

# Monks Orchard Residents' Association

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Croydon

(Non Party)

(Independent)

NEWSLETTER – Summer 2002

## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

It was pleasing to have such a good attendance for the Annual General Meeting. It proved a lively gathering at which much useful information was presented and discussed. During the meeting the last rites were given to Monks Orchard as a separate electoral ward.

Following a review by the Boundary Commission the map of the borough has been redrawn for the purpose of council elections. This means that some voters will be voting at a different polling station and the ward in which they live may have a different name. It needs to be stressed that these changes are for the purposes of elections. They do not affect established communities or traditional geographical place names. We still reside as a community in Monks Orchard and your residents' association will continue to do what it has successfully done for 78 years.

That is to represent the community, improve and protect the character of Monks Orchard and to fight to ensure that the area receives its fair share of the borough's services and resources.

# **MONKS ORCHARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **MINUTES OF THE 78th. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MONKS ORCHARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION HELD AT ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH ON FRIDAY 22ND. MARCH 2002.**

Bob Akers opened the proceedings by welcoming members to the 78<sup>th</sup>. Annual General Meeting. He expressed delight at seeing such a large number of members present. He extended a warm welcome to Councillor Derek Loughborough, Councillor Peter Campbell Councillor Avril Slipper, Geraint Davies M. P. Phillip Ditton of Residents Against Graffiti, Ann Watts, South London and Maudsley NHS Trust Ann Ball, Community Network Officer Primary Care and the speaker for the evening Shiva Patel.

Apologies for Absence. had been received from Mrs. Marcia Nash, Mr. Michael Nash, Mrs. Loughborough, and Mike Hewish.

#### **Minutes of the 2001 Annual General Meeting**

These were published in the May 2001 issue of the newsletter and copies were available for inspection. The minutes were proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously by those present as a correct record.

#### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## **REPORTS**

#### **Chairman's Report**

Bob Akers said that he was pleased to be able to report that this has been a year of progress. Communication with members has been greatly improved; the quarterly newsletter has been expanded and an interactive web site has been established. Furthermore, extra members have been recruited to act as Area Managers and Road Stewards to replace those who are no longer able to continue. These improvements have resulted in an increase in membership.

He took the opportunity to personally thank those members who act as Area Managers and Road Stewards. These helpers form the leading edge of the Association and without their splendid efforts MORA would no longer exist.

He said that at every opportunity he stresses the need for more members to help with the work of the Association. There really is much more that could be achieved if only the workload was shared.

On your behalf the annual rolling rubbish collections were successfully completed. In recognition of these efforts MORA has, for the second time, been awarded the Green Award. This award is the result of the splendid

work undertaken by Alyce and John Menhinnitt who organise and supervise the collections. The shield and certificate were placed on display.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Walkington confirmed that the accounts are in good order. A copy of the audited accounts for 2001 was published in the Spring issue of the newsletter and copies were made available for inspection at the meeting. He announced that is an annual surplus of £200, and there is no immediate need for an increase in membership fees. Two members mentioned that their fees of membership have not been collected. The annual accounts were proposed, seconded and formally approved.

### **Planning**

During the previous year 116 planning applications were submitted for developments in Monks Orchard. As in previous years the majority of the applications were proposals to alter or extend existing properties. The demand for new houses continues to grow and we must expect further developments but it is essential that they are designed to high standards and reflect the characteristics of the area.



As predicted a further planning application for a development of greater density has been made for the site at the rear of 72 and 74 - 80 The Glade. Glade Developments wish to demolish the existing buildings and to erect 12 four bedroom detached/semi detached houses with accommodation in roof space plus 2 three bedroom semi detached houses all with integral garages. It is proposed to build an access road onto The Glade and vehicular accesses onto Greenview Avenue. Work originally started on the clearing of the site over twelve months back but the work was halted because the site was sold to another developer. Since then the partly demolished bungalows have been left as an open invitation to squatters, vandals and fly tippers and this has been the cause of concern to those living nearby. MORA has objected to the new application because the three storey houses will be out of keeping with the special character of the area and be detrimental to the amenities of the occupiers of nearby premises. There are also concerns about the parking arrangements and the road safety issues raised by the extra traffic created at the restricted entrance into Greenview Avenue.

A planning application made to The London Borough of Bromley and submitted to Croydon Council for Consultation is causing some interest among residents living in Cheston Avenue. Bethlem Royal Hospital in Monks Orchard Road wishes to build a new secure unit to accommodate extra patients for mental health care.

To give more information about the application the Chair introduced Ann Watts NHS Trust Manager.

Ann Watts introduced herself as Forensic Services manager for Southwark of South London and Maudsley NHS Trust based at the Bethlem hospital and currently manager of the Denis Hill Unit. She explained that the Denis Hill Unit is a 29-bed unit for people who need specialist care in a more secure environment than can be provided on general psychiatric wards. A planning application has been submitted to increase the number of beds in the unit from 29 to 89. The application involves the development of a new state-of-the-art building. The extension is part of a wider strategy to increase the provision of medium secure beds within the NHS. At the moment, because of the existing shortfall a number of patients are placed in medium and low secure places mostly in the private sector sometimes as far away as Wales, York and Manchester. Obviously, this has implications for the patients in care. Being placed away from the area in which they live makes it difficult for their relatives to visit them. Furthermore, better care could be given within the National Health system. It is also costing the taxpayer an incredible amount of money. The planning application has been submitted to Bromley Council and a decision is awaited.

