



Monks Orchard Residents' Association



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

Croydon

(Non Party)

(Independent)

~~~~~  
NEWSLETTER - Winter 2011



## IN THIS ISSUE:

|         |                                                     |         |                                                                  |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Page 2  | Chairman's Comments                                 | Page 13 | Libraries Update                                                 |
| Page 3  | The Shirley Green Triangle                          | Page 14 | Planning Reforms                                                 |
| Page 5  | The Shirley & Ashburton<br>Safer Neighbourhood Team | Page 17 | Macmillan - World's Biggest<br>Coffee Morning<br>Shirley Singers |
| Page 7  | Planning Report                                     | Page 18 | Monks Orchard Primary<br>School Expansion Program                |
| Page 8  | Yuletide Wishes<br>Correction Autumn 2011           | Page 19 | East Surrey Family History                                       |
| Page 9  | Update on Crystal Palace<br>Training Ground         | Page 20 | Croydon Health Services                                          |
| Page 10 | Recycling of Household<br>Waste                     | Page 21 | Walks & Other Activities In<br>Croydon                           |
| Page 12 | Shirley Neighbourhood<br>Care                       | Page 22 | Editor Profile                                                   |
|         |                                                     | Page 23 | Croydon Philharmonic Choir<br>Date for your Diary                |

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

## *Chairman's Comments*

It appears our so-called 'Bar B Q Summer' has come to an end and I trust the summer was all you expected. The fact is our summer was not unusual for the UK and the long hot Victorian summers are a myth.

You may be aware our government is changing the planning rules which appear to be reducing the public's ability to fight ill-considered planning applications of which MORA over the years has had some success.

The proposals will be putting too much power in the hands of developers. Much talk is made of 'sustainable developments' without providing a definition of the meaning. Unfortunately, politicians use too many sound bites.

These planning reforms could lead to unchecked and damaging developments on a scale not seen since the 1930's. The government say they want to change the planning system to promote economic growth. Does this mean they are prepared to put this above all else?

Careful thought needs to be given otherwise we could end up with the pitfalls caused by the late Harold Wilson.

Those who are regular readers of our newsletter will know the Crystal Palace Supporters Trust (CPST) was attempting to obtain 30% of the Ashburton Playing Fields as a training ground. This included the construction of a two storey building. I can report that because of the hostility of local residents and following discussions with Croydon Council, this project has been cancelled and CPST are looking elsewhere. Further details are discussed on page 9 in this newsletter.

We appear to be suffering from inconsiderate parking. We have a company parking their vehicles in Mere End which is a narrow road and not suitable for contractors' vehicles. People are also parking in disabled bays at the

Ashburton Library. We are currently investigating these issues and although your scribe has written to Cllr. Mike Fisher, leader of the Council, and the issue of Mere End has been raised at the last two MORA AGM's nothing has been done. We will not let these issues lie down and will keep on the case.

Finally, the committee and myself wish you all the best for the forthcoming season and look forward to an improved 2012.

**Dave King**  
**Chairman**

## *The Shirley Green Triangle*

The proposed development at the rear of the shops by the BP petrol station in Shirley is extremely controversial. If this development of 50 apartments for the elderly is approved by the Council, many of the properties surrounding the land are likely to be affected. Wildlife within this previously enclosed and protected area, reported to include badgers and bats, is likely to be decimated. Mature trees are likely to be felled. Additionally, many





local residents fear that the road hazards will be increased on the red route and the busy Shirley roundabout that will feed the development. Local residents have already won the support of MORA and a Badger Society. Local residents are passionate about restoring this land and retaining its use for wildlife.

The site has been evaluated and classified by the Council as:

- A site of nature conservation
- A site of Borough Grade 11 Importance
- Local Open Land recognised as being vital for the quality of life in Croydon.

MORA sees no justification to re-classify the site to allow unfettered development.



MORA delivered a flyer about this development to local residents to encourage them to present their objections to the Council. It is not surprising that there was an incredible response. Your Association has collated your responses and presented our own objections to this planning proposal.

The Council received a total of 36 objections to the proposals and 9 letters that approved the plans. It has been suggested that many of those who approved of the plans were seduced by the offer of free parking facilities within the development for the shop keepers and those living above the shops as compensation for allowing access to the site. Parking is known to be extremely difficult in this area and if the LPA was minded to approve the application, those promises may wither away. It is, perhaps, not surprising that those living around the Shirley Triangle wish to protect their environment. These residents love and respect this wildlife area which is situated at the end of their own gardens. There is a well-tended apiary which helps pollination of local vegetation. Some of these residents have offered to manage this land for the benefit of the natural wildlife as “Friends of the Shirley Green Triangle” and MORA supports this offer.

