

Monks Orchard Residents' Association

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email: monksorchardweb@btinternet.com

Croydon

(Non Party)

(Independent)

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**NEWSLETTER - Winter 2008**



*A Merry Christmas and A Happy New  
Year To All Our Members.*

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



# Chairman's Comments

There have been numerous bleak predictions about the expected downturn in the national economy but there has been scant mention of the likely adverse effect on householders apart from the increases in the cost of mortgages. It is reasonable to assume that at a time when family finances are being squeezed there will be resistance to above the inflation rate increases in Council tax but money has to be found to meet the increases in public pay, pensions and the rising cost of inflation. The only way this can be achieved is by making further cuts in the funding of those local services that are considered less essential. Many of these services that add to the quality of life are subsidised from local taxes and in the present economic climate this may no longer be possible despite attempts to cut costs; they will either have to be diminished or users will be forced to pay a direct charge towards the cost.

One of the knock-on affects of any recession is an increase in unemployment and this is usually associated with an increase in crime especially that of burglary and theft. Residents are urged to take all possible actions to improve security measures such as seeking police advice on protecting their property and by joining a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

There are those that will look for a silver lining in any change of circumstance and suggest that we will become greener with less reliance on car use, air travel and reduce wastage. Advantages can be gained as we learn to live with austerity during the credit crunch. Satisfaction can be obtained from self sufficiency like preparing and cooking meals, growing fruit and vegetables and holidaying in this country. Less time devoted to the pursuit of pleasure could result in more quality time being spent with the family. Communities have come together during previous periods of uncertainty and it would be helpful if this happened again.



Concluding, I thank you for your support during the past year and suggest that you put aside all financial and other concerns and take full advantage on what the festive season has to offer. I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year. Let us hope that the forecasts for the forthcoming year are much less harsh than predicted.

## **Annual General Meeting 2009**

The 85<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the association is to be held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April in the hall of St. George's Church, Elstan Way Shirley beginning at 7.30 p.m. Please note the date and earlier start time.

Reports will be received from the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Security, Tree and Green Officers and from the local elected representatives. Invitations have been sent to Steve O'Connell, Member of the Greater London Authority and Andrew Pelling, Member of Parliament. There will also be a presentation on a topic of local interest. The Agenda will be published in the Spring issue of the newsletter and on our website.

## **Proposal to Amend Rules**

The association's rule number 8 requires the Annual General Meeting to be held no later than 31<sup>st</sup> March and this has been obeyed until recently. For years, probably since the formation of MORA, the Annual General Meeting has been held on the last Friday in March. Difficulties in meeting this requirement were encountered in 2007 and 2008 because the most convenient local venue, the hall of St. George's Church, is in demand, especially near holy week. Furthermore, our elected representatives often have other demands on their time at this time of the year.

In order to overcome these difficulties, in 2007 and 2008 the Annual General Meeting was held on the fourth week in April. It was found that this enforced delay offered advantages; there are more hours of daylight, and there is a reduced chance of wintry weather. No objections have been received and the



Executive Committee has decided to formally regularise this practice by making a minor amendment to the rules.

The proposal is that the wording of Rule 8 be amended to read "The Annual General Meeting shall be held no later than 30<sup>th</sup> April." This proposal will be placed before the membership at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April. The Executive Committee hopes that members will understand and appreciate the reason for this minor amendment to the rules of the association and give it their approval. The annual financial report will still be compiled and audited by 31<sup>st</sup> March and published in the spring issue of the newsletter.

## **Isitfair Campaign**

In the October issue of the Isitfair Newsletter Christine Melson poses the question 'What will happen when the council taxpayer runs out of money?' Many thousands already have to make hard choices when managing their meagre incomes. The economic climate is certainly not going to get better or easier in the short term. It



has been said many times already that the current level of council tax has reached its limit of acceptability. Another year of inflation busting increases may see history repeating itself as all peaceful means of encouraging the Government to reform local authority funding and to make it fairer have simply been ignored and treated with utter contempt.

