

Monks Orchard Residents' Association

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Croydon

(Non Party)

(Independent)

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NEWSLETTER - Winter 2009



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

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 2	Chairman's Comments	Page 14	Adjacent Borough Planning Issues
Page 4	Annual General Meeting 2010		Security Report -
	Parking Problems		Ashburton SNT Crime Update
Page 6	Bywood Cottage	Page 16	Shirley Safer Neighbourhood Team
Page 7	The Orchard	Page 18	Shirley SNT Crime Update
Page 8	The Alders	Page 20	Poppy IT News
Page 9	Supporting Community Activities	Page 21	Happiness is...
Page 11	Care Boxes for our Troops	Page 22	The Great Book Sale
Page 12	Planning Report	Page 23	Croydon Bach Choir
			Area Manager & Road Steward Request

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



Chairman's Comments

MORA was well represented in the tremendous turnout on Thursday 29th October for the welcome home of the 2nd Battalion 'The Rifles' from their tour of duty in Afghanistan on their march through the town centre. More than 150 soldiers marched through Croydon to the impressive sounds



**March past of 2nd Battalion
The Rifles through Croydon**

of the Military Band and were greeted with cheers, clapping and waving of the Union Jacks. It was a time of pride and also great sadness because the tour of the 2nd. Rifles ended with a high number of fatalities and casualties. Members will be pleased to know that members of the Executive Committee are continuing to send boxes filled with useful items, magazines and messages of support to the troops that remain in Afghanistan.

Most experts predict that the forthcoming year will be one of retrenchment and whatever party takes power after the next election it is clear that drastic action will have to be taken to reduce the excessive level of public debt. Belt tightening is on the horizon and there will be difficult choices to make and these are likely to involve tax increases, cuts in public services and wage restraint. The fear is that some of the improvements made in public services will be lost, perhaps forever. Those that have had their incomes reduced as a result of the economic downturn will be waiting anxiously for news of any changes in the level of council tax. All we can do is hope that the gloomy predictions are wrong and there will be a return to economic prosperity.



Mayday is our local hospital and those that use its services expect high quality treatment and care. It is pleasing to know that the performance of the hospital is improving and this has been recognised in the annual health check recently undertaken by the Care Quality Commission. Last year's assessment of 'fair' has this year been raised to 'good'. The commission awarded high scores in two important areas that matter most to patients and staff – safety and cleanliness, and dignity and respect. There are some areas where there is room for improvement but the performance level is increasing.

Responding to the concerns of members, a meeting was arranged with council officers responsible for traffic and road safety to explore ways in which local roads could be made safer. Furthermore, the association is working with the Ashburton and Shirley Safer Neighbourhood teams to identify the areas where excessive speeding takes place.

Dealing with planning issues remains a major activity; speculative property developers continue to submit inappropriate planning proposals for high density housing blocks in order to increase the return on their investment. A recent example is a proposal to erect a block of eight flats on a site occupied by a small cottage. As the property market returns to growth more applications of a similar nature can be anticipated.

The association is pleased to have been able to acknowledge and support those that freely devote their time and energy for the benefit of the local community.

Concluding, I thank you for your support during the past year and ask you to put aside all worries and take full advantage on what the festive season has to offer. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bob Akers Chairman



Annual General Meeting 2010

The eighty-seventh Annual General Meeting of the association is to be held on Friday 23rd April beginning at 7.30 p.m. in St. George's church hall Elstan Way Shirley. There will be a report from Andrew Pelling Member of Parliament, Steve O'Connell Member of the Greater London Council and there will be a question panel formed by Councillors to answer questions from members. David Szostak Director of Croydon's Traffic, Transport and Road Safety will give a presentation and answer questions about parking and road safety.

Ensure to enter the date in your new diary and come along to support the association of residents.



Parking Problems

A direct consequence of the relentless growth in the number of vehicles taking to the roads is an increase in the problems of congestion and parking. Even decent law abiding members of the community tend to lose all sense of responsibility when it comes to parking



their car or van. The aim being to park as close as possible to their home or place of destination; resulting in a complete abandonment of responsibility and vehicles being left where they prevent the access of emergency services or create hazards and annoyance for other road users and pedestrians. Even the police consider themselves above the law when vehicle parking is involved.