We consider that this level of citizenship is in marked contrast to the thuggery of the riots and unrest which was unleashed in Croydon recently and lead to the partial destruction of our borough. This planning proposal has brought together the best of our borough. Local residents have acted together and demonstrated that their environment matters to both responsible people and the wildlife of our community. The planning laws should be interpreted accurately to support the responsible attitude of local residents.

MORA applauds their members’ positive responses and trust that the Council and the Planning Committee will support the values of their own responsible citizens. The Planning Committee should reject this planning application.

In the event of a Planning Committee Meeting in the Town Hall, we advise as many local residents as possible make the effort of attending. If anyone would like transport to attend the meeting, please contact us and we will try to arrange help.

Ian Fraser.  
MORA Planning Officer

## **Shirley & Ashburton SNT's**

### **Dear Residents**

Following the recent ward panel meeting on 20th September at Oasis Academy, the Ashburton Ward priorities were discussed at length, and the following areas of policing were decided as the SNT priorities, although all areas of crime and anti-social behaviour are addressed on a daily basis by the team.



### **Burglary**

Since the beginning of the year burglaries have remained a priority on the ward, but numbers have decreased over the past few months. Identified areas have been subject to high visibility patrols by PCSOs, with all victims of burglary receiving a home visit and crime prevention advice. Use has been made of plain clothes operations in problem areas, to make use of stop and search powers to identify any suspects. Through the support of neighbourhood watch coordinators, responsive emails are sent out for NW coordinators to inform neighbours of recent crimes, and ways to protect your property. The use of street surgeries have been extended, and a new site at TESCO's Elmers End in conjunction with Bromley Borough SNT.

Croydon Council are running a scheme to provide gates to alleyways between properties to protect residents from burglars. This scheme is called ALLEY GATERS, and is available at minimal expense to residents. Details can be obtained from Croydon Council Community Services.

### **Motor Vehicle Crime**

There has been continued theft of number plates on Ashburton Ward. The plates are often used for petrol drive outs, but their use in criminal activity can be extensive, including cloning of vehicles and robberies. Can residents be reminded that there are inexpensive security measures which can be taken to prevent these offences, available at local retailers.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

There has been a marked decrease in ASB involving school pupils from



Edenham and Oasis. This is as a result of excellent work by the schools officers and staff in conjunction with Ashburton SNT, and strategic officer placement at school home times. The use of several Acceptable Behaviour Agreements by SNT and Croydon Council has lead to fewer incidents of ASB on Longheath and Stroud Green estates.

## **Speeding vehicles**

There has been a problem with speeding vehicles in Bingham Road and roads leading to it from Addiscombe Road. We have since had a number of 'days of action' to reduce offences by education and enforcement. I have recently secured the services of a dedicated traffic unit for future operations on this and surrounding wards.

## **101 - The new number to call to contact your local police**



**Ashburton SNT**

Call 101 to report a crime, get advice or raise local policing issues. In an emergency always call 999.

To find out more visit [www.met.police.uk/101](http://www.met.police.uk/101)

As the days become shorter and colder, remember to look out for your neighbours. Shirley has a fabulous neighbourhood watch scheme, and I will try and update coordinators with recent crime patterns, and ways to

look after your property. All too often in the autumn and winter months we don't see our neighbours for weeks at a time. So please try and be a good neighbour, and if you think you haven't seen a friend and neighbour pop in and do so. I'm sure they'll appreciate it.

**Stay warm and safe, and keep in touch with your local team.**

**Sgt John NUNN**

**Ashburton and Shirley Safer Neighbourhoods Teams**

**Ed. Note - The Anti-Social Behaviour is decreasing in Ashburton and thus Mr Raj Chandaranas' [CPST Project Manager] statement that the Ashburton Playing fields suffers huge anti-social behaviour is totally misplaced (see page 9).**

# Planning Report

## New Applications.

### Monks Orchard Primary School

**Proposal:** To expand the school by one form entry from September 2012.

**Notes:** This is a feasibility study. A formal planning application may be made at a later date.

A meeting was held at the school on 06/10/2011 to outline the proposals.

Concerns were expressed about traffic, parking and flooding. No building plans were available (see details on page 18).



### 116-124 Tower View

**Ref: 11/02729/P**

**Proposal:** Erection of 3 detached houses with integral garages and two semi-detached houses with external garages; formation of access road.

**Notes:** This application is similar to a previous rejected application but uses more land from the garden of 124 Tower View.

