Monks Orchard Residents' Association

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

Croydon

(Non Party)

(Independent)

NEWSLETTER - Summer 2010



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

Chairman's Comments

Those who attended the AGM will know that our Chairman, Bob Akers resigned for personal reasons after, I believe, some fifteen years as chairman. He has served the community with vigour and worked endlessly on your behalf to make Monks Orchard a place to live in with pride.

The Committee wishes him well for the future. If he feels able to rejoin the Committee or to contribute in other ways we would be delighted. I for my sins have been charged with the Chair in what I hope is a temporary position until someone with more spare time and ability can fill the seat.

However, the AGM was well attended with more attendees than for some years, probably due to the front page of the Spring Newsletter. I am happy to report that a number of residents have come forward and offered their assistance with the running of MORA. We will be welcoming them to the next Committee Meeting and we will be putting their contact details in the newsletter.

Subsequent to our invitations to our local Councillors and MP, the election was announced and consequently they were unable to answer any political questions at the AGM for fear of electioneering.

By the time you receive this newsletter the decisions regarding who is to govern the country will have been resolved. Whoever that is, we hope the country can move forward, improve business and somehow reduce the enormous debts we face.

We heard from certain politicians that our debt isn't as great as the USA. They have a greater population than the UK so I wonder what the debt is per capita. This isn't mentioned.

We look forward in hope to the Summer; we need to improve our well-being and hope all those who look forward to continental travel will not be inconvenienced by the volcano ash cloud.

Dave King - Chairman

Annual General Meeting 2010

Minutes of the 86th Annual General Meeting of the Monks Orchard Residents' Association held on Friday 23rd April in St. George's Church Hall.

Dave King opened the meeting by introducing himself and thanked everyone for attending. He explained that he was standing in as a pro-tem measure until a new Chairman was elected.

Dave King welcomed the Chairman and Secretary of Spring Park Residents' association, the Shirley and Ashburton Safer Neighbourhood Teams, the elected representatives for the Shirley Ward, Councillor Janet Marshall, Councillor Mike Fisher, Leader of the Council, and Councillor Richard Chatterjee, also the Ashburton Ward Councillor Eddy Arram and Councillor Avril Slipper. He also welcomed Councillor Steve O'Connell as our member of the Greater London assembly and



Dave King Chairman

Andrew Pelling, until the announcement of the forthcoming election, MP for Croydon Central.

As the AGM falls within the pre-election period attendees at this meeting were asked to refrain from expressing any political or party issues which could be construed as electioneering.

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Pam Barnes.

Minutes of the previous Meeting

The Minutes of the 2009 AGM were accepted as a correct record, and there were no matters arising.

The Future of MORA

The future of MORA has been under discussion for some time. Some of the committee members have recently resigned and others are finding the increased workload a source of stress. There are over 2,000 members of MORA and the association has improved its service to members over the last few years, especially on the planning front. Dave King emphasised the debt owed to Derek Ritson who has virtually single-handedly dealt with all planning matters. Appeals for

volunteers have, until recently, gone unheeded. Road Stewards, Area Managers and Committee members are all needed.

We now have new members on the Committee, Mary Evans, acting as minute taker/Secretary and Ian Fraser to help with Planning issues. Ian explained to the audience why he felt it important to help out, and that it was vital that MORA remained as an active part of the community. Further assistance is still urgently needed. Dave King sought volunteers from the floor and asked them to leave contact details before leaving.

Several members volunteered to assist.

Dave King placed on record the thanks of the Association to Bob Akers, who had recently resigned as Chairman for personal reasons. John Parry has also resigned as have Nicki Smith and Ray Hambling. Nicki has since returned as a committee member.

Election of Officers

Dave King was elected as Chairman, Mary Evans as Secretary, Ian Fraser as Planning, and the remaining Committee members were re-elected unopposed. There are still vacancies for Green Spaces, Transport & Highways and Neighbourhood Partnership Officers.

Chairman's Report

We are pleased to see the council tax increase is at a record low this year and look forward to this continuing

MORA had opposed the building of a care home on designated Metropolitan Open Land. The land has now been sold at auction and we will be carefully monitoring any proposed developments.

We would like to place on record our recognition of the vital role played by road stewards and area managers. They not only deliver 2,000 newsletters every quarter, they are the eyes and ears of the association and are the first point of contact for many residents. We urgently need more helpers, and any volunteers should contact Diane McInerney. [Details on back page].

We will continue to watch developments regarding the A & E Unit at Mayday Hospital. There are rumours that this is to close, which will require patients to be taken to St George's Hospital in Tooting, although

the Secretary of State for Health has stated there are no plans to do so.

Following the escape from custody of a patient convicted of murder from Bethlam Hospital we are informed that electronic tags will be fitted to



Terry Greenwood Treasurer

patients allowed out of the hospital, enabling police to pick them up more quickly. We will wait to see how effective these are.