MORA receives numerous complaints about irresponsible parking, some are quite bizarre for example, leaving a vehicle on a private driveway and preventing the house owner from driving out of their garage. The main trouble spots are at schools during term time and playing fields during the football season. Inconsiderate parking is more of an issue in Monks Orchard because many of the roads follow the routes that were originally farm tracks, narrow in width and punctuated with



sharp bends and turns. All drivers will be aware of the safety hazards created by a large van or truck being thoughtlessly parked on a narrow bend.

In an attempt to obtain answers to the concerns of its members MORA recently undertook an investigation with the aim of identifying who is directly responsible for the following; road safety, enforcement of speed and parking restrictions, untaxed and abandoned vehicles, traffic control and warning signs. Obtaining answers to these questions is far from straightforward because the responsibility is divided between three authorities; the Metropolitan Police, Croydon Council and Transport for London. This complex arrangement allows room for a degree of 'buck passing' and transfers to different departments.

A helpful response was received from David Szostak Director of Croydon's Traffic, Transport and Road Safety who agreed to meet with representatives of MORA. The meeting took place on the 17th September at Taberner House attended by David Szostak, Ian Wallace, Department of Parking and Technical Services, Dave King, Secretary of MORA and Raymond Hambling, MORA Traffic and Highways Officer. The meeting was positive and helpful and the information obtained is summarised as follows;

Speed Humps: Installation of these was stopped by the new administration in 2007 and this is why there are none north of the Wickham Road.

Speed Cameras: Croydon Council has no jurisdiction on the placement of cameras; it is the responsibility of the London Safety Camera Partnership. In order to have a camera installed there has to have been at least four or more fatalities of which two must be speed related, at the location over a span of three years.

Warning Signs: To install warning signs of road hazards such as dangerous bends the council has to submit a bid for finance to Transport for London.

Speed Enforcement: The Safer Neighbourhood Teams can assist the police using hand held speed recording cameras. In



addition, the borough has the use of two van mounted speed enforcement cameras provided by the London Safety Camera Partnership.

Street Lighting: Consideration is being given to improvements in street lighting that is funded by Private Finance Initiative [PFI].

MORA used the meeting to table maps identifying local danger spots where some form of parking enforcement or traffic control is needed. These will be examined and considered by the Department of Parking and Technical Services.

Subsequent to the meeting the Executive Committee has invited David Szostak to give a presentation at the MORA 2010 Annual General Meeting to be held on 23rd April. His attendance will give members an opportunity to obtain authoritative answers to their road safety concerns.

Bywood Cottage

This period cottage is situated on the corner of The Rosery and Bywood Avenue and is a familiar local landmark. The property was built in 1923 and has remained within the same family; sadly it has been unoccupied for many months and has suffered badly from



Bywood Cottage

vandalism. A planning application has been submitted to demolish the existing building and erect a two- storey building with accommodation in the roof space comprising 4 two bedroom and 4 one bedroom flats and eight parking spaces on this small site. The proposal is for a large dominant structure virtually three storeys on a small site high that will be completely out of character with the surrounding buildings and the street scene. It will also detract from the open green space offered by the playing fields and the wooded area. MORA is supporting the nearby residents in opposing the proposal.



The Orchard

Public houses have been part of the social fabric of England for centuries and in major urban areas there was usually one in every street and rural villages had at least one. They are now closing at the rate of six a day as a consequence of high taxes, smoking bans and the expansion of alcohol sales in supermarkets. Even off-licenses and specialist wine outlets are struggling to survive at a time when more alcohol is being consumed.

Until The Orchard opened on the Lawdon estate in 1960 Monks Orchard did not have a 'local'. Residents wanting a drink made use of The Rising Sun in the Upper Elmers End road, the Black Horse in Addiscombe (now demolished) the Shirley Inn in Wickham Road or the William IV in Elmers End, all of which are a distance away. For many



The Orchard Pub

drinkers The Orchard soon became their 'local' and was accepted as a part of the community.

