, CR0 7RQ

Proposal: Erection of detached three bedroom house at side; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking.

MORA Objection sent 24th December 2006

Permission Refused

02 / 02 / 2007

06/05062/P

Full planning permission 08 / 12 / 2006

3 Lorne Avenue, Croydon, CR0 7RQ

Proposal: Erection of detached three bedroom house at side; formation of

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HANDY ADS SECTION**

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vehicular access and provision of associated parking.

MORA Objection sent 24th December 2006

Permission Refused 02 / 02 / 2007

06/04811/P

Full planning permission

9 Woodmere Gardens, Croydon, CR0 7PL

Proposal: Demolition of existing buildings; erection of 2 detached four bedroom houses with attached garages; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking.

Permission Refused 10 / 01 / 2007

06/02968/P

Full planning permission

85 Gladeside, Croydon, CR0 7RW

Proposal: Demolition of existing building; erection of 2 three bedroom semi detached houses and 2 detached three bedroom bungalows; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking.

Permission Refused 26 / 01 / 2007

06/03016/P

Outline planning permission

26-28 Tower View, Croydon, CR0

Proposal: Demolition of existing buildings; erection of a terrace of 5 three bedroom houses fronting onto Edgewood Green; formation of vehicular accesses and provision of associated parking.

Permission Refused 12 / 01 / 2007

New Applications:

07/00303/P 24 / 01 / 2007

Outline planning permission

114 Orchard Way, Croydon, CR0 7NN

Proposal: Demolition of existing building; erection of two/three storey building comprising 9 two bedroom flats; alterations to vehicular access and provision of associated parking.

Comment: The Number of flats has been reduced from 12 to 9 and the third floor accommodation has been set back to try to overcome the overlooking. However, the set back from the back edge of the Orchard Way pavement is still proposed at 8m whereas the set back of all other buildings are greater than 12m – so we need to make a further objection.

07/00337/P

Outline planning permission

79 Gladeside, Croydon, CR0 7RW

Proposal: Demolition of existing building; erection of 3 two bedroom terraced houses; formation of vehicular accesses and provision of associated parking

Earliest Decision Date: 23/02/2007

MORA to object to this proposal

06/05192/P
19 / 12 / 2006

Full planning permission

39 Orchard Way, Croydon, CR0 7NP

Proposal: Demolition of existing building; erection of a pair of four bedroom semi detached houses and provision of associated parking.

Advice given to local residents.

Crime Alerts

More Bogus Clothing Collections

Hundreds of people had leaflets dropped through their door from Orellana Ltd (Reg No: 5496347) asking for clothes to be left out for collection. The leaflet, covered in pictures of clothes and shoes, asked homeowners to leave blankets, sheets, shoes, towels, underwear and perfume out for collection last Saturday. It asked for items to be put in plastic bags with the leaflet stuck to the bag.

The company raised concerns with residents because the leaflet did not show a charity number or the name of the charity where the clothes would go to, and the only contact details on the leaflet was a Hotmail e-mail address.

An investigation into the company has revealed that it is not legally registered. A spokesman for the British Charity Commission said: "We would encourage people who want their clothes to go to a genuine cause to check whether a charity is registered with the Charity Commission, and if in any doubt, take secondhand goods to a local charity shop."

Checking a charity - guidelines from the Charity Commission

- * Look for a registered charity number. If an organisation has a charity number it is registered with the Charity Commission and therefore must operate for fully charitable purposes.
- * If an organisation is legitimately collecting on behalf of a charity, it should name the charity in its fundraising literature and state how much of your donation goes to the charity.
- * If an advertisement is misleading you can complain to the Advertising Standards Association
- * If the public has concerns they should give direct to a charity, or clothes can be donated to a local charity shop.
- * To check if an organisation is registered the register of charities can be viewed online at www.charitycommission.gov.uk
- * Members of the public who are concerned can contact the Charity Commission helpline on 0845 300 0218.

Uninvited Tradesmen

A resident in Shirley reports that just before Christmas a man called at their door, looked through to the garden, and told them a tree needed lopping in their back garden. He entered the house uninvited, and went through to the

garden. He then proceeded to lop the branch off, and then demanded £80. The elderly resident refused to pay the full money, and gave him a small amount. The man went away. A few days later another man turned up, demanding the rest of the cash for doing the job. He went away with nothing.

If this happens to you please DIAL 999 immediately. Always put your chain on the door and do not allow anyone onto your property that you are not expecting.