Treasurer's Report

Terry Greenwood introduced himself as being responsible for both accounts and advertising. Total income for 2009 was £5199; total expenses were £5644, showing a deficit of £445. This was due to late paying of some advertisers, and has now been cleared. The net assets carried forward were £11042.

No donations were made in 2009 to the Christmas Lights, instead it was decided to concentrate on the

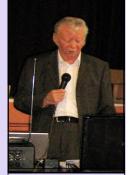
young, with donations of £100 each to local Brownies and the Addiscombe Little League footballers.

Planning Report

Derek Ritson introduced himself and explained that he has been involved in planning issues for about five years. Objections must be based on planning law, as published in the Croydon Unitary Development Plan and the GLA London Plan.

He then gave specific details of matters dealt with over the last year.

Land at Glade Gardens. Although this application was originally refused by Croydon Planning department the developer has appealed to the Planning Inspectorate and the appeal was allowed.



Derek Ritson Editor/Planning

79 Gladeside. Permission had been given for a pair of semi detached houses to be built on this site. The builder than installed a roof which did not reflect the approved design. When this was raised with the planners we were told that amended plans had been submitted and approved. A complaint was made to the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO), that this was a significant change and should have been subject to further consultation. The LGO agreed, has written to the Council to this effect and advised the Council Planners to follow their own Standards of Service and Application Procedures.

<u>73-75 Orchard Way:</u> An application to build a 2 storey block of flats on this site was initially refused by Croydon Planners, however the developer appealed to the Planning Inspectorate, who approved the application due to the precedent set by the previous agreement to erect a similar block of flats (Chaseley Green Court) in Orchard Way.

<u>59 Greenview Avenue</u>: An application was made to build a 40 bed care home on this site. MORA sent an objection to this proposal and the application was refused, but an appeal has been made.

<u>151 The Glade:</u> There have been 3 previous applications for this site, all of which have been refused. A fourth application has been made for the building of 3 terraced houses. There have been a number of objections to this and it will go to the full Planning Committee.

<u>26-28 Tower View:</u> There have been 2 previous applications for this site, both have been refused. A third application for a chalet bungalow is being considered. MORA has submitted an objection. [Ed:this application has since been refused].

80 The Alders: Spring Park, West Wickham and Eden Park Residents Association sought support in fighting a proposed development at this site, which is mainly a wooded area, part of the Green Corridor with the river Beck flowing through it. The application was for 8 houses with access drive and a bridge over the river. MORA objected to both Bromley and Croydon Planning Authorities The application was refused.



Derek completed his presentation by stating that without MORA there would be no check on developers and inappropriate re-development.

Full details of the planning objections since the last AGM was available in a folder for members to examine, giving a

better view of the depth of detail necessary and the level of work involved in preparing these objections.

Security Report:

Jean Cook introduced the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, adding that the Shirley Team had won the George Hammond Award as the highest achieving team in Croydon.

Ashburton Team apologised for the absence of Sergeant Paul Harrison,

who had other commitments. The team was represented by Ryan Mills, a local PCSO. He defined the team's priorities as follows:

Anti Social Behaviour by youths. Several of the youths involved have been referred for Acceptable Behaviour Agreements, and the SNT are working with Croydon Council to use a range of tactics to bring behaviour under control, up to eviction of the families if there is no improvement.

Burglary In July 2009 a Prolific Offender was arrested by the SNT. Prior to



Jean Cook Police Liaison



PCSO Ryan Mills

Christmas there was a dramatic increase in burglaries, and the ward was supplied with additional resources. A number of offenders were arrested and the number of burglaries reported has dropped markedly.

Motor Vehicle Crime There has been an increase in this type of crime and it has now been set as a priority.

<u>Knife Crime</u> The team has carried out weapon sweeps where knives have been hidden or discarded. The team are also promoting a talk by Murder Squad

Officers at Oasis Shirley Park.

The Night Stalker was arrested earlier this year after a 17 year campaign.

<u>Street by Street</u> The SNT are concentrating on meeting every household, giving residents the opportunity to raise concerns and also to provide intelligence.

<u>Proactivity</u> Various class A and B drugs were seized, and possession orders applied for to help eliminate problem addresses.

<u>Shirley Team:</u> PCSO Luke Terry apologised for the absence of Sergeant Simon Packham. PCSO Luke represented his report and indicated that the team had worked with Croydon Council to provide Fun in the Sun last summer in Shrublands, 40 children took part in sports every Tuesday for 6 weeks. During this period crime and anti social behaviour was lower. It is hoped that the same arrangements will be in place again this year.

The team had visited lunch clubs and the drop in centre in Shrublands to

offer security advice and support.

A drugs raid had been made in Orchard Avenue, resulting in 4 arrests and the seizure of 300 cannabis plants.

The team had a busy Halloween, with over 50 stops, mostly on the Lawden estate.

