

MORA

Monks Orchard Residents' Association

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

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2014

(Non Party)

Croydon

(Independent)



The Monks Orchard Residents' Association was founded in 1923,
and represents approximately 2,000 residents.

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CONTRIBUTING TO MORA

To help keep MORA interesting and current we really need your help to fill it with local news and events. It's our magazine for our area, so please don't be shy; send us some information about a performance, workshop, sports contest, bowls clubs, sale or fayre, an article about something that interests you, or if you go to a Zumba class in the neighbourhood, or a parent and toddler group tell us all about it.

EDITORIAL

We welcome articles and contributions from all MORA members. Please send all material via email to monksorchardweb@btinternet.com or via post to MORA C/O [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Please ensure we receive all articles for the Autumn 2014 issue by June 30th 2014.

ADVERTISEMENTS

To advertise in the MORA Magazine please contact our Advertising Manager, Barbara Turner at [REDACTED]. Please confirm which size advertisement you would like to book and if you will be

needing your advertisement designed. Each advertisement is placed for four issues and is seen by 2,000 residents.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

MORA are considering inserting a local activities page in the next magazine. If any members could let us know of local activities in the MORA area we will try and include them in the next issue. Anything from indoor Bowls, short mat bowls, Zumba, Mother and Toddler groups etc. Please ensure we receive all suggestions by June 30th 2014 for activities after mid-September 2014.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS



The AGM has passed and it turned out to be quite a lively evening. Unfortunately we were slightly down on numbers this year only

51 members attending. I believe this was due to the fact there were some late deliveries of the Spring Newsletters. Your committee will contact the Area Managers to impress on their Road Stewards, who deliver the newsletter, not to delay the deliveries to members as there are normally date sensitive notifications in the newsletter. I can only apologise for this misdemeanour and hope more member will be attending the next AGM.

Those of you who read the spring 2014 newsletter (hopefully all of you) will notice the suggested rule changes on page 18. These changes came about due to the fact that as MORA is non-political it would not be correct for any individual member of the committee to be also a councillor of any particular party regardless of persuasion.

A vote was held at the AGM on these proposed changes and the proposals were overwhelmingly voted for. One member was unhappy that there was no opportunity to debate the proposed changes but there were no other complaints. The voting was in accordance with Rule 12 of the association.

Elsewhere in this newsletter will be the great news that the Council have refused the siting of steel storage containers on the site in Poppy Lane which is denoted as Metropolitan Open Land and long may it continue to be so.

Whilst on this subject of illegalities it is understood that there may be some illegal encampments encroaching back into Monks Orchard. If any are seen, to get them removed phone 020 8726 6200 and report to the authorities.

You will note that our planning officer Ian has stood down from the committee and we were concerned we would have problems in filling the post, not so, up steps Omer to fill the bill and we are extremely grateful he has offered his services. There will of course be a learning curve but I know that with assistance from Derek he will soon get to grips with the job. We wish him all success.

Those of you who were at the AGM will have seen the photographs of the gradual destruction of the grass verges in Orchard Avenue. This destruction has been caused by thoughtless drivers parking up on the verges particularly following a rainy period such as we had earlier in the year. Croydon council do not have the facilities to keep repairing these verges therefore it is incumbent on us to maintain our little bit of Monks Orchard. Keep on destroying these verges and they will eventually be concreted over. Perhaps this is the way forward.

DAVE KING
CHAIRMAN

PICTURES



MINUTES

OF THE 90TH MORA AGM

4TH APRIL 2014 AT ST GEORGE'S CHURCH HALL, ELSTON WAY, SHIRLEY

Dave King, Chair of MORA opened the meeting and welcomed all those present. Invited guests included Gavin Barwell MP, GLA Member Steve O'Connell, Cllrs Mike Fisher, Richard Chattergee, Janet Marshall, Avril Slipper and Adam Kellett, and representatives from Spring Park Residents' Association and Shirley Life. A presentation would be given by Rob Barron, Vice-Principal of Edenham High School.

He reminded members that it was the 90th anniversary of MORA and invited them to partake of the special cupcakes provided.

Dave announced that Patsy Turner and Diane McInerney have now both retired, but we have been able to recruit new members. Julie Cornell, Sandra Scott, Mary Jennings and Omer Ahmed have recently joined and we are agreeing their responsibilities. Julie has volunteered to take on monitoring Transport and Highways.

He also pointed out the improved design and appearance of the newsletter, due to another new member Kevin Martin, a professional graphic designer, who has taken a massive weight off of Derek Ritson's shoulders. Derek is the mainstay of the committee but is trying to wind down after 33 years contributing to the community.

Ian Fraser, our planning officer, will not be standing for re-election. He has had many successes and will leave a real gap,

which we will find difficult to fill.

Dave gave a brief account of how MORA emerged.

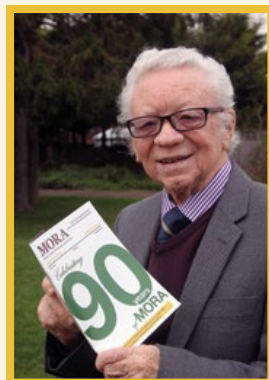
In 1923 the East Ward Electors Association was set up, covering an area from East Croydon

Station, north and south of Upper Addiscombe Road, and Wickham Road. At that time Monks Orchard was still largely rural, but development was beginning. The Monks Orchard Owners Association was set up. In the 1940s it was agreed there were common interests and the two associations merged in the 1950s. The revision of boundaries in the 1970s resulted in the demise of the old East Ward. The name was changed to Monks Orchard Residents' Association in 1997.

Gavin Barwell cut a cake to celebrate the 90 years of MORA. (The cake was later donated to a charity)

Dave listed some of the achievements of MORA.

Over the years we helped stop a 4 lane motorway through Shirley, we prevented a Tesco development in Orchard Avenue, we prevented a loss of Nature Reserve in Long Lane, and Poppy Lane, and the loss of Ashburton playing fields to Crystal Palace FC. Currently there is an issue with the



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siting of steel containers on the land at Poppy Lane.