The type of patients to be treated in the new unit will be the same as those that have received treatment in the present unit since 1983. The one thing the patients have in common is that they all have a severe psychiatric illness and in some way or other pose a risk to other people within the psychiatric system, cannot be managed within normal psychiatric wards or have been involved with the criminal justice system.

They come to the Unit after a thorough assessment of their needs and only if the Unit feels confident that it can offer a programme of care and rehabilitation are people accepted. Patients that pose a high risk to the public are not accepted. A medium secure unit is not a high secure unit like Broadmoor or a prison.

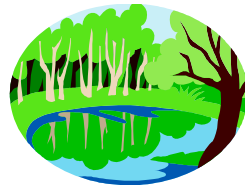
The staffing ratios are very good i.e. two nursing staff to each patient. The same staffing ratio will remain if any expansion takes place. There is also a full multi – discipline team of psychiatrists, psychologists, occupational therapists and nurses all working with the patients. When patients arrive in the unit after being assessed and deemed suitable for care and treatment they usually stay for an average of two years. They are then either returned to a general psychiatric ward or supported housing and supervised living. There is a well-established community team who follow up their care. Following treatment some of the patients will go back into the prison system or on rare occasions, if their condition deteriorates, back into a high security.

Whilst they are in Denis Hill Unit there is a very strict programme in respect to the degree of leave from the Unit the patients are allowed. All Patients are held under the Mental Health Act and some are held under Home Office restriction orders. Initially, patients are not allowed to leave the Unit until we

are satisfied that they are responding well to treatment and their condition improved. Leave from the Unit is allowed very gradually, firstly accompanied leave is granted in the grounds, then into the immediate neighbourhood and then further afield. The aim is to enable people to return to their lives in the community. Each of the programmes of leave is individual. The staff is experienced and cautious at assessing and managing risk but no treatment or process of rehabilitation can be completely risk-free. Ann Watts then answered questions asked from the floor, which were mainly about security and the background of the patients treated.

### **Shirley Oaks Nature Reserve**

The Chair mentioned that Mick Hewish, Secretary of the Shirley Oaks Nature Reserve was unable to attend the meeting. On his behalf it was reported that there has been no further developments since the report at the previous Annual General Meeting.



### **Security**

Jean Cook presented the crime statistics, which showed a small increase over those of the previous year. She reported that the local beat officer P.C. Chas. Timms is being transferred to other duties and is to be replaced by P.C. Jim Young. Reference was made to the recent spate of local robberies. In response Mrs. Cook said that the Neighbourhood watch ringmaster system was, at present, inoperable.

### **Primary Care**

The Central Croydon Primary Care Group encompasses a wide range of health services. One of the aims is to involve patients in identifying priorities. The Chair introduced Ann Ball, Community Network Officer of the Croydon Primary Care Groups who has agreed to explain the recent changes in health care provision.

Ann Ball began by asking, what is new about patient and public involvement in the NHS? Unfortunately, in the past, the views of patients were not always taken into account. Subsequent to the publication of the NHS Ten Year Plan things are beginning to change. The Government has now declared that its vision as far as the NHS is concerned is to move away from a system of patients views being ignored towards a model where patients, their carers and the public are consulted and involved thereby helping to change and develop the whole way the NHS operates. To enable this to happen the Government has established a new management structure. Some of the following are still subject to legislation and will not begin to operate until next year when the Community Health Councils are phased out.

The new structure will comprise:

1. Patients' Forums. These will be independent bodies made up of patients

and others from the community with wide powers to inspect all aspects of the Trust and GPs surgeries, produce reports, monitor the complaints service. They will represent the views of local communities on the quality of health services and how they are provided. They will be able to elect one of their members to sit on the Trust Board. This will be a powerful body with responsibility for representing patients' views on the quality of health services locally.

2. A national body called the Commission for Public and Patient Involvement in Health will incorporate local networks and be responsible for developing local initiatives and set standards. They will be responsible for establishing an independent service to support patients, carers or families in making a complaint.
3. A Patient Advice and Liaison Service in every Trust (otherwise known as PALS). This service is already up and running in Mayday. It is intended as a means of providing on the spot help for patients, carers and families. It will be a means of obtaining information about health and health services and will place people in contact with relevant voluntary organisations and support groups. The idea is to try and resolve problems quickly. It will be separate from the complaints procedure but it will be used as a means of monitoring problems and highlighting gaps in services. The system will begin in April and develop as time progresses. We are intending to link the service with Mayday and other services like NHS Direct. There will be a dedicated telephone line and a room with Internet access where members of the public will be able to talk about their problem with a PALS Officer.
4. Finally, the Local Authority will be expected to monitor the performance of the NHS and, if necessary, bring the Chief Executive to account. This will be another route for the public to raise concerns.

The following channels of communication have been established:

Firstly, Central Croydon developed Community Networks some two years ago. Public meetings are held every two months when presentations are given on topics of general interest and open forums are held where local health issues can be discussed and questions asked. They are both consultative and educational and a frank exchange of views is encouraged. The meetings are open to all and include local voluntary associations, carers, and health professionals like pharmacists and GPs.