A new schools officer is based at Edenham School, to improve communication and intelligence flows.

The team are working with the Council to reduce dog fouling at Parkfields, with additional signage and extra patrols.



PCSO Luke Terry

Off road bikes. 2 offenders have been fined and the bikes seized.

Officers are being trained in enforcement of speed watch. It is anticipated that this will be in place by the end of May.

Business Watch. Local businesses may be supplied with radios linked to the police system. There is, however, a cost of £300 per business and take up has been slow.

The team has had a car donated to use in their work

Social Activities:

Chris Ross Smith gave a brief presentation on the social activities available to members.

A supper club meets once a month at differing restaurants. A trip to the Houses of Parliament was arranged by Andrew Pelling. Various coach trips are being arranged to a range of different destinations, including Worthing, Tiptree and Malden, and Saffren Walden. Later in the year it is hoped to arrange trips to Dorset and the Christmas Festival at Rochester. Anyone interested should contact Christine Ross Smith on

Question and Answer Session:

Dave King reminded members that all points must be non political.

Andrew Pelling: felt that it would be a shame to lose MORA and urged members to support the work carried out. The AGM was very well attended and very professionally arranged. The Association had far more influence than any number of individuals.



Andrew Pelling

There were no questions for Mr Pelling

<u>Steve O'Connell</u> apologised for his late arrival, but was pleased to be present. He is easily contactable should any member wish to

discuss any issues with him. There were no questions for Mr O'Connell.



Cllr. Steve O'Connell

Mike Fisher felt that all the local councillors were helped by MORA. The new Local Development Framework divides Croydon into 16 areas, one of which covers Shirley. This may affect the way planning applications are dealt with. The councillors appreciated the detailed objections prepared by Derek Ritson.



CIIr. Mike Fisher

On the issue of council tax he pointed out that if

Croydon received the same central government grant as Lambeth, residents would pay no tax. The council had taken a cross party approach and hoped to maintain the same low rate of increase.

There was a question concerning speeding in Orchard Avenue. Traffic calming appears to have no effect and the situation is getting worse. A resident of Mere End also complained about the dangerous parking of lorries in this road. Mike Fisher will take these issues away to look into.

There was also a question regarding the Planning Inspectorate and the way local objections can be

overridden. Mike Fisher replied that the Secretary of State was considering amendments to planning procedures which would take power away from the Inspectorate.

Closing Remarks:

Dave King thanked all those present for attending and for making it such a lively meeting. He was pleased to see all the new people and hoped they had found it worthwhile attending and an enjoyable experience.

Land at Poppy Lane

The Site in Poppy Lane was put up for auction recently and was purchased by a new owner. The site is designated Metropolitan Open Land [MOL] and is not available for development. The site is subject to two tree preservation orders, one an individual order served in 1998 which protects one mature horse chestnut, one mature oak and three mature silver birch trees and the other an area order over the entire site served in 2000.



Cllr. Janet Marshall, Mike Huish and Cllr. Mike Fisher attend the site.



With regard to the work currently being undertaken on the site, the owner, Mr Hyatt has met with Planning, Regeneration & Conservation Tree and Enforcement Section of the Council and it was agreed that the site could be cleared of all brambles and regeneration and of any trees that were not growing at the time the area order was served. After a visit to the site earlier this week by the Council Officers it was confirmed

that the works carried out so far were in accordance with the agreement of the officers and that the work being carried out was lawful. It has been agreed that the site will be re-inspected on the 10th May 2010 and, if

required, further works discussed.

However, MORA are concerned that the owner of the land is ignoring the fact that the site is designated MOL and has cleared the site for a specific reason i.e. for development of the land. We believe the Planning, Regeneration & Conservation Tree and Enforcement Section of the Council were naive in believing the owner is clearing the site



Entrance to the site after clearance

for conservation reasons. We are also concerned that there may be other reasons for the site being cleared prior to a Bank Holiday weekend when council officers are not contactable – and we leave you to consider what this may be.

Guiding in Shirley

Here in Shirley Guiding is going strong. We have a total of 14 units comprised of three Rainbow Units, seven Brownie Packs and four Guide Units. We offer girls aged 5 – 18 a relevant and structured programme alongside exciting indoor and outdoor activities. For the older girls, there are fantastic opportunities for international travel – we have a group of guides and leaders going to South Africa this year. Another leader is taking part in the Tall Ships Challenge.

A number of our units are full which means we have waiting lists, but our aim is to be able to offer all girls who want to be members the opportunity to join a unit when the time is right for them. If we had more adult leaders we could open new units and strengthen teams in existing units. What would you like to get out of your life and, perhaps more importantly, what might you be prepared to put in? Have you thought of giving something back to your local area and also improve your skills, enable you to have fun with like minded people, to work alongside girls of different ages, discovering your talents and getting the opportunity to make a real difference to someone's life?