In Scotland this year, the SNP in consultation with all local authorities achieved a freeze in council tax, thus proving beyond all reasonable doubt that with the right political will, council tax increases are avoidable.

In London too, Mayor Boris Johnson has also announced a freeze on the GLA Precept to 2010/11 at the earliest. His longer term aim is to actually reduce the precept by cutting



out waste. The GLA precept in London has rocketed by 152 per cent since 2001.

Since its introduction in 1993, the annual amount of council tax raised has increased by 300 per cent, from £8bn to £25bn. It is now time for the Government to put a stop to this incessant, year on year inflation busting increases. People are sick and tired of seeing their hard earned money being taken away from them by local authorities who think that they can spend it better. Much of this is simply squandered. For example, one council spent £5k on squash court signs in Braille for blind people only to discover afterwards that blind people don't play squash! Perhaps this is because they can't see the ball, which is blindingly obvious even to a blind person. How stupid is that? Ed; surely there was a more effective way of helping the blind in their community.

### **Action is needed now**

Write to Gordon Brown, your MP and Local Authority Chief. Tell them that this decade of irresponsible council tax increases and spending must stop. Where known, quote examples of waste in your locality. The present system of council tax has been exposed as fundamentally flawed and should be replaced with a fairer system based on ability to pay.

Tell them, in no uncertain terms how you have to adjust your budget to make ends meet. If we all ran our home budgets the same way as Government has run theirs, we'd all be bankrupt. We can't simply turn to our neighbour and expect (demand) that they pay for our poor financial mismanagement. These politicians need to be told and told and told until our message gets through.

Yours in the cause, Christine Melsom - IsItFair

***To read the full contents of the Newsletter please visit [www.isitfair.co.uk](http://www.isitfair.co.uk)***



# Planning Report

The downturn in the housing market has resulted in fewer planning applications for this period.



## **New Applications:**

### **79 Orchard Avenue and 2 High Trees**

Ref: 08/03364/P Full planning permission

Registration date: 07/10/2008

Erection of detached three bedroom chalet bungalow and detached two bedroom bungalow; formation of vehicular access onto High Trees and provision of associated parking (amendment to application nos. 08/274/P and 07/3652/P).

Consultation Close: 07/11/2008

This application is to regularise the built deviations from the previously approved applications.

## **Decisions:**

### **79 Gladeside**

Ref: 08/02702/P Full planning permission

Registration date: 28/07/2008

Demolition of existing building; erection of a pair of two storey three bedroom semi detached houses with accommodation in roofspace and provision of associated parking.

Permission Granted: 30/09/2008

### **60 Woodmere Avenue**

Ref: 08/02448/P Full planning permission

Registration date: 21/07/2008

Partial demolition of existing house and formation of vehicular access onto Woodmere Avenue with hardstanding to front; erection of detached four bedroom house at side with integral garage (amended plans and description).

Permission Granted: 21/10/2008 with conditions.



### **151 The Glade**

Ref: 07/08/2008 Outline planning permission

Registration date: 07/08/2008

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

Consultation Closed: 04/09/2008

[MORA objected on 19th Aug 2008](#)

[Application Withdrawn 05/11/2008](#)

### **53 Orchard Avenue**

Ref: 08/02914/P Full planning permission

Registration date: 18/08/2008

Erection of detached two bedroom bungalow with integral garage.

Consultation Closed: 15/09/2008

[Permission Granted with conditions:03/11/2008 Delegated](#)

### **Ongoing:**

#### **Land R/O, 20-34 The Glade, Croydon, CR0**

Ref: 08/02647/P

Registration date: 14/07/2008

Reg. of land as a Town or Village Green. Registration

Registration of land as a Village Green (Main Reference CROY/VGA/08/02) under the Commons Act 2006.

Consultation Close: 02/10/2008

[MORA has written supporting the application](#)

#### **Land at, Glade Gardens**

Ref: 08/02069/P Full planning permission

Registration: 10/06/2008

Erection of 2 two storey buildings with accommodation in roofspace comprising 7 one bedroom and 2 two bedroom flats; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking.