Secondly, there is the Link Persons scheme. A link person acts as a channel of communication between the Doctors Surgery, the patients and the Primary Care Trust. They also inform the group of any services that might not be meeting the patient's needs.

Ann Ball concluded by mentioning that the Croydon Primary Care Trust issues a Community Network newsletter, copies of which were available at the meeting.

### **Report back by Councillor Derek Loughborough**

Councillor Loughborough began by referring to the problems that seem to be causing the greatest local concern. The number of cars being dumped in the local streets has increased and the Council has responded by speeding up the removal process. Residents were asked to report dumped vehicles as soon as possible to the Council before they become vandalized or set on fire. Mention was made of the new situation in which suppliers of domestic equipment will no longer take away the used refrigerator or fridge when a new one is delivered. The Council has taken on the responsibility for the collection and storage of appliances prior to them being dispatched to a specialized CFC gas removal unit.

Graffiti remains a problem despite being removed on a regular basis by the Council and local residents. A number of complaints have been received about the high speeds of traffic using Bywood Avenue and The Glade. Councillor Loughborough said that the chances are slim but he is campaigning to have a twenty mile an hour speed limit imposed in The Glade which might help address this problem.

The public footpath, situated opposite Bywood Avenue and leading from Long Lane to the Arena tram stop is, at present, being used by cyclists as well as pedestrians. Final approval is awaited to provide separate paths for pedestrians and cyclists.

Councillor Loughborough referred to the elections to the Council to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup>.May. Different candidates will be standing for election because Monks Orchard has been divided into three parts for electoral purposes. Residents living in the area will be voting in the newly formed wards of Ashburton, Shirley or Heathfield.

A resident living in The Glade commented that a twenty mile an hour speed limit would be a waste of money because some drivers would ignore it. A more effective form of traffic calming such as speed ramps is needed. In response, Councillor Loughborough said that the highway regulations prevented speed ramps from being placed on bends.

The Chair mentioned that this was the last meeting to be held before the Council Elections in May and the change in the electoral boundaries. The two Councillors that have represented the Monks Orchard ward will be leaving. Derek Loughborough is standing for election in the Woodside Ward and Peter Campbell is standing down after eight years as a Councillor. He said he was sure that members would like him to thank them for their excellent work on behalf of all residents. We wish them every success for the future.

### **Report back by Mr. Geraint Davies. M. P.**

Mr Davies said that he would talk briefly of things of interest to the local community. He said that much of his time is spent in the local community,



visiting schools, hospitals, police stations and attending local gatherings such as this Annual General Meeting of the Residents' Association. This means that many of his recommendations are rooted in real events in the local community.

For example, the appalling case of the young child in Addiscombe, Joshua Osbourne, who was shaken to death by his child minder Linda Bayfield. Geraint Davies has got together with Joshua's parents, the NSPCC and other MPs to press for change and will be presenting the Regulation of Childcare Providers Bill to Parliament in April. This will give the right to parents to have information on previous complaints against prospective child minders. There were twelve earlier complaints about the child minder involved in the Osbourne case, but the parents did not know this. Parents should automatically have this information when making decisions on their choice of child minder. The Bill also introduces the regulation and registration of nannies.

At the moment nannies are not caught in the net of regulation, which means children could be at risk. For instance, there was a recent case in Sutton in which a nanny was caught hitting and biting a baby and was later convicted with a fifteen-month sentence. At the moment Ofsted is unable to police this situation unless Geraint Davies' proposals are accepted. In addition, as registered child minders, nannies would be entitled to the Working Families Tax Credit. He is also recommending that, as in Scotland and Wales, child minders should not have the right to smack a child even if the parents give their permission. Taken together, these proposals would increase the number of nannies and other registered child minders and mean working parents would be confident that their children are in safe hands.

Another issue that Geraint Davies has influenced nationally as a constituency Member of Parliament is the Tenancy Deposit Scheme. Half of tenants with a private landlord have a dispute over recovering their deposit when they are ending their tenancy. The owner takes the deposit, places it in the bank and the tenant cannot get it back. A pilot scheme operated by the Government requires that the landlord place the money in an independent account so that the tenant could have it returned at the end of the tenancy agreement. The scheme worked well and was supported by such bodies as the Citizens Advice Bureau, but the Government made a move to stop it because of the costs involved and lack of support from landlords. In a parliamentary petition of MPs Mr. Davies called for the scheme to be continued and rolled out nationally. Due to the support of hundreds of MPs, the Government has changed its mind and the scheme is going national.

Referring to the concern that whilst crime levels have fallen street crime has risen, Mr. Davies mentioned that he sits on the Public Accounts Select Committee which interviews top civil servants about value for money.



Recently they met with the Head of the Prison Service who said that Britain has 70,000 people in prison – more than anywhere else in Europe apart from Portugal. Furthermore, approximately 75% of the young men in prison have previously been excluded from school. A disruptive child who causes problems in class and is excluded will only receive five hours of education each week at the moment. So many of those excluded have little to occupy them and run the risk of becoming involved in crime as both offenders and victims. If they continue to offend they will be sent to prison and, in 70% of cases, within two years of leaving prisons they will be back again. Therefore, Geraint Davies is now suggesting that instead of spending £34,000 a year on keeping young people in prison, that the money be invested earlier in providing excluded children with intensive education. This will prevent many from descending down the slippery slope of crime and ending up as serial offenders. Mr. Davies said that he has been pressing for a place at a Pupil Referral Unit, for all excluded children so they are all guaranteed a full-time education. Unless this problem is tackled at its root, the growth of street robbery of mobile phone etc will be more difficult to reverse even with the extra police – 76 in Croydon this year – that have been recruited. Following Geraint Davies putting his views forward in Parliament, the Government has now announced all excluded pupils should be placed in a Pupil Referral Unit from September.