Girlguiding welcomes female adults aged between 18-65 from all nationalities who would like to explore the possibility of becoming a leader. What better way for communities to provide good and positive role models for their girls. We provide all the necessary training, mentoring and support to enable leaders to play a full part within their chosen unit.

With paid jobs becoming more keenly sought after it can definitely help, when you are completing a CV, to be able to say that you volunteer with Girlguiding. By highlighting volunteering in your CV a future employer can learn a great deal about you – they will know that you are someone who has a sense of community spirit, is reliable, a team-player, has good time-management skills and a person who will have many other valued skills to bring to the workplace.

If you are up for a new challenge and to find out more about	ut what it
is like to be a Guider please contact me on	or Jane
Marcroft on	
Kate Marsden - Brownie Guider at Shirley Methodist	

The Mayor of Croydon Councillor Avril Slipper

We in MORA would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Councillor, Avril Slipper, on being elected The Mayor of Croydon for 2010-2011. The Mayor is elected by all Croydon Councillors during May and serves for a full year. To be nominated and elected by councillors on both sides of the political divide proves Avril has the respect and support of the whole Council. Avril was the first woman to be elected President of Croydon Chamber of Commerce and Industry and in 1989 she was made a Freeman of the City of London. Avril has lived in Shirley for over 40 years and is married with two children and three granddaughters. She has represented Ashburton Ward as a councillor since 1990 and served as Deputy Mayor to Pat Hecks during the mayoral term in 1993. Avril has provided MORA with regular advice and support, which we all greatly appreciate.

Each year the Mayor uses their term in office to raise funds for charitable causes. In 2010/11 Avril will be supporting both a well-established local body and a fairly new national charity.

The first being, CROYDON OPPORTUNITY PRE-SCHOOL GROUP. Based at the Oasis Academy Children's Centre in Malling Close, Croydon, this invaluable group offers day care sessions for any child with special needs from three months old, as well as catering for mainstream children from the age of two. The children are looked after by a team of highly qualified and experienced staff.

The second charity is HELP FOR HEROES. Launched only in 2007, Help for Heroes is a new charity that aims to provide additional support to servicemen and women injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. Its initial focus is to raise funds that help provide the rehabilitation facilities so important in enabling the injured servicemen and women to rebuild their lives. Supporting the charity offers an opportunity for people to demonstrate in practical ways their appreciation and support for members of the armed forces at a time when there is a sadly increasing need to support casualties from current operations.

The Mayor does not take any active political part in the council's affairs other than chairing full council meetings. The Mayor receives members of the Royal Family and other dignitaries and VIP's on formal visits to official engagements in the borough. During the term in office the Mayor will attend many hundreds of events within the borough, London

and other parts of the country. Each September the Mayor attends the Service of Remembrance in Arnhem, Croydon's twin town. This means that Avril will not be able devote much time to MORA's problems during the coming year, but we wish her well for her Mayoral year.

Congratulations and best wishes from MORA Executive Committee and Members of the Association.

The Mayor's Charity Events:

The Charity events arranged to date are a Charity Golf Day at The Addington Golf Course on July 9th. Coffee mornings with the proceeds going to the Mayor's Charities will be held at 20 Millview Gardens, Shirley on the third Tuesday of every month from 10.30 - 12 noon with the exception of September and December. Contributions to the bring and buy sales table and a raffle will be most gratefully received. A Summer Luncheon (sandwiches and a dessert) will be held in aid of The Mayor's Charities on Thursday July 15th from 12.30 - 2.30 pm at 20 Millview Gardens, Shirley. In December the date will change to 14th for a Christmas Celebration. Details of these and future events can be obtained by telephoning the Mayor's Office tel: 020 8760 5764 or Email: Cheques should be made payable to 'The Mayor's Charity Appeal' (Registered Charity no. 1042479) and sent to: The Mayor's Parlour; Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR9 1XW Tel: 020 8760 5764. e-mail: the.mayor@croydon.gov.uk.



Bob Akers

As you will be aware, Bob Akers, our Chairman, resigned in March of this year due to sudden changes in his personal circumstances. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Bob for his dedication and support to MORA over the last fifteen years, first as Secretary and then as Chairman of the Association. He has helped and given his support to many a fight for the community over the years and has made many interesting contributions to the Newsletter. We all wish Bob, his wife Marjorie and his family all the very best for the future.

Derek Ritson - Editor/Website

On behalf of the Executive Committee and all our Members.

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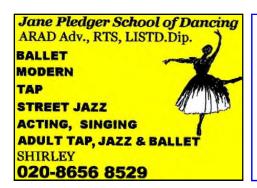


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Planning Report

(See the AGM report for planning up to the 23rd April)

New Applications:

Ref: 10/01195/P Full planning permission

Bywood Cottage, 2A Bywood

Avenue

Demolition of the existing building; erection of 2 two storey four bedroom semi detached houses with accommodation in roofspace; formation of vehicular accesses.

