

Monks Orchard Residents' Association

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

Croydon

(Non Party)

(Independent)

NEWSLETTER - Summer 2007



IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 2 Minutes of the AGM	Page 11 Report by Council Director of Finance & Resources
Page 3 Chairman's Report	
Page 4 Secretary's Report	Page 13 Primary Care Strategy
Treasurer's Report	Bernard Weatherill
Page 5 Security Report	Page 14 Crime Alerts
Page 6 Award of Life Membership	Page 17 No Cold Calling Zone
Planning Report	Page 18 Local Events
Page 7 Report by Councillor	Page 19 Calling Croydon Council
Page 9 Report by MP	

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

MONKS ORCHARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the 83rd Annual General Meeting of Monks Orchard Residents' Association held at St. George's Church Hall on Friday 20th April 2007

Bob Akers opened the proceedings by welcoming approximately eighty members to the 83rd Annual General Meeting and commented that this is the tenth year that he has had the privilege of acting, as Chairman and it was pleasing that so many members and friends have attended this evening to show support. The timing of this year's meeting was changed to make possible the attendance of the elected representatives and is being held four weeks later than usual. Unfortunately, news of the change of date failed to reach some of the members in time and apologies are offered to those that were inconvenienced.

The following were welcomed to the meeting Andrew Pelling Member of Parliament and Member of the London Assembly, the Elected Councillors for the Shirley Ward; Leader of the Council Michael Fisher, and Richard Chatterjee. for the Ashburton Ward; Avril Slipper, Eddy Arram and the visiting speaker Nathan Elvery, Director of Finance and Resources.

A welcome was also given to the Officers of Spring Park Residents' Association and P. S. Andy O'Donnell and members of the Shirley Ward Safer Neighbourhoods Team and P. S. Chris Watson of the Ashburton Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team.

He thanked the visitors who have interrupted their busy routines to attend the meeting for the benefit of the local community; their presence is both welcome and appreciated.

He welcomed Derek Loughborough who was warmly greeted on taking the chair as President of the association.

Apologies for Absence

Linda White, Jeff Cook, Hazel Loughborough, Jean and Frank Brooks.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting were published in the Spring issue of the newsletter, posted on the website and copies were available in the hall; subsequent to being proposed and seconded they were approved unchallenged.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.



Chairman's Report

In the past year MORA has maintained a high level of activity in support of our objective to advance and to protect the interests of Monks Orchard residents and I am pleased to report that membership numbers remain steady despite many properties having changed ownership.

At this meeting in 2004 it was agreed that the fees of membership be reviewed and if appropriate be increased.

The decision has been delayed for three years but it has been found necessary to impose an increase this year, details of which were printed in last year's autumn newsletter. I never wanted this to happen during my term as Chairman but faced with increasing costs there was no alternative. It is fifteen years since the fees were last increased and during the time the expenses have increased threefold. Terry Greenwood, the Honorary Treasurer, will give you the figures in his report. At the same time the opportunity was taken to simplify the fee structure and the membership fee now applies to households, not individual members. I am thankful that members are supporting the change and continue to renew their membership, no doubt aware of the need to maintain a healthy fighting fund because we never know when it might be necessary to use professional help to protect the interests of the local community.

We have also been made aware that some areas have not been receiving the newsletters and may have lost contact with the Association. Efforts are being made to correct this situation but to do so we require the help of members. If you can donate a few hours each year to help the local community please let me know before you depart this evening. Reports have mentioned the 'rise of can't be bothered Britain' and that community groups are losing support because people do not care enough to become involved. Surely this cannot be true of the residents of Monks Orchard who have always cared about local schools, medical services, security, transport, road safety, council services and the wellbeing of the local community.

The main concern of the local community remains that of the continuing rise of local taxes. The new administration has kept its promise and kept this year's increase below the rate of inflation despite the constraints imposed by central Government. It is certain that local taxes are bound to go on rising at the behest of the Treasury and rises will continue to outstrip any increase in the income of most state pensioners and lower paid workers.

There was hopeful expectation that the Sir Michael Lyons Inquiry would include a full and unbiased evaluation of income related alternatives to the present unfair system of Council Tax. The report has now been published and, as predicted in my previous report, it has not been worth waiting for. The inquiry took three years to complete and concludes by recommending a new top rate council tax band and completely fails to confront the fundamental

problem of local government finance; what a dreadful waste of taxpayers' money.

MORA continues to support the Isitfair campaign for a fairer system of local taxes based on the ability to pay. For the past three years members have supported campaigns by Isitfair to draw attention to this problem. This year Isitfair teamed up with The Tax Payers Alliance to run a joint campaign. Those that feel angry about continual rises in council tax were recommended to send their council tax bill to Gordon Brown, the perpetrator of the continual rises in council tax. The Government will tell you that it is the fault of local government and the councils will tell you it is the fault of the Government but the man responsible is the man at the treasury, Gordon Brown. Members were asked to enclose their council tax bill in an envelope and address it to The Brown Envelope Day, 1 Warwick Row, London SW1E 5ER. The reason given for this was because in this way the number of envelopes sent can be monitored before delivery to the Chancellor at the beginning of May. If you want a reply from someone at the Treasury, enclose a letter that asks a question. If you do not ask a question you will not receive a reply. Encourage your friends and neighbours to do likewise, every letter counts and the aim is to push the total over the million mark.

Secretary's Report

Dave King introduced himself as the new Honorary Secretary saying that he was dragooned into taking the post. He reported that membership is approximately 2,500 and that the quarterly newsletter is read and appreciated. Members were asked to encourage non-members, who may be friends or neighbours, to join and take an active part in the Association. Since becoming involved he has been impressed by the amount of work undertaken by the officers of the association and paid tribute to Derek Ritson who deals with the numerous planning applications and appeals. Those with local concerns or need for advice to contact him by telephone (see page 20).



