

# Monks Orchard Resident's Association

[www.monks-orchard-web.org.uk](http://www.monks-orchard-web.org.uk)

Croydon

(Non Party)

(Independent)

NEWSLETTER – Autumn 2001

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Members will have known that Summer had arrived when 'so called' travellers invaded the area once more. The families arrive in top of the range four wheeled drive vehicles plus the essential caravan and large truck. They appear able to occupy any private or public space at will, uninvited and unopposed.

The law has been tightened up in order to quicken the removal of these unwanted visitors but this usually takes two or three days which allows sufficient time for the dumping of a few tons of debris and rubbish. No one is able to do anything about it and local people using the area feel intimidated. What is of greater concern is that it costs between two and five thousand pounds to clear up the mess. This has to be paid by the ratepayers or the owners of the land. This often results in local cricket or football clubs having to close because of lack of the necessary finances. Surely, it cannot be right to allow this illegal activity to continue unopposed for much longer.

Croydon Council seems determined to bombard residents with printed publications telling us how good they are. There are the issues of Croydon Reports, Good Value Guides and numerous other publications. Now the Council Leader plans to hold another referendum on the level of council tax. In last years flawed referendum residents voted for the lowest option and another highly expensive referendum is highly likely to produce the same result.

Now we are getting glossy publications telling us how good the Lord Mayor of London is. The stated aim is to get more people involved in the affairs of local government. However, hard pressed ratepayers faced with the cost of spiralling council taxes may feel the need to question why the Council needs to tell us what we already know and are we being made to contribute to what appears to be political propaganda?

The Executive Committee has been exploring ways in which communication with members could be improved. The MORA newsletter is by far the most important link but this is only published four times a year and there is an unavoidable delay between editing, printing and circulation. Often there is a need to communicate information quickly especially warnings about thieves and bogus callers operating in the area. Consideration was given to positioning notice boards in shopping parades and at bus stops. This idea was discarded because finding suitable sites for the boards would be difficult and also that they would be an open invitation to vandalism and misuse. It has now been decided that the best way to improve communication is to establish a MORA web site which could contain a great amount of information and which can be updated quickly. It is acknowledged that not every member will have access to the new information technology but a growing number of households do now have computers, even the elderly judging by the attendance on courses offered at the central library. The government, council, churches and other residents' associations all use modern technology to disseminate news and information and it is undoubtedly the way forward. The MORA web site is to be launched in September and will appear on the world wide web. Grateful thanks is offered to Derek Ritson and his daughter Nicola who have devoted much of their time to this venture.

This issue of the newsletter contains important information on the proposed changes in the rules of the MORA. Members are urged to take note of the changes and to make their views known.

## REVISION OF RULES

The rules governing the aims and activities of MORA have remained virtually unchanged since the association was founded in 1923. The association was originally named the East Ward Electors' Association. In 1977, following the demise of the East Ward in a boundary revision, the name was changed to Monks Orchard Residents' Association. Members with long memories will be able to recall that the association nominated candidates at Council Elections and for many years was faithfully served by Independent Councillors.

Another periodic review took place in 1999 and again changes were made to the electoral boundaries. As a consequence, from next May the electoral ward of Monks Orchard will no longer exist. The northern part being hived off to the Ashburton Ward and the southern part to the new Shirley Ward.

The association will continue to represent the geographical area of Monks Orchard but will no longer be in a position to nominate its own Independent Councillors.

In order to respond to these boundary and other changes the Executive Committee have decided that the rules of the association should be updated to meet the needs of the future. It is proposed that the name of the association should remain as Monks Orchard Residents' Association. No alteration is considered necessary to the rules governing the election of officers, organisation, and dissolution. It is, however, proposed that the following sections be removed: (a) the objective that refers to the nomination of fit persons as candidates for the ward, (b) the objective that refers to the advancement of education and provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life; and (c) the objective that refers to the establishment of a Youth and Community Centre. Despite many efforts over the years the association has never fully achieved these worthwhile but rather ambitious aims which relate back to when the association was first formed.

The Executive Committee wishes members to be part of this exercise and you are invited to have your say on the changes to be made. If you have any views or comments on the changes proposed please write to Anne Johnson (Honorary Secretary) at [REDACTED]. The responses will be fully and carefully considered by the Executive Committee before the final amended version is published in the Spring 2002 issue of the newsletter. The purpose of this early consultation process is try to avoid prolonged discussion at the Annual General Meeting which could delay the other business of the evening.