### 79 Verdayne Avenue

**Ref: 11/02551/P**

**Proposal:** Erection of 2 three bedroom houses at rear and provision of associated parking.

**Notes:** MORA consider that these proposed properties are not in keeping with other properties in Verdayne Avenue.

## LPA Decisions

### 33 Brookside Way

**Ref: 11/02054/P**

**Proposal:** Alterations: use of ground floor as a day nursery for max 14 children; erection of single storey extension.

**Decision:** Permission refused. The LPA considered that the development would create additional traffic and produce additional noise.

**MORA objected to this proposal.**

### 161 The Glade

**Ref: 11/01727/P**

**Proposal:** Use as a day Nursery for a maximum of 16 children.

**MORA objected to this proposal.**

**Decision on 25/10/11—Permission Refused**

Reasons same as 33 Brookside Way.

## Ongoing Applications

**Triangular land between Shirley Avenue, Valley Walk and Shirley Road.** **Ref:11/01999/P**

**Proposal:** Erection of buildings to provide up to 50 assisted living sheltered apartments for the elderly with landscaping and parking.

**Target Date:** 28/10/2011. (No decision at 09/10/2011).

**MORA has objected to this proposal.** [See Article Page 3]

**2 Greenview Avenue**

**Ref: 10/03899/P**

**Proposal:** Erection of a two storey, two bedroom ,house at side; formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking.

**Target date:** 08/02/2011. (No decision at 02/10/2011)

**MORA objected to this proposal. Decision awaited**

**104A The Glade**

**Ref: 11/00505/P**

**Proposal:** Formation of crossover and retention of vehicular and pedestrian access serving 102, and 104A The Glade.

**Target date:** 12/05/2011

**MORA objected to this proposal.**

## *Yuletide Wishes for Our MORA Readers:*



*Cuddles  
Happiness  
Rainbows  
Icing on the cake  
Sacks of goodwill  
Treats  
Making Merry*



*Abundant good health*

*Sunny Days*

*Happy New Year!*

**Correction Summer Newsletter**

**Page 20 - Telephone Preference Service Telephone Number should read: 0845 070 0707.**



## Update on Crystal Palace Training Ground proposals for Ashburton Playing fields

The Crystal Palace Supporters Trust had its AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2011. Raj Chandarana, the project manager, updated CPST members on the Training Ground project and answered questions.

He stated that during February – three areas: Ashburton Playing field, Purley Way Playing Field and the former NatWest Sports and Social Club in SW16, were identified as possible sites. CPST continued to work with Croydon planning authority to discuss the implications of building on MOL.



Raj went on to state that not many people use the Playing Fields and he inferred that the area is subject to huge amounts of anti-social behaviour. We in MORA dispute both these statements.

The significant problem for CPST is that Planning Restrictions plus activities of local residents could delay the availability of the site beyond the two-year critical period when Crystal Palace are due to lose the Beckenham Training Ground. The Planning Application would have to go through normal consultation – as it is MOL, and these procedures and local objections could delay any decision which could seriously affect the timescale.

A meeting was held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September at Croydon Council to discuss the availability of Ashburton Playing Fields as a possible site to develop a training ground by Crystal Palace Supporters' Trust for Crystal Palace Football Club. Present at the meeting were Alan Palmer (Chairman, Crystal Palace Supporters' Trust), Phil Alexander (Chief Executive, Crystal Palace Football Club), Jon Rouse (Chief Executive, Croydon Council) and Raj Chandarana (Project Manager, Crystal Palace Supporters' Trust).

**Jon Rouse, Croydon CEO, informed the Trust and Club that the political administration at Croydon Council have decided that, "following an unprecedented level of opposition from residents and Monks Orchard Residents' Association, it is their view that Ashburton Playing Fields is no longer politically viable as a suitable location for a training ground."**

# *Recycling of Household Waste*

There have been many changes in the methods used for the collection and disposal of household waste in Croydon.

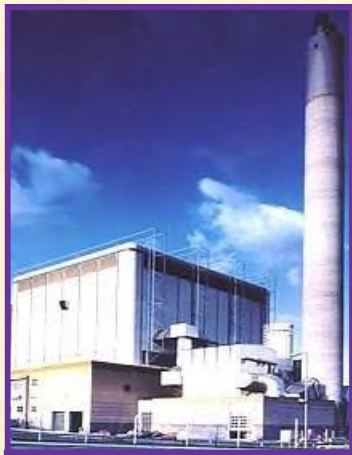
The introduction of the wheelie bin was far from trouble free, with some estates refusing to accept them, due to lack of storage space. The bins did, however, make the collection less labour intensive, quieter, and helped prevent the ravages of foxes, cats and birds.