Treasurer's Report

Terry Greenwood referred to the increase in membership fees that had been delayed for three years but it proved necessary to take action at this time because of constantly increasing costs. Members will remember that in 2005 the annual surplus of income over expenditure had dropped to £12 and since then income from members subscriptions has remained static, which

has prevented MORA from making donations to worthy causes that benefit the community. An example of increasing costs are those for the production of the newsletter which two years ago was £500 per issue, last year this increased to £700 and is currently approaching £800 per issue. The introduction of advertising in the newsletter added to the income and thanks is offered to local traders for their valuable support. He concluded by saying that the extra income resulting from the increase in fees will help secure the financial future of the Association.

The annual financial report was approved and grateful thanks were offered to Terry Greenwood for his work on the accounts and for successfully increasing income by the sale of advertising in the newsletter.



Security Report

Jean Cook reported that she has been seconded on the panel of the Shirley Safer Neighbourhood Team that meets bi-monthly and at which fifteen members of Neighbourhood Watch of differing ages and experience come together to discuss the need for action on known and suspected crimes. CCT cameras are now in place at known areas such as Parkfields recreational grounds, outside local schools, Shrublands and shopping areas. The Shirley SNT is doing remarkably well in controlling crime and undertakes frequent patrols of the area. The Shirley SNT telephone number for continuing acts of anti-social behaviour is 020 8721 2469 or mobile 07920233890, ongoing crimes should be reported using the 999 emergency numbers. The Ashburton SNT number is 020 8721 2474 or mobile 07920233885.

Election of Officers and Committee for 2007/2008

The Chair said that the association is managed and organised by a hard working team that form the Executive Committee; who donate time and energy for the benefit of the local community. During the year Dave King was co-opted to the committee and agreed to fill the important role of Honorary Secretary. Anne Johnson has resigned from the Executive Committee and is moving to live elsewhere. For a number of years Anne held the combined roles of Vice-Chairman and Secretary and her useful contribution to the work of the Association is acknowledged and appreciated. She will be kindly remembered and I am sure that you will wish to join me in wishing her happiness in her new surroundings.

The Chair was pleased to report that all the present members have agreed to continue for a further year.

To save time, it was suggested that the Executive Committee be re-elected en-bloc and was returned unopposed. The names and telephone numbers of members of the Executive Committee are listed on the final page of this newsletter.

Tribute was paid to the valuable work undertaken on behalf of the association by Road Stewards and Area Managers, who deliver the newsletters, collect membership fees and keep in-touch with members. Many of these are long-serving members of the association and we offer them heartfelt thanks.

There are seventy or more Road Stewards and it is continually necessary to replace those that are unable to continue. Members were told that if they want the Association to continue to represent their views they should give serious thought to donating a small amount of their time to help the local community; leaving it to others is not an option.

Award of Life Membership

The meeting paid tribute to a person that has made an important contribution to the work of the Association and the local community. This year the association thanks Jean Cook who has for many years served the Association as Security Officer. Jean's late husband devoted himself to the wellbeing of the local community and she has followed his example. She will be known to most of you through her church work and connections with Neighbourhood Watch. President Derek Loughborough formally presented Jean with the certificate of Honorary Membership and offered thanks to Jean for her efforts on behalf of the local residents.

PLANNING REPORT

In 2006 it was reported that Monks Orchard is in the process of losing its green spaces as more high-density developments are approved and the growing numbers of construction sites in the area show this prediction to be correct. Unfortunately, the process of change is not restricted to the local area; more homes need to be built to satisfy the increasing growth in population fuelled by immigration. The situation is serious and many young people are unable to gain a foot on the property ladder. Owners of properties on large sites are taking advantage of the situation by submitting proposals that maximise on every square inch of available space for profit. There are developers that give little consideration of the likely impact on the local community or those living nearby.



Reference was made to two housing proposals to illustrate how a property developer can submit one application after another followed by immediate appeals in order to gain permission to erect a high-density building completely out of keeping with the character of the area.

This type of activity challenges the planning system and requires MORA to compile complex objections to each application and appeal. It cost the developer £100 to submit an appeal but involves the Council in much work and expenditure when money is in short supply and eventually some form of compromise is reached with the developer and the local community has to live with the consequence.

Shirley Oaks Nature Reserve

Mora has campaigned for over ten years to defend this registered piece of Metropolitan Open Space from development. Local residents gained approval to use the land as a nature reserve and have attempted to purchase the site but were twice outbid at auction. Attempts were made by the previous owner Shipmead Properties to use the site as a cemetery but the proposal was rejected because of the high water table. The new owner has indicated that he wants to build a care home for 500 people and to gain the support of local residents has offered to donate almost half the land for use

by the community. In order to publicise his proposals the new owner held a meeting with the residents living nearby and some have indicated that they support the proposal because of fear that the land could eventually be used for high-density housing. MORA has been advised not to submit to pressure from the owner to support the proposal because the danger is clear, if residents display willingness to sacrifice one piece of valuable Metropolitan open space it would inevitably lead to more local open spaces being lost to developers.

Glade Gardens

The battle continues against the inappropriate development of the land at Glade Gardens. In 2005 Moorgate Homes submitted an application for the erection of 2 two-storey buildings with accommodation in roof space comprising 10 one-bedroom flats. Subsequent to much research into the previous use of the land, permission was refused in September 2006 because the number of units and type of accommodation would be out of keeping with the residential and visual character of the immediate locality. Last month an appeal was made against this decision and the Secretary of State has decided to determine the appeal at a hearing of all the parties concerned and others that may be affected by the appeal so they can make comments. Initially there was considerable local resistance to this proposal and it is important that as many residents as possible attend the local hearing to be held on 25th July to demonstrate local concern. It is only by working together that such inappropriate proposals can be successfully resisted.