## **MONKS ORCHARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION RULES**

### **1. NAME**

The name of the Association shall be the "Monks Orchard Residents' Association" (hereinafter referred to as "the Association").

### **2. OBJECTS**

The objects of the Association shall be:

- (1) To be absolutely representative of all the residents in its area;
- (2) To formulate the opinions of the residents in its area and to lay such opinions before the appropriate authority when desirable;
- (3) To stimulate and advance the interests of the residents in its area;

The Association shall be non-party in politics and non-sectarian in religion.

### **3. MEMBERSHIP**

Any person resident in Monks Orchard may become a member on payment of the annual subscription and acceptance by the Association. Membership may likewise be renewed each year. The annual subscription

shall be fixed by a General Meeting and shall be due on the 1 st January each year.

#### **4. OFFICERS**

The Officers of the Association shall include a President, a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, an Honorary Secretary, and Honorary Treasurer, and an Honorary Membership Secretary, who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Additional officers may at any time be elected by a General Meeting or appointed by the Executive Committee. A General Meeting or the Executive Committee may at any time fill any casual vacancy among the officers. All officers shall hold office only until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting next after their election or appointment.

#### **5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The affairs of the Association shall be administered by the Executive Committee which shall consist of the President, the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Honorary Secretary, the Honorary Treasurer, the Honorary Membership Secretary and such other officers and members as may be elected to the Executive Committee at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee may co-opt additional members. Two of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, the Honorary Secretary, the Honorary Treasurer, the Honorary Membership Secretary and three other members shall be a quorum. Questions arising at any Committee meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes.

#### **6. COMMITTEES**

The Executive Committee may appoint such other committees as it thinks necessary. It may authorise any delegation of functions to any person or committee of persons.

#### **7. FINANCE**

Expenditure shall be authorised only by minute of the Executive Committee. A auditor or auditors shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting. A statement of accounts for the last financial year together with the auditor's report thereon shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting by the Treasurer.

#### **8. MEETINGS**

The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the 31 st. March in each year. A General Meeting shall be convened by the Honorary secretary at the direction of two of the Officers or the Executive Committee or upon the requisition in writing of at least 20 members of the Association. Not less than 10 days notice shall be given to each member of each General Meeting, stating the business to be proposed, and no other business shall be transacted.

#### **9. NOTICES**

Any notice delivered or sent by post to a person at his last known place of address shall be deemed to have been duly served at the time it was so

delivered or, as the case may be, would in the ordinary course of post be received. Notice of any General Meeting shall be deemed to have been given by a notice in the Spring issue of the Associations Newsletter.

## **10. RESIGNATION BY DEFAULT**

If any member of any committee fails to attend three consecutive meetings of such committee, he shall cease to be a member of that Committee, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by that committee before he would have ceased to be a member.

## **11. DISSOLUTION**

The Association may be dissolved by a resolution passed at a General Meeting by a majority of not less than two-thirds of those present and voting. The assets of the Association after the discharge of its liabilities shall be distributed in such manner as shall be determined by the General Meeting, and shall be applied only towards charitable purposes for the benefit of the inhabitants of Monks Orchard Ward and the neighbourhood thereof as may be approved by the Charity Commissioner for England and Wales.

## **12. ALTERATION OF RULES**

These rules may be altered by a resolution passed at a General Meeting by a majority of not less than two thirds of those present and voting, subject in the case of clause 2(5) and (6) to the consent of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

## **MORA WEBSITE**

The Monks  
Orchard Residents

Association now have our own WEBSITE at  
**[www.monks-orchard-web.org.uk](http://www.monks-orchard-web.org.uk)**.

The website contains up-to-the minute information on local events, news and developments, including information that we may not be able to include in the newsletter due to lack of space, or date of issue.

We greatly appreciate any articles for contribution to the website, which contains information on all the articles in the newsletter, such as the latest Chairman's Message, Planning News, Transport and Highways information, latest Crime Figures and Security news, Primary Care news as well as community information such as Rubbish Collection routes, community health news, clubs and society events, and sports and entertainment news and events.

The website also includes links to other local websites, such as Croydon Council's website, Local Transport websites (Railtrack, Arriva, Tramlink), our local M.Ps website, and websites for local hospitals and schools. We



have also included a link for local school league tables for both primary and secondary schools in our area.

We also have web pages for local businesses, and will be willing to include advertisements. If you have a business in the local area, and wish to have an advertisement on our website, please email [MonksOrchardWeb@aol.com](mailto:MonksOrchardWeb@aol.com) or write to the Editor.