A comment made from the floor doubted the effectiveness of Tramlink in reducing traffic congestion in Croydon centre during rush hour. In response, Mr. Davies said that 18 million people each year are using the trams and more are using the buses than before Tramlink. This more environmentally friendly mode of transport must have succeeded in reducing the number of people commuting by car.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 2001/2002**

The Chair reported that during the year the association had lost the services of Peter Mortimer the Highways and Transport Officer who has moved out of the area. He said that he was pleased to be able to announce that all of the present members of the Executive Committee are willing to serve for further year. The members of the Executive Committee were proposed, seconded and elected 'en bloc'

### **The Executive Committee for 2002 will be as follows:**

Bob Akers (Chairman), John Walkington (Vice Chairman and Treasurer), Anne Johnson (Secretary), Alyce Menhinnitt (Membership Secretary), Derek Ritson (Editor), Jean Cook (Police Liaison and Security), Charles Hutchins (Honorary Historian), Marcia Nash (Primary Care Liaison), Michael Nash (Area Manager), Christine Ross-Smith.

The Chair thanked all the members of the Executive Committee for their valuable contribution to the work of the association during the past year.

## **REVISION OF RULES**

The Chair drew attention to the previous year's annual report in which it was acknowledged that the rules governing the aims and objectives of the MORA needed to be updated to take account of the changes in the electoral boundaries and to meet the needs of the future.

The Executive Committee has devoted much time to this task and members have been fully consulted during this important process. A draft of the amended rules was published in the spring issue of the newsletter. Members were asked for suggestions and comments. During the nine-month consultation period no one objected to the change but a few helpful suggestions were received which were discussed and acted upon.

The rules have remained virtually unchanged since the association was founded in 1923. 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, organization and dissolution. However the following sections have been removed:

- (a) The objective that refers to the nomination of fit persons as candidates for the ward.
- (b) The objective that refers to advancement of education and provisions of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life.
- (c) The object 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 the time when the association was formed.

The motion by the Executive Committee to amend the rules of the association was formally proposed, seconded and a vote was taken by a show of hands. The result indicated that nearly all those present agreed: The motion was passed.

## **Any Other Business**

Concern was expressed about the timing and operation of the traffic lights situated near the Shirley Library in Wickham Road at the junction of Orchard Avenue and Hartland Way, which present a danger for drivers and pedestrians.

Worries were also mentioned about the positioning of pallets, trays and other equipment outside the Co-op Supermarket in Wickham Road.

## **Residents Against Graffiti**

The Chair said that we all complain about the scourge of graffiti but often do nothing about it except to perhaps assist with clean up operations. He introduced Mr. Philip Ditton the Founder of RAG. (Residents Against

Graffiti) as a tireless campaigner who has taken his campaign to the Greater London Assembly, Richard has asked for MORA's support for his campaign. The Chair said that following the presentation he will ask those present if they wanted MORA to add its support to the campaign.

Mr. Ditton began by saying that he was pleased to note that the problem of graffiti is being taken more seriously because he has been one of the people helping to clean it up. Nevertheless, this did not, in any way, invalidate the message he wished to deliver. He said that he is the founder of RAG (Residents Against Graffiti), which is working to persuade Croydon Council and the Mayor of London that the time has come to phase out the production, sale and import of paint aerosols in their present form. Backing for this campaign has already been given by Lord Weatherill, Speaker of the House of Commons from 1983 – 1992, Sir Bernard Ingham, former Downing Street Press Secretary, The Croydon Society, Shirley Business Association, The Black Horse Residents' Association, the Wharfdale and Lonsdale Gardens Residents' Association, and The Webb Estate Society. Old Coulsdon Residents' Association, are in favour of some form of control and Langley Park Townswomen Guild is framing a resolution to go before the annual conference of the Guild later this year. Furthermore, Mr. Geraint Davis M. P. is pressing the Home Secretary to ban the production and sale of paint aerosols.



Those that use paint aerosols for legitimate purposes will say 'What about us?' However, if the Government took action a ban would not be enforced immediately. What he would like to see happen is for the Home Secretary to summon the paint manufacturers together and to say that paint aerosols were a good idea when invented but their misuse has turned them into a social menace and something needs to be done. The paint manufacturers would be given twelve months to design and produce a second generation of paint aerosols that are less portable. The kind of thing that it could be is something that needs to be powered by mains electricity or the exhaust of a vacuum cleaner. It is not fully appreciated that it costs £25 million a year to clean up graffiti in London alone. This large sum of money could more appropriately be spent on the Health Service. Serious problems demand drastic solutions and that is what is being proposed.