[Target Date: 05/08/2008](#)

**[Waiting result of 08/02647/P above.](#)**



**Land bounded by Laburnum Gardens, Parsley Gardens, Woodmere Avenue and off, Poppy Lane.**

Ref: 07/04327/DT Environmental Impact Assessment

Registered 02/11/2007

Proposal: Construction of a 100 bed nursing / convalescent home.

Target date: 23/11/2007

MORA Request to LPA for EIA statement and Plans.

**This land is Designate Metropolitan Open Land and therefore MORA will object to any development on this parcel of land.**

**New Appeals:**

**48 Wickham Avenue**

Ref: 08/01996/P Full Planning Permission

Registration: 09/06/2008 Ward: Shirley

Proposal: Erection of detached four bedroom house at rear with integral garage; formation of vehicular access onto Firsby Avenue and provision of associated parking.

MORA objection sent: 29/06/2008

Permission Refused: 28/07/2008

Appeal Reference: APP/L5240/A/08/2086791/WF

MORA has sent a submission to the Inspectorate.

**Appeal Decisions:**

**31 Woodland Way**

Ref: 08/00384/P Full planning permission

Registration: 06/02/2008

Alterations; subdivision to provide 2 three bedroom semi detached bungalows; erection of two single storey front/side extensions, formation of vehicular accesses and provision of associated parking.

Permission Refused: 27/03/2008

Appeal Application: 10/06/2008 Ref: APP/A/08/2077190/WF

Case Officer: Michael Lloyd

**Appeal Dismissed: 21/10/2008**





## **Ongoing Appeals:**

### **37 Woodmere Avenue**

08/01171/P Full Planning Permission

Registration: 18/04/2008

Erection of a three bedroom detached house; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking.

Consultation expires: 10/05/2008

MORA Objection Sent: 05/05/2008

Permission Refused: 04/06/2008 Delegated

Appeal Received: 25/06/2008 Ref: A/08/2079084/WF

Grounds of appeal obtained from Planning Office.

Case Officer: Michael Lloyd Ongoing as of 29/08/08

### **66 Tower View**

08/00164/P Full planning permission

Registration: 17/01/2008

Demolition of existing house; erection of 4 semi-detached two bedroom houses and 1 two bedroom detached bungalow ; formation of vehicular accesses onto Edgewood Green and provision of associated parking spaces (corrected description).

James White

Permission Refused 28/02/2008

Planning Committee Appeal Application: 22 Apr 2008

Ref: APP/L5240/A/08/2071798

Case Officer: Ruth Howell Ongoing as of 29/08/08

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## **Quest for Information**

Addington Hills nee Shirley Hills is a large natural area that rises from Oaks Road up to a plateau 460 feet above sea level. The surrounding steeply sloping ground descends in every direction and facing northwards gradually declines as far as Ashburton Playing Fields and South Norwood County Park, across Shirley Road down to beyond Long Lane. Rainwater drains from the hills in a series of small natural streams most of which flow unseen in culverts under fields, roads and properties out of sight and many residents are unaware of their existence. One such stream, normally barely a trickle, flows through Monks Orchard. It appears to have no name and the sources and destination is unknown.



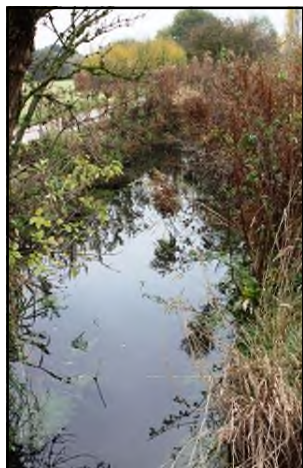
Locating the stream is easy because it surfaces from a culvert from under the ground at the entrance close to the junction of Greenview Avenue and The Glade and flows alongside the property at 23 Greenview and downwards across the rear gardens of Ash Tree Way. The route followed afterwards is difficult to identify but at some point it must cross Long Lane. The stream is not recorded on Ordinance Survey maps or any other available map of the area.