Shortly after, a green box was introduced for recyclable materials. This was soon followed by a blue box, which required householders to sort the rubbish into paper/card and plastic/glass/tin. Transparent sacks were then added on a seasonal basis for green garden waste. Black bins for food waste now contribute to the growing number of differently coloured boxes littering our gardens and open spaces.

The average household produces around 1 ton of waste per year, with the amount continuing to increase. Rinsing bottles and tins and sorting our rubbish takes around an hour a week. Many other boroughs simply put all rubbish into one container, the contents of which are taken to an incinerator, where 90% is recycled, metals extracted, recovered and sold and the remainder by incineration. The incineration reduces the quantity going to

landfill, but there is widespread public opposition to incinerators because of fears of a possible danger to health. A proposal to build an incinerator in Merton was turned down, due to the strength of local feelings. The Government is now encouraging local authorities to use this method as scientific assessments consider it to be safe.

While Monks Orchard residents largely appreciate the need to reduce landfill, and follow instructions for sorting waste, there is likely to be some opposition to the food bins. Recycling containers containing odorous waste have to be kept in the kitchen, which should be the most hygienic part of the home. Many proud homeowners with modern fitted kitchens have problems finding an appropriate place to house the ugly black box. The compostable bin liners have no wet strength, and tend to split and spill their contents. For the average size family



**A Typical Incinerator**

the bin is too small, and to prevent flies and smells it will be necessary to empty the bin more frequently than the recommended every few days. This will quickly use up the initial free supply of bags. Many households will be unwilling, or unable, to spend £2.99 per roll of 20 bags (current price at Waitrose) and will resort to newspapers, which will soon become soggy and smelly themselves.

Another problem associated with the increasing number of boxes is putting them out for collection. It is suggested that these be placed in the front of the property near the pavement, but this presents problems when there is only a narrow path entrance. Positioning a recycling box, a food bin, a wheelie bin and up to six sacks of garden waste can be challenging, and householders frequently return home to find the emptied containers strewn across the pavements, or even totally missing. Those residents with small gardens or no garages do not relish spending warm summer days on the patio gazing at what seems to be an endless supply of rubbish containers.



Those householders who refuse to comply with the recycling arrangements, and continue to put all their rubbish into the one wheelie bin will find they run out of space as this will now be collected fortnightly. They may well be tempted to dump what remains. When walking in Parkfields rec., I saw several black sacks which had been dumped next to the litter bin. These had been torn open, presumably by foxes and the rubbish, much of which could have been recycled, spread over a wide area.

Pressure is being applied by the EU to reduce the use of landfill, with heavy penalties imposed for non-compliance. The disposal of waste is a problem through most of the developed world. Recycling is a complex issue, and different methods of collection are required from flats, shared accommodation, hospitals, schools and factories. Arrangements should also take into consideration the aged and infirm, who may have difficulty handling awkward or heavy containers.

All we can do as local residents is try out the new arrangements, complain to the council where difficulties occur, and assist those of our neighbours who may be less able to cope.





# Shirley Neighbourhood Care

## Shopping Bus:

This runs to Tesco Supermarket at Elmers End, picking you up from your home and returning about 90 minutes later. Cost £4.00

- Oct : 5th 11th 19th & 25th
- Nov : 2nd 8th 16th 22nd & 30th
- Dec : 6th 14th 20th & 21st

We have space available for more passengers. Could you use this service or know of someone who would find it helpful ? If you would like to know more, or make a booking please call the office [number on page 13].

## Other Fundraising Events held this year

In March, the Croydon Welsh Society organised a concert with the XYB Band at Trinity School and raised £410, and later in July organised a BBQ and raised a further £500. The Shirley Open Gardens event was held on 3rd & 4th September and raised £1,441. Considering the inclement weather this year, particularly on the Sunday, it was a good result.

## Quiz Night in 2012

We will hold another Fundraising Quiz night on Saturday February 11th 2012  
Please make a note of this date in your next year's diary.

## Request for More Drivers

We are looking for more volunteers to drive elderly/frail Shirley residents to health related appointments. i.e. G.P. surgeries, clinics, hospitals. Do you know of anyone who could join our team of drivers?  
Any petrol expenses can be reclaimed.

## Equipment for Loan

We have a lightweight wheelchair and a wheeled zimmer frame on loan.  
If you would like to borrow items, please call the office. We do ask for a deposit of £10, which is returnable.