MORA prepared evidence to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee. Our evidence was mentioned 5 times in the Select Committee's report to the Government. We have also helped to prevent the erection of a number of unsuitable back garden developments.

MORA has been monitoring the flood situation locally, some of you may not be aware that part of our area lies within the flood plain of Chaffinch Brook.

Some photographs were shown of the severe damage caused to grass verges by vehicles, especially where building work is being carried out. Dave warned that these verges may be replaced by concrete if more care is not taken.

Dave mentioned again the continuing need for area managers and road stewards. This would only take a few hours a year, but without these essential foot soldiers MORA cannot function. Kevin would also like contributions to the newsletters, telling us what is going on and how we are enjoying living in Shirley.

Dave reiterated the fact that Ian Fraser would be leaving and thanked him for his efforts.

Minutes of the last AGM

These had been published in the newsletter and on the website. Barbara Turner proposed that these be agreed; Martyn Buchanan

seconded the motion which was carried. There were no matters arising.

Presentations to the Councillors

As Janet Marshall, Avril Slipper and Eddy Arram were not standing for re-election MORA wished to thank them for their past work on behalf of the community. Eddy Arram could not be present but Janet and Avril were presented with bouquets of flowers.



Treasurer's Report

Terry Greenwood gave the report. The accounts for the year had been published in the spring newsletter. Terry thanked all those who had made donations which this year totalled £132. Terry pointed out that when he took over the treasurer's role MORA was

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losing around £1,000 per year, with assets of £7,000. As this situation could not continue it was decided that the newsletter would contain advertising, in an effort to improve income levels. This has been successful to the point where last year we were in credit at the end of the year by £195, and the assets have risen to £11,770.

Barbara Turner has now taken on the role of advertising manager.

Planning Report

This was given by Ian Fraser. He stated that this year had seen the introduction of the expansion of permitted development. Although following a government consultation exercise 85% of respondents were not in favour of the proposals, these results were ignored by the government.

Many examples of “beds in sheds” exist in other boroughs. A development in Woodmere Avenue has raised concern that this may be the first in our area. The building was designated as a gymnasium, but has not been built to comply with the agreed plans, and there are suspicions that it is being used as sleeping accommodation. Approval has now been given retrospectively for this building by the Appeals Inspector, after being refused by the Council. The only condition was that it should not be used independently from the host dwelling, although there was no indication how this could be monitored or controlled. A loophole has been opened which other developers could use.

MORA now forms part of the Shirley Planning Forum, a group of several residents associations which advises Local Government on planning issues within our area. We have already had several productive meetings.

MORA was shocked at the decision to allow 2 very modern properties to the rear of 79 Verdayne Avenue. The Inspector felt that as these were not part of the street scene the inappropriate character was unimportant. Local neighbours may disagree.

A battle continues at 62 Woodmere Avenue, where over 90 objections have been raised to the proposed development.

MORA was successful in helping to prevent a back garden development in Woodmere Close. This was refused by the Council, then went to appeal, but on this occasion the Planning Inspectorate agreed with the Council.

Ian concluded his report by confirming that he would not be standing for re-election, but thanked Dave for his comments, the committee for their support, but mostly the members and residents of Shirley for enabling him to do his tasks and helping him maintain the character of the area.

Membership Report

Dave gave the membership report and noted that numbers had gone up by 32. He again thanked the road stewards, especially those 18 who had collected 100% of the 2013 subscriptions, but we are to review those

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4 who had not collected a penny. Overall we have collected nearly 82% of subscriptions. We are still looking for new members so please try to recruit your friends and neighbours.

Lunch and Supper Club

This is run by Christine Ross-Smith but as she was unable to be present the report was given by Dave King.

The supper club members have gone up to 64 in 8 years so is doing very well.

The club has visited, among others, The New Inn, Coombe Lodge, McDermott's and The Warren. They are continuing to support the London Air Ambulance, Evelina Children's Hospital and the Royal Marsden. The Shirley Christmas Fair was held in the Parish Hall, where funds were raised for many local charities. The fair this year will be held on 8th November, so if anybody would like a table please contact Christine.

Day trips in 2013 included Arundel, Clavering, Hastings, Canterbury and a Christmas lunch at Faversham. The first trip in 2014 will be to Arundel again, we have a few seats left so contact Christine for more information if you are interested.

MORA Rules revision

Dave reminded members that they had been given a voting slip regarding some proposed rule changes. Details of the changes had been included in the newsletters, and were also listed on the reverse of the voting slip. Members were asked to complete the slips



and hand them to a committee member. The results would be published in the next newsletter. One member was unhappy that there would be no opportunity to debate the proposed changes but there were no other complaints.

Honorary Members

Patsy Turner and Ian Fraser were presented with certificates giving them honorary life membership. Diane McInerny could not be present so hers will be sent to her. They were all thanked for their hard work over many years.

Nominations for Committee 2014-2015

A list of those seeking re-election was displayed. Dave repeated that we will now need a replacement to take on Planning, and we are also seeking further assistance with secretarial tasks. The committee was elected on a show of hands.

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Security Report

As none of the local police were available to give a report this section was cancelled.

Gavin Barwell MP

Our local MP gave a brief report on his recent activities. There were four main issues he was dealing with. The first he was working with Mike Fisher and the Council on the economic regeneration of the town, and he was pleased to announce that a great deal of progress had been made. Westfield had announced that they were to invest £1 billion in the town centre, planning permission has been granted, and it is hoped that this will encourage others to invest in Croydon.

Gavin has also been working with the council to obtain funds from the Government to provide new school places. Changes in the formula by which funding is calculated will mean that Croydon will get the largest increase in the country with £100 million over the next few years.

He has also been working with Croydon University Hospital to improve the services. A bid has been made for funds to improve the Accident and Emergency Department

Finally he has been involved in efforts to improve rail services in the borough, especially from East Croydon. Extensive work is being undertaken at London Bridge which should lead to a substantial improvement in that area in the next year or so, but work still needs to be done on the Victoria trains. A large investment would be

needed from British Rail, with an additional platform at East Croydon, and improvements on the Windmill Bridge Junction. Discussions are still taking place.