The site is still in development, and we will be constantly updating the site for ease of use and availability of data. Our thanks goes to Nicola Ritson, daughter of the Editor, for the development of the site. We greatly appreciate any feedback regarding our new website, and hope that it will get a lot of use.

## PLANNING REPORT

There has been a fair amount of planning activity this Summer. At present, there are five planning applications being opposed by residents. Two public enquiries have been held. One has been decided, and the verdict on the other one is still awaited. It seems that residents are much more willing to combine together and voice their objections to inappropriate developments that will be detrimental to the character of their area. Developers should take note and try to avoid cramped and overcrowded layouts which will result in an unsatisfactory relationship with adjoining properties.



## PLANNING NEWS

### LORNE AVENUE

When Lorne Avenue was built in the 1930's the houses were spaced in a regular pattern to give a pleasing appearance. This arrangement gave the corner property of number 3 Lorne Avenue a slightly larger frontage than most other dwellings. The owner of the property made an application in 1995 for permission to demolish the existing garage and to squeeze a narrow detached house on the wedged shaped site. This proposal was strongly opposed by the residents living nearby and permission was refused by the Council.

Six years later, the owner of number 3 Lorne Avenue in association with Barnfield Homes made another application to build a narrow detached town house in the driveway between the properties. Again the local residents combined to resist the proposal and the support of MORA and the local Councillors ensured that once again permission was refused by the Council. Undeterred, the developers appealed against the refusal to grant

planning permission. The hearing was held on 3rd. July by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions. The tightly knit local community once again combined to oppose the development and many of the local residents asked to be allowed to voice their objections at the hearing. The turnout of local residents was so large that the room provided for the hearing could not accommodate them all. A small number of residents were selected to put the case against the proposal and the developers put theirs. Three weeks later the residents were informed that the appeal had been dismissed. This splendid outcome is the result of united and well organised opposition by local residents who are absolutely determined not to have the character and appearance of their surroundings ruined by developers.

### **ORCHARD WAY**

When the Lawdon Estate was built approximately forty years ago it transformed Monks Orchard from a semi - rural area to one of high density housing. A total of 540 homes plus shops were constructed forming a series of courtyards linked by a number of walks covering a large, once leafy swath stretching from The Glade across to Orchard Way and beyond. Anticipating the forthcoming change in the character of the area, owners of properties with large gardens were only to pleased to sell to the developers and to move elsewhere. However, the owner of 164 Orchard Way resisted the pressure to sell his home and garden, and remained.

Eventually, the bungalow and garden was closely surrounded and overlooked on all sides by two storey houses. Nevertheless, the resident stayed put despite the noise and other problems associated with large estates. Forty years on the property has a new owner and Greenacre Homes Limited wish to demolish the existing bungalow and to erect 4 three bedroom and 3 four bedroom houses plus formation of a road for vehicular access and provision of seven parking places. The planners have made no attempt to create a design layout sympathetic to the character of the surrounding estate properties.

Furthermore, inadequate provision was made for parking within the site, which will result in vehicles being placed on the narrow 3.5 metre access road, thus preventing entry by emergency and service vehicles. Many of the residents of the Lawdon Estate are strongly opposed to the proposal because they believe that the area is being blighted by developers continuing to build small estates in the place of larger older homes. There is also concern that another access road leading into Orchard Way is likely to adversely effect the free flow of traffic and will create road safety problems. Subsequent to consulting local residents, MORA has made a formal objection to the proposal. Permission was refused by the Planning and Development Committee of the Council because the proposed development conflicts with a number of policies contained in the Unitary Development Plan.



Greenacre Homes have subsequently made an appeal to the Secretary of State on the grounds that the surrounding properties are of a high density and that the overlooking of adjacent properties will be reduced by the retention of the existing trees along the boundaries

### **BACK LAND DEVELOPMENT**

There appears to be no limit to the number of Monks Orchard residents willing to sell a large portion of their garden to developers for what has become known as 'back land' development. The 'going rate' for a sizeable piece of back fill land is rumoured to be approximately £40,000. This large amount must be particularly attractive to elderly residents who may no longer be able to cope with the upkeep of a large garden or to those who have a large mortgage on their home.