Two years ago rumours started to circulate that The Orchard was to cease trading and the building converted to living accommodation; fortunately this did not happen. Local residents Kay and Ian Glossop made a brave decision and purchased a lease on the premises hoping that they could make a success of the venture. The pub has been redecorated and fitted with new upholstery and has become a more attractive venue. It is hoped that the fully equipped kitchen will be used to serve a larger selection of meals thus following the lead of others in the battle to survive.

In September the proprietors of The Orchard applied to vary their premises licence to add additional forms of regulated entertainment, namely films, live music, sporting events on TV, karaoke events, weddings and birthday parties dancing etc.



Permission was also sought to hold these activities on Friday and Saturday evenings up until midnight. The MORA Executive Committee knew that only a few local residents would bother to read the official notices printed in the local newspapers or the notice displayed on the window of premises. It was decided to circulate an information leaflet to inform local residents so they could have the opportunity to comment on the proposal and many residents did take the opportunity to submit their opinion to the Licensing Officer. The main concerns of residents living nearby were noise, car parking, anti-social behaviour and litter.

The owners of the premises responded by writing a well crafted letter saying that they has taken note of the observations made by residents and stated that they were going to do everything they could to satisfy local concerns and to make The Orchard Pub an accepted part of the community. They have changed the sound system to include a automatic sound limiting system; to reduce late night noise they propose to stop music and alcohol sales at 23.30; parking will not be a problem because there are 18 parking bays that are seldom filled to capacity; to prevent anti-social behaviour additional CCTV cameras have been installed and a pledge made to enforce a strict zero tolerance drug policy. The positive action taken by the proprietors impressed the members of the Licensing Committee who gave permission for the minor variation. MORA holds the opinion that a sensible compromise has been reached that should satisfy the concerns of the residents living nearby and please local drinkers.

The Alders

The woods which gave Woodside its name were part of an ancient chain of woods that stretched across Croydon and beyond. Only isolated patches remain of the "Great North Woods" as it became known in the 18th century. Despite the intensive building of recent years, patches of ancient woodlands still exist in Woodland Way, Long Lane Woods, the bird sanctuary in Lorne Gardens and areas running along the flow of the River Beck that marks the border of Croydon and Bromley.



MORA representing residents in Shirley and Ashburton Wards, are extremely concerned about the threat to these linked parcels of green space and ancient woodland.

When a planning application was submitted to Bromley council for the demolition of Number 80 The Alders and the construction of eight properties in the woods between Bolderwood Way, West Wickham and Oak Avenue, Shirley, with an access drive and a bridge over the River Beck, local Residents' Associations became very concerned on behalf of the affected residents in Shirley and Bromley. The proposal would require the felling of 33 trees, completely destroying an area of ancient woodland and a natural habitat for wildlife. MORA's concern was shared by the residents' associations of Spring Park, West Wickham and Eden Park and this resulted in a extraordinary meeting between the officers of the four associations representing approximately eight thousand residents who firmly agreed to work together to resist this unwanted proposal and protect this valuable green open space for future generations.

Each RA submitted objections to Bromley and as the River Beck marks the boundary of Croydon and Bromley, our objection was sent to both planning Authorities and we have received acknowledgments from both. We will be reporting on the dates of any hearings etc in future issues of the newsletter.

Supporting Community Activities

MORA has a tradition of recognising and supporting activities that benefit the local community. Unfortunately in recent years our financial position has been weak and the struggle has been for survival but thanks to the splendid efforts of Terry Greenwood our Honorary Treasurer and Advertising Manager, the financial position has improved. This has given us the opportunity for the Executive Committee to consider ways in which MORA can show appreciation and support to established groups that organise activities for the younger members of our local community.



4th Shirley Brownies

This year the Girl Guides are celebrating their centenary and the 4th Shirley Brownies, made up of girls between 7 - 10 years of age, meets on Tuesdays at St. George's Church Hall. Under the leadership of Brown Owl Sheila Fenner and her team of helpers the twenty five or more girls that attend really do have fun, making things, learning new skills, getting out and about and helping others. Whilst they still celebrate their past traditions they enjoy the exciting activities open to girls of the 21st. Century.