Gavin ended by offering to take questions at the end.

Steve O'Connell GLA Member

Steve opened by thanking Ian for all his work on planning issues and emphasising how important the task was. He has been working with the mayor on three main areas, Policing, transport and planning from a strategic viewpoint.

The Mayor is in effect Commissioner of Police for London. He has published his Police and Crime Plan, seeking 20% reduction in crime, 20% increase in confidence and a 20% reduction in financing. The local policing model has meant an additional 117 police for Croydon, allowing for additional officers in Shirley and the surrounding areas. He very much regretted the absence of the police.

On Planning, the Mayor is preparing a revised London Plan, which will help prevent back garden developments. Steve regretted that it appears the Planning Inspectorate are not taking this on board.

The Mayor is also responsible for transport, buses, trams and the overground. Steve has been working to get the trams out to Crystal Palace, and has also been working with SPRA on issues around the junction of Monks Orchard Road and Bridle Road.

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Cllr Mike Fisher

Mike began by stating that as he came third after Gavin and Steve they had already covered some areas, but he would go through these again from the Council's perspective.

He spoke about the £1billion development with Westfield. The Council Cabinet will shortly be discussing any compulsory purchase orders needed. The development will create 5,000 new jobs and promote a total change to the retail outlook, attracting people back to the town.

Developers' cranes are re-appearing, investment and confidence are returning with an estimated 16,500 new jobs over the next few years.

Croydon has had the biggest reduction in youth unemployment in any London Borough, going down by 32%.

A new bridge has been opened at East Croydon station, giving greater capacity and easier access.

The renaissance building is the first speculative office development in Croydon for 20 years.

Mike was particularly proud of the children of the borough whose GCSE results had continued to improve, unlike the majority of the country. Additional funding of £12.5 million has been obtained. Currently Croydon receives £2,500 less per child than some other London Boroughs.

Crime is down across the borough, with 117 extra police on the streets.

A £30 million refurbishment of Fairfield Halls is to begin shortly.

The Council tax has been frozen, with a £25 rebate for each household.

Rob Barron Vice Principal Edenham High School

Rob introduced himself and thanked MORA for inviting him, he felt that the Community is vital to the school and vice versa.

In 1990 he had been head of English at Addington School, a very challenging environment. At that time Edenham had an extremely good reputation as being one of the best schools. In 2007 he was appointed deputy head at Edenham and was shocked to discover how much it had deteriorated, to the point where he felt it was the worse school he had ever worked in. In 2007 it was rated in the lowest 1% of any school nationally. New practices which were common in all other schools were put in place and the following year the results were up by 19%.

In 2009 Richard Rudd was appointed as the new headmaster, and has done an amazing job in incredibly difficult circumstances. He has created new relationships with both children and their parents, with the result that their last Ofsted report listed them as good with outstanding features.

In the last year Edenham achieved 58% of pupils obtaining 5 or more GCSEs, including maths and English. The national average is 59%, with Croydon reaching 64%. This means that the school is approaching the

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national average despite having an intake of below average.

The English Baccalaureate (Ebac) measures those children achieving 5 GCSEs, including a modern language and humanities. Edenham reached 22%, with the national average 23%. Edenham took the decision not to attempt to persuade students to take subjects for which they were not best suited, but to allow them to opt for those subjects which best met their interests and abilities. Hayes school in Bromley took a similar decision and achieved 16%.

Rob also gave details about the school intake. The national average for children on free school meals is 29%, at Edenham this reaches 42%. This is taken as an indicator of deprivation and lower primary school attainment. As the school had been undersubscribed students were joining partway through the year, some after having been excluded from other schools. 10% of the students have some form of special education needs, compared to 7.7% nationally. Some students have challenging personal circumstances.

As the reputation of the school improves it is probable that this coming year it will be oversubscribed.

Edenham wants to be an academy, and is working on partnerships with primary schools. The advantage would be greater freedom to fit the curriculum round the students, and to bid for capital funding to improve the building and facilities.

Mr Barron then took questions from the audience:

What is the situation regarding higher education?

Edenham are developing a sixth form. Rob felt that university is not suited to everyone, and that there should not be a stigma attached to those who went straight to work, or to a college. Many graduates have been unable to obtain work in their chosen fields. In response to a query about apprenticeships he replied that a few years ago up to 80 students were going out to colleges on more practical courses, but that these numbers are greatly reduced. The government is looking to introduce more work based apprenticeships in the next few years.

How are students fitted for working life?

All year 10 students go on a 2 week work experience, and return to school both transformed and exhausted by the contrast between the nurturing at school and the harsh reality of work. The school also works with outside agencies on interview techniques.

What can be done to prevent littering and bad behaviour?

The school organises bus patrols at bus stops, and work closely with police community officers. All complaints are investigated but it can be very difficult to identify individuals. On Fridays, a group of students in detention are taken out on litter pick ups, as a form of reparation. In response to a query, Rob promised to investigate whether this can be increased.

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Are the students encouraged to do voluntary work?

Although there is some encouragement, Rob agreed that this could be taken further and it needs developing.

Rob was thanked for his input.

Questions for elected representatives

In response to a query about flooding Mike Fisher stated that the Council receives £250,000 per year from DEFRA for flood defences, which is spent on matters such as improving drainage and clearing gullies. Despite last winter being the wettest for 150 years there had been no complaints about flooding from Ashburton.

On the issue of Croydon University Hospital's A & E services a bid has been submitted to totally rebuild these.

In response to a question concerning the use of private service providers within CUH, Mike was unable to comment as this was a matter for the Trust. He did say however that the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) had contracted Virgin Assurer Ltd to provide urgent care services and out of hours GP services.

Mike gave details of the changes being made to the West Croydon area. Following the riots £9 million was allocated to this area. This is to be spent on improvements in shop fronts, pavements and street lighting. The Enterprise Hub in London Road is supporting 100 businesses and has created 80 new jobs. 40

unemployed people have been supported back into work. There is a lot going on, currently much still in the planning stage.