## Clients and Volunteers - Parking Permits

We are no longer given parking permits to use for neighbourhood care transport. Therefore, if our drivers need to wait, please be aware that we are now asking clients to pay the car parking charges. Blue Badges can be used in marked disabled bays on public roads and car parks. Please be sure they are displayed well.





## Are you on Email?

If so, please send SNC an email (address below) so that we can email newsletters to you. This could make quite a saving on time and postage costs.

## We are looking for a Gift Aid Administrator

Could you help with this role ? It is a role that can be done mainly from home. If you can help please call the office.

## Christmas Shopping Outing

I am organising a trip to Polhill Garden Centre to shop and then to Coolings for Lunch. This will take place on Friday November 25th  
If you would like to book a place, then please call the office.

## Shirley Supporting Charities

### Saturday November 19th

This takes place at Shirley Parish Hall, Wickham Road. From 11 - 4 pm  
We will be having a stand, with information on SNC and also selling handmade cards and Christmas collage pictures.

Some of these will be made by our Shirley Diners members.

Shirley Methodist Church

Eldon Ave

Shirley

Tel: [REDACTED]

[snc@cnca.org.uk](mailto:snc@cnca.org.uk)

Charity No: 1137581

## *Libraries Update—All Branches to stay open*

Croydon Council has been consulting for some time on the future of the library service. Because of the cuts in our funding from the Government we have to save money in all areas and had initially consulted about branch closures. However, in response to massive public feedback that all branches should stay, we are instead looking to keep the buildings in council ownership but outsource the running to a third party. This could be another council, or a business, or perhaps a community venture. More information in a later newsletter.



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### DISCLAIMER

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



# Planning Reforms

Residents usually join a residents association to have the benefit of advice, help and support should their property, security, peace or local services come under threat. It is expected that the association will do its utmost to protect the area in which they live should there be a proposal for a major infrastructure project, or smaller threats that may adversely impact on individual residents.

In order to undertake these tasks successfully MORA's Planning Team needs a good knowledge and understanding of planning laws. In the past most of the planning law was contained in local Unitary Development Plan. New guidance has now, however, been published by the Government, the Mayor of London, and the Local Authority. The task of protecting Monks Orchard requires greater research, and is more demanding and time consuming. These changes are summarised as follows:

## National Planning Policy Framework

Ministers plan to replace over 1,000 pages of regulations with a simplified version, containing just 52 pages. The new rules will have a presumption in favour of sustainable development and have been welcomed by businessmen and property developers; although others are concerned they lack clarity and could lead to lengthy legal battles. Recognised Institutions such as the National Trust and English Heritage have joined protestors in claiming that the reforms are a threat to the countryside and green spaces. A number of sporting bodies including the Football Association and the Rugby Football Union fear that the new planning rules will remove critical protection from playing fields and open spaces. Before building on green spaces existing empty properties should be brought back into use, and property developers' land banks built on.

MORA believes that good law relies on **clarity, experience and fairness** to the majority of the population. These values do not sit easily with the proposed brevity and simplicity of the Framework. A presumption in favour of sustainable development would be extremely difficult to challenge; the definition of "sustainable development" is vague and subjective, which would provide the legal profession with a pot of gold for any objection (that's if you could afford it).

## Localism Bill

The Localism Bill was published in June 2011, and has almost reached the final stage of its passage through parliament. The supposed aim of the Bill is to allow more issues to be settled locally. It sweeps away regional planning targets and completes a new settlement for planning. Major strategic issues



such as railway lines and power stations will still be decided by Ministerial Departments. The rest will be determined by Councils who will set out detailed plans for local homes and other buildings.

There is growing concern that the planning policy section is far too pro-developers and does not offer sufficient protection for green field sites. Supporters claim that communities will be able to adopt neighbourhood plans, but these would have to operate within the constraints of the National Planning Framework. In addition, local objection can be taken to appeal to the Planning Inspectorate, who would follow the government line and over-rule Council decisions.

The Government is trying to sell the Bill as a means of incorporating the views of the public into planning strategy. In reality it is likely the public will become apathetic, with an end result of the deterioration of our neighbourhood.

### **The Croydon Unitary Development Plan**

The Croydon Plan 2006 sets out policies and proposals for the development and use of land in the borough. All planning applications and appeals have to be determined in accordance with this, unless there are material considerations which indicate otherwise. This remains the position until 2012, when the Local Development Framework comes into being. Some protection may be afforded to parts of the borough by listing them as Metropolitan Open Land, Village Greens, Conservation Areas, and Nature Reserves, etc. It is open to communities to campaign for other sites to be added to the plan. There are also Master Plans for the future development of parts of the Borough, which have been open to inspection. A local plan has to conform to the Mayor's 'London Plan' and will only be accepted if it complies with the National Planning Policy Framework and our European Union obligations.