4th Shirley Brownies showing their acceptance Plaque and Sheila fenner holding the donation cheque

The MORA Executive Committee are pleased that the 4th Shirley Brownies agreed to accept a donation of £100 which will be put towards their centenary events including holding a party for those who have been involved in guiding at St. George's over the years.



Paul Ilse accepting the donation cheque to the Addiscombe Little League, from MORA Area Manager Michael Nash

Addiscombe Little League

During the football season many competitive football matches and training sessions take place on the Ashburton Playing Fields. On Saturday mornings the Addiscombe Little League attracts approximately 120 local youngsters for football practice sessions supervised by qualified coaches, referees and helpers, all of which are volunteers. The girls and boys that



attend do not have to be great footballers to join because the league considers that sporting behaviour is more important than winning. The players are divided into age groups ranging from 5 to 13 years and are loaned their team kit.

The league generates a great sense of community with mums and dads helping out, dads running the line, mums helping with the canteen, etc. New players and helpers are welcome.

If you wish to know more, all the information and contact details can be accessed on:

<http://addiscombelittleleague.synthasite.com/>.

MORA is pleased that the league has agreed to accept a donation of £100. MORA acknowledges and supports these valuable community activities and thanks those that freely donate their time and energy to make them a success

Care Boxes for our Troops

A huge thank you for your generosity.

Since our last newsletter was published we have sent a further 45 Care Boxes, five parcels of books and six parcels of magazines to our Troops with further parcels ready to be sent.

We have been given an updated list of items that would be welcome and these are:

Tea bags, coffee, un-perfumed wipes, **un-perfumed** soap and deodorant, biscuits, sweets (not chocolate), small tins of fruit, tuna, salmon, sardines, baked beans, spam, toothbrushes, toothpaste, DVD's, Cup of Soup and, Pot Noodles.

Our allocation has now been taken up, and we will start making up further boxes in the new year, so if you would like to make a donation, please contact me in the new year.

Christine Ross-Smith,

. Telephone

Christine

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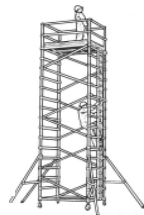
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Planning Report

New Applications:

09/02989/P Full planning permission Registration: 20/10/2009

219 Wickham Road, Croydon, CR0 8TG

Use of ground floor for purposes within class A3 (restaurant and cafe) and erection of extract ducting at rear

Consultation Close 16/11/2009 Target date: 15/12/2009

09/02365/P Full planning permission Registration: 14/09/2009

Bywood Cottage, 2A Bywood Avenue

Demolition of the existing building; erection of a two storey building with accommodation in the roofspace comprising 4 two bedroom and 4 one bedroom flats; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking, cycle/refuse storage.

Consultation Close: 18/10/2009

MORA Objection sent 18/10/2009 Acknowledged.

Ongoing

09/02081/P Full Planning Permission Registration: 17/08/2009

79 Gladeside

Retention of additional windows to the roofs and flank walls of the two new properties.

Target Date was 12/10/09

MORA Objection sent 15th September 2009. Acknowledged.

Representation: 32 letters sent out

Responses: In favour 0; Against 24; Petitions 0

No Dates given on the LPA WebPages yet.

09/01448/P Full planning permission Registration: 12/06/2009

102, 102A, 104, 104A and 104B The Glade

Retention of vehicular and pedestrian access as an amendment to 04/05082/P for the erection of 5 houses on land at 102-104 The Glade and adjoining 31 Watlings Close.

Consultation Closed: 11/07/2009

Target Date: 07/08/2009 [Now 4 Months overdue]?

MORA Objection sent 05/07/09

08/02647/P

Registration date: 14/07/08

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

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

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



Ward: Ashburton

Consultation Close: 02/10/08

Target Date: None Listed Representation: 51 letters sent out.

Responses: In Favour 13 Against 2 Petitions 0

MORA case for supporting the application sent 6th September 08.

As of 07/03/09 the LPA Webpage indicates the case has not yet been decided as of 30/03/09

Appeal Hearings:

08/02069/P Full planning permission Registration: 10/06/2008

Land at, Glade Gardens

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.