Any Other Business



Report Back by Councillor Avril Slipper

Councillor Slipper said that she was pleased to have the opportunity to report on the work undertaken by the local Councillors and to address some of the concerns of residents. She introduced Councillor Janet Marshall, Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Mike Fisher, Leader of the Council, and Councillor

Richard Chatterjee who represent the Shirley Ward and Councillor Eddy Arram the Ashburton Ward. The population of the two Wards numbers over 21,000, which means that there are many questions and problems for councillors to deal with.

Councillor Slipper began by reporting on Parkfields Recreational Ground. The Council has agreed a gating order, and also to demolish the pavilion which, hopefully, should assist in solving the vandalism problem.

“The problem of the mud-strewn pavement in Woodmere Avenue has finally been successfully dealt with. There was an ongoing eyesore outside Kandies shop, which took a long time to correct because the shop owner wished to install a ‘dropped kerb’, and the post box had to be re-sited before the path could be repaired.

The councillors of Ashburton and Shirley work together on behalf of the local residents and are grateful to MORA for its input and expertise on planning matters. Councillors work closely with the Association and they will always take-up concerns regarding planning applications, and can make a referral to the Council. This is like an objection, which means that the proposal has to be debated by the Planning Committee. This provides an opportunity for the councillor to voice the concern of residents."

Mention was made to the differing views resulting from the gating of the walkways on the Lawdon estate. It is known that incidents of crime and vandalism were taking place, which is the reason the gates were erected. "Residents are pleased that as a result, crime and vandalism has been reduced, but the downside is that some residents find themselves having to face a long walk in order to visit shops and St. George's church, or to catch a bus. This causes particular problems for those living on the Orchard Way side of the estate, who now have an even greater distance to walk. Councillors have had to deal with this contentious issue, which has tended to divide members of the local community.

"Councillors have also been actively lobbying for improvements on the 367 bus route. As a consequence, the regularity of the service, in particular the early arrival of buses, has improved, but the buses remain crowded and this problem is still being addressed."

Councillor Slipper concluded by referring to the ever-growing concerns about the excessive speeding of vehicles on roads in the locality. She mentioned that Andrew Pelling MP and Member of the Greater London Authority would have noted the concerns because the Mayor of London provides much of the funding for road improvements and Croydon has to compete for its share of the annual budget together with other London authorities.

Councillor Slipper requested that this researched response on the issue of speeding vehicles be added to the report made at the meeting.

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to reply to your members' concerns regarding accidents caused by vehicles travelling at excessive speed. Like you, almost daily I witness vehicles careering round bends in The Glade and Gladeside on the wrong side of the road. You may be sure that your councillors share those concerns. Unfortunately, money for traffic management schemes comes from the Mayor of London and the Council has to bid for funds for costed schemes. The Mayor then states how much money he will allow for specific schemes and this is dependent on the number of fatal / serious accidents recorded at the location.

"The number of personal injury collisions (PIC's) between January 2004 and December 2006 (latest available date) are three in Woodmere Avenue. Two of these happened at the junction with Woodmere Avenue, The Glade and Orchard Avenue. The third occurred at the junction with Elstan Way. The

casualties in all three incidents sustained slight injuries. A fatality did occur in April 2003, improbable as it may seem, I am told this is outside the review period. In The Glade there have been a total of six PIC's recorded in the same period. Two occurred at the junction with The Glade and Orchard Grove, one at the junction with Greenview Avenue, one at the junction with Mardell Avenue and two at the junction with Horton Way. The casualties in all six accidents suffered slight injuries.

"On Orchard Avenue between The Glade and Orchard Way there were two PIC's between January 2004 and December 2006. One occurred 30m north of the junction with Orchard Way and the casualty sustained serious injuries. The other accident was at the junction with Orchard Way and the injuries were slight. On the section of Orchard Avenue between Orchard Way and the A232 there were three recorded PIC's. These occurred at the junction with Russet Drive; at a point 40m north of Potters Close and at the junction with Firsby Avenue.

"I have been advised that these figures are low compared to other locations in the borough and therefore, it would not be possible to secure funding from the Mayor/Transport for London for road safety measures. However, our concerns have been reported to the police, who have agreed to carry out speed enforcement in these roads.

"I am aware that since the AGM there has been yet another PIC in The Glade-at the junction with Orchard Grove. Whilst serious damage occurred to the vehicle and street furniture, the occupants of the car sustained slight injuries.

"Following a request at the AGM, I have sought information regarding an accident when a car all but demolished a large oak tree at the junction of Orchard Avenue/Orchard Way. I have been informed that (amazingly despite the damage caused) this was not a fatal accident."

Report Back by Andrew Pelling GLA M.P.

Andrew Pelling M.P. began by referring to some of the issues mentioned earlier in the meeting. The 367 bus route has additional concerns arising from the policy of free travel for the under eighteens which has led to much of the problems on this bus, particularly when a local school releases all of its students at the same time in conjunction with students from schools nearby. Conflict is taking place and it is an issue that needs resolving. It is important that Transport for London provide extra support for the local police and SPO teams in dealing with this issue. Letters are being sent from City Hall asking residents to supply him with examples of any conflict that they have experienced, so that a stronger case can be made to Transport for London for additional policing support. A meeting was held recently, attended by the Home Secretary and the South London Members of Parliament, on the important issue of gun crime, knife crime and reported killings as a result of the youth gang culture,



prevalent in South London. There is an important issue here relating to the free travel provided to the under eighteens which facilitates greater mobility for such gangs. The free travel policy costs taxpayers £55 million a year and if this amount of money is being invested there should be dedicated school buses. Or, if there is going to be free travel maybe it should be only during the school day. With the present policy it has to be recognised that there is a downside, which is the mobility of the youth gangs, and there is a need for more policing.