According to local tradition the stream is called Chaffinch Brook which is mentioned on Parks and Open Spaces



**Chaffinch Brook**

website as following the line of Glenthorne Avenue back to Shirley Road and then back to Lower Addiscombe Road. The rangers based in the Information Centre at South Norwood Country Park say that the Chaffinch Brook flows into the park from under Ryelands Fields and across the park to feed the man-made lake before heading across the Elmers End Road towards Clockhouse and joining the river Beck. This suggests that the stream flowing through Monks Orchard is too far east to be part of the Chaffinch Brook.



**Chaffinch Brook**

In very wet weather drainage problems arise in a number of areas for example Glade Gardens is crossed by small streams and has a wet area. Watlings Close, Aldersmead Avenue and Long Lane woods experience drainage problems in excessive inclement weather. Parts of Shirley Oaks Village and gardens in Woodmere Avenue and



Ashburton Playing Fields have a high water table. The Environmental Agency acknowledges this by including these areas as a having risk of potential flooding.

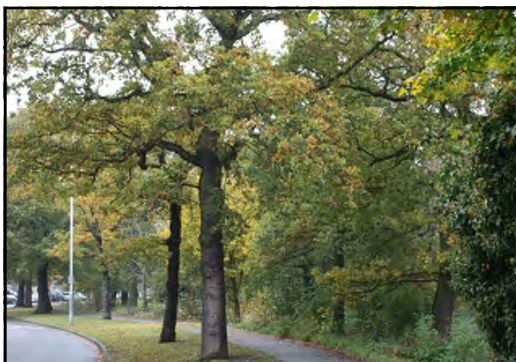
The Council Environmental Team makes reference only to Chaffinch Brook and The Environmental Agency has no record of the more local stream. The Local History Department have scant information on small streams in the Monks Orchard area. Knowing that residents that have lived in the area for a long time and usually have most of the accumulated local knowledge, it would be sensible to ask local residents to pool their knowledge to allow the stream to be accurately mapped from source along its route to its destination. If you are willing to share your information please contact Bob Akers on [REDACTED]. All messages will receive a response and sources will be mentioned in any subsequent publication.

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## **Trees & Open Spaces**

During the past months John Parry and George Mowforth, MORA Tree and Open Space Officers, have been engaged in completing a register of trees that need attention or replacement so that they can be included for inclusion in the Council's tree planting programme. The planting of new trees is scheduled to take place over the period November 2008 to March 2009.

The Tree and Open Space Officers are able to offer help and advice to members on local spaces in need of attention, tree replacement and overgrown trees and scrubs on public land but not private gardens. The aim is to ensure that Monks Orchard receives an equal share of limited resources to maintain the green character of the area.



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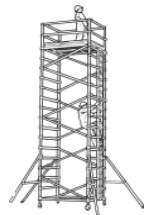
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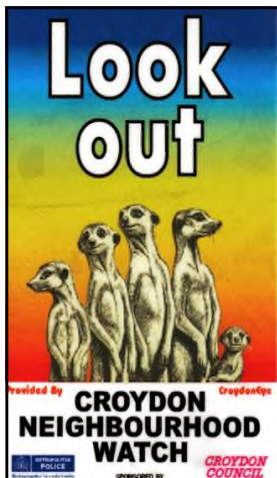
Information on trees in the borough which are subject to tree preservation orders is soon to be published on the Council website. This helpful information can be used to protect trees with a high amenity value being damaged or removed by irresponsible owners or removed or damaged during building developments.

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## Neighbourhood Watch

Jean Cook, Police Liaison and Security Officer, attended the Annual General Meeting of the Neighbourhood Watch Association on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October and gives the following summary of the proceedings. The meeting was attended by approximately 250 co-ordinators which underlines the concern of residents about crime and the security of their property.