Permission Refused Planning Committee Date: 12/03/2009

Appeal Lodged: 12/08/2009 Appeal Ref: A/09/2106916/NWF

***Appeal hearing on 5th Nov at 10:00 a.m. at Town Hall;
Usually about 3 weeks before Appeal Inspector issues his/her findings.***

Ongoing Appeals

73-75 Orchard Way

Demolition of existing buildings; erection of two storey building comprising 8 two bedroom and 4 three bedroom flats; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking

Date Lodged: 24/08/2009 Appeal Ref: A/09/2111260/NWF

MORA Objection:22 June 2009 Consultation Close: 25/06/2009

Permission Refused 27/07/2009 Appeal Lodged:24/08/2009

MORA Submission to Planning Inspectorate 01/10/09

Acknowledged 03/10/09

75 Orchard Way empty property was destroyed by fire on evening of 5th October.

Other Planning Issues:

79 Gladeside: Update on information published in the Autumn 2009 Newsletter.

We have received a response from Mr Jon Rouse CEO of Croydon Council to our Stage 2 Complaint; basically restating the previous



responses. Further consideration of MORA action to be taken at the next Executive Committee Meeting. **Ed: Update**
The Executive Committee Unanimously voted in favour of pursuant to the Local Government Ombudsman.

Adjacent Borough Planning Issues

London Borough of Bromley

Representatives of MORA, SPRA, WWRA & Eden Park RA met on the evening of Friday 25th September to discuss the Outline Planning Application for No. 80 The Alders West Wickham for:

Demolition of No. 80 The Alders and construction of 8 detached and semi-detached houses with access drive and bridge over the River Beck.

MORA Objection sent to Bromley LPA and Croydon LPA ON 27th September 2009; Both Acknowledged.

This is a parcel of land which includes number 80 The Alders and lays between Bolderwood Way, West Wickham [WWRA area] and Oak Avenue, Shirley [SPRA area]. The fact that the area is ancient woodland with the river Beck running through the centre and is the boundary between Croydon BC and Bromley BC, we were asked to give our support to WWRA, SPRA, & Eden Park RA in objecting to this planning application – **If the Local RA's work together on these type of planning applications, we have more effect, as was the case with Poppy Lane.**

Security Report

Ashburton Safer Neighbourhood Team Crime update:-

Current priorities

1. Anti-Social Behaviour Longheath gardens

One youth is currently on an ASBO which was put into place by the Courts in July 2009 and a second youth is currently in the process of having an ASBO applied.

Ashburton SNT worked alongside PlayPlace, a youth organisation who ran a summer project at the Longheath Centre during the month of August 2009.



The Big lottery Fund has provided Longheath gardens with funding to create a play park at one end of the estate. These plans have been met with some opposition by some residents who have fears around the safety of the park and the possibility of an increase in anti-social behaviour around any proposed recreational site for young people.

The estate has suffered an increase in ASB in the last few months. This may be as a direct result of dispersal order in place in the roads North of Arena tram stop. Many of the youths are believed to be from this area. A Joint Agency Group meeting is to be held on Wednesday 28th October 2009 to review the dispersal zone. Ashburton SNT will be attending to highlight the fallout of the dispersal zone and the impact it has had on both the Longheath Estate and the Tollgate Estate.

2. Burglary

Since 1st September 2009 there have been eight residential burglaries and one attempt. The attempted burglary was reported directly to PCSOs on the team and this lead to the arrest by PC Manzano & PC Jacques of a prominent burglar on Croydon Borough for this offence. This offender is currently on bail conditions, not to enter the London Borough of Croydon. Since his arrest by the team, burglaries in the immediate area have decreased significantly.

Four of the burglaries reported have occurred in the MORA area. The most recent of these occurred in Lorne Gardens between 1300 and 2030 on Thursday 22nd October 2009. The suspect removed the entire pane of glass from a double glazed unit. No property was stolen.

Since 1st September 2009 there have been four non residential burglaries on Ashburton Ward. None of these have occurred in the MORA area of the ward.

3. Knife Crime

This is a youth driven priority and concerns itself with the fear amongst local young people of the impact of knife crime on their environment. We are currently in the process of arranging for Homicide Detectives to give a presentation to the pupils of Oasis Academy Shirley Park. This will be the same presentation



which is the subject of a BBC Panorama programme aired in November 2009.