There were several points made about the changes to Permitted Development. Mike stated that the Council had disagreed with the proposals, but had to live with the system.

Most PD development does not go before the council and neighbours may not be aware of planned building. On Beds in Sheds Mike asked that anyone who suspected the misuse of buildings inform the council so that the Enforcement Officer could investigate.

Mike reiterated that Croydon had had a 31% reduction in government funding, from an already low point. If we had the same funding as Lambeth tax could be cut by 90%, the same as Newham he would be paying us.

Metrobus have admitted that there has been a problem with 367 bus route, due to road work disruption and technical difficulties. We will continue to monitor this.

A question from the floor queried the powers of the Planning Inspectorate; Gavin Barwell stated that while power had been switched back to councils to some extent, in some cases the Inspectorate could still overrule council decisions. Mike added that he felt the system was undemocratic and took away all local community involvement.

As there were no more questions Dave King thanked everybody for coming and wished them a safe journey home.

THANK YOU

On April 4th 2014, the MORA AGM was held. All the extensive preparations, the months of planning, changes and meetings by the committee had finally come together. The hall had been decorated, the presentation and the PA setup, the cakes arrived and the kettle was on as the MORA committee members greeted the 50+ guests as they arrived.

Many thanks to all the MORA Committee who helped with all the arrangements, the setting up of a great 90th Celebration at the AGM and the packing away at the end of a long night. Without them MORA simply would not be able to run.

But it was not just the Committee, the local community came together on a lovely Friday night to support the AGM. **Anne Lane**, a local caterer, who made and decorated the

cupcakes (see below) for everyone to enjoy with their refreshments. The large cake was purchased and donated to charity at the end of the night.

Richard Stow, who supplied and managed on the night the PA and audio equipment.

Andrew Dunsmore of Picture Partnership for taking the time out of his busy schedule to take photo's of the event, keeping everyone laughing and giving us some beautiful photo's which are in this magazine.

And thank you to you, the residents of Monks Orchard for attending the event. I hope you enjoyed it.

KEVIN MARTIN
EDITORIAL TEAM



SUGGESTED RULE CHANGES

VOTING RESULTS

Page 18 of the Spring Newsletter spelt out the reasons for proposed changes to our rules to make sure your committee members maintain and retain a non-political, non-party and independent Status. A number of proposed changes to the rules were listed which would be put to the vote in accordance with Rule 12, at the AGM. This was achieved by providing each member, on entry to the AGM, with a voting slip on which they could register their choice in a secret ballot.

We had 62 attending the AGM of whom 51 were members of MORA. Of those 51, only 30 members actually cast a vote. The Voting slips will be retained in a sealed container until the next AGM in case any member wishes to check the figures.

The result was as follows:

		% voting			
Attendees	62				
non members	11				
Members attending	51				
Total Votes cast	30	58.82	% of those attending		
Two thirds present & voting		20	Threshold		

Voting results	For	Against	Abstentions	Result	% For
Item 2	28	1	1	Carried	93.33
Item 3	28	1	1	Carried	93.33
Item 8	30	0	0	Carried	100.00
Item 11	29	0	1	Carried	96.67

12. ALTERATION OF RULES

These rules may be altered by a resolution passed at a General Meeting by a majority of not less than two thirds of those present and voting,

The Rules of the Association will therefore be updated and will be published in the autumn edition of our newsletter.



PETS AND PLANTS

It's fairly well known that there are certain garden plants which should be handled with reasonable care due to their toxicity. Unfortunately the toxic nature of some plants applies not only to humans but to animals also. The animal charity 'Blue Cross' has published a few of the most common plants to watch out for viz. tulips, snowdrops, aconite, cyclamen, rhododendron, poinsettia and horse chestnut twigs, leaves and conkers but the plants to be especially aware of, particularly in relation to cats are those of the, mostly Spring and Summer flowering, lily family (Liliaceae). If eaten by a cat it could cause liver failure but even if the cat just brushes past and pollen rubs on to its coat and is then ingested whilst grooming this also can prove fatal. All parts of the daffodil can be fatal to dogs, if chewed, but



Liliaceae

especially the bulb. If in doubt about a plant's genus, especially in respect of lilies, it's always best to check.



To have a pretty garden, however, certainly doesn't preclude having pets as I and many others have proved. I love my garden and the joy of seeing my plants budding in the Spring and later flowering never ceases. I've gardened for years, had cats all my life and still have, and once a lovely Labrador dog. All it needs is to know your plants and your pet's habits in relation to them.

JOAN PRING

WARD PANEL & SECURITY

Shirley Open Gardens **Weekend**

Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th June 2014



Supporting Shirley Neighbourhood Care

Registered Charity No: 1137581

***Look out for bright green trail and information leaflets,
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Shirley Neighbourhood Care Scheme

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***Shirley Neighbourhood Care Scheme helps the older, housebound, and frail
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Carol has worked in the West Wickham/Bromley area for a number of years. Her main practice areas are: **Court of Protection applications, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Registration of Enduring Powers of Attorney, Probate & estate administration, Wills & Inheritance tax planning.**



For more information please
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TREES ARE GOOD FOR YOU!

Trees are the longest living organisms on the planet and one of the earth's greatest natural resources. Not only do they make our landscape look beautiful but our health benefits from their mere presence.

We are all aware how our summer temperatures are predicted to keep rising, aggravating the effects of London's "Urban Heat Island" effect, which typically keeps the most built-up areas warmer. Our tree stocks help cool and combat the health implications of this. As we know tree leaves trap carbon particles from the atmosphere and release oxygen. By planting more trees we can, therefore, capture more carbon, helping to reduce the "greenhouse effect" Planting trees is widely seen as a first line of defence against climate change.

To help London adapt to temperature increases the Mayor of London has a strategic aim of increasing tree canopy cover by 5 per cent by 2025, the equivalent of 2 million extra trees. It is not clear how this will be achieved as yet.



Croydon council is responsible for around 33,000 street trees and says that, trees improve the environment and contribute to improving people's health by, filtering dust and pollution from the air and improving local air quality.