### **The London Plan**

The Mayor has published a new London Plan 2011. Planning forms part of the overall strategic development plan for the London Boroughs. The Mayor has stated that he is opposed to back garden and in-fill development but some applications to develop these sites are still being approved, especially on appeal to the planning inspectorate. In his foreword to the Plan the Mayor states:

"....too much of our new housing has sacrificed space and quality to unit



**Demolition of a bungalow and erection of a block of flats Approved by the LPA after two dismissed appeals.**

numbers. New homes in London are some of the smallest in Western Europe and this is indefensible. I am determined to see a new generation of standards which improve London's housing and we have a unique opportunity to deliver these now. .... The design standards will be applied immediately to LDA supported projects....I encourage all others involved in the creation of new homes to embrace this guidance"

What chance of this after the Framework is passed into Legislation?

### The Planning Inspectorate

The Planning Inspectorate frequently overturns the carefully debated planning decisions made by the Local Planning Authority (LPA). The move towards localism should query the need for an Inspectorate, but unfortunately no moves have been made to abolish it, and the Inspectorate operates on the government policy of presumption of sustainable development.

As the population continues to increase MORA is fully aware that it cannot hold back the pressure for more housing developments.

Monks Orchard continues to attract the interest of those wanting to get permission for developments on small local sites. MORA has an important role in resisting badly designed construction with sparse amenity space. The Royal Institute of British Architects has said that many houses in the UK are "shameful shoebox homes" which are too small for family life. Croydon Council planners appear more concerned with quantity than quality, and have given permission for many badly designed developments in poor locations that ruin the appearance of the area and make it a less pleasant place to live. It is possible to produce well planned and designed estates that are good environments in which to live.

Despite announcements to the contrary the new planning reforms fail to make it easier for residents to influence or prevent developments that can fundamentally change the area and have the potential to become the slums of the future. If you agree with our observations above perhaps you should make your views known to your elected representatives. **MORA is non-political but these issues relate to the environment, and it is our duty to try to protect this for our members, now and for future generations.**



151 The Glade approved by the Planning Inspectorate





In the last newsletter we gave details of a proposed fund raising effort on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Support. The nurses are invaluable in helping to take care of those with cancer, and their families, offering

advice and support, or sometimes just as a listener.

One of my friends was diagnosed with breast cancer last year. Thankfully she is making a very good recovery but it really brings it home that cancer can hit anybody, at any time. I have been supporting Macmillan for a number of years, but this year was a lot more personal.

Although it is called the world's biggest coffee morning you are free to do other things instead. A group of us meet up for a meal every few weeks, usually at my house, so we decided to raise money this way. There were eleven of us, we had a three course meal, with wine or soft drinks, and everybody put money into the collecting box, raising a total of £195. In addition Macmillan sent a form to be filled in for taxpayers to gift aid so the organisers can claim the tax back, so hopefully another £35 will be squeezed out of the government .



We all had a really good time, lots of chatting and joking, food and drink, and relaxing with good friends, with the addition of knowing that we are helping those in need.

If any of you have done anything to raise money, for Macmillan or other charities, we will be happy to publicise events in the newsletter, but please bear in mind that there is a long preparation time for the newsletter and as much notice as possible is helpful (and photos always liven up articles).

### Shirley Singers

Shirley Singers are in need of new voices, particularly men and altos.

We practise on Mondays from 8.00 - 10.00 p.m. at Shirley Parish Hall, and perform local concerts usually twice a year. If you like singing, enjoy company and having fun, then why not come and join us?

Contact Janet on [redacted] or Christine on [redacted].

## *Monks Orchard Primary School Expansion Program.*

There is a need for an additional 400 primary school places in the area. The population of Croydon continues to grow so this number may rise even more. While temporary classes have been formed in some schools, permanent places will be required by September 2012.

A meeting was held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at Monks Orchard School to discuss possible expansion proposals. Leading the meeting was Alison Critchley of the Croydon Council School admissions, Andy Philpotts a school governor and Margaret



Mission, head teacher of the school. Also in attendance were Councillors Avril Slipper and Adam Kellet, MORA representatives, parents, school staff and local residents. The meeting was small, but lively.



The proposal is for Monks Orchard to expand slowly by a third over the next seven years, a total of 210 additional pupils. There were no building plans available for consideration. The school claims that the additional funding will be used to attract high calibre staff to maintain the existing high standards.