Consultation Closed: 23/05/2010



Decisions:

10/00641/P Full planning permission

26-28 Tower View

Erection of a detached two bedroom chalet bungalow at rear; formation of vehicular access onto Edgewood Green and provision of associated parking.

MORA Objection Letter sent 29th March 2010.

Permission Refused: 23/04/2010 Delegate Committee.

10/00630/P Full planning permission

2 Round Grove

Demolition of outbuilding at rear; erection of single storey two bedroom house at rear with lower ground floor level; formation of vehicular access.

MORA Objection sent to LPA on16/04/2010.

Permission Refused - Delegate Meeting of 12/05/10

10/00374/P Full planning permission 151 The Glade.

Demolition of the existing building; erection of a terrace of 3 two storey three bedroom houses with accommodation in roofspace; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking, cycle and refuse storage.

Permission Refused at Full Committee on 27/05/2010

Ref: 10/01117/P Full planning permission

2 Greenview Avenue.

Erection of two storey three bedroom detached house at side with accommodation in roof; formation of vehicular access.

Consultation Close: 23/05/2010

MORA Objected on 20/05/10

Permission Refused: 04/06/2010 Delegate Committee.

Ongoing:

10/00788/P Full planning permission

102, 104A and 104B The Glade

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

Ongoing Appeals:

Ref: 09/03647/P Registration Date: 24/12/2009

59 Greenview Avenue, Croydon, CR0 7QW

Demolition of existing building; erection of two/three storey building with accommodation in roof-space comprising a 40 bedroom care home for the elderly with associated communal, landscaping; alterations to vehicular access and provision of associated parking area

MORA Objection sent 25th Jan 2010 Permission Refused 15/03/2010

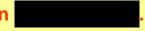
Appeal lodged 31/03/201 No date yet for appeal decision.



Area Managers and Road Stewards

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

Diane McInerney on



PARENTS, CARERS OR GRANDPARENTS

DEAR MORA member - are you a parent/carer or grandparent caring for children on a regular basis? I would like to share with you a recent event that occurred within my own family inspiring me to write this piece in hope that it may be of help should you are ever faced with the same awful experience that we have been through as a family.

On the 4th of November 2009 the Greenwood family welcomed a very healthy baby boy Max into our lives. We instantly all fell in love with him.

When my grandson Max was just over five weeks our life took a dramatic turn for the worse when a simple shopping trip turned into every family's worst nightmare. Max suddenly distressed whilst became travelling in the car and stopped breathing. The events that followed all happened so quickly my son suddenly found himself giving his child life saving CPR. Fortunately he had



Baby Max Greenwood

previously done some first aid training, without doubt this knowledge and his quick thinking had saved Max's life. They were rushed to Mayday Hospital, Croydon and were told to expect the worst as they did not know what was wrong with Max and whether they could treat him.

Max was then transferred to the **Evelina Paediatric Intensive Care Unit**, part of Guys and St Thomas' hospital. Max endured endless tests and blood transfusions. He was attended to by many different medical professionals and was by all accounts a little mystery. After eight long days finally, on Christmas day Max was breathing by himself and soon recovered enough to be transferred to our local hospital.

Max had suffered a Pulmonary Haemorrhage, and without a doubt without this intensive care and daddy's quick thinking he would not be with us today. But now he is a bonny, happy chappy and, considering his ongoing treatment and everything he went through, he is doing so well! When you have a child or care for a child we only concern ourselves with the practicalities. My question to you is how confident would you feel having to give your child/ grandchild a life saving procedure? My wife and

I are soon to have the pleasure of looking after Max when his mum returns to work. My wife has enrolled on a first aid course as we have learned you never know when you might need these life saving skills. Courses as we have found do not have to cost money; we have managed to secure a place on a St Johns Paediatric course at our local Sure Start centre. I cannot stress enough how vital it is to have some knowledge of first aid when caring for any age child. We feel very blessed that we still have our precious grandson and just wanted to share our experience with you in the hope that this would inspire you and your family members to gain some knowledge of children's first aid.

Useful links to first aid courses: surestart.gov.uk for your local Surestart centre www.sja.org.uk St Johns www.calat.ac.uk Croydon adult learning

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Sue, David and family, Mayday A&E, St Thomas' PICU, Farnborough, Portland Medical Centre, all our lovely family and friends, and of course, last but by no means least, to our son David, our hero. Thanks for reading Terry Greenwood (MORA Treasurer)

P.S to show her huge thanks to the Evelina PICU, our daughter in law will tandem skydive from 12,000 ft, at Headcorn, Kent, on Friday, 23rd

July. Money raised will go towards simple pleasures for these very sick children such as mobiles for cots, toys and games to keep them occupied. If you would like to make a donation you can do this by calling me direct, Terry Greenwood on

or at my address at (if you put it through the letter box please put your name and address/post code for sponsorship form) or online at:

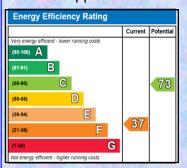
Tandem Skydiving. Photo by "Air Affair"

www.justgiving.com/Tracey-greenwood

Thanks for your support. - Terry.