With reference to what has been said about the Isitfair campaign he has recently put forward an early day motion on the issue of the latest increase in Council tax across the country of 4.2% and the way in which Council tax has become unsustainable in terms of the rate that is paid. It is necessary to be bipartisan at MORA meetings and it is fair to say that both Conservative and Labour governments have had a hand in constantly transferring costs to the Council tax so people will always end up paying more - it is another stealth tax and both parties are guilty of it. Council tax is unsustainable, and the Sir Michael Lyons review is very disappointing and was largely forgotten as it was released on the same day as the budget.

The approach that MORA takes on planning is a responsible one, recognising that there is planning pressure but what has become obvious over the past few years is the way in which regionally and nationally set targets, remotely set, end up with a situation where developers hit the easiest target, which is to build flats, as a consequence there is now an excess of one or two bedroom flats for social housing in London and a shortage of family housing. There would not be too much objection in this part of Croydon if more homes for families were built because experience shows that in dealing with difficult housing cases you usually have a family consisting of a Mother, Father and two children living in a one bedroom flat, and the answer is "terribly sorry but you will have to wait ten years to be re-housed" by which time the children will have gone. There is a real problem in not allowing local councils to make judgements on planning issues. Local politicians are the most sensitive people to political pressure because they are the ones that get it in the neck first because they can lose their seats on issues like housing. They are in the best position to make such judgements and it is wrong that there is a target set for Croydon of over 17,000 new units over the period until 2016; that is 2000 units in this area, which is unsustainable. Mention has been made of the issue of migration and this is the key issue behind the pressure for housing.

Responding to what has been said about policing, politicians are always far too keen to come in front of audiences and frighten them with stories about crime. Credit should be paid to what our local borough Police Commander and local police have done, because there has been a fall of 3,300 crimes committed in Croydon, meaning a lot of people have not been affected by crime over the past year, which is an important message to send.

Presentation by Mr Nathan Elvery, Croydon Council's Director of Finance and Resources

Mr Elvery began by outlining the strategic principles under which the Croydon Council budget is set and which provides a framework for the use of resources over the medium term to deliver the Council's ambitions and priorities.



The objectives are:

- (a) To ensure that the Council's core ongoing financial position remains stable and continues to support the Council's key objectives.
- (b) To ensure that the Council's infrastructure is fit for purpose and that new capital needs are identified and met
- (c) To ensure that the efficiency culture is embedded within the Council to systematically challenge and secure value for money
- (d) To ensure that the Council's resources are expended on meeting the Council's Vision for Croydon and achieving the key corporate priorities
- (e) To maintain an affordable Council Tax

Consideration has to be given to protecting the planet, and investment in the infrastructure, the things that cause issues in our neighbourhood today and in the future, and those that affect our day-to-day quality of life. All these issues are captured in the strategy and are translated into financial terms.

He then outlined the size of his responsibilities and those of the Council in deciding where to allocate direct resources. The Council's overall budget in gross terms is £800 million before the receipt of income and money from central government. Croydon's council tax is big business and £130 million or £220,000 per day has to be collected. These issues provide serious financial challenges. Collecting and handling that amount of money requires a very dedicated and focussed team. If Croydon was a company it would appear in the FTSE 350, the equivalent of companies like Tesco and Shell. This is the size of the organisation that he works for and represents.

These are the challenges and it is disappointing that there was not a more favourable outcome of the Sir Michael Lyons review. This year an increase in funding from central government of 2.7% was received but this is a cut in real terms. This award poses real challenges and the Fair Deal Campaign run by the Council is about ensuring central government listens to Croydon's views when future settlements are planned later this year.

It is important to understand how efficiencies are generated within the organisation and difficult decisions have to be made to ensure the Council tax increase is kept low and as affordable as possible for the level of services provided. When compared with other London authorities Croydon has the sixth lowest Council tax. There is an ongoing assessment process, inspected independently, and this has judged that the services provided by Croydon are

of a good standard. There needs to be a balance between the level and quality of service provided and the price residents pay. This is the key judgement in setting an affordable Council tax, making sure that the resources are used as effectively as possible to generate good levels of service.

The expenditure is split down under departments. Almost half of the budget goes on providing social care to children, adults and older people within the borough. Of the remaining budget, half goes on the environment, cultural and sports services. A third of the remaining budget goes on education, and elements of the remaining part go on housing, planning, transportation and the running of the organisation. These are directed through the department structures into the following priorities: safer streets, providing a better environment, retaining Croydon's character, providing a sense of community and value for money.

What has been achieved as part of this year's budget?

Safer Streets Introduction of Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers, more money on highways maintenance, new street lighting to help reduce crime.

Providing a Better Environment Extension of pilot scheme of green waste, plastics and cardboard recycling, improvement in waste performance.

Retaining Croydon's Character Ensuring sensitive development that meets local needs, increased requirements for people without a home.

Providing a Sense of Community Aiming to give everyone in Croydon a sense of belonging, more resources for learning disabilities, giving those that require specialist care a better quality of life.

Value for Money Investment in bereavement services and customer services.

To conclude, mention was made to the services provided by the Greater London Authority that for 2007/08 cost Croydon £37,737,000 or £303.69 per band D property. The services provided include transport, policing, fire and emergency, economic development, culture, environment and health.