The Home Secretary needs to be convinced that the stage has been reached when we can no longer tolerate a situation when some one can go into a shop, purchase or steal a paint aerosol and then walk down the street spraying everything in sight. People have said to him 'you cannot do this because it would be contrary to European Union legislation'. Well if it is, the Trade and Industry Secretary has got to go to Brussels to negotiate an exception. Most of us are in favour of free trade but not in favour of free trade in graffiti. Croydon Council is to be commended for its efforts in



removing graffiti but this is only tinkering at the edges. What is urgently needed is a more fundamental approach. There are those who will say that what is being proposed is not politically realistic. What we need to create is a climate of opinion in which this type of action can be taken. Probably two hundred years ago it was said that the abolition of slavery was not politically realistic but people made it happen. Again it was said that taking the lead out of petrol would not happen but it did! All that is needed is the will to make things happen.

The Chair asked the meeting if they wished MORA to add its support to the RAG campaign. It was agreed by a show of hands that this was the wish of those present.

## Lecture

The Chair introduced Shiva Patel who is Vice Chair of the Local Pharmaceutical Committee and Product Advisor to Boots the Chemist. Local Community Pharmacists have been working successfully together on a project to speed up services for patients with minor ailments. As you will find Pharmacists are an often undervalued but essential link in health care.

Shiva Patel began by giving some details about herself, her professional training and business career. She mentioned that community pharmacists offer advice on medicines and how to take them. They can also offer advice on common complaints such as coughs, colds, aches and pains also other health issues, such as healthy eating and giving up smoking. In addition some General Practitioners and local community pharmacists have been working together successfully on a project to speed up services for patients with minor ailments in Shirley and New Addington.



Certain specified local pharmacists are able to prescribe treatment for patients suffering from the following ailments without the need to see a General Practitioner: athletes foot, back pain, colds, cough or flu, headache, hayfever, headlice, diarrhoea, sore throat, sprain or strain, vaginal thrush. This has not only meant quick treatment for patients but has also reduced the workload of General Practitioners. The scheme is now being

extended to other parts of Croydon so that more patients can benefit. This project has been recognized and has won a London Modernisation Award, which is a success for Croydon.

Most pharmacies have a quiet area away from other customers where you can speak to the pharmacist more privately. Smoking cessation advisors have been introduced 22/55 are community pharmacists. The rest are specialist and nurses. It is recognized that pharmacists are the experts to advise patients on the best therapy.

Another initiative is the Domiciliary Home visiting project to monitor the well being of the elderly. Promoting healthy life styles is another current project. Topics include winter warmth and the claiming of benefits. and take the necessary precautions to keep warm in winter. The latest NHS information sources, NHS Direct and the Walk-in Centre in Croydon have been introduced to improve access for patients to medical services.

Concluding the Chair thanked members for showing their support by attending the meeting and showing an interest in community affairs. He also thanked Councillor Derek Loughborough, Councillor Peter Campbell, Geraint Davis. M. P. Phillip Ditton, Ann Watts, Ann Ball and Shiva Patel.

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

At long last the saga of public footpath number 804 has reached its conclusion. 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 footpath pedestrian link. The carriage way and footpaths were constructed in 1983. For a number of reasons, the extra length of path to complete the link between the public footpath and the footway was never constructed.

In November 2000 a public path creation order was eventually made for the completion of the link. Following a Local Public enquiry held in August 2001 a decision was reached that the order for the creation of the Public Path be confirmed. The Council has now constructed the footpath, which will be illuminated, and sign posted. Residents living in Greenview Avenue and Orchard Way are enjoying the shorter walking distances to the shops and buses. Those using the path are respectfully requested to be sensitive of the need for peace and privacy of those living nearby.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIPS**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Fairfield, Heathfield, Monks Orchard & Spring Park held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2002 at John Ruskin College, Selsdon Park Road at 7:30pm.



### **Welcomes & Introductions**

John Sheridan, Business Manager for Neighbourhood Partnerships welcomed everybody to the meeting.

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2001**

The minutes were carried without amendment.

## **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

## **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Councillor Andrew Pelling was elected Chair; Councillor Janet Marshall was elected Vice Chair.

## **Local Policing**

Inspector Steve Lawrie from Addington Police began by saying that he has listened to feedback from the previous meeting and welcomed the opportunity to tell people what the Police are doing and answer questions.

The main objectives when focusing resources is to: cut crime, reduce the fear of crime in communities, combat youth crime and reduce the impact of dealing with terrorism on local policing.

The control room at Croydon Police Station currently deals with all '999' calls within the Borough and an I or Emergency grading should be dealt with in 12 minutes (a target which is generally achieved). Other calls have response times of between 30 minutes and 1 hour. In an effort to improve response times a number of changes have been or will be implemented:

- Changing the shift pattern from 5 to 4 shifts – meaning that more Police are on the streets.
- Prisoner processing teams to deal with prisoners that the response teams bring in – allowing the officers to get back on the streets quickly.

The Police are required to work with the Council, Neighbourhood Watch and Residents' Associations under the Crime and Disorder Act. The Heathfield, Monks Orchard & Spring Park community ward officers come from Addington Police Station which operates 24 hours per day. The role of the Community Ward Officers is to tackle long-term problems such as graffiti, anti-social behaviour and vehicle crime.