Home Information Packs - Update

Home Information Packs (HIP's) have featured a number of times previously in this newsletter to inform house owners of the complicated bureaucracy awaiting them when they decide to sell their property. At last, a reasoning sensible prevailed and the incomina Communities Secretary Eric Pickles and Housing Minister Grant Shapps have announced





that. with immediate effect. Information Packs (HIPs) are suspended. This is a very welcome development and this decision will help the fragile housing However, Mr Pickles and Mr market. Shapps also confirmed that in order to help people reduce their energy bills and tackle climate change, sellers will still be required Energy Performance produce an Certificate (EPC) when they sell their

Recent information shows a sudden increase in house sales which is confirmation that the HIP's were a significant discouragement to vendors and the market.

The end to House Building Targets

In another recent welcomed development, Communities Secretary Eric Pickles and Housing Minister Grant Shapps Have promised to use



legislation to scrap top-down building targets introduced by the previous government, that are eating up the Green Belt and MOL. Mr Pickles has told councils they now have the freedom to regard the commitment to end regional plans and housing targets as a material planning consideration in any decisions they are currently making. This will help us fight any

future application for the development on the Poppy Lane site so this is very welcome news.

Bob's Farewell Message

I was disappointed not to be able to attend the 2010 Annual General Meeting, to say my farewell and thank members for their loyal support before formally handing over to Dave King, the Chairman designate. It has been an honour and a privilege to act as your Chairman for thirteen years but with regret I reached the decision that in the interest of the membership, the time had arrived when a younger and more vibrant person is needed to lead the local community. My original reason for becoming involved with MORA was that my neighbours helped the association in a variety of ways. For years I had been a non-active member and having made use of the services provided by the association I thought the time had come for me to make a contribution to the work undertaken on behalf of the local community.

Not wanting to become heavily involved I volunteered to act as Minutes Secretary and my offer was readily accepted and I was invited to attend the next monthly meeting of the Executive Committee. On arrival I was formally introduced to a lively, friendly working group and set about the task of compiling a written record of the proceedings and was able to gain an understanding of the work of the association. I learnt that the Executive Committee had successfully lead a long and momentous campaign to prevent the erection of a supermarket in Orchard Avenue and more recently had been divided by a proposal to establish a nature study centre in the bird sanctuary adjoining the ancient woods in Long Lane which had proved an emotional and sensitive issue that culminated in the resignation of the Dave Phillips the Chairman and Maurice Swift, the long standing and highly respected Secretary.

Dave Walker was co-opted as Chairman and it was assumed that I should take over the duties of Secretary. Within a few months Dave Walker stood down because of relocation to another part of the country. Members of the Executive Committee indicated that they were willing to continue to donate their time and energy for the benefit of the association but no one wanted to occupy the vacant post of chair, so it is true to say I became Chairman because no one wanted the job. Being aware of the respected local residents that had held the position in the past, such as Ken Brown, I was proud to accept the nomination and the support of the Executive Committee but had no idea how the work involved would occupy much of my life.

To ensure that the association was included in the decision making machinery affecting Monks Orchard I represented MORA at various meetings with officials of the council and took part in a number of consultation exercises, one of which was setting up of the first Primary Care Trust. On four Saturdays during the year I joined the production team in the production of the newsletter. A more arduous and unpleasant duty was to join the team of MORA volunteers that worked on the rubbish collections that took place on Sundays.

There were early disappointments in my term of office; the electoral ward of Monks Orchard was divided almost in half by the Local Government Commission review of the Electoral Arrangements for Croydon. Ignoring protestations made by MORA the proposal went ahead and severed the link between wards and natural communities. A further disappointment was the resignation of Owen Whalley Honorary Planning Officer who is a professional planner and contributed vital knowledge and experience to the work of the association over many years. No responses were received to appeals for a person to take over this important and rewarding work. As a consequence I reluctantly found myself studying the Croydon Unitary Development Plan and submitting objections to inappropriate planning applications.

There were critical issues that needed to be campaigned against because of their impact on the whole community. To name a few, expansion of the Secure Unit at Bethlem Royal Hospital, threats to develop metropolitan open land, use of luxury housing for social purposes, inappropriately sited telecommunication masts, use of back garden land for housing, establishment of hot food takeaways in residential areas.

I thank all past and present members of the Executive Committee for their loyal support. I thank the local Councillors, and Croydon Central M.P's Geraint Davies and Andrew Pelling for their support on critical issues. A special thank you to Derek Ritson who undertakes a major share of the burden of work of running the association and for his friendship and advice over many years and I thank my wife Marjorie who for fifteen years had to share her husband with MORA. I leave the local association of residents in capable hands and wish it continuing success in representing the wishes of the local community.