Mr Elvery successfully ensured that all those present were left in no doubt that the finances of a large borough are highly complex and involve massive amounts of money that has to be spent wisely because there is an external assessment on the use of resources. Once the key items of expenditure have been financed the Council has control of only a small portion of the total budget, nevertheless £30 million of efficiencies have been made over recent years and this money has been recycled and directed towards the identified budget priorities.

Grateful thanks were offered to Nathan Elvery for his informative and interesting presentation. Thanks was also offered to the Ward Councillors and Andrew Pelling for their contribution to the proceedings. Finally, members were thanked for attending and it was hoped that they had found the meeting of interest and value.

**MONKS ORCHARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
HANDY ADS SECTION**

ESTATE AGENTS

FREE VALUATIONS

137/9 Wickham Road, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 8TE

Tel: 020 8654 3037 Fax 020 8656 2668

Email: shirley@cubittandwest.co.uk



VISIT OUR WEB SITE ON WWW.CUBITTANDWEST.CO.UK

1-2-3 CHIMNEY SWEEPS



**A&J NAISH
FAMILY BUSINESS EST. 1870
CHIMNEY CLEANED
USING VACUUM & BRUSH
METHOD**

TELEPHONE ANYTIME:

020 8668 9914 020 8654 0847

MOBILE:

07956 282298 07956 385112

**PARKER BROS.
GARAGE**

(CROYDON) LTD.

Service - Sales - MOT



**9 - 11 BYWOOD AVENUE
SHIRLEY CR0 7RB**

Telephone: 020 8654 1923



Herbs Song

Chinese Medicine & Acupuncture

Dr. J Song (MATCM)

Free Consultation



Back, shoulder, knee, neck pain, skin complaints, emotional problems, digestion disorders, allergies, ear candle, weight problems, PMT, Menopause, sinusitis, migraine, tinnitus, warts

020 8776 2479

www.herbssong.co.uk

125a High Street, West Wickham Mon-Sat 09.30-6.30pm

“LEARN 2 PLAY”

Pop, JAZZ & Classical.

Piano lessons are fun !

Children and adult beginners, all ages.



—Will visit.—

Mr A. Telfer.

020 8665 1292.



Over 20 years experience All examinations covered

1st Call

Plumbing and Heating Services

Full Central Heating Systems, Boiler Changes

Corgi Registered Engineers

Bathroom Installation

NO CALLOUT CHARGE

Phone: 020 8407 0571

FIREPLACE TRADE CENTRE

Buy Direct from your local Fireplace company.

Est. over 15 years. From a gas fire part to a complete custom-made surround in Wood, Stone, Marble and Cast Iron. Quality at **UNBEATABLE** prices.

156 Wickham Road, Shirley.

Tel: 020 8654 5466

10% off

Trade Prices
with this ad.



THINKING OF MOVING?


Telephone for a FREE Valuation and
advice WITHOUT OBLIGATION.

•

Telephone resident partner
Philip J Charman TechRICS, FNAEA
or valuation manager

Bryce Parkinson FNAEA
for friendly and impartial advice

Tel: 020 8777 2121
Shirley Office



Open 7 Days a Week

The Midholm Osteopathic Practice

7 Midholm Road, Shirley

Ben Perissinotto

Bsc. (Hons) Osteopathy

Back & Neck Pain, Headache, Joint Pain

Frozen Shoulder

Whiplash

020 8657 2594

Sciatica

Digestive & Respiratory Problems,

and many other conditions

Not sure if osteopathy can help? Just call and ask or see www.osteopathy.org.uk

Registered and insured

P WOOLGER

PAINTER AND DECORATOR

RELIABLE AND FRIENDLY

FREE ESTIMATES

INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR

4 BROOKSIDE WAY

SHIRLEY CR0 7RR

020 8656 7201

BARRY'S REMOVALS & STORAGE

LOCAL & LONG DISTANCE

FULL & PART LOADS

SINGLE ITEMS: PIANO

COMPETITIVE RATES

FREE ESTIMATES

28 DARTNELL ROAD,

ADDISCOMBE, CROYDON. CR0 6JA

TEL NO: 020 8656 4949

BUDDS

DRIVING TUITION



8654 2648

Bob Budd



85 Woodmere Avenue Croydon CR0 7PH

CHAPLINS

HAIRDRESSING SALON

TANNING STUDIO

Telephone: 0208 777 2337

**124 Orchard Way,
Shirley. CR0 7NN.**

HOME CARER

18yrs Experience in Care

Looking for people in Shirley area who need help in their own homes.

NVQ Trained and CRB Police Checked

£10/hr

Phone Lin: 07816 004581



*kitchen design and installation • granite worktops • laminate floors
tiling • bathroom design and installation • plumbing
painting and decorating*

Tel: 020 8650 3415 Mob: 07793 195894 Email: jon@jnbinteriors.com



MIRIAMS GARDEN

RELIABLE LADY GARDENER

- Planting • Grass Cutting
- Weeding • Garden Maintenance

SHIRLEY BASED

Mobile: 07722 425817 Evenings: 020 8777 3058



BLINDS

LUXURY MADE TO MEASURE BLINDS

(ROMAN, VERTICAL, ROLLER, CONSERVATORIES,
WOODEN VENETIAN AND VENETIAN).

LOCAL TRADESMEN

SAME QUALITY AS LEADING HIGH STREET RETAILERS
AT 30% - 50% OFF HIGH STREET PRICES.

NO ADDED ON COSTS FOR MEASURING OR FITTING SERVICES.

CALL DES ON 0208-651-3569

OR

07961-827-917 FOR A QUOTE.

IT WILL BE LESS EXPENSIVE THAN YOU THINK!

DIRTY OVEN !