The downside is, of course, that you may end up having difficult neighbours living at the bottom of your garden. There is also a risk that the newcomers may wish to extend their home and build closer to your property. Planners are using ingenious ways in order to fully maximise on every inch of available space. The detached bungalow or house to be erected may have a gap of only a few inches width separating it from the next dwelling, and hardly any garden. A modern home usually comes with en-suite bathrooms and a utility room, plus an integral garage. However, the rooms often have to be reduced in size to accommodate these facilities. The main bedroom can be as small as 10 feet by 9 feet, giving room for a double bed and little else. There is a recently built bungalow situated at the end of Mere End that will probably have to be enlarged to attract a purchaser.

### **MERE END**

Wren Homes have made a planning application to build on land at the rear of 57 - 67 Woodmere Avenue. The proposal is to erect 3 three bedroom and 2 two bedroom detached bungalows with attached garages and one detached garage, plus provision of associated parking. This will involve an extension to Mere End. The small bungalow to be erected at the rear of 57 Woodmere Avenue will be on the site that has been used for the dumping and storage of building materials and which for some length of time has been a worry and an eyesore to those living nearby. The site is adjacent to amenity land in Shirley Oaks Village and forms part of a nature corridor. Local residents would like the trees and hedgerows retained for conservation reasons.

### **WOODMERE CLOSE**

Wren Homes also made an application to build in the rear gardens of 18 - 24 Gladeside on land adjacent to 3 Woodmere Close. The proposal was for the erection of 2 three bedroom detached bungalows with attached garages and formation of vehicular access into Woodmere Close. The developers wanted to erect two bungalows tightly crammed on a small area of land. Residents living in Woodmere Close were concerned about



the increase of traffic on what is a quiet narrow, unadopted road, and opposition to the proposal was being organised. Subsequently, the Council has refused permission on the grounds that the proposal would result in an over development of the site also that the narrow, unadopted road could not accommodate additional traffic.

### **CHESTON AVENUE**

Antler Homes wish to demolish the existing buildings at 25 - 31 Cheston Avenue and to develop the site. The first application submitted was a proposal to cram 12 detached four bedroom houses with integral garages on this small back land site. In the second application this was reduced to 3 five bedroom and 7 four bedroom houses with integral garages. Residents living nearby were concerned about the housing density and supported by MORA combined to oppose these proposals.

Curiously, both applications were withdrawn shortly before they were to be considered by the Planning and Traffic Control Committee. As predicted, a third application was submitted for the erection of 3 two storey four bedroom and 6 two/three storey five bedroom detached houses. This was viewed by local residents as a minor concession which did not address their serious concerns about the cramped and overcrowded layout, or the lack of sufficient space for parking and the movement of vehicles.

The application was considered by the Planning and Traffic Control Committee in August. The decision reached was to refuse permission for a number of reasons. The information gained from this decision is that developers now have to make provision for affordable housing and to provide satisfactory accommodation for future occupiers by ensuring a good outlook also highway and pedestrian safety.

### **THE GLADE**

An application was made early last year to demolish two bungalows at 78 and 80 The Glade, and to erect 9 four bedroom detached houses with integral garages. MORA opposed this application because the proposed vehicular access leading into The Glade would add to the traffic flow problems on this busy and dangerous curve in the road. Permission was refused. However, an amended application with the access leading into Greenview Avenue received approval. Work started on the clearing of the site last year but the work soon came to a halt leaving the empty properties an open invitation to squatters, vandals and fly tippers. The latest news is that the site has been sold to another developer and a new planning application proposing greater density housing is expected. In March this year another application was made to demolish 72 and part of 74 the Glade and to erect a pair of four bedroom semi-detached houses with attached garages. Permission for this development was refused.

## **BYWOOD AVENUE**

Permission has been refused for the application to change the use of the corner shop premises at 4, Bywood Avenue for purposes within Class A3 (food and drink). This puts a halt to the plan to open a fish and chip shop which was opposed by residents living nearby. The shop is available for retail use Class A1 and its future remains uncertain.

## **LAND REAR OF SHIRLEY COTTAGE**

A planning application has been made to erect 4 detached five bedroom houses with integral garages plus the formation of an access road on land at the rear of Shirley Cottage in the Wickham Road.

## **PLANNING WATCH**

A full list of planning decisions and lists of applications recently received can be viewed on the Croydon Council web site [www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk). It is always helpful to have advance notice of the activities of planners and developers. If you are approached by developers or notice surveys taking place, please let Bob Akers know on [REDACTED].