Bob Akers

Events at Shirley Library

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

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

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

Coach Trip to Saffron Walden / Clavering / Braintree Thursday, 19 August 2010

Visit to Saffron Walden with time to explore this market town and for coffee and then on to

Lunch at Jamie Oliver's parents' pub / restaurant.

After lunch, we will make our way to Braintree Outlet Centre for some retail therapy.

Coach will pick us up outside the Co-Op in Wickham Road. £35.00 per person Few seats remaining

If you would like to join this trip or future trips please contact Christine Ross-Smith on

Corrections - Spring 2010:

Please excuse typos and proofreading errors.

Page 14 First para extra "the"

Page 11 We used the word Abscondment - the official term is Absconsion [not in the dictionary] but we considered that that word would cause confusion.

Page 15 86 Years, not 84 years.

River House Medium Secure Unit Bethlem Royal Hospital

After the embarrassing absconsion of the murderer, Patricia Gillet, from her minders whilst on a shopping day out in West Wickham High Street, at around 3pm on Friday 13th November 2009 and her ability to travel away from the area and to remain on the run for two days, mentally ill patients will in future be electronically tagged so they are traceable if they abscond. The system has been brought in at Bethlem Royal Hospital, after a high number of high profile £33.5Million escapes since the new Taxpaver funded River House. Medium Secure Unit was opened in February 2008.



Officials from South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the hospital, unveiled the Buddi (corr) tracking system at a Bromley Council meeting. They had been called there to answer questions about how patients from the River House Medium Secure Unit have been able to abscond when on leave from the building. One such absconsion, only a month after the MSU had been opened, was the case of Terrence



Patient Accommodation with En-Suit facilities at the MSU

O'Keefe, 39, a rapist who escaped from the trust's care in March 2008 and later strangled David Kemp, 73,.in Great Yarmouth. Norfolk. O'Keefe was jailed for life after being recaptured convicted of the murder.

Speaking at the meeting, the trust's chief executive Stuart Bell admitted it was impossible to stop patients from absconding. [Ed; It is supposed to be a Secure Unit !1. He said: "I would like to

reassure you that the concerns of the community are something that we take very seriously ... Whilst one can never entirely eliminate the chance of patients absconding, what we can do is assess the risk of them absconding very thoroughly."

The trust said that such measures were necessary to protect the public. The device was developed by Sara Murray, the founder of confused.com after a series of high-profile incidents where patients absconded, fled abroad or committed violent crimes. But mental health charities said that the secure cuffs, which can be forcibly removed only by using industrial bolt cutters, resembled 'virtual leg irons" and could violate the rights of vulnerable patients.

It has emerged that since the unit was opened in 2008, **26** incidents of patients absconding has been recorded including one male patient who managed to escape to Canada before he was eventually found. It has not been made known how long he was free and how he was located.



Full Facility Gym & Exercise Equipment at River House MSU

The tagging system will cost the NHS [Taxpayers] about £600 for each patient including £250 for the ankle bracelet containing a mobile phone chip and GPS locator. Last month [May] it was used successfully to track a male patient who had travelled eight miles on foot from the MSU and

Healing Courtyard within the River House MSU complex

was apprehended within three hours near Biggin Hill airport.

It is understood that if a patient wearing one of these devices leaves a defined area, strays close to a school or otherwise breaks their curfew, police can be automatically sent an alert with their estimated location, within 50metres, along with personal details and a mug shot. Police can then be directed to the tracker within a target response time of 12

minutes. Residents in Monks Orchard, Shirley and West Wickham can feel a little safer in the knowledge that their safety and security is at last being considered a priority. Ed: One wonders why patients would want to abscond from all the wonderful facilities provided at taxpayers expense at the River House MSU.

Information compiled from the proceedings of the Bromley Council Meeting, the News Shopper and The Times of Saturday 5th June 2010.

Monks Orchard Primary School Expansion Program

Representatives from MORA attended the Monks Orchard Primary School Meeting on the evening of 26th May in relation to the proposed school expansion program. It was a very lively meeting which showed that local residents are very angry at the prospect of the school expansion to accommodate a calculated higher birth rate reaching school age. the increased requirement from occupants from local housing developments, increased immigration, and a wider catchment area.

Local residents were concerned about disruption to schooling during building works, heavy goods vehicles using the unadopted roads to the South boundary and back entrance of the school - including Fairford Avenue, Fairford Close and part of Ash Tree Way. Any structural



damage to these roads surfaces and drainage pipe work etc could be extremely expensive to re-instate and would be an expense to be found by residents in those un-adopted roads. It also seems quite strange to expand the site when, according to the Environmental Agency, it is in the middle of a Flood Plain.