DOMESTIC OVEN CLEANING
By the UK's leading oven cleaning Company

**OVENCLEAN**

NON caustic, fresh solution every time. Hobs, Extractors and Microwaves

PHONE 0208 405 8955

www.ovenclean.com

Jane Pledger School of Dancing
ARAD Adv., RTS, LISTD.Dip.

BALLET

MODERN

TAP

STREET JAZZ

ADULT TAP & JAZZ

ACTING, SINGING

SHIRLEY and ADDISCOMBE

020-8656 8529



REFLEXOLOGY



ASSOCIATION of
REFLEXOLOGISTS

at the Complementary Health
Clinic South Croydon, or in
the comfort of your own
home by Full Members of the
Association of Reflexologists.

Tel: 020 8654 4041

Mobile: 07956 414 874



I. A. McKENNA

ROOFING CONTRACTORS

General Building Work

020 8777 3058

07956 658 808

- All Roof Repairs
- New Roofs
- Flat Roofs

FREE ESTIMATES
ALL WORK GUARANTEED
FULLY INSURED

20 CHESTON AVENUE, SHIRLEY



Carpenter

J. Kirby-Walker

CARPENTRY SERVICE

**Fitted Wardrobes, Alcove Units, Kitchen Fitting,
Garden Decking, Doors Fitted,**

All Aspects of Carpentry

Fully Insured

Free Estimates

Call

Office 020 - 8655 - 2194

Mobile 077 121 080 59

S.D.P. PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

- INTERIOR/EXTERIOR DECORATING: Painting. Wallpapering. Tiling. Coving. Small plumbing.
- GENERAL CARPENTRY WORK: Laminate/wood flooring. Decking. Door hanging. Dado/picture rails fitted.
- ALL GARDEN WORK UNDERTAKEN: Patios. Sheds. Lawns. Hedges. Ponds. Fencing. Borders.

FULLY INSURED. FREE ESTIMATES. REFERENCES SUPPLIED.

CALL STEVE 0208 777 9611 mob: 07792 700151

42 West Way, Shirley, Croydon.



Reflexology, Aromatherapy Indian Head Massage and Reiki for Ladies



For enquiries and appointments please 'phone

Isabel Mantle, M.I.F.R., I.G.P.P., AC Reg.

www.belcaretherapies.co.uk

020 8777 4396

Your computer problems solved !

New & 2nd User Desktop Computers from £75

New & 2nd User Laptop Computers from £250

Repairs, Maintenance & Upgrades

Virus Removal & Data Recovery

Printers and Cartridges

Internet Setup including Broadband (ADSL)

Networks including Broadband network sharing

Complete Range of Software Available

Your Local Computer Dealer



Yes Computing Ltd

153 Primrose Lane, Shirley Oaks Village, Croydon. CR0 8YP

Tel / Fax: 020 8655 3359

Email: bob@yescomputing.plus.com

M.B. ALLEN & CO

YOUR LOCAL SOLICITORS

We pride ourselves on offering our Clients a friendly and efficient service for all their commercial and personal requirements.

For your legal needs use our expertise.

020 87776 1010

Gainsford House

115 Station Road

West Wickham BR4 0PX

020 8654 2706

347 Lower Addiscombe Road

Croydon

CR0 6RG

Or find us at **www.mballen.co.uk**

CREST CLEANING SERVICES

Carpets/Upholstery Cleaning

Professional Service

Excellent Results

Competitive Prices

Free Quotations

Tel: 020 8407 5274



JOYCE LUCKING SCHOOL OF DANCING

Classes for Children &
Examinations in Ballet & Tap from 4
years of age.

Classes held at: the new Church
Centre, West Wickham

Tel: 020 8777 5325

DISCLAIMER

To the full extent permissible by law, Monks Orchard Residents' Association disclaim all responsibility, liability, or otherwise, or from any action or decision taken as a result of using this 'Handy Ads Section'. We reserve the right to withdraw any advertisement if we receive any complaints about service. To contact us for more details, please telephone Terry Greenwood on: [REDACTED].

Primary Care Strategy

Croydon is in the process of developing a Primary Care Strategy that proposes to provide appropriate services in the community as well as in hospitals, for example cluster centres which will cater for 20,000 people and will provide services such as G.P.s, dentists, pharmacists, optometrists, community services and services for long-term conditions. What is being proposed will bring about great change in local health provision. MORA has studied copies of the consultation and had discussions with relevant PCT representatives. MORA has submitted a detailed response on behalf of the local community. There has been an enormous public response to the consultation and early indications are that the proposals will not find favour with local G. P's and Pharmacists. At this point MORA would like to reiterate that people would lose the personal doctor patient relationship as we know it. In addition to losing our local GP's and Pharmacies, people, and especially the elderly and disabled of our society, will be obliged to travel greater distances for their health care.



Lord Bernard Weatherill

Former Speaker Bernard Weatherill 1920 – 2007



Many tributes have been expressed on the passing of Lord Bernard Weatherill the former Croydon North East M.P., Speaker of the House of Commons and past President of MORA. He was devoted to Croydon and will be greatly missed. As M.P. and President of MORA he frequently visited Monks Orchard and on 12th November 1988 he officially planted a tree, contributed by MORA, in Greenview Avenue to replace one of those destroyed during the Great Storm of 1987. A family funeral was held on 11th May and it is hoped that local people will be able to pay their respects at a memorial service later this year. Numerous obituaries of this honourable man have appeared in the media. MORA has asked Ken Butler local resident and ex-Treasurer of the association to write the following personal tribute:

Some thoughts on the late Bernard Weatherill M.P.