Unfortunately, recent reports state they felled 1,703 trees over the last three years and only planted 1,535. -Although this leaves a shortfall of 168 trees, It is said most of the trees lost were dead, dying or dangerous.

A council spokesman said, "Unfortunately, those three years have seen us have to remove more than we've been able to plant."

"We do not remove healthy street trees, unless they have been implicated in



insurance claims, and that number is now more than 30 per year”.

“The overwhelming majority of re-moved trees are either dead, dying or dangerous, have been knocked over or are seriously damaged by vehicles, or blown over in a high wind

Despite all this Croydon has a deserved reputation for being one of the capital's greenest boroughs, a reputation of which the council is proud.

SUE & MARTYN BUCHANAN

TREES & OPEN SPACES

FACTS

A single tree produces approximately 260 pounds of oxygen per year. That means two mature trees can supply enough oxygen annually to support a family of four!

One tree can absorb as much carbon in a year as a car produces while driving 26,000 miles.

Over the course of its life, a single tree can absorb one ton of carbon dioxide.

A mature tree removes almost 70 times more pollution than a newly planted tree.

Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30%

Well-maintained trees and shrubs can increase property value by up to 14%.

AN APOLOGY

It has been brought to our attention the late delivery of some of the Spring Newsletters and we would like to apologise to members who didn't get their newsletters on time. We had complaints from some members that they missed some of the date sensitive activities which were advertised as they had passed before the newsletters were delivered. At the AGM we had a low turn out of 51 members, whereas normally we would have had 70 to 80 turn up, as some newsletters were delivered the day before the AGM which didn't give much time for members to make their arrangements attend. The committee make a great deal of effort to compile, publish and distribute the newsletters to Area Managers in good time; it is up to the Area Managers to make sure their Road Stewards deliver the newsletters on time to their members.

VACANCIES

Road Stewards

We have an important vacancy for a new Road Steward to cover 78 to 133 Woodmere Avenue and 2 to 21 Woodmere Gardens. This requires delivering newsletters once a quarter and to collect membership subscriptions and issue membership cards once a year. Also, possibly if something important crops up affecting those members (say planning) to deliver a flyer to affected residents. Also, we always need offers as Road Stewards for other areas. If you are interested please contact monksorchardweb@btinternet.com

ADVICE ABOUT FOOD

FROM THE 1940S



The subject of food and what is good for us, but usually what is bad, is a frequent topic in the media and can become quite bewildering.

The choice of vegetables and fruit we have nowadays, apart from sometimes the expense, is endless as we are able to buy out of season produce all year round.

Let the crisp freshness of a salad bring additional nourishment to your meals

It is not always realised that from the health point of view raw vegetable salads can more than replace fruit. Before the war people relied largely on fruit for their supplies of vitamin C. We know now that many vegetables contain more vitamin C than fruit, and some of the essential mineral salts as well. People who tell you that they feel so much better now that they eat salads are not just food faddists. They are stating a fact that has been proved over and over again.

A good salad is not just a few lettuce leaves and perhaps a radish or two, but a mixture of all kinds of raw vegetables in season.

There is a wide choice of vegetables that can be used and it is not difficult to introduce variety into salads.

POTATO SALAD

1½ lbs. potatoes
½ pint salad dressing
1 tablespoon chopped chives

1 tablespoon chopped mint

Scrub potatoes and boil until tender. Peel while still warm and cut into large dice. Mix with salad dressing and herbs and place in salad bowl. Serve cold.

ADVICE ABOUT FOOD

FROM THE 1940S

During the WW2 and post war years it was more a question of what was available to buy, or what to grow in the back garden, to keep us going as healthily as possible. Housewives had to become more ingenious in their efforts to feed themselves and their families. They were, however, assisted by the then Ministry of Food, which published leaflets explaining the benefits of many types of vegetables and fruit which was possible to obtain. In addition they provided a variety of simple recipes for main meals, savouries and sweet dishes. Invariably the recipes were mostly made up of 'good'

Suitable ingredients for salads

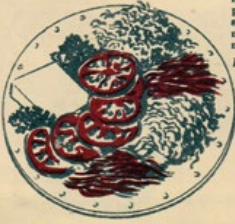
GREEN LEAF VEGETABLES. At least one of these should be included in every salad: raw cabbage heart, savoy, spinach, sprouts, young leaves of kale and young turnip tops, watercress including the stalks, lettuce and endive.

ROOT VEGETABLES. Raw or Cooked beetroot, turnip, parsnip, carrot, kohlrabi, swede.

OTHER VEGETABLES. Cooked potato, raw radishes, cucumber, onions, leeks; cooked or raw peas, cooked french or runner beans, celery, chicory, cauliflower, broccoli and cooked broad beans.

FLAVOURINGS. Green herbs, chive, parsley, mint, green tops, leeks and spring onions, young celery leaves, nasturtium and dandelion leaves, mustard and cress.

FRUIT. Any fruit, fresh or dried.



food which would still hold up today. I'm sure Mary Berry would approve.



I have a folder containing original Ministry of Food leaflets, pertinent at the time, given to me at a domestic science lesson at school when I was very young. Reproduced here are a few extracts from issue 12, published 1944/45, about salads and giving some sound advice and a few of the recipes. In view of the variety of food we have now the recipes may seem a little uninteresting but they did help to provide many of the essential elements needed in our diets. There is an additional recipe from issue 13 published November 1945, as yet untried by me, for orange biscuits which looks easy but interesting.

JOAN PRING

ORANGE BISCUITS

3 oz. sugar	8 oz. plain flour
1 egg	Grated rind of 1 orange
3 oz. margarine	

Add sugar to egg and mix well. Rub fat into flour; add egg and sugar and the orange rind. Knead well and roll out thinly. Bake 15 minutes in a moderate oven.
If using dried egg reconstitute it with orange juice.

SHIRLEY LIBRARY'S PUBLICITY

VOLUNTEERING FOR THE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

If you're aged between 13-24 and are interested in volunteering at Shirley Library over the Summer, please pop into your local library for more information and an application form.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Children can sign up and win incentives such as pencils, bookmarks and badges for coming into the library and reading books over the Summer holidays. Just pop into Shirley Library to find out more.