**Police Sergeant
Paul Harrison**

Street by Street

This is a local initiative to engage more closely with our community. It is designed to highlight the team and the ward panel and what they do. It also gives the opportunity to meet with those residents who would not normally come into contact with the local Police team.

Photograph attached. You may recognise the handsome chap on the left!

Regards

Police Sergeant Paul Harrison
Ashburton Safer Neighbourhood Team

Shirley Safer Neighbourhood Team

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Simon Packham and I am the new Acting Sergeant on Shirley Safer Neighbourhood Team. I replace Rob Smith, who has gone to lead the ever expanding team of Special Police Constables in Croydon. I come from having spent three years on Kenley SNT, and three years on response team at Norbury and so I know Croydon well and look forward to the new challenges that Shirley has to offer. I began at Shirley on 28th September 2009 and was immediately impressed with the team and their achievements. I have two experienced PC's and six excellent PCSO's, who are all very keen and proactive in their approach to fighting crime. I am sure you have met some of them already. We already work closely with many local agencies, including the Schools, Croydon Synagogue, SPRA, MORA, Neighbourhood Watch and LeaF House, which is something I am keen to build upon in the future.



**Acting Sergeant
Simon Packham**

Safer Neighbourhood Teams have regular meetings with a Ward panel, which is made up of local residents and business leaders. They set priorities for the team to work towards.

Our current priorities have been set as reducing theft from Motor Vehicles and reducing Anti-social behaviour (ASB) by youths. As such, I would like to remind you not to leave valuables in your car and not to leave property on display. Thieves especially seem

to target Sat Navs and will break in if they see a Sat Nav cradle in the car, even if there are evident suction marks left on the windscreen by the cradle. This is because more often than not, people remove their Sat Navs and place it in the glove box out of sight. In relation to ASB, my team are regularly out on patrol before and after school, as well as into the evenings in the areas frequented by people who are intent on causing a nuisance. I ask for your assistance in reporting any incidents to us in order that we can identify these individuals and use current legislation to issue Acceptable Behaviour Agreements (ABA's) and even ASBO's if required. I would like to thank local businesses for their efforts in helping us restrict the sale of eggs and flour to young people who use them inappropriately around the Halloween Period. My team were out in force stopping gangs and hopefully deterring crime. Although there has been a huge reduction in Burglary in Shirley, compared to the same period last year, there tends to be a rise in Burglary in the run up to Christmas. Please ensure all windows and doors are locked and that no keys are left in the doors or on view. Many car thefts are committed by hooking keys through the letterbox. If you would like more advice, please call us or look at the following websites: www.met.police.uk and www.crimestoppers-uk.org.



I will also take this opportunity to say that the large majority of young people that study and live in Shirley are decent young people that we should be proud of and I am keen that they are not all tarred with the same brush. This is evident from the "*Fun in the Sun*" project on Shrubland's Estate which took place over the summer and October half term holidays where local youths and volunteers joined us in playing sport and spoke to us about their concerns. It was very well attended and everyone enjoyed themselves. Thank you to PC Tess Abrahams for organising this. She will definitely be doing it again next year! In addition to this, I have started Street Briefings and the Street by Street campaign, in which we come to your street and engage with you in order that we can address the issues that concern you personally.

If you would like to speak to us or have any information, please do not hesitate to call us on 0208 721 2469 or call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**. To report a crime please call 0300 123 1212. **In an emergency**, always dial 999. From all of us on Shirley SNT, I wish you all a merry festive period and a happy new year. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the near future.

Acting Sergeant Simon Packham
Shirley SNT

Shirley Safer Neighbourhood Team Crime update:-

Theft from Motor Vehicle offences in Shirley from 1st July 09 to 30th September 09:- 25 offences. Theft from motor vehicles peak overnight and they spread throughout the week. The figures show an increase in theft from motor vehicles which were **4** in July 08 but are now **9** on September 09. Similarly with Theft it was **6** and has now increased to **9**.

Burglary offences 1st July 09 to 30th September 09 total 16 peaking overnight and at weekends. Burglary has decreased in the Shirley ward to a September figure of **5**.