Four presentations were given. Don Lucas of the Fraud Squad talked about scams such as the Spanish Lottery that has netted fraudsters over half a million pounds. Investment Scams and Identity theft were also explored. It was



suggested that schools are visited to make students aware of the danger of email scams. The BRIT school performed a portrayal of Identity Theft which advised members of the public to shred all personal documentation, keep credit cards out of sight and never give bank security information when making online purchases. Bruce Boxall from the Air Support Unit gave a visual presentation about Eurocopters that operated every day and night to prevent crime. Vernon Rapley of the Art and Antique Unit gave a visual presentation on the valuable and unique objects housed in the 240 museums in the country. Advice was given to security mark all personal valuable property and to keep a photograph for identification purposes.



The meeting concluded with Steve O' Connell, GLAM, and Cabinet Member for Safety and Cohesion, thanking members of Neighbourhood Watch for its work in reducing crime.

Neighbourhood Watch operates in many streets, avenues and estates in Monks Orchard but there are gaps usually because the local coordinator has retired or moved elsewhere. There is more to Neighbourhood Watch than protecting property from being burgled; by working together, neighbours can reduce all sorts of problems and also take action to improve the environment by getting something done about vandalism, graffiti and poor lighting. Watch schemes also help the community to keep check on people in the area that are vulnerable. The elderly and the frail can benefit from an extra set of eyes to ensure their safety and security.

If you reside in a street or estate that is not covered by a Neighbourhood Watch scheme or you are interesting in joining please contact the local coordinator Sarah Gardner on [REDACTED].

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## Shopping On-line Update

Information on shopping online was first published in the Autumn 2007 issue of the newsletter and this update has been compiled because scammers are always coming up with



new ways of ripping off the unwary. Sites like eBay are now as available to us as car boot sales and more and more conventional retailing websites like Amazon are making their internet platforms available to individuals to sell their new and used stuff. Dealing with individual traders as

opposed to household names poses certain risks.





It is important to fully understand what you are purchasing; is it an original or a legitimate copy? Will it work in this country? Is it illegal to import this item into this country? Is the item new or used, refurbished or shop soiled?

It pays to familiarise yourself with how the online market you are acquiring items from operates. Is this an auction or a normal sale? For example, with auctions a bid may be irreversible. Having selected an item it is wise to enquire how the item will be delivered, sometimes the cost of shipping exceeds the cost of the item itself - factor this into the final cost of the item. What are the available shipping options, how much do they cost and how long does each take? Can you track the item while it is in transit? If the seller lives close by, you may opt to collect in person.



There are three methods of payment: Cheque, Internet Payment Processing Services (IPPS) or Credit Card. Cheques are the least popular online payment method because getting a refund if the transaction goes wrong depends entirely upon the seller. The risks of the cheque getting lost or stolen or misplaced either in the post or by the seller are also possible realities.

IPPS's such as PayPal are companies that act as a go-between, separating you and the seller. You give your credit card details to the IPPS when you register an account with them. Every time you purchase something from a vendor accepting this type of payment, the IPPS first charges your credit card and then pays the vendor less a transaction charge. The vendor never gets to know your credit card or bank details. Some IPPS's even offer Buyer Protection Programs that insure against fraudulent behavior by the seller.

Credit and debit cards are also a common method to pay for online purchases. Unlike IPPS transactions, with credit cards, the vendor will end up with your credit card details. If the



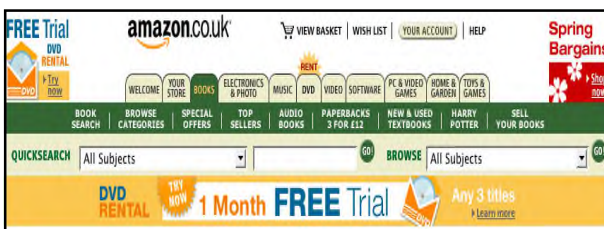
vendor's computer is hacked, the hacker can get hold of your card details.