Burglary Hotspots

There has been increases in offences in the Shirley area with both day and night break-ins - in one case a male was disturbed at a house in the early hours, but unfortunately we have no description at present.

Bogus Callers

There has been information from Surrey Police about three white males described as 'traveler types' using a silver Ford Galaxy vehicle, who have been calling on elderly residents in the Caterham area, offering building maintenance services. There is a warning that they may move into the South of the Borough - so keep a lookout.

The Award Winner's Exchange

A Neighbourhood Watch member received a personally addressed letter from 'The Award Winner's Exchange' telling him that his entry in their prize promotion (he did not enter) has been selected to win an award. He was asked to call a premium rate number (£1.50 per minute for approx 6 minutes). This company do not appear to be mentioned on the ICTIS website yet but they have a general warning about not ringing such numbers unless you have personally approached the company in the first instance.



Sat Nabbed? 'Remove it or Lose it' - Advice from the Crime Prevention Officers

You wouldn't normally leave £300 sitting on your dashboard when you park your car would you? But that's exactly what you're doing if you leave your Satellite Navigation Equipment on display.

If you are targeted by car thieves, you will end up having to repair any damage caused breaking in to your car - replacing a window or repairing a door - and of course buying new Satellite Navigation Equipment. It will be a lot of hassle, and it's also expensive. You can significantly reduce the chance of your vehicle being targeted by taking a few simple precautions:

- Disconnect and remove your Satellite Navigation system every time you leave your car and keep it somewhere safe (not in the car).
- Remove the suction mounted fittings and erase any marks they leave.
- Mark your Satellite Navigation equipment system using special security markers with either your postcode and house number, your vehicle

registration number or another unique number.

- Making a note of the make, model and serial number of the Satellite Navigation equipment. Record this information on www.immobilise.com
- Don't leave anything on view in your car. Thieves are opportunists and it only takes them moments to break into your car.
- Lock all doors and windows, not forgetting the sunroof, when leaving your car.
- Never leave the keys in the ignition when your car is unattended, even while you're paying for petrol.
- Use car parks that are part of the police approved safer parking scheme. Approved car parks display the official 'Park Mark' sign. www.britishparking.co.uk - **MAKE SURE YOU DON'T BECOME A VICTIM OF CRIME.**

Identity Theft

This has become a growing problem in recent years, and the worrying thing is the ease with which it's possible. Criminals steal the identity of a living - or dead - person by obtaining personal documents from the dustbin, mail or when breaking into a property, then applying for bank accounts, passports, driving licence, etc in that persons name. Sometimes the first time the victim knows about it, is when they notice credit card transactions on their card that they haven't made or start to get demands for payment of overdrawn accounts, traffic offences and maybe more serious crimes. It can be very difficult and time consuming to prove innocence. To minimize your risk:

- **Never** give personal information or account details to anyone who contacts you unexpectedly; and
- **Keep** your personal documents and plastic cards in a safe place. Don't carry them unless you need to. If your plastic cards or personal documents such as passport or driving licence are lost or stolen then contact the issuing organisation immediately.
- **Always** cross shred documents with personal information on them, such as bank statements, utility bills, even junk mail with your address on and cut up old credit/debit cards.
- **Never** give your personal details to anyone you don't know who asks for them, e.g. telesales or marketing companies.
- Lock away personal documents in your home and ensure your private information remains private.

In June 2006 it was made an offence under the Identity Cards Act for a person to possess or control an identity document without valid reason, which is false, improperly obtained or which relates to someone else. The Home Office has a dedicated ID theft website which is full of information. Also see CIFAS. (www.cifas.org.uk) You may like to register with the Mailing Preference Service (www.mpsonline.org.uk) to minimise the amount of junk mail and phone calls you receive.

Security Report

Having been seconded onto our Shirley Ward Panel, I attended my first meeting on the 16th January, held at Shirley Methodist Church. We meet bi-monthly to bring specific problems of crimes in this ward to the notice of the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team. There are at present 9 members of the local community on the panel, a local councillor and members of the Safer Neighbourhood Team when released from duty. We were made aware of problems by our neighbours and our own findings, to bring to the attention of the panel, for analysis and solutions. We try to improve the quality of life for all who live, work or visit our ward and hope that you will see a marked difference in the future.

Jean Cook

Safer Neighbourhood Teams:

Shirley Ward

0208 721 2469

or 07920 233890

Shirley.SNT@met.police.uk

Ashburton Ward

0208 721 2474

or 07920 233885

Ashburton.SNT@met.police.uk

In an emergency call 999 -
for non-emergency crime reports call 0208 667 1212.
www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods



Hosepipe Ban

Thames Water has lifted the hosepipe and sprinkler ban in force across its supply region since April 2006. The decision, which has been taken in consultation with the Environment Agency, follows four months of above-average rainfall (September 2006 to December 2006), which have eased immediate concerns about water resources following the record drought that began in November 2004.