## **BURRELL AVENUE / GREENVIEW AVENUE - PUBLIC FOOTPATH**

In 1982, planning consent was granted to build in Orchard Way an estate of houses now named Burrell Close. A condition of that consent was that a public footpath be provided from the end of Burrell Close and towards Greenview Avenue, as a step towards eventually joining Burrell Close with Greenview Avenue, via a public pedestrian link. The carriage way and footways of Burrell Close and the path were constructed in 1983. For a number of reasons, the extra length of path to complete the link between the public footpath with the footway was never constructed.

Unfortunately, this footpath is one of those contentious issues that divides the opinion of local residents. In response to pressure from residents, MORA has continually pressed for the path to be completed because it would significantly reduce the walking distance between Orchard Way to The Glade and the public transport connections to Croydon, Beckenham and Bromley. Some residents of Burrell Close opposed the completion of the path because of their concerns about possible increase in vandalism and the reduction of security.

In November 2000, a public path creation order was eventually made for the completion of the link and the necessary finance was made available. Further consultation with residents took place and the number of statutory objectors made it necessary to hold a Local Public Enquiry. This took place on 6th and 7th August at Croydon Town Hall. The enquiry was conducted by an Inspector appointed by The Minister of State. The Council presented its case for the completion of the footpath together with proof of evidence from witnesses. Subsequent to this, the objectors to the proposal

presented their case. The Inspector visited the site of the path alone before the start of the enquiry and at the end of the proceedings made arrangements for another site visit. The Inspector will make his decision known in due course.

## SHIRLEY LIGHTS UP FOR CHRISTMAS



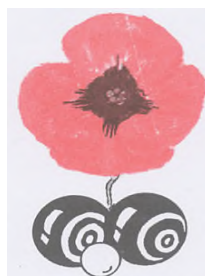
Now in it's 7th year, the Christmas lights will brighten up the Wickham Road shopping centre from 'The Crown' to the Shirley Library, courtesy of the local members of the Shirley Business

Association, and Croydon Council.

The official switch-on will be on Friday 23rd November at 7.15pm on the little green opposite Ridgemount Avenue, near Scents florists. Many of the shops will remain open from 6.30 pm - 9.00 pm. Father Christmas will also be there, and all the usual refreshments (mince pies, mulled wine etc) will also be available. As well as the very popular Fun Fair along the road there is also a Craft fair in the Shirley Hall with refreshments inside. Stalls are still available at £25.00 so if you want to raise money for your association/charity this is an excellent opportunity. Because of the expected crowds, the police need more volunteer stewards. If you can spare an hour to help please contact Sonja Curtis on [REDACTED].

With something for everyone to enjoy, this is one event not to be missed by all the family! Look out for the programme soon to be delivered through your door.

## SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB



As summer draws to a close, a new season of Short Mat Bowls will commence on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2001. Shirley Short Mat Bowls Club hold regular sessions in the Parish Hall and have vacancies for Thursday morning, Friday afternoon and Friday evening.

If you would like to know more about this enjoyable pastime, we are holding an Open Morning on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September from 9.30am, when you can come and meet the members, watch or take part. Alternatively, please get in touch with the Hon. Secretary Pat Godden, telephone [REDACTED] who will be happy to send you membership details and an application form. Why not join us?

# BUS STOPS

A site meeting regarding the siting of bus stops in The Glade and Orchard Way was held on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2001, and plans were agreed with Croydon Council to locate bus stops outside the following locations:-

23 Orchard Avenue	230 The Glade
51 Orchard Avenue	174 The Glade
105 Orchard Avenue	98-100 The Glade
89 The Glade	87-89 Orchard Avenue
141 The Glade	44 Orchard Avenue
187 The Glade	Opposite 19 Orchard Avenue.
285 The Glade	



The reason for the changes in bus stops in this area are due to the preparation for the introduction of low floor buses in line with Transport for London policy.

The task of providing suitable locations for bus stops to serve these buses in this area proved very difficult due to the amount of trees, high grass verges, bends, junctions and crossovers both existing and planned. London Buses realise that no one really wants to have a bus stop outside their property, and obviously when siting stops, try to be as sympathetic as possible with regard to other geographical features.

Now that the plans have been agreed, the bus stops will not be sited until Croydon Council have carried out the required footway work.

Mark Little  
London Buses  
Area Manager (South West)

# CRIME FIGURES

## MONKS ORCHARD AREA

Previous year in brackets

APRIL 2001	54	(64)
MAY 2001	66	(46)
JUNE 2001	55	(38)
JULY 2001	39	(58)
Total Numbers 2001	160	(142)
This shows an overall rise of 18.		