We'll also have additional activities on during the Summer -

Dragon crafts Thursday 31st July 3-4.30pm

Design your own mythical creature
Tuesday 5th August 2.30-4.30pm

Stitch a mermaid Thursday 14th August
3-4.30pm

Characters from Greek Mythology
Monday 18th August 2.30-4.30pm

Mythical Maze collage Thursday 21st
August 3-4.30pm

Make a felt mythical creature puppet
Tuesday 26th August 2.30-4.30pm

Fabulous Beasts craft – Mermaids and Unicorns – Friday 29th August 2.30-4.30pm



FREE REGULAR CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Storytime – every Thursday 2.15-2.45pm.

This is a fun, interactive session where a selection of stories are read and different craft activities are made. Come along and join in on the fun!

Rhymetime – every Friday 10-10.30am

Once Upon A Rhyme – 10-10.30am. Every other Saturday. Please ask at the library for dates.

Saturday Crafts – 2.30pm-4.30pm. Every other Saturday. Please ask at the library for dates.

FREE REGULAR ADULT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Board Games – Do you like playing Scrabble, Monopoly, chess, cards and Battleship? We have a selection of games which can be used in the library at any time.

Adult Reading Group – The group meets on the second or third Thursday of the

month from 6-7pm. Please ask at the library for dates.

Monthly craft workshop on Tuesdays 2.30-4.30pm. Card making. Please ask at the library for dates.

Fortnightly Knit and Natter on Fridays 2.30-4.30pm. Please ask at the library for dates.

Free monthly author/ speaker talks.

Author Nadeem Masood will give a talk on Tuesday 3rd June from 2.15-3.30pm about his experiences as an Opening Ceremony performer and Games Maker at the London 2012 Olympics. Caroline Smith from Bethlem Royal Hospital will give a talk on Tuesday 24th June from 2.15-3.30pm covering the origins of the hospital, what it's like to be a patient, treatments and some of the hospital's more notable patients. Archie Niven will give a talk on the history of Croydon's Art Society and its famous members on Tuesday 1st June from 2.15-3.30pm. Please reserve your place at the library for all these talks.

Computer sessions for beginners. Learn to set up an email account, use Facebook, do online shopping, use Word, Excel and PowerPoint or improve your typing skills. These sessions are offered on Mondays and Tuesdays in the morning and afternoon and some Saturday mornings. Please contact the library for further details.

Free Wifi – the library now has free Wifi access.

Food waste bags – you can buy these at the library. They come in packs of 75 and cost £5.25. We also sell garden waste sacks for £1 each.

Display boards at the library are available for use free of charge for your club or society. Please contact Fiona or Irene on [REDACTED] or email croydon.shirleylibrary@carillionservices.co.uk

OPENING HOURS

Monday: 9am – 1pm, 2pm – 6pm

Tuesday: 9am – 1pm, 2pm – 6pm

Wednesday: Closed

Thursday: 9.30am – 1pm, 2pm – 7pm

Friday: 9am – 1pm, 2pm – 6pm

Saturday: 9am – 5pm

Sunday: Closed

SERVICES

- Books, CDs and DVDs for reference and loan
- Children's library
- Wordwise collection for children with dyslexia
- Enquiry service
- WiFi internet access
- Free use of PCs including internet access
- Black and white and colour photocopier
- Newspapers and periodicals
- Community information
- Reading groups

PLANNING REPORT

As those who attended the AGM on 4th April will know, Ian Fraser, our planning Officer did not stand for re-election for 2014-15 due to personal and family commitments. I would like to thank Ian for his dedication in trying to protect the community from inappropriate developments over his period of office; he contributed to some major successes, contributed to the consultation to the Communities & Local Government consultation on Permitted Development and the LPA Croydon Plan as it affects the Shirley Place.

Best Wishes for the future Ian.

Omer Ahmed has taken on the Planning portfolio but I am producing this report as it takes time to get to grips with the ongoing planning issues affecting our area.

Derek

31A WOODMERE AVENUE

13/01397/w – Retention of single storey out-building at rear

Appeal Ref: APP/L5240/A/13/2209293 – The development proposed is retention of a single storey garden out-building for use in connection with main house as a recreational facility.

A major blow was the decision by the Planning Inspector to allow the appeal against refusal by the LPA, for the retention of the outbuilding. The only method to challenge this decision is by Judicial Review and that would be costly.

The Local Planning Authority (LPA) had suggested that if the Inspector was minded to allow the appeal, the Planning Inspector should place a condition on the use of the outbuilding as follows:

“The outbuilding hereby permitted shall not be occupied at any time other than for

purposes ancillary to the residential use of the dwelling known as 31a Woodmere Avenue.”

We are not sure what this actually means in practice and are to make representations to the LPA for clarification and ask if this condition applies in perpetuity and how this condition can be policed and at what cost?

The inspector also stated:

Under Procedural Matter 3. *“The appellant has provided an amended appeal form that alters the appeal site ownership from Certificate A (sole owner) to Certificate B (joint owners).”* The requirement for certification of ownership requires the appellant to declare whether they are sole or joint owners. We established during our investigations that there were 4 owners of the property. Thus in law the requirement for 21 days’ notice to the other owners was overlooked.

PLANNING REPORT

Under Reasons 7. The inspector states *“However, it has since been found that the building’s ridge height stands at 4.24 metres and does not conform to the criteria set out within the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (No. 2) (England) Order 2008 (the GDPO). The appellant contests this matter, (The appellant states it was built on higher ground than the surrounding ground level).”*

This is categorically untrue as seen on the elevation drawings and also the height is measured from the base of the building to the ridge so it doesn’t even matter if it were built on higher ground, the height is still over 4m. The Inspector goes on to say: *“however, there is not sufficient information before me to be able to reach a definitive conclusion and in any event I am mindful that an application has been made for full planning permission for the building.”* It would have been helpful if the Inspector had measured the height of the building during his site visit!