A proposed expansion last year was shelved as it was deemed too expensive. It became clear during the meeting that all issues had to be re-appraised.

It was explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss any educational issues which may arise from the expansion; however concerns of local residents were noted.

Local parents raised concerns that the increased size of the school would detract from its ability to provide a good level of education, when there are so few schools in the area rated "good" by Ofsted. The panel believed that as the funding is per pupil, it could be used to offer incentives to attract better teachers to the school. Questions were raised on why the expansion was being reconsidered after being previously rejected. This expansion will not offer as many additional facilities to the school, so may be viable. The school, however, was built in 1936, and there are already areas with long term problems requiring immediate maintenance. To expand the school, additional buildings would probably be required, which may not be possible. The Council made it clear that funds will be concentrated on the provision of new places, not the maintenance or improvement of schools which were not expanding.

Local residents, many of whom have lived in their houses for many years, fear a



detrimental effect on their lives. The increase by one third of the school size will mean an increase of traffic into the area beyond the level sustainable, whilst the transport links would be inadequate to cope with the increased volume. To compound the problem the school is on a flood plain so an increase in buildings would reduce absorption levels and have a detrimental effect on water run off in the surrounding area. There is inadequate parking for the current staff.

The school is surrounded by un-adopted roads which residents are required to maintain; the expansion would cause damage to these roads both during the transportation of heavy machinery during the building , and subsequently by the increased number of parent vehicles. Of especial concern are Fairford Avenue and Ash Tree Way which were not designed for heavy vehicles of any kind - the change of use made to the roads without residents' approval, for the convenience of the school. The changes in the school over the last ten years have already caused numerous problems to immediate residents, including reduction in drainage, loss of privacy, damage to driveways used as turning points, damage caused by inconsiderate contractors, and access issues due to selfish parking. Assurances were offered that contractors would be expected to conform to certain standards, but this gave little reassurance, and would not resolve the parking issues connected to parents vehicles.

A report will be made to the Council Cabinet in December 2011, and if approved a proposal will go to planning by January 2012.

## **East Surrey Family History Society Croydon Branch**

**Meetings on 3rd Tuesday of month, except August and December,  
at 8.00 p.m. in the small hall.**

Hall opens 7.30pm.

East Croydon United Reformed Church,  
Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, CR0 5LP

**Non-members are welcome to attend our forthcoming meetings.**

**17th January - Cane Hill Hospital** by Pam Buttrey

**21st February - Theatre Buildings in Croydon** by Richard Norman

**20th March - Surrey in the 19th century** by Dr Judy Hill

**17th April - My Average Ancestor** by Ian Waller

**<http://www.eastsurreyffhs.org.uk/>**



## *Croydon Health Services, Open Day a success!*

More than a thousand people went along to Croydon University Hospital to find out more about the Trust, at the Open Day on Saturday 24 September.

Visitors including Mayor Councillor Graham Bass and other local dignitaries took a tour of parts of the hospital and tried their hands at a host of different activities. The event gave people a chance to take a look behind the scenes look at healthcare services, get advice on keeping healthy and what career opportunities exist in the NHS.

Hospital and community services showcased their skills, with some such as pathology taking people on guided tours showing how the lab turns drops of blood into a diagnosis. Some areas put on special activities for the day including the clinical skills lab, which gave people the chance to practice their stitching skills on a model arm, and wound care who gave visitors the chance to apply different dressings.

The event featured over 50 stands and displays including how to become a foundation trust member, how to have your say on the future of healthcare locally and how to get actively involved with the Patient Assembly. And there was fun for the whole family with beat the goalie, a treasure hunt, a teddy bear hospital and face painting.

Chairman Brian Phillpott said: "I'm delighted the event has been such a success and hope people from across Croydon have had a chance to see us in a new light. We think involving our local community is very important and this event gave us a chance to showcase some of the excellent work that takes place everyday here and encourage people to get involved.

A lot of hard work has gone into this event by staff who gave up their spare time to help out and we had a great deal of support from local businesses who helped make the day an interesting, informative and above all fun day for all the family."







## ***Walks and Other Activities in Croydon December 2011 - January 2012***

### **Sunday 4th December - Pre Christmas Energiser over the Sanderstead to Whyteleaf Countryside Area**

Meet the Countryside Ranger at the end of Honister Heights, near Riddlesdown School, at 11:00am for a faster pace walk in preparation for the season of indulgence.