## Shirley Oaks Estate

APRIL 2001	8	(4)	3 Theft from Motor Vehicle 2 Criminal Damage to Motor Vehicle 2 Theft 1 Burglary
MAY 2001	5	(7)	3 Criminal Damage to Motor Vehicle 2 Theft of Motor Vehicle
JUNE 2001	4	(4)	1 Criminal Damage 1 Possession of Drugs 2 Common Assault (Domestic)

We had a disappointing month in June 2001, which was mainly due to a sharp increase in Domestic Crime in the area. Serious crime is decreasing, and with your help will continue to do so.

I am still available at the POP IN at St. George's Church every Monday morning, emergencies excepting. If you wish to meet me and discuss your area, please do. If you see me walking about, I am always agreeable to talk.

P.C. Chas Timms

## SECURITY NEWS

The crime figures above show a dramatic drop in overall crime in the month of July, due to the great help given by local residents in the observation and reporting of crimes promptly to Addington Police Station. I hope, as we all do, that this decrease will continue throughout the school holiday period and beyond, when a vigilant watch must be kept on the safety of children, their persons and possessions alike.

It has been rumoured that a few residents seem to be unaware of our Police presence in their area. I can only assume that our local P.C., Chas Timms, patrols when they are at work, or shopping, and I can only say that Chas is a most diligent and caring Officer, and dedicated to his duties, considering the size of the area he has to cover alone. An area covering Longheath Estate to the West, Bethlem Hospital in the North, Shirley Methodist Church to the East, and Shirley Oaks Village at the South, back to the end of The Glade. If a call of a crime or suspicion of a crime in this area is taken at Addington Station, it is relayed to him for action, to which he immediately responds, as I, myself, have several times observed. This is why, in July, our Crime numbers have decreased. It is up to us all as responsible citizens, to help him keep this trend downwards, to nil, so 'keep all ears to the ground, and eyes peeled'.

J.A. Cook  
Police Liaison/Security



## SHIRLEY DISTRICT GUIDES

***Did you or your daughter enjoy being a Rainbow or Brownie?  
Do you know someone who is enjoying Guiding now?  
Do you wonder what you maybe missing?***

Now is your chance – give something back to Guiding or find out what it is all about, and have fun while you do it!

Guiding in Shirley is flourishing with over 300 girls and women having fun, friendship and challenge every week. Unfortunately not everyone who wants to join can, because we have waiting lists for most of the Units. We are looking for more Guiders to help us offer Guiding to every girl in Shirley.

We are especially looking for Assistant Guiders to help with 1<sup>st</sup> Shirley Rainbows (5-7 year old girls) who meet on Tuesdays, 5.30–6.30pm in the Scout Hut behind the Parish Hall on Wickham Road. We are also looking for a Guider for the 11th Brownies at St George's Church Hall on Wednesdays. There are other openings elsewhere in Shirley, too.

So, if you are between the ages of 18 and 65, female, have a little spare time that you want to put to good use and enjoy being with a group of enthusiastic girls – this is the chance you've been waiting for! No experience of guiding is necessary, training and support is available.

If this is an opportunity you would be interested in pursuing and would like to find out more, without any commitment, do please telephone Angela Nicholls (1<sup>st</sup> Shirley Rainbows Leader) on [REDACTED]. Thank you.

## SHIRLEY GROUP OF CHURCHES



### **NEWS AND DIARY DATES FOR JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER**

**The Neighbourly Care Scheme** officers continue to do excellent work. Its Co-ordinator, Gill Thomas, reported that new volunteer drivers are urgently needed to maximise the efficiency of the service. If you have any time to spare, however little, please call Gill on [REDACTED]. The more names on the register of volunteers lightens the load. You never know, you may need the services of the Scheme one day!

Finally, the Shirley Group of Churches **Bring and Buy Sale in aid of Christian Aid**, will be held at Longheath Community Centre from 10am-5pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September. Please phone Julie Turpin on [REDACTED] with your offers of help on the day, which will be much appreciated. Donations of home made produce will be extremely well received. Also, start clearing out those cupboards for items to bring to the sale. Refreshments will be available.

Have a good Summer, and look out for further updates in both the MORA Newsletter and on the new MORA website.