Anti Social Behaviour - The calls increase at July mainly due to summer holidays but in 2009 the calls in August dropped from



21 last year to 11 this year. Over the year 143 calls in 2008 and 99 calls in 2009.

The crime which has stayed high throughout the year is assaults and these are mainly domestics. Overall the figures have gone down from: 229 in 2008 to 211 in 2009.

Crime Priorities set for next 3 months

1. Motor vehicle crime, theft of and theft from.
2. Anti-social behaviour

Other issues

Street by street events and Street Briefings will be held by the SNT throughout Shirley. Every road in Shirley Ward will be covered by a street briefing.

367 Bus – Edenham School exit time has been changed to 3.15pm and the panel have contacted Metrobus to confirm the additional bus to be moved from 3.07 to 3.30pm to ease overcrowding from 2nd November.

- An activity day was held every Tuesday throughout the summer holidays, called “Fun in the Sun for Everyone” for all ages held on the Shrublands estate. On average 60 youths were attending each week and there was noticeable lower crime level. To be repeated in October.
- Anti-social behaviour orders and harassment orders have recently been handed to people living on the Shrublands estate.
- Three of the PCSOs from Shirley SNT are now bike trained and will be cycling around the Ward. SNT cycle uniforms have been donated by different associations in Shirley. Spring Park Neighbourhood Watch have donated funds for three kits and SPRA have donated funds for one kit.
- Recently PCSO Terry and PC Abrahams have visited lunch clubs to offer security checks to the elderly.
- Motor Bikes on Shrublands – The problem seems to have subsided since August. No further reports from residents.

Your concerns and views are important to the Ward Panel, email them to:- **shirley.ward.panel@hotmail.co.uk** or Telephone at **0203 1759 059** and leave a message.



The Shirley Ward Panel meets every 3 months – next meeting 5th January 2009. The Shirley Safer Neighbourhood Team can be contacted on [020 8721 2469](tel:02087212469).

Poppy IT News

Windows 7 was released at the end of October amid great media hype and looks like being the success that eluded Vista. Feedback from pre-release testers and published reviews seems to be very positive. The 'Windows 7' name tag is intended to distance it from its immediate predecessor but it is in effect Vista with some extra features. More importantly though, it has greater compatibility with existing hardware and software. Intrusive security warnings experienced with Vista's User Account Control (UAC) have been tamed in Windows 7, with user-selectable settings and a more acceptable compromise between security & usability.

I don't expect Windows XP to disappear overnight; with good security software installed it is still a stable and reliable platform for most purposes. XP has been around since 2001 and older computers will by now probably be running frustratingly slowly. It may be the limitations of an older processor chip, but more often can be remedied by some extra memory or clearing out unwanted programs.

The best way of all to rejuvenate a sluggish PC is to wipe it and start again. "Whoah!" I hear you cry. "What about all my files?" We regularly carry out such re-builds but, you will be reassured to hear, having done a full backup first. After installing Windows afresh and applying updates, all user data is restored from the backup. Essential programs will then be reinstalled and Internet connections re-established. In most cases this is quicker than trying to troubleshoot problems but, when tackling suspected virus or malware infections, what is the main advantage of this approach? You know it is going to work - 100%.

One situation we don't enjoy any more than you... hard disk failure - meaning that your precious documents, photos, music



are all lost. This can and does happen, sometimes on fairly new systems. Remember, warranty can replace the failed drive but not the lost data. Why is it usually just after such an event that we realise the value of effective backups? New Year resolution: Regular backups.

Thanks to all who have used Poppy IT Services since I started in 2005, I have been able to take on an assistant. Mike Lawrence joined earlier this year and is an excellent customer service engineer. As we head towards the close of 2009, Mike & I wish you all a great Christmas and look forward to helping set up all those new computers in the New Year.

Steve Hunt,
Poppy IT Services
www.poppyits.com

Happiness is not having want you want - it's wanting what you have.

With Christmas upon us we can all expect to add to the stuff cluttering up our lives, our work places and our homes with lots new stuff in the form of gifts from friends and relatives. So the New Year might be a good time to get rid of what you don't want, don't use or don't need.