Also, great concern was felt regarding the increase in parking problems in The Glade and surrounding Roads when dropping-off and picking-up school children in mornings and afternoons etc. It is a significant problem now and would be much worse with an increase in school places.

It is understood that the fabric of the school requires refurbishment or replacement and the expansion program would allow a fundamental reappraisal of its structural requirements allowing more covered routes between classrooms and toilets—currently children have to face the elements to visit the toilets. It seems that the expansion program will allow some of the existing building problems to be rectified.

MORA has requested a separate meeting with the school Headteacher and possibly the School Governors to make sure residents concerns are completely understood and fully addressed. We will provide an update in the Autumn newsletter or by leaflet to local residents.

CROYDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The orchestra's next concert is a programme of Summer Classics to be performed at Trinity School. The programme includes Rossini's sparkling overture to Tancredi, Elgar's soporific Serenade for Strings, Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto performed by young violinist Susie Chen, and concludes with Beethoven's bucolic Pastoral Symphony.

Listings information for free listings or "What's On" guides:

Croydon Symphony Orchestra
"Summer Classics"
Saturday 19th June 2010, 7.30pm
Trinity School Hall
Conductor, Darrell Davison
Solo Violin, Susie Chen
Tancredi Overture – Rossini

Serenade for Strings-Elgar Violin Concerto -Mendelssohn

Symphony No 6 (Pastoral)- Beethoven Tickets on door£10/£5 (Child under 16)

Available from Linda Penn (Ticket Secretary)

For further information and details of future performances check www.croydonsymphonyorch.org.uk

Summer Activities for Children and Young People in Croydon Libraries

Croydon Libraries have something for everyone this summer holiday.

From Monday 26th July until Saturday 4th September. Reading Schemes:

Book Crawl and under fives mornings for babies and toddlers. **Book Trail** for children of all ages.

Teen Summer Reads, Teen Writing Competition and Teen Writing Workshops for young people aged 10+.

Visit your local Croydon library, look on our website www.croydon.gov.uk or ring for more details.

Councils to get help to stop 'gardengrabbing'

Croydon and Monks Orchard have suffered significantly from "Garden Grabbing" by developers over the recent past. It has been a losing battle

to prevent our once pleasant leafy location from the grip of insensitive developers, building in back gardens and knocking down established bungalows and houses to erect unsightly high density blocks of flats or three storey terraced houses.

Well, although what has been done can't be undone, future inappropriate developments could be prevented as Councils in England are to get greater



114 Orchard Way before demolition

powers to stop developers building homes on gardens. Communities minister Greg Clark is to pledge to re-classify gardens, currently in the "brownfield" planning category used for ex-factory and railway land. He



will say it is "ridiculous" our vital green space is being lost to so-called garden-grabbing. There is increasing concern among campaigners about homes being built on land attached to existing urban or houses, suburban which increases population density. For years the wishes of local people have been ignored as the character

neighbourhood and gardens has been destroyed, robbing our community of vital green space.

The Minister for Communities – Mr Clark argues that taking Gardens out of the "Brownfield" Category will allow Councils' greater ability to reject unwanted developments where local people and residents associations object. It is ridiculous that gardens have until now been classified in the

same group as derelict factories and disused railway sidings, forcing councils and communities to sit by and watch their neighbourhoods get swallowed up in a concrete jungle.

Dr Simon Thornton Wood, Director of Science and Learning at the Royal Horticultural Society, said gardens had medical as well as environmental



benefits. "Gardens, like parks, are the green lungs of cities, improving air quality, controlling air temperature and flood risk, and providing a haven for wildlife. "Beyond these very practical benefits of gardens we know that gardening is great for physical and mental health.

Tributes to Ashburton Councillor

MORA sends our condolences to the family and friends of Councillor Lindsay Frost, 54, who died on Good Friday after suffering head injuries when he fell down the stairs of his home in Addiscombe. A packed memorial service held at Croydon Parish Church was attended by around 250 family, friends and Council colleagues.

Gavin Barwell MP told the congregation both he and Cllr. Frost had reached the last four in the selection process for Croydon Central. When Lindsay was unsuccessful, Mr Barwell said, Cllr. Frost could have simply walked away. "Instead he devoted the last 21 months of his life to trying to



Lindsay Frost 1956-2010

get me elected," he added. That devotion led to the Conservative Party awarding Croydon Central the prize for the campaign of the year in 2009. Cllr Frost attended MORA AGM's and supported MORA on Ashburton Ward Planning issues.

He leaves a wife, Kerri Ann, and two young children, Holly 12 and Dominic, 3. His death came just a month before the general election, which saw Mr Barwell elected following a campaign which Cllr. Frost spearheaded.

MORA COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2010-2011

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

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MONKS ORCHARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name:	Signature:	
Address:		
	Post Code:	

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

DIANE MCINERNEY

Thank you for supporting MORA.

Please pass on to a non-member.

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