If the vendors you deal with do not accept IPPS transactions, you should consider a debit card linked to an account you only use for online purchases. In order to pay for something using this card, you first transfer funds into the account. This means that if a hacker gets hold of the card details, there is nothing he can take as the account is normally empty.



Paying for goods with cash is not an option. Sending cash in the mail is insane since it cannot be traced, cannot be accounted for and cannot be linked to you (paper clips and staples do fall off) Whenever you are entering your credit card or IPPS details in a web site make sure that the page is secure. Never send such details via email since emails can be read in transit.

Sometimes the item fails to arrive and this is one of the hassles of online purchases. Keep track of all items you are expecting. Communicate with the seller if you think the item should have already arrived. If you have any form of insurance update yourself with the procedure on how to make a claim. Many insurance contracts specify a timeframe within which you must claim.



It is essential to check beforehand what your rights are in the event that you have a change of heart after purchasing an item

or it breaks down. With used goods you may not have the right to return the item nor any warranty. The best policy is to read the returns policy on the item or email the vendor for this information before the purchase.



In certain online marketplaces, a seller may suggest that you deal direct rather than use the site itself. The reasoning given is that the site charges the seller a fee and he would be willing to split these charges with you. Once you leave the protection of the site and deal directly with the seller you forfeit all your rights.

Always be realistic. If it sounds too good to be true, it



probably is. If an item is advertised at a ridiculously low price, it is almost certainly a fake. Inform the seller, the marketplace operators and the manufacturers of the brand in question.

It is very important that you keep a printed copy of all the

screens and emails. Since the internet is dynamic, web pages can change, listed products may be removed and their description altered.

Buying from the internet can be lots of fun as long as you stick to the points listed above. For some surfers, the hunt for that bargain or that collectable translates into a couple of enjoyable hours every evening looking through lists of their favourite goodies.

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## Nordic Walking

An easy way to keep fit while enjoying the great outdoors!

This popular activity, which is fast growing across the world, is an effective way of walking, using special poles. These enable the body to work harder, increase the heart rate and tone 90% of your muscles as well as helping weight loss but at the same time the workout feels easy because of the poles' support.

To get the most out of Nordic walking it's best to learn the technique. An introductory workshop lasts 1 and a half hours.





This can be followed up with optional courses and group sessions.

All sessions take place in local parks including South Norwood Country Park.

Nordic walking is something anyone can do, anywhere in any weather!

For further details, contact Christine on [redacted], email [redacted] or visit [redacted].

## **Music at Shirley Methodist Church**

Recently, we at Shirley Methodist Church have been considering ways in which we can encourage the use of our church building during the week. It seems a waste that such a fine building possessing a magnificent organ and a grand piano should be so little employed.

As a first step towards rectifying this situation Derek Funnell, one of our organists, has arranged for the distinguished American organist, Carlo Curley, to give a concert in the church on Saturday, 24th January, 2009 at 7.30pm. Mr Curley has played all over the world and has made records for several companies including RCA and Decca as well as recently having made four DVDs. We shall be publishing details of booking arrangements for the concert later in the year.

As well as promoting the Carlo Curley concert we are hoping to present a series of lunchtime concerts on the first Tuesday of each month beginning on the 6th March 2009. In these concerts we hope to showcase talent from local schools, churches within the Croydon Methodist Circuit as well as other local



**Carlo Curley**



organisations. Incidentally if any of your readers would be interested in performing we should be glad to hear from them. The concert coordinator is Paul Davies, a member of the church, and he would be happy to talk to anyone interested after 20th October (Tel: [REDACTED]) when he returns from holiday.

We are very keen that the Church should serve the local community and become a place which people will wish to visit on these occasions.