## **Environmental Issues**

Keith Turner began by saying that his department provides the following anti-graffiti services:

- A 53 day borough-wide cleansing cycle
- Community led clean-ups with Council support
- A rechargeable service for private property
- A rapid response against all racist or offensive graffiti
- Cost price sale of special cleaning products
- A 'design out' approach to the problem

Phillip Ditton, the founder of "Residents against Graffiti" wants to halt the production, sale and import of spray paints. The campaign has gained widespread support and hopes to pressurise the government and the European Union to ban them. Railtrack could reduce graffiti on their properties by letting it out free to advertisers on the condition that they kept it graffiti free.

The adopt a wall scheme which has been taken up by many residents' associations including the Holmesdale Road Residents' Association is a successful method of combating graffiti.

## ABANDONED VEHICLE SERVICE

Mick Vincent of Parking and Technical Services gave a summary of enforcement activities. Fairfield, Heathfield, Monks Orchard and Spring Park Wards, a total of 81 vehicles had been reported abandoned since 1 February 2002.



Break down as follows:-

	Fairfield	Heathfield	Monks Orchard	Spring Park	Total
Reported Av	17	25	19	20	81
No Trace	9	14	12	9	44
Removed Av	7	26	5	20	58
Pending Removal	2	8	3	4	17

## Planned Improvements

- Removal timescale previously averaged 30 days
- Target for removal of abandoned cars reported to the Council is 9 days
- Current average is 14 days
- Removal of burnt out vehicles within 2 hours (if reported before 3.00 p.m.).
- Extension of the current liaison on real and potential fire caused by vandalism on cars to other areas
- Collaborative enforcement actions with the Police and Drivers & vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)

### New Initiatives

- Implementation of End of Life Vehicles (EoLV) Directive (2000/53/EC)
- Enforcement of Vehicle Excise License evasion
- Tracing of last registered keepers for recovery of costs

### How can you help?

- Accurate reporting of abandoned vehicles, but ensure they are not being used.
- Contact the Police if you are suspicious of someone abandoning or interfering with a vehicle.
- Alternatively take details of the 'get away' vehicle and pass to the Police or the Council.
- Dispose of your own vehicle properly. The Council offers a free disposal service when delivered to a collection Pound.

## How you can contact the Council

By telephone: 020 8686 6413 or 020 8760 5768 extension 2156

Via the Internet: [www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk) and go to A-Z of Council Services

By e-mail: [parking@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:parking@croydon.gov.uk)



By post: Parking & Technical Services  
Municipal Offices (4-06)  
Fell Road  
Croydon CR9 1BJ

### **Street Champions**

John Bownas mentioned the recruitment of 'Street Champions' – A Smarter Croydon Initiative Street Champions – adding value making use of our resources.

### **ALL TIME COUNTS**

- Making a call to report a problem
- Sweeping a pavement outside your house or shop
- Adopting a wall to combat graffiti
- Getting out on a group litter-pick or graffiti clean-up
- Cleaning up a pond or coppicing a wood

What's in it? Help us decide!

- Induction session (prior to Neighbourhood Partnership Meetings?)
- Membership card (photo ID?)
- Training (What, where, when?)
- Projects (What and how often?)
- Easy contact with the Council and good feedback (Your ideas?)

### **Local Sustainable Development**

Peter McDonald said that local sustainable development covers a broad spectrum including local issues, the global environment and future issues. The most high profile event in Croydon at present is the Farmers Market in New Addington and the Local Agenda 21 team also promotes energy conservation in the following ways:

- Low energy light bulbs, which use 1/10 of the energy and last 10 times as long as normal light bulbs.
- Renewable energy through solar panels.
- Reducing travel by car – encouraging people to not take one in five journeys would reduce congestion considerably.
- Waste reduction and recycling e.g. Farmers Market
- Water conservation – cost of cleaning water and increased run off due to concrete.
- Encouraging wildlife in back gardens

#### **Local Benefits**

- Lower energy and water bills
- Lower council tax – costs of landfill
- Cheaper goods and better food
- Better community life

What can you do?

- Solar panels, energy saving light bulbs and wind power for community

groups – Kent and Surrey has been given a grant of £100,000 to assist.

- Use energy companies, which invest in renewable energy.
- Walking buses, car clubs and recycling are other ways in which local people can contribute to improving the local environment.
- The Green Guide to Living in Croydon and CROYPOST provide details of companies, which offer sustainable products and services.
- Contact the Local Agenda 21 team on 020 8760 5791 or [local\\_agenda21@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:local_agenda21@croydon.gov.uk) and also see their website at [www.croydon.gov.uk/la21/index.asp](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/la21/index.asp)

### **Monks Orchard Ward Discussion Group**

There were less than ten people in the Monks Orchard group. The major items discussed were:

- Road humps – what regulations apply to road humps in their construction, as there seems to be considerable differences in width and height?
- Unauthorised advertising on street furniture, which distract and confuse drivers and look unsightly. Examples of these signs include: signs offering something for sale, offering a service and offering employment.
- Traffic calming measures in Bywood Avenue and The Glade.



## **BTCV Croydon**

### ***What is BTCV Croydon?***

Within the Borough of Croydon, volunteers put in thousands of hours of work each year managing local habitats with local conservation groups. BTCV is the organisation that facilitates this voluntary commitment.