I first met Bernard Weatherill M.P. when I went to work as House Of Commons Doorkeeper in 1975. He was then the Deputy Chief Whip of the Conservative opposition, I was a constituent and an ex-soldier. Over the next thirty years we became friends. I had, and have, the utmost respect for him and his humanity.

He was an Officer in the old Indian army of the Raj. He was a lancer, he spoke Urdu and Hindi, he loved his brave and faithful Indian soldiers. He became a vegetarian after seeing the awful Famine of 1943 in India.

In the Commons and elsewhere he was a man of his word. He was honest, upright and loyal to all, he was fair in his dealings with both members and staff of the Commons. He was very industrious and very principled on his ideas on Society.

As Mr. Speaker, he was unbiased, and fair to all members, he gave as much time to old plodding members on the back benches, as he did to Ministers and their opposite numbers.

He loved Parliament and especially the Commons with all its traditions and history of free speech, and the day to day slog of running it.

In my opinion he was one of the Great Speakers. He is sadly missed by all who knew him.

Ram Ram O Speaker Sahib, Subcheese Teek Hai
(Goodbye good friend, fare thee well.)

Ken Butler

Crime Alerts

Beware of Bogus Callers

A genuine caller from Thames Water will always carry an Identity Card and will immediately show it to you. He/she will often be wearing a uniform and have a car or van nearby displaying the company's logo. More importantly they will always be happy to wait outside while you contact Thames Water to confirm who they are. One of our extra care services, available to all customers, gives the opportunity to chose and register a password that only our authorised representatives will know. If you want to know more about our password scheme, visit our Website at www.thameswater.co.uk/boguscallers or phone 0845 9200 800 (Minicom users 0845 7200 898) and ask for a copy of our literature.



It is important to note that during any mains replacement works, Thames Water staff will **NOT NEED TO ENTER YOUR HOUSE**.

Also, see the No Cold Calling Launch Article for residents in the Shirley Ward in this Newsletter, on page 17.

Spanish Sweepstake Lottery

There has been reports of a scam letter sent to an elderly person in the Borough from the Spanish Sweepstake Lottery S.A. The letter is headed 'Award Notification/Final Notice' The letter claims that you have won 615,810 Euros but due to a mix up of numbers you should keep the award top secret! Also attached is a payment processing form for you to give personal and bank details so that the scammer can empty your bank account.

REMEMBER if you did not buy a ticket you cannot win a prize so be very careful. A similar letter was circulating last year.

TV Licensing

A Neighbourhood Watch Member has reported that when he renewed his TV Licence by phone the confirmation letter he received had his full bank details printed on it. He has already written a letter to the Licensing Office in Bristol pointing out the danger of stolen mail giving fraudsters all the information they need to attack your bank account or use for identity fraud purposes. If you have received such a letter and wish to dispose of it please shred or destroy the letter - do not put it straight in your waste or recycle bin.

Clothing Collections

Another clothing collection leaflet has been circulating. It is printed in blue and red and states that a collection will be made on Friday. The name at the bottom of the leaflet is Valewall Ltd Reg No:5640823. According to UK Data this company was incorporated in November 2005 and in April this year the company was dissolved. There is no telephone number registered for this company except a mobile number shown on the leaflet.

On Tuesday this week the BBC TV News London programme reported Eastern European companies in North London using plain white vans to collect bags left out by householders for well known registered charities in this country. Apparently the stolen bags are being shipped abroad.

Car Window Security Marking

We have received information that a leaflet is circulating in the South of the Borough headed 'Notice to Neighbourhood Watch Residents' offering to security mark car windows for a fee of £29.95.

Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch/Croydon Police have no connection with this notice and we would suggest that you obtain alternative quotes from recognized companies such as Autoglass, Halfords or your Insurance Company for their advice.

There is also a company called Dantech Home Security Products on www.carmarking.co.uk who can supply a DIY car and caravan window etching kit for £15. They also supply a Sat Nav security marking kit - full details are on their website.



Home Fire Safety Checks

Age Concern Croydon in partnership with the London Fire Brigade will carry out a home safety fire check and supply and fit smoke alarms for pensioners.

To book an appointment please phone 020 8680 5450 and ask to speak to the Handyperson Service.

Croydon's New Safer Transport Teams Hit The Streets

A new dedicated police team aimed at improving safety on and around public transport has been formally launched in Croydon.

Known as Safer Transport Teams, up to 18 new Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) will work with at least two sergeants and one police constable to provide visibility and reassurance and tackle crime and anti-social behaviour on and around public transport. Croydon's Safer Transport team is now in place led by Sgt Steve Brennan, providing an additional police presence on the extensive transport network in Croydon.



Latest Police Operation is launched to Reduce Knife Crime

The Safer Croydon Partnership have recently funded the purchase of two portable search arches which Croydon Police will be using on pro-active police operations across the Borough, specifically aimed at tackling and reducing knife crime.

As part of Operation Blunt, the latest Metropolitan Police Service initiative set up in May to reduce knife crime across London, Croydon officers will be joined and supported by colleagues from the British Transport Police for the latest police operation. Those traveling through both East and West Croydon will be routinely scanned for knives and other offensive weapons in their possession.

In addition to carrying out pro-active operations at transport hubs, Croydon Police intends to use the portable arches throughout the Town Centre, and Safer Neighbourhood teams across the Borough will also be raising awareness of the dangers of carrying knives by visiting schools and colleges across the Borough.

Bikes in Blue Ready for Action

Earlier in the year three cross country motorbikes were launched at Croydon Police station.

The bikes, Suzuki DR 400 trail bikes have been funded by the Safer Croydon Partnership to help the local Police in the Borough catch criminals who try to give them the slip by traveling off road. The bikes will be available to all 25 of the borough's Safer Neighbourhood Teams and will be particularly useful in catching those individuals riding mini motos, scooters and quad bikes illegally and acting in an anti-social manner.