### **Sunday 4th December - Celebrate St Nicolas at Haling Grove**

Join the Friends of Haling Grove between 2-4pm for Christmas carols and mince pies in the park. For more information please contact [friendsofhalinggrove@mail.com](mailto:friendsofhalinggrove@mail.com)

Bus: 405, 455, (St Augustine's Avenue).

### **Sunday 4th December - The Heathfield Grand Christmas Bazaar**

Heathfield House 11am to 5pm Large range of Bazaar Stands to find those special stocking fillers. Enjoy home made soups & buttered rolls for lunch in our Heathfield Pantry Café. Or treat yourself and friends to a cream tea. For more information ring [REDACTED]

Tram: Coombe Lane, Bus: 130 & 466

### **Green Croydon for All**

The Association of Croydon Conservation Societies, in partnership with Croydon Council, has produced a new colourful leaflet and map, showing all public accessible green open spaces in the borough as well as illustrating the importance of the borough's green spaces for nature and wildlife, ways to get involved and where to find out more information.

You can pick up your free copy of the Green Croydon for All leaflet by contacting the Greenspaces Section at Croydon Council on 020 8726 6900 or by emailing [biodiversity@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:biodiversity@croydon.gov.uk)

## **Editor Profile: Derek Ritson**

Many members have commented on how well produced and professional the newsletter is, and how much they enjoy reading it. This is almost entirely due to the skills, expertise and sheer hard work of our editor, Derek Ritson.

Derek joined MORA in 1981 and to start with was mostly involved with planning; however he has now expanded his interests and currently his main task is producing the quarterly newsletter. This is a job he took on many years ago, and has made such a success that he will be a hard act to follow.

Originally the newsletter was just A4 sheets produced on a Gestetner Duplicator. MORA then advanced to an A5 booklet, produced by way of a typed skin which was placed on the duplicator, and used to print A4 sheets which were collated and folded by hand, in the vestry of St Georges Church. MORA has now entered the computer age, and a disk is burnt with the newsletter, complete with advertising section, which is then sent to the printers. They provide us with glossy printed colour copies, ready boxed with the correct number for each area manager. MORA has come a long way since the early days but it is still a challenge to produce a varied, and hopefully interesting, newsletter every three months.



Incidentally, if any member takes part in activities, or charities, and would like to either send us an article or contact us to get an article written about these, we would be interested in including it in the newsletter.

The purpose of this article is to discover whether there are any members out there interested in taking on the role of editor. In common with the majority of the Committee, Derek is well past retirement age and has recently had a few health problems. He would like to spend more time with his wife and family and is also concerned that a managed transfer should take place, rather than an abrupt break due to illness or worse.

The editor needs to be totally at ease with computers, and have knowledge of various types of Desktop Publishing software, and other related software packages. Derek currently uses the simple Microsoft Publishers package, but Quark or Indesign would be preferred by the



**Typical Gestetner or Roneo Duplicator**



printers. Other members of the Committee, or outside contributors will provide most of the articles, but none of us have the necessary computer skills to put these together the way it should be done.

So, any takers? Obviously this is a voluntary position, but it is interesting, provides a community service, and for anybody currently unemployed, it looks good on the CV! Send an email, or phone one of the committee (numbers on the back of the newsletter) if you would like to discuss further.

## Croydon Philharmonic Choir

New Members welcome

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Croydon, CR0 5NQ

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[www.philharmonic.org](http://www.philharmonic.org)



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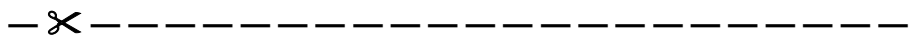
MORA 2012 AGM

Will be held in St Georges Church Hall Elstan Way on  
Friday 20th April 2012



# MORA COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2011-2012

|                                        |                                                      |   |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Chairman                               | Dave King                                            |   |
| Vice Chairman                          | Vacancy                                              | - |
| Secretary                              | Mary Evans                                           |   |
| Treasurer                              | Terry Greenwood                                      |   |
| Planning                               | Ian Fraser                                           |   |
| Membership Secretary                   | Diane McInerney                                      |   |
| Editor/Website                         | Derek Ritson                                         |   |
| Police Liaison                         | Jean Cook                                            |   |
| Primary Care                           | Mercia Nash                                          |   |
| Social Secretary                       | Christine Ross-Smith                                 |   |
| Transport & Highways                   | Vacancy                                              | - |
| Neighbourhood Partnership              | Joan Pring                                           |   |
| Trees & Open Spaces                    | Vacancy                                              | - |
| Committee Members and<br>Area Managers | { Michael Nash<br>{ Patricia Turner<br>{ Anne Horton |   |
| Committee Member                       | Nicki 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**  
[Redacted]

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

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