Work typically includes creating paths to improve access, pond creation and clearance, scrub control to maintain grasslands and woodland management. There are sites varying in size and character across the Borough, some in open country, others providing green space and urban areas. There are new skills to be learnt (e.g. fence construction, coppicing) and much enjoyment to be had; our teams look forward to seeing you!

Without the enthusiasm of volunteers this work would be impossible. Taking part in voluntary conservation work in Croydon is a unique opportunity to work

for a better environment in your borough.

*For general enquiries, please contact:*

BTCV, C/o Parks Department, London Borough of Croydon,  
Crosfield House, Mint Walk, Croydon, CR9 1BS.

Email: [Croydon@btcv.org.uk](mailto:Croydon@btcv.org.uk)

For more information, visit our website at: [www.btcv.org.uk](http://www.btcv.org.uk).

# Security Report



## ABANDONED VEHICLES

A helpline is available (020 8686 6413) if you wish to report abandoned vehicles. To help in the removal process, please provide as much information as possible, e.g. registration number, make/model, colour, exact location.

## THE BOTTLE IN THE FRIDGE

The "Bottle in the Fridge" is being introduced to the elderly, the idea being that details of medication and family contacts are placed in the fridge for ready access in the case of an emergency. This would be advised by means of a special sticker on the front door/window. Residents' Associations would be used to circulate the necessary publicity.

# CRIME FIGURES

## MONKS ORCHARD AREA

Previous year in brackets

JANUARY 2002	44	(57)
FEBRUARY 2002	60	(49)
MARCH 2002	32	(58)
Total Numbers 2002	136	(164)

This shows an overall fall of 28.



## Shirley Oaks Estate

JANUARY 2002	5	(7)	4 Theft from Motor Vehicle 1 Domestic incident
FEBRUARY 2002	1	(5)	1 Burglary
MARCH 1st - 25th	3	(4)	1 Theft from Motor Vehicle 2 Domestic incidents

(FOR INFORMATION - Suspect was arrested on the 26th Feb and admitted 17 Burglaries and other motor vehicle offences in the Shirley Area.)

Special thanks go to PC Chas Timms, who is leaving us on the 3rd May for pastures new. We thank him for his contribution to the community, for his regular crime updates and for his liaisons with the association. We wish him well for the future.

# More Margaret's Marsden Meander

**More Margaret' Marsden Meander**  
**Parkfields Cheston Avenue Shirley.**  
**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2002 10am – 1pm**



Twelve years ago I was lucky enough to have attended the Royal Marsden Hospital at Sutton and to be given a second chance of life. I wanted to thank them in whatever way I could and so I organised Margaret's Marsden Meander a sponsored walk and fete. To my delight the response was fantastic and we raised over £14,000, which was used to purchase infusion pumps to monitor the delivery of chemotherapy. Five years later we did it again and this time we raised £17,600, which was used towards purchasing a robot to help to hunt for the genetic link with various cancers.

Another five years on and it is time to do it again and so I am organising MORE MARGARET'S MARSDEN MEANDER on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May between 10am and 1pm in Parkfields, Cheston Avenue, Shirley.

To make the day a success I am going to need masses of support so I am appealing to you for help to see if we can raise even more money for the Research Fund at the Royal Marsden who will NOT use any of the money for administration costs. All the money raised will go to a specific project.

## HERE'S WHAT I NEED:

- **WALKERS** people who would be willing to walk 5 miles with me (we will stop for coffee and scones halfway at a price!!) and to try to raise a minimum sponsorship of £10.
- To give the Meander a theme and a bit of fun would Walkers please wear any combination of red white and blue as we are walking for The ROYAL Marsden and it is a Jubilee Year (Last time we all wore Hats!)
- **DONATIONS** any donation no matter how small will be very welcome (Cheques to Margaret's Marsden Meander please)
- **THE FETE** anything that I may be able to use on any of the usual stalls. Raffle and tombola prizes, plants, bottles, cakes, crafts, soft toys or anything else you feel may be useful. Perhaps you would like to help on the day or even run your own stall.
- **PUBLICITY** would you be willing to deliver leaflets for me to your road?
- **PEOPLE** to come on the day to support us and spend lots of money!!
- **WEB SITE** [www.mmmm2002.org.uk](http://www.mmmm2002.org.uk). Do visit my web site to register to walk or help with More Margaret's Meander

We never know who will be the next person to have cancer it may be you or your nearest and dearest so please do try to help me in some way to raise money for the Research Fund of the Royal Marsden.

**(Address over page)**

Margaret Preece



Tel:

Email:



## SHIRLEY GROUP OF CHURCHES



### NEWS AND DIARY DATES

The **Aled Davies Memorial Trust** is once again offering grants of £100 minimum to help young people (aged 17-25 living in Croydon) to take part in ecumenical activities in IONA or TAIZE ([www.taize.fr](http://www.taize.fr)). You may choose when to go to Taize any time for a week from Easter to October.

Iona's events in 2002 are: *Young Adults Week (age 18-30 year olds) – 15 to 21 June* and a *Youth Festival for 15-18 year olds from 3 to 9 August*. For further information, please contact Rosalie Hughes on [REDACTED].

We are currently looking for someone to fill the role of **Minute Secretary**. It is not an onerous post; it simply involves taking minutes from approximately 7 meetings per year and distributing them to 9 individuals. If you feel you could spare a little time to perform this extremely important role, please call Julie Turpin on [REDACTED].