Julie Turpin

## SHIRLEY OAKS NATURE RESERVE



I recently received a copy of a letter from Croydon Council's Chief Planner, Steve McCorinack, to the owner's agent Simon Slatford. This letter was in response to a request from Mr. Slatford to de-designate the site from its status as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL). This would allow planning applications for housing to be built on the site. The justifications given by Mr. Slatford to de-designate the site included that the site was overgrown, prone to fly-tipping and unsightly fencing.

In his letter, Steve McCormack writes that the justifications', given by Mr. Slatford, do not constitute the exceptional circumstances required to justify an alteration to the MOL boundary. There was a danger that if the Council were to accept these justifications it would simply encourage other landowners to do likewise. Croydon Council has already reviewed the designation of MOL and agreed that no change should be made to the status of MOL in Croydon.

He continues by writing that, in line with Government Guidance, housing should be provided on brown field sites. Croydon Council will seek, at the next Unitary Development Plan (UDP) review process, to demonstrate that there is no need to release protected open spaces in order to meet Croydon's housing requirements. Croydon will defend this designation should the owner again seek to de-designation through the UDP review process.

He concludes that the Council's grant of planning permission in 1999 for our own application demonstrates that it is content in planning terms to see the site remain undeveloped and managed as a nature reserve.

The Nature Reserve Committee is delighted with these remarks from Steve McCormack and I have sent him a letter expressing our pleasure. We are pleased to hear that he has recognised that the so-called justifications listed above were due to the lack of maintenance on the site. This has been a cause of concern to residents for a number of years. We are pleased to inform residents that the site in Poppy Lane has been tidied up recently, but please take note that the barbed wire fencing still remains.

I have again written to the owner reminding him that this site has, for a



Long time been of immense local interest as a conservation area. This interest is not only from residents and Croydon Councillors but also from national and local conservation groups. The Shirley Oaks Nature Reserve Committee was formed to protect the wild flora and fauna of the site.

I once again informed the owner that we are still interested in acquiring the site and again repeated our offer to buy the land from him. Our previous requests to buy this land have met with no response but, following Mr. McCormack's letter, we hope that he may now be prepared to discuss the matter. We are also prepared to negotiate a deed of covenant should the site be uplifted in open market value by any future planning application a usual clause on land deals. We await his reply with interest.

Two of our committee members have now left Shirley. We would welcome any offers of interest to join the committee in our work to provide a safe haven for the wildlife of the area and to protect the trees and wildflowers on the site. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me.

Mick Hewish, Chair  
Shirley Oaks Nature Reserve Committee

## PRIMARY CARE

***Edited version—the full leaflet can be viewed on our website.***

### **Primary Care Trust Consultation**

It is proposed that a Primary Care Trust will be established in Croydon from 1st April, 2002.

The new Primary Care Trust will bring together in one organisation health services now provided by a number of NHS organisations – the North, South and Central Croydon Primary Care Groups, and Croydon and Surrey Downs Community Trust. The new Trust will also take over most of the functions of Croydon Health Authority, which is likely to become part of a larger Health Authority in 2002.

### **The aims of the Croydon Primary Care Trust?**

Making sure local people in Croydon get the health services they need. It will:

- Support the GPs and GP practices in providing health care;
- Provide community health services (such as district nursing, health visiting, chiropody and therapies) and employ the staff who work in those services;
- Make sure that hospital trusts and other health care organisations provide the right kind of care;
- Commission (design and purchase) services from hospital trusts and voluntary organisations and work with them to plan services;
- Work closely with Croydon Council and with voluntary organisations in the Borough.

## ***Improving services***

The PCT will aim to improve and modernise services. More treatment will be provided in GP surgeries, in other local health centres and at home. The Primary Care Trust will develop more 'intermediate care', so that more people can be treated safely outside hospital or return home from hospital more quickly and stay independent.

## **How will these changes affect the services I get from my GP?**

There will be no immediate change to services as a result of setting up a PCT. Once the PCT has been established it will look at how to support the trend for more services to be provided in surgeries and health centres, for GPs to have better links with hospitals and for GP practices to work together to provide more specialist services for the community.

## **What about GPs and their practice staff?**

GPs will keep their status as independent contractors and will continue to employ their own practice staff. The new PCT will have the resources to offer more support to GPs and their practices for training and development and for improving administrative and other systems which support patient care.

## **Will a PCT affect services in local hospitals?**

The PCT will aim to make sure that hospitals provide the care that local people need, through involving local people in making decisions along with GPs and community health staff. The result should be that services will be planned and delivered in a more integrated way.