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## **A French flavour for St John's Tamberlin room**

I am a local mother and have lived in Shirley all my life, except for the two years I spent in France learning the language. I have always wanted to pass my knowledge on to my children, as it has helped me countless times both here and abroad. However, getting two little girls to sit down at home was



impossible. So I had the idea that they would learn far better in a more structured environment. A little perusal of the net and La Jolie Ronde emerged. Their teaching material is excellent and they base their lessons around fun activities that encourage learning. The Jolie Ronde have been established since 1983 and have both independent and school classes running all over the country. Now I had a structured and tested programme which complemented the school curriculum, all I needed was somewhere to teach; where better than the newly decorated Tamberlin Room by St John's Church.

The after school classes are open to all children aged from 5 to 11 and I would love to hear from you on [REDACTED].

Madeline Warren



## ***Shirley Neighbourhood Care Scheme***

### ***What are we? Who are we?***

We were established in the 70s by local churches to help in the community, with the support of volunteers we are able to offer:

Transport to G.P., clinic, dental and hospital appointments.  
Assistance with shopping and prescription collection.  
To visit sick, disabled and housebound.

(Please note that our services are dependent upon the availability of suitable volunteers)

#### **COULD YOU HELP WITH?**

Transport · Shopping/Prescription Collection  
Gardening · Befriending · Office Administration

Just an hour a week could make all the difference, so why not offer to be a volunteer in your neighbourhood.

**Volunteers are always required, especially drivers.**

**Mileage is reimbursed but many volunteers prefer to donate this to our funds. We operate on a system of 'if and when available' and gratefully accept as much or as little time that you want to give.**

Volunteers are unable to offer personal care, regular housework or regular gardening.

**CAN WE HELP YOU? COULD YOU VOLUNTEER?**

Call: [REDACTED]

## **Christmas Services for "Churches in Shirley" 2008**

**Shirley Methodist Church, Eldon Avenue**

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Gift Service 10.30am

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Candlelit Carol Service 6.30pm

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Children's Crib Service 4.30pm

- Holy Communion at Addington  
Methodist Church 11.30pm



Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Worship 10.30am  
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Methodist Covenant Service with St.  
John's Parish Church 10.30am.

### **St. George the Martyr, Shirley**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December - Nine Lessons and Carols 6.00pm

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Crib Service 4.00pm

- Crib Service 5.00pm
- Carols in Church 11.00pm
- Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day Holy Communion  
8.00am

- Parish Communion 10.00am

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December - Holy Innocents Holy Communion  
8.00am

- Parish Communion 10.00am

### **Longheath Baptist Church, Longheath Gardens, Long Lane**

Sunday 21st December - Carol service 11.00am

Thursday 25th December - Christmas day service 10.30am



## **Farewell Turtles**

For the second year in succession the pre-festive season brings news of the loss of another long- established familiar shopping landmark. Last year Kennedy's Butchers that produced and sold sausages and pies for 130 years ceased trading and this year Turtles the traditional hardware shop



**Turtles in Park Street**



in Park Lane is to close its doors after serving the needs of Croydon residents for 114 years. Those with long memories will recall the original Turtles in Crown Hill with its window displays of fine cutlery and silver plated tea sets. The enforced move in 1960 to a cramped shop space spread over three floors in Park Street took it away from the passing trade of the town centre; nevertheless, it remained well supported by loyal customers. It was considered by many as being the most useful shop in Croydon because it sold things in small quantities and provided products and advice that allowed people to do many DIY jobs without recourse to the Yellow Pages and expensive call outs. Customers will continue heading for the store long after it has closed its doors.

The continued closures of useful local businesses raises questions about the misguided inflated regeneration plans of the local authority which include a high expansion in shops, probably a glass and chrome collection of identical chain stores at a time when there is a financial crisis. Mergers of banks and building societies, the closure of estate agents and the growth of internet shopping will result in the closure of more high street shops to add to those remaining vacant in the major Croydon shopping malls. While there are continuing delays in starting work on the Croydon Gateway and Park Street sites there needs to be an urgent review of the regeneration plans for Croydon centre and the preparation of an alternative plan to satisfy the shopping and housing needs of Croydon residents in the twenty-first century.