Reason 11: *“There are currently no adopted development policies which set out guidance in relation to the use of residential annexes or outbuildings in the Borough. The Council has referred to Policy DM4.1 on residential annexes of the emerging Croydon Local Plan: Detailed Policies, which amongst other criteria restricts residential annexes which could be self-*

contained. However, the document is at a relatively early stage of production and has not been subject to examination and therefore could be subject to change and can be afforded little weight.”

We, MORA, are working with the LPA on the Croydon Plan and should try and ensure Permitted Development planning applications cannot be modified to allow Beds-in-sheds. (Easiest way is to prevent connection of utility services e.g. gas, water and to the sewers).

Reason 12. The inspector states *“Whilst I acknowledge that the layout of the building could lend itself to be utilised as an independent dwelling, planning permission is not sought for such use.”*

“In any event, I consider that such concerns can be suitably addressed by the imposition of a suitable planning condition that would restrict the outbuildings use to be ancillary to the enjoyment of the host dwelling only. If in the event that there is any non-compliance with the planning condition, the Council would be able to take suitable enforcement action should it be necessary.”

As stated above, we are to ask how this condition can be enforced!

Character and appearance 14. *“I observed on my site visit that the outbuilding is finished in render and roof tiles to match*

PLANNING REPORT

the host dwelling.” NOT TRUE, THE ROOF TILES ARE “Terracotta Pantiles” (see Photo), TOTALLY DIFFERENT TO THOSE ON THE HOST DWELLING OR THOSE OF ANY SURROUNDING PROPERTIES.

Finally under Conditions, the inspector stated:

“It is necessary to ensure that the building is not used independently from the host dwelling to ensure the living conditions of neighbouring residents are protected and to ensure a suitable standard of development. The Council has suggested a suitable condition which I have imposed.”

Well – if the council suggested the condition, they need to enforce it!

If you are interested in the full determination, you can see a copy if you email the MORA email address and ask for it. It is NOT on the Planning Portal.

We wonder why an unelected Inspector can descend from afar, with no knowledge of the area, can override all the wishes and detailed objections of 19 representations including local affected residents, the Local Authority Enforcement Officer’s report, the Local Planning Authority’s Case Officer’s recommendation, the Local Councillor’s referral, the GLA member’s referral, the Local MP’s referral and finally The Local Planning Delegate Committee’s decision, ALL of whom indicated their disapproval of this application!



Eric Pickles (The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government); Hansard source (Citation: HC Deb, 9 April 2014, c12WS) stated:

“This coalition Government have reformed the planning process so that communities themselves have the opportunity to influence the decisions that affect their lives.” (These words completely and utterly contradict the facts).

62 & R/O 64 WOODMERE AVE

Application Ref: 14/00194/P

Proposal: Demolition of 62; erection of 5 three bedroom detached houses; formation of access road and provision of associated parking

Case Officer: Heather Read. MORA objected 05/03/2014

Currently 98 objection letters are listed on the LPA Website.

PLANNING REPORT

MORA Objected on the basis of Back Garden / Backland / garden grabbing which the government is supposed to disapprove. Also, the proposed method of surface water discharge is via soak-a-ways which in an area of London Clay does not allow drainage. Other reasons were out of character and loss of amenity to surrounding properties; loss of trees and overlooking etc. The construction would damage the root structure of the vintage Oak street tree and access to the site would be limited i.e. Refuse collection lorries would not be able to safely access the site.

MORA raised a Stage 1 complaint relating to the LPA's handling of our members objection letters and the omission of objection letters listed on the LPA webpage. The LPA responded on 16th April and acknowledged our valid concerns. We raised 8 specific issues relating to the management process of public comments, the acknowledgement on the Public Access Register Website and the placement of site notices. All our complaints were dealt with and lessons learnt. Mr Pete Smith the new head of Development Management has instructed his staff on these new procedures.

The applicant has since made changes to the plans, obviously in co-operation with the LPA, which were uploaded on the LPA website on Friday 4th April. MORA has registered disapproval of late modifications to the plans. The modifications relate to the access road to the development and tree root protection for the TPO trees on the site

and the vintage Oak Street Tree. We are of the opinion that the Access would still be unsafe for large vehicles and the Tree root protection is not adequate. We need to assess the changes and send an addendum to our objection. We have been allowed an extension to the consultation up to the date of the Planning Committee.

POPPY LANE (METROPOLITAN OPEN LAND)

Application Ref: 14/00495/P

Proposal: Siting of three steel containers on Land Adjacent to Poppy Lane bounded by Laburnum Gardens, Parsley Gardens and Woodmere Avenue,

Consultation close on 7th April

As Ian was demob happy, I drafted a submission for Dave to sign which went to the LPA on 29th March. This is Metropolitan Open Land and should be allowed to naturally develop, we objected to the site becoming a freight container park! At consultation close there were 40 objections. The application was refused on 17th April on the grounds that the development would be detrimental to the openness, visual amenity, character, and setting of the Metropolitan Open Land by reason of its siting, massing, and design. A good result!

DEREK RITSON
EDITORIAL TEAM

EDENHAM HIGH SCHOOL

UPDATE

It's a pleasure to follow up the invitation to speak at the MORA AGM on April 4th with a short update on Edenham's future plans.

Since the appointment of Richard Rudd as Headteacher in January 2009 the school has made remarkable progress from the OFSTED inspection of November 2008 that judged the school as requiring improvement. At our last OFSTED inspection we were judged to be Good with Outstanding features and we have moved our exam results from being in the bottom 1% of schools nationally in 2007 to achieving the National Average in the main performance indicators, with a cohort of students who arrive at Edenham in Year 7 with achievement scores considerably below the National average. This is achieved because of a team of teachers who are extremely dedicated and who believe in our children and families and who want them to do well. We also have the support of those families in doing everything we can to help their children succeed. As we continue to improve we attract more students with higher scores and so create a virtuous cycle of improvement. We are over subscribed for places in Year 7 from September for the first time in many years and we have high hopes that this is a trend that will continue into the future.