New Gate for Park where Teenager Stabbed

Croydon Council is to install gates at the Shirley recreation ground where teenager Gavin Brown was stabbed to death. The Council has been working with residents to tackle problems with youths gathering in the area and Neighbourhood Watch member Dianna Fraser has been involved in the new plan to install gates at both ends of Oakview Grove to prevent public access and reduce the ongoing criminal damage and antisocial behaviour that has been occurring.

Letterbox Fishing

There has recently been a case where a pole was used to fish car keys and a watch from a table by the front door. The vehicle was then stolen.

This is a regular form of crime; please do not leave keys or valuables near to the front door, keys should always be kept in a drawer or out of sight.

Safer Croydon Partnership Update

Agencies working in partnership have made positive changes. These include:

- Increasing policing through the deployment of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams.
- Targeting prolific and priority offenders perpetrating multiple acts of domestic violence.
- Introducing the Witness Support Scheme.
- Delivering a range of fire prevention programmes in schools.
- Providing a series of security measures to small businesses.
- Increasing the availability of treatment programmes for drug users.
- Continuing to target the supply of Class A drugs and shutting down crack houses.
- Operating a Safer Taxi Marshal service in Croydon town centre.
- Launching a 'Think Safe, Drink Safe' campaign highlighting the issues of binge drinking, drink spiking and personal safety.
- Ensuring a significant number of children and young people who have been victims of crime and/or bullying are provided with advice, support and information including a programme of outreach work in schools.

No Cold Calling Zone

Croydon's first pilot No Cold Calling Zone was officially launched at Orchard Way Primary School on Wednesday 16 May 2007 by Councillor Steve O'Connell. The zone, which covers part of the Shirley Ward and takes in around 3,500 houses is believed to be the largest No Cold Calling Zone in the London area. The zone is in place for a trial period of six months.



In a joint initiative between Trading Standards, the Police and Neighbourhood Watch, the aim is to help eradicate the number of doorstep crimes which take place in the area, including those committed by problem traders who use cold calling as a way of charging exorbitant amounts of money for poor quality work and avoid any comeback by giving false contact details.

Often doorstep selling is linked to other criminal activity which includes distraction burglary where the householder is distracted by a caller while an

accomplice enters the home and robs them. This type of crime is often targeted at the elderly and most vulnerable members of society.

The zone is identified by high visibility signs on its periphery and residents are encouraged to report any traders ignoring the signs to the Trading Standards Service.

All households within the zone have now received a 'Residents Advice Pack' which includes a doorsticker advising that cold callers are not welcome, information leaflets on consumer rights, incident report forms for noting the details of a cold caller and other useful advice and information.

A No Cold Calling Zone is a way of handing the power back to a resident in their own home and giving them the confidence and knowledge to say no to uninvited salespeople and to warn potential rogue traders and cold callers that they are visiting an area where they are not welcome and that residents do not buy or contract at the door.

If you live in the Zone and are visited by a cold caller, please report the matter to Trading Standards on 020 8407 1311. Trading Standards and/or Shirley Safer Neighbourhood Team will respond to reported incidents immediately, wherever possible.

St. John Ambulance Fellowship



St. John Ambulance Fellowship Meetings are held in the Masonic Hall, Oakwood Road, West Croydon every 3rd Friday of the month from 12.15am until 2.30pm.

Light Lunches may be ordered.

We enjoy friendly, happy meetings for men and women who, at one time have been connected with the Brigade and have been interested in our work. We have interesting Speakers on all subjects. Visits can be arranged. We will offer you a very warm welcome.

For further information, please phone Joyce on [REDACTED].

Spring Park Bowling Club and Shirley Ladies Bowling Club



Why not come and enjoy a sport for all ages. We play at Shirley Church Recreation Ground. We are looking for new members and provide a chance to learn and participate in this skilful sport, in pleasant surroundings from now until the last week of September.

For further enquiries, call Eric Godfrey on [REDACTED] or Josie Howe on [REDACTED].

Calling Croydon Council

Service	Telephone No.	Further information
Housing	020 8726 6100	For all council tenancy issues, housing options and private sector housing enquiries.
Environmental Reporting	020 8726 6200	For reporting pests, dead animals, litter, dog mess, leaves, graffiti, noise, missed rubbish collection and fly-tipping. To arrange bulky waste collections and get information about trade waste and recycling.
Registration Services	020 8726 6300	To notify us of a change of address, arrange to register births, marriages and deaths. To find out about Croydon crematorium and cemeteries, arrange to attend a citizenship ceremony and get information about election matters.
Social Services for Adults	020 8726 6500	For information and assistance with homecare, residential care, drug and alcohol services, mental health, domestic violence, learning disabilities and physical disabilities.
Business Advice and Council Partners	020 8726 6600	For business advice (for rates contact Revenues and Benefits) and working in partnership with the Council.
Life in the Community	020 8726 6700	For consumer advice, health and safety, crime and disorder, antisocial behaviour and harassment issues.
Planning and Building Control	020 8726 6800	For advice and application information on planning and building control issues.
Leisure and Continuing Education	020 8726 6900	For information and assistance concerning libraries, parks, sports and leisure centres, leisure events, continuing education training services (CETS) and further education.
Streets and Transport	020 8726 7100	For reporting street lighting, street cleaning, road damage and safety, tree, abandoned vehicles and parking issues; and advice on supported travel services.

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 & Area Manager:	MICHAEL NASH	
Joint Archivist & Area Manager	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

Printed by Ptarmigan Press; 2-4 West Way Gardens, Shirley, Croydon.
CR0 8RA [Tel: 020 8654 4646]