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## **MORA Newsletter**

Changes have been made to the newsletter that means for the first time it is being printed in colour, and the typeface has been changed to improve legibility. Some comments have been received and it is hoped that members are satisfied with the improvements. We have come a long way from the days when members of the Executive Committee produced each issue using the duplicator in the vestry of St. George's Church. Each page having to be typed directly onto a stencil



and printed individually by our long serving editor and after folding collating and inseting, over 2000 copies were passed to Area Managers and then to Road Stewards for delivery to members.

This editor has a firm policy of never publishing reader's letters as some can prove divisive and invite angry responses. Individual responses are made to letters received by the association. It is worth emphasising that the newsletter is produced for the benefit of the local community. What are gratefully received by the editor are short informative articles or items of interest and information about Monks Orchard such as history, changes, community activities and charity events. If you wish to submit items for publication please forward to the editor whose decision is final.

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## Area Mangers and Road Stewards

*The distribution of our quarterly newsletter and the yearly collection of membership contributions are the lifeblood of the association.*

*We are extremely thankful to the services of the 11 Area Managers and 60 plus Road Stewards who perform this most important task for you, the members, and we take this opportunity to wish them thanks and seasons greetings on behalf of all our members.*

*We would ask that you help the road stewards in their task by paying your membership contribution, £2 for Senior Citizens and £4 for full members per household, early in the new year. The newsletters' are produced quarterly and we have to pay for printing each issue from membership funds collected. Therefore if membership payments are delayed the funding of the newsletters' becomes a problem for the association.*



**We urgently require Road Stewards for:**

*Camrose Close  
Stoneleigh Park Avenue  
Shirley Avenue Nos. 36 to 103  
Shirley Avenue Nos. 2 to 37  
Valley Walk  
Eldon Avenue  
Glenview Avenue  
Uplands Court  
Littlebrook Close*

**Please Contact our Membership Secretary:  
Diane McInerney on [REDACTED] If you  
could cover any of the above roads.**

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### **Shirley Christmas Lights**

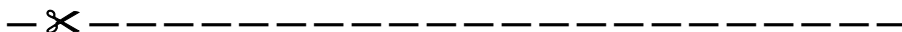
*At our joint meeting with Spring Park Residents' Association during the summer, we agreed that both RA's would contribute the same amount of £120 to the Shirley Business Association (SBA) for the Shirley/Wickham Road shopping parade Christmas lights.*



*If you would like to make an individual donation; please take your donation to John Muddle "Shine Hairdresser" at 186 Wickham Road.*

# MORA COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2008

|                                       |                      |  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| President                             | DEREK LOUGHBOROUGH   |  |
| Chairman:                             | BOB AKERS            |  |
| Vice Chair:                           | VACANT               |  |
| Secretary:                            | DAVE KING            |  |
| Membership Secretary:                 | DIANE McINERNEY      |  |
| Minutes Secretary:                    | VACANT               |  |
| Planning Officer:                     | VACANT               |  |
| Hon. Treasurer & Advertising Manager: | TERRY GREENWOOD      |  |
| Editor / Website                      | DEREK RITSON         |  |
| Social Secretary:                     | CHRISTINE ROSS-SMITH |  |
| Transport & Highways:                 | VACANT               |  |
| Police Liaison/Security:              | JEAN COOK            |  |
| Primary Care:                         | MERCIA NASH          |  |
| Neighbourhood Partnership:            | VACANT               |  |
| Committee Member:                     | MICHAEL NASH         |  |
| Area Manager & Joint Archivist        | PATRICIA TURNER      |  |
| Joint Archivist                       | SHEILA WAGLAND       |  |
| Tree & Open Space Officer             | JOHN PARRY           |  |
| Tree & Open Space Officer             | GEORGE MOWFORTH      |  |



## MONKS ORCHARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| Name:      | Signature: |
| Address:   |            |
| Post Code: |            |

Please send this completed form to:

**DIANE McINERNEY**

**Thank you for supporting MORA. Please pass on to a non-member.**

**Printing by MEDIA Heroes: John McCormack, Broadway House,  
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