Of course it is not all plain sailing. We are aware that a minority of our students sometimes let us down when they are out of

school in terms of their behaviour and attitudes. We do take these incidents very seriously and spend a lot of time working with our students through assemblies and the pastoral programme on the importance of traditional values of respect, politeness and good behaviour. We have staff outside the school every day and a patrol of senior staff on local bus stops. We also do litter patrols and do community service sessions with students in detention to pick up litter from our neighbours' gardens. We will respond as best we can to any concerns raised by the local community.

We are now entering a particularly busy period of the school year as we enter the last push of preparation for the public exams in May and June and we have high hopes that we will match or exceed our results of last year. We are also working hard to achieve academy status which we believe will allow us to develop the school in new and exciting ways, including forming partnerships with several local Primary schools. The future is certainly exciting and holds many challenges for all of us, but we are confident that if we work together with parents and the local community we can go on to build on our recent successes.

ROB BARRON
VICE PRINCIPAL

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

ZUMBA FITNESS SESSION

For over a year now there has been a Zumba fitness session run at Orchard Way Primary School, to help raise funds to support the school with those little extra's that can't be funded from elsewhere, whether it be computers for the pupils, new curtains for the hall, plants for the school gardening club etc.

The Zumba class is not just for 'string beans' in perfect make-up who go to expensive gyms, its a real Community session which sees 14 years olds exercising with mums and those in their more senior years. Its not just for females either, we have guys too, so give it a go, you never know you may enjoy it! It really is a fitness class which is fun for all ages!

For those of you who have no idea of what Zumba is, it is a fitness programme built around dance, so one minute you can be dancing to Russian Cossack music, then doing an Egyptian camel/sand dance, then a quick change to Salsa or Swing. Its a great way to meet new friends in the area, get fit and most of all have a great deal of fun!

Zumba classes are held in the school hall at Orchard Way Primary School, Orchard Way, Shirley on Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:30 to 8:30pm, £5 per session. No booking required and all abilities welcome. Come and have a laugh with us while you exercise. All profits go to the school funds. If you have any questions, please contact Lee on [REDACTED] (evenings only).

SHIRLEY SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE - PUBLIC MEETING



The public are invited to attend a meeting on Tuesday, 8th July 2014 at 7.30pm, in the small hall of All Saints Church, Bridle Road, Shirley. The Shirley Safer Neighbourhood Police Team will be present in respect of local police matters and to take questions. A further meeting at the same venue is scheduled for Wednesday, 15th October 2014.



Help us contain this pest

Oak processionary moth

The oak processionary moth, a native of mainland Europe, has been found breeding on oak trees in parts of London and in the Pangbourne area of West Berkshire. Its caterpillars feed on oak leaves and produce silken nests on the trunks and branches of affected trees. As well as seriously damaging our oak trees, the caterpillars can pose a risk to human and animal health.



Caterpillars of the oak processionary moth on the branch of an oak tree.



A silken nest on the trunk of an oak tree.

Tiny hairs from these caterpillars can be blown on the wind and cause itching skin lesions and, less commonly, sore throats and eye problems. If you think you may have been exposed and have an itching skin rash and/or conjunctivitis or other symptoms, contact your GP or call NHS 111.

If you are involved in tree work and are planning to fell or prune oak trees in any of the outbreak areas, please contact our Plant Health team for advice on safe disposal of the material. Call the team on 0131 314 6414 or email them at: plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.

If you think you have seen the caterpillars or one of their nests or webs, use our Tree Alert web form or app available at www.forestry.gov.uk/oakprocessionarymoth to report it to us. Alternatively, you may also get in touch with your local council contact (below):

Richard Edwards (Trees & Woodlands Officer)
Croydon Council, e-mail: parks@croydon.gov.uk
Tel: 0208 726 6000 xtn. 62387

Remember: this species is most likely to be seen on oak trees (see photographs).

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU –

DO NOT touch the caterpillars or nests.

DO NOT try to deal with them yourself. Effective treatment requires specialist skills and careful timing. Contact with nests or caterpillars can endanger your health.

WARN children not to touch caterpillars or nests.
KEEP pets away.

Local authority areas where moth presence has been confirmed



Protecting Yourself



KNOW HOW to recognise oak trees, caterpillars, and their nests and trails (see pictures opposite);

KEEP AWAY from caterpillars and nests.

TEACH your children to keep away.

KEEP your pets away. Caterpillars and nests can be on the ground, and animals can suffer considerable distress from hairs in their mouths and noses.

DO NOT try removing nests or caterpillars yourself – report them to the Forestry Commission or your Council.

SEE A PHARMACIST if you need relief from a skin or eye irritation following possible OPM contact.

SEE A GP or consult **NHS111** if you have a serious allergic reaction.

CONTACT A VET if your pet has been affected.

Further health advice is available in the “**Insects that bite or sting**” area of www.nhs.uk/livewell website

KEV'S CORNER

So, this is my third issue supporting the editorial team and I've now experienced my 1st MORA AGM. I'm enjoying the experience, meeting lots of new people and helping the community my family live in. I've continued to receive positive feedback over the last few months for the re-vamped newsletter. Once again we need to print a bumper 40 page issue, I hope you enjoy the variety and diversity of the content.

I would love people to continue to send us more pieces, to help pack out the next newsletter with extra details and updates about what's happening in our corner of the world, and what's great about living in Monks Orchard.

Website

My next challenge is the website, do we need one? Does anyone still look at it? What information would you find useful on there?

More from me

Being an avid Crystal Palace fan, I was delighted with them retaining their place in the Premier League, a fantastic achievement, considering where they were after only 10 games and its great for the local community. I'm not very green fingered, well not as much as I would hope, so time to tidy my overgrown garden! and get ready to enjoy the World Cup. Anyway, must get on, need to dust of the BBQ. Have a great summer.

KEVIN MARTIN
EDITORIAL TEAM

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MONKS ORCHARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM



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

(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Full Name:

Address:

Postcode: Email Address:

Mobile No: Home No:

Please send this completed form with your subscription:

Vilas Patel,

Cheques payable To Monks Orchard Residents' Association [£4/year (£2 Senior Citizens)]

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