But the company is asking customers to stick with water-saving tips that helped avoid the need for more severe restrictions in the region last summer. Meanwhile, Thames Water continues its drive to reduce leakage, particularly in London.

Thames Water remains focused on reducing London's unacceptably high leakage rates. Currently, for example, their rolling programme to replace the capital's oldest, leakiest mains is moving into new areas of the City and the West End, as well as south of the river in Croydon. **The work in Croydon is on the main pipes and will NOT require staff to enter homes to check water pressure.**



Home Insulation

You could receive a £50 payment towards your council tax...

Croydon residents can take advantage of a special home insulation offer, through a deal arranged between Croydon Council and British Gas:

- Cavity Wall and/or Loft Insulation by British Gas at a substantially reduced price, AND
- £50 credited to your Council Tax Account by British Gas if Cavity Wall or Loft Insulation is installed by them.

You don't need to be a British Gas customer to benefit from this initiative.

If you take up this Home Insulation Offer you will pay the cost of the insulation, (the total cost of installing insulation is about £250), and then British Gas will credit your next year's Council Tax Account with £50. This payment is wholly funded by British Gas.

Installing Cavity Wall or Loft Insulation will result in savings on your annual energy bill of about £200 every year, and if gas prices keep rising, savings will be even greater. So, why not arrange for a FREE no obligation home energy survey.

To apply please call 0845 971 7731 – Quote reference CCCT
Lines open 8 am – 8 pm Mon – Fri and 8 am – 1 pm Sat
Calls may be monitored and/or recorded for quality assurance.

If you are on benefits, you could call British Gas on the same number, or CEN (Croydon Energy Network) on 020 8683 6633; you might be eligible for free insulation!

Useful Telephone Numbers

Croydon Police Station (Control Room) **020 8667 1212**
(This number should be used to report 'non-urgent' crimes/incidents.)

Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer **020 8649 0168**
(Office is usually covered Monday – Friday, 7.30am – 3.30 pm.)
Please do not report crimes on this number.

Crime Prevention Office **020 8649 1414**
(This number is for advice from the Crime Prevention Officer's based at Addington Police Station.)

Crimestoppers **0800 555 111**
(If you want to give information about a crime anonymously.)

Abandoned Vehicles **020 8726 7100**
(This number is for reporting untaxed vehicles to the Council.)

You can also report direct to the DVLA on **08000 325202**
Graffiti **020 8726 6100**
(You can also report it to the Council via email at graffiti@croydon.gov.uk)

Fire Brigade
For a free safety check & smoke alarm check **08000 284428**

Fly Tipping
For all fly tipping problems, **020 8726 6200**

Keyholders registration **0870 060 1212**
Keyholders details are now kept on one central database. – yearly fee required. (www.metkeyholders.org.uk)

Noise problems **020 8726 6200**
(This number is for calls from 8.30am – 4.45 pm, otherwise call the Taberner House switchboard 8726 6000 who will pass the info to the duty officer who will call you back.)

Street Lighting **020 8726 7100**
(This number is for reporting street lights not working properly)

Drugs/syringes **020 8726 6200**
To report any drugs/syringes found in a public place contact Environmental Reporting and ask for a Street Scene Officer.

You can now report some of the above problems to the council via their website (e.g. abandoned vehicles, graffiti, and fly tipping) and click on Report on the home page www.croydon.gov.uk. You can also report some types of non urgent crime via the internet on www.online.police.uk

FOR ALL EMERGENCIES DIAL 999!

(To be included on the weekly email crime message system operated by the Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association, supply your name, and full postal address to cbnwa@btconnect.com.)



The Shirley & District Probus Club

The Shirley & District Probus Club was formed in 1973 - quite early in the history of Probus clubs - and several Shirley and West Wickham residents were involved in its foundation. Each Probus club is independent - there is no central body and they vary in size and activities - and will be found in towns and villages throughout the country and abroad. There are three clubs in our immediate area as well as a Ladies' Probus.

Probus clubs are basically luncheon clubs for retired professional or business (in our case) gentlemen. We meet normally on the last Wednesday in the month at the Shirley Park Golf Club Clubhouse in Wickham Road for lunch followed by a speaker. We also organize day outings to historic houses,

gardens or other interesting locations or institutions and theatre visits. A holiday abroad has been a feature of our programme for many years - in 2006 a group of 27 spent a very pleasant week in Croatia.