## **Your Views**

You can send your comments to the Community Health Council, an independent organisation that represents the public interest within the NHS. Contact them on 020 8680 1503, or email to [info@croydonchc.plus.com](mailto:info@croydonchc.plus.com), or write to them at:

90 London Road,  
Croydon,  
Surrey.  
CR0 2TB.

## **Public Meetings**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September  
19:00-21:00

Salvation Army, Thornton Heath

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October  
12:00-14:00

New Addington Community Centre

## **After the consultation**

At the end of the consultation, the Health Authority will consider the responses and decide whether to submit an application to the Secretary of State for Health. If approval for the new Primary Care Trust is given, there will be a preparatory period and the Croydon Primary Care Trust will

come into being on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002. Croydon and Surrey Downs Community Trust will be dissolved at the same time and staff transferred to the new PCT.

## FLU INJECTIONS



Please contact your GP for details of flu injection appointments, which are now available for those who require them.

There are also Free Flu Jabs now available for the OVER 65s, and we have been assured that there will be no shortage of jabs this year.

Janet Marshall  
Croydon Council

## ROAD STEWARDS

We need Road Stewards in the following roads:

Shirley Avenue  
Valley Walk  
Mardell Avenue

Firsby Avenue  
Cheston Avenue  
Long Heath Gardens/Long Lane  
(there are about 10 members)

If you live in one of the above roads and can spare about an hour every three months, to deliver the MORA NEWSLETTER etc, Please give me a call on: - [REDACTED], or email MORA at MonksOrchardWeb@aol.com.

Alyce Menhinnitt

## SPRING PARK CHORAL SOCIETY

### Harmony Imbalance – Ladies 32:Men14

That is the present situation in the Spring Park Choral Society, but one which it is determined to redress. Following a most successful Concert in May, the Choir is aiming to consolidate its vocal base and move forward by improving the harmonic balance. To achieve this, more men are required.



If you would like to sing with a happy, enthusiastic bunch of singers, who meet on Monday evenings at the Shirley Parish Hall, Wickham Road, from 8 – 10pm (next rehearsal season starts on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2001), please phone Audrey Mayer, on [REDACTED] for more details. Our repertoire is varied, but always light; songs from the Shows, Gilbert & Sullivan, popular choral excerpts, ballads, carols and Christmas songs (in season!). Don't be shy – give it a try!

# THE OVER 60's CLUB

It is with sadness and regret that MORA has received the news that the Over 60's Club has decided to disband. The club which was formed over 27 years ago played an important role in the life of the local community. At its peak it attracted approximately 30 - 40 members for a cup of tea and a chat at its weekly meetings held in St George's Church Hall. The Club has offered its members a number activities, ranging from lectures, competitions, games and meals to celebrate special events. Members also made trips to the seaside and to the theatre.

The success of the club over so many years is a tribute to the various organisers and helpers who have freely devoted their time for the benefit of the members. Warm thanks goes to Carol Jones, Pickles Brown, Charles Hutchins, Gracie Hutchins and Hazel Grant plus many others who provided transport, prepared teas and cleared up afterwards.

It was becoming difficult to attract new members to the club to replace those that were no longer able to attend. As they grew older, the original group of members all stayed together and the Over 60's club developed into what could more accurately be called the Over 80's club. The club always had a warm welcome for members who, perhaps, lived alone and needed the sound of a human voice, or simply someone to talk to and to share experiences, plus the opportunity to gain friendship and support. The companionship gained spread much wider than the club itself as members made visits to each other, thereby forming an important community link.

The closure of the club reflects the changing pattern of life in the Monks Orchard community. In the present day, those residents aged over 60 in Monks Orchard are likely to be better provided for, more mobile, and now have the choice of many other attractions. Nevertheless, perhaps the club will repeat what it has done in the past and reform with a new group of active members who see value in friendship and local contacts in the Autumn of their lives.

The dissolution of the club is not necessarily the end of the story. Past members will continue to keep in-touch and enjoy each other's company. Carol Jones does not intend to diminish her community responsibilities. She is to undertake instruction for ordination as a Minister: we wish her every success.

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# COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2001

Chairman:

Bob Akers

Vice Chairman & Treasurer:

John Walkington

Membership Sec:

Alyce Menhinnitt

Secretary:

Anne Johnson

Planning Officer:

Vacant

Social Secretary:

Vacant

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Police Liaison/Security:

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Hon. Historian:

Charles Hutchings

Area Manager:

Michael Nash

Primary Care Liaison:

Marcia Nash

Christine Ross-Smith