We all allow stuff to accumulate. We buy stuff because it is a bargain rather than because we have a genuine use for it. And then hang on to it because of the price we paid for it. We keep stuff "just in case". However, getting rid of stuff is much more satisfying than accumulating it. Life becomes simpler, more spacious and more efficient. In this way less can really be very much more.

So, where to start? Be realistic, you can't expect to de-clutter a house in a weekend. De-cluttering is an elephant job so break it down. Set aside a couple of hours to de-clutter a corner of a room rather than the whole room. Avoid "churning": moving stuff around instead of throwing it out. Re-cycle - an unwanted Christmas present can be passed on next year (although to



avoid any embarrassment do a make a note of the gift giver). Be ruthless. If you have not worn it, read it or used it for 2 or 3 years it can probably go to someone who will. Books are wonderful but shelf space is not infinite so if you buy a book then give one away. And finally, try window shopping rather than the real thing- it's much cheaper.

Some websites which might help ...

Furniture Re-Use Network, www.frn.org.uk

Charity Choice, www.goodwillgallery.co.uk

nomoreclutter.co.uk

helpiammoving.co.uk cluttergone.co.uk

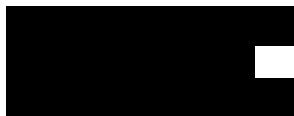
Reprinted from Consumer News Issue 230



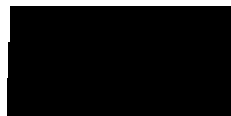
The Great Book Sale

Collecting for the 9th bi-annual Great Book Sale is about to get underway. Please help us during January & February by sorting out your Hardbacks,

Paperbacks, Children's Books, Records, CDs, DVDs & Videos. Any that you no longer require will be welcome at one of the following collection points:



Stephen Hunt
Jonathan Baxter
Bob Wakefield



Collecting starts 1st January and ends 6th March to allow time for sorting.

The Great Book Sale takes place Sat 20th March 2010, 10am – 4pm, Shirley Methodist Church, Eldon Avenue. Further information at www.greatbooksale.org.uk

Looking forward to seeing you there.
Steve Hunt, joint organiser.



Croydon Bach Choir



The Croydon Bach Choir is one of the leading amateur choirs in South London. The choir has a membership of approximately sixty and each season performs a number of concerts in and around Croydon generally engaging professional soloists and orchestras.

To celebrate our Golden Jubilee this Season, we will be holding a number of special concerts featuring composers who also have anniversaries in the same year, as well as a number of social events for members.

There will be a Family Christmas Carol Concert on Wednesday 16th December 2009, at St Matthew's Church, Croydon, CR0 5NQ.

On Saturday 27th March 2010, at St Mildred's Church, Bingham Road, Addiscombe, CR0 7EB we will have the Croydon Bach Choir Golden Jubilee Concert
Bach - B Minor Mass (with Orchestra)

The Summer Concert will be held on Saturday 26th June 2010, St Matthew's Church, Croydon, CR0 5NQ
Samuel Coleridge Taylor - Hiawatha's Wedding Feast.

More information about joining the choir and contact details at: <http://www.croydonbachchoir.org/>

Area Managers & Road Stewards

We urgently require additional Area Managers and Road Stewards throughout the area to reduce the loads on the existing road stewards.

Without the contributions from our Area Managers and Road Stewards the association would cease to exist.

Please contact Our Membership Secretary on: [REDACTED].



MORA COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2009

President	VACANT	
Chairman:	BOB AKERS	
Vice Chair:	VACANT	
Secretary:	DAVE KING	
Membership Secretary:	DIANE McINERNEY	
Minutes Secretary:	MARY EVANS	
Planning Officer:	VACANT	
Hon. Treasurer &		
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Social Secretary:	CHRISTINE ROSS-SMITH	
Transport & Highways:	RAY HAMBLING	
Police Liaison/Security:	JEAN COOK	
Primary Care:	MERCIA NASH	
Committee Member &		
Area Manager:	MICHAEL NASH	
Neighbourhood Partnership:	VACANT	
Joint Archivist	PATRICIA TURNER	
Joint Archivist	SHEILA WAGLAND	
Tree & Open Space Officer	VACANT	
Committee Member	NICKY SMITH	



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.

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