Because we have been thriving successfully for thirty-three years you will appreciate that some of our members are approaching maturity. It has always been our policy to encourage members to 'bring a friend' since new blood is vital to ensure the continuance of the club. We will welcome younger members who are interested in joining our activities. We may expect them to be recently retirees in the 60-70 or so age group, but age is no barrier to finding interest and fellowship in our club. We have no geographical boundary to deter members from joining us.

So, if you are retired and fit into the categories mentioned above, and although you may spend part of your week doing voluntary work, perhaps one lunchtimes a month in which you can relax and socialize might be attractive.

If you would like to know more please give our secretary John Cutting a ring on [REDACTED].



Shirley Short Mat Bowls Club

Why not join Shirley Short Mat Bowls Club who play in Shirley Parish Hall, Wickham Road, on 4 mornings a week, plus Friday afternoon and evening. We are a friendly group and would welcome new members and new faces.

For information ring the Captain, Michael Warne, telephone [REDACTED].

Christmas Quiz Answers

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Switzerland | 2. Summit |
| 3. Saffron | 4. Sherry |
| 5. Smallpox | 6. Sarandon |
| 7. Spinning Jenny | 8. Stephanie Beacham |
| 9. Spend, Spend, Spend | 10. Spanish |
| 11. Sarah Brightman | 12. South Kensington |
| 13. Snatch | 14. Shirley Valentine |
| 15. Swamp | 16. Shoulder Blade |
| 17. Sonny Liston | 18. Sheepdog |
| 19. Stephen King | 20. Salisbury |

The first correct answer out of the hat was from Ken and Liz Wiggins of Chaffinch Avenue and a bottle of champagne kindly donated by Dave King, our new Secretary is winging its way to them.

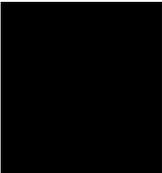
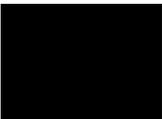
Thanks to all the other contestants; wish you luck next time!

MORA
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
Year Ending 31st DECEMBER 2006

| INCOME | 2006 | 2005 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Subscriptions | 2621 | 2694 |
| Bank interest | 27 | 31 |
| Advertising revenue | 1915 | 1475 |
| Donations | nil | 25 |
| Total | 4563 | 4225 |
| EXPENSES | 2006 | 2005 |
| Printing & stationery (Note 1) | 4498 | 1383 |
| Road Stewards | 312 | 400 |
| Hall Hire | 30 | 24 |
| Vestry hire | 60 | 60 |
| Chairman's/secretarial expenses | nil | 50 |
| Sundries | 260 | 364 |
| Insurance (BTCC) | 156 | 168 |
| Donations | 25 | 150 |
| Audit | 10 | 10 |
| Website | nil | 20 |
| Subscription to BCTV | 30 | 25 |
| Total | 5381 | 2654 |
| Balance | -818 | 1571 |
| | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | 2006 | 2005 |
| Current account | 4210 | 5053 |
| Deposit account | 4878 | 4853 |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | nil | nil |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | 9088 | 9906 |
| Carried forward from previous year | 9906 | 8335 |
| Balance for current year | -818 | 1571 |
| Grand Total | 9088 | 9906 |

Note 1: The high cost of printing & stationery during 2006 is due to two (2) issues of newsletter's invoiced from Croslink for 2005 accrued in year 2006

MORA COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2007

| | | |
|--|----------------------|---|
| President | DEREK LOUGHBOROUGH | |
| Chairman: | BOB AKERS |  |
| Vice Chair: | VACANT | |
| Secretary: | DAVE KING |  |
| Membership Secretary: | DIANE McINERNEY | |
| Minutes Secretary: | CAROLE GREENWOOD | |
| Hon. Treasurer & Advertising Manager: | TERRY GREENWOOD |  |
| Editor / Website | DEREK RITSON | |
| Social Secretary: | CHRISTINE ROSS-SMITH | |
| Transport & Highways: | JEFF CLARK | |
| Police Liaison/Security: | JEAN COOK |  |
| Primary Care: | MERCIA NASH | |
| Neighbourhood Partnership: | VACANT | |
| Committee Member: | MICHAEL NASH | |
| Joint Archivist | PATRICIA TURNER | |
| Joint Archivist | SHEILA WAGLAND | |
| Committee Member: | HARRY CROFT | |



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



Thank you for supporting MORA

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