Julie Turpin



## Croydon East Rotary Swimathon, 2002



On Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2002, for the tenth year running, The Rotary Club of Croydon East will be holding a SPONSORED SWIMATHON at Trinity School Swimming Pool, Shirley Park, to raise funds for St. Christopher's Hospice and other worthy causes. This is a fun event, does not require exceptional swimming

abilities and is open to swimmers of all ages – adults and children alike.

Each team consists of between one and six swimmers, swimming in relay for a total of 25 minutes. The larger the team the more rest everyone gets!

For an application form and/or more information, please ring Jonathan (Joe) Baxter on [REDACTED].

# Visit to Althorp House



## Visit to Althorp House & Gardens

Friday, 12th July 2002

PRICE: £30.00 per head

Departs at 7.00am

**Price includes:** Coach travel complete with toilet facilities and

Hostess Service. Entrance to The House and Grounds of Althorp. DEPART 7.00am PROMPT - at the Bus Stop opposite Shirley Inn, Wickham Road. There will be a comfort stop en-route, but it is suggested you bring a picnic with you.

### USEFUL INFORMATION:

**Clothing:** Visitors are advised to bring suitable shoes for walking and coats and umbrellas in case of bad weather.

**Photography:** In order to preserve the paintings and exhibits and for reasons of security and conservation, no indoor photography is permitted with still or video cameras.

**Lavatories:** Lavatory facilities are located near the stable block, including facilities for visitors with disabilities. Please note there are no lavatories in the car park.

**Shopping:** A gift shop sells a range of goods exclusively designed and manufactured from Althorp.

**Eating:** There is a café that offers a range of sandwiches and snacks as well as hot and cold drinks. There is also a picnic area.

### St. Mary's Church, Great Brington

St. Mary's in the nearby village of Great Brington will be open from 12 noon to 4pm each day. There is no parking available near the church and visitors are asked to walk to the village along the designated path. There are no public lavatory facilities in the village.

Please make cheques payable to Christine Ross-Smith with reservation.

## Noisy Party Patrol

The arrival of longer hours of daylight and warmer weather usually coincides with a rise in complaints about noisy parties. The Council wishes to remind residents that the Noisy Party Patrol operates from April to September. If one of your neighbours or someone nearby is having a party which causes a noise disturbance you can call the Party Patrol Hotline 020 8686 4433. Your call will be passed to a mobile patrol.



If you are going to hold a party here are some tips that may help to avoid annoying your neighbours (a) Tell your neighbours in advance of your plan. (b) Keep the volume of music low after 11 .00 p. m. and close the doors and windows. (c) Ask guests to leave quietly after the party i.e. no shouting, revving of car engines or sounding of car horns.

## Care for Croydon Award

The Monks Orchard Residents' Association were presented with a Care for Croydon Award at the AGM for the category of Green Action. More details and pictures will be in the next newsletter.

### Andy Pandy Parent & Toddler Group



Meets Fridays, during  
term-time 1pm – 3pm.  
All mums, dads and  
carers welcome.



Has toys and equipment  
for babies and kids up to  
pre-schoolers



We're at St George's  
Church Hall, Elston Way,  
(off The Glade), Shirley.



Your baby is never too young to  
come! For more information, call  
Karin on [REDACTED]

**Look forward to meeting  
you at Andy Pandy!**





# Rubbish Collection



MORA RUBBISH COLLECTION DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

**ROUND ONE: SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

Dustcart meet at SHIRLEY AVE - Junct. with WICKHAM ROAD, down SHIRLEY AVE to SHIRLEY RD, up SHIRLEY RD, down BARNFIELD AVE, up VALLEY WALK, ELDON AVE, WICKHAM ROAD to ORCHARD AVE, down FIRSBY AVE, up VERDAYNE AVE, down RIDGEMOUNT AVE, up WICKHAM AVE, along WICKHAM ROAD to CHESTON AVE, PARKFIELDS; back to ORCHARD AVE (1-77/2-72) via WILKES GDNS, RUSSETT DRIVE, POTTERS CLOSE, then WOODLAND WAY, HIGH TREES.

**ROUND TWO: SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

Dustcart meet at CORNER of WOODMERE AVE/ORCHARD AVE, ELSTAN WAY, TOWER VIEW & EDGEWOOD GREEN, WOODMERE AVE, PIPERS GDNS, ROUND GROVE, MERE END, WOODMERE CLOSE, WOODMERE GDNS, GLADESIDE nos: to 1-49/2-48) LORNE GDNS & LORNE AVE.

**ROUND THREE: SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JUNE**

Dustcart meet at BYWOOD AVE, THE ROSERY, CHAFFINCH AVE, CHAFFINCH CLOSE, BROOKSIDE WAY, MEADOW AVE, GLADESIDE nos: 51-91/50-94 (as far as Lorne Avenue) via HOMER ROAD, GLADESIDE, FAIRHAVEN WAY, LAVENDAR WAY, GWYNNE AVE, GLENWOOD, MARDELL ROAD, LONGHEATH GDNS.

**ROUND FOUR: SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

Dustcart meet at corner ORCHARD WAY/BURREL CLOSE, ORCHARD WAY up to 45/84, via SLOANE WALK, BARONS WALK, BARONS CLOSE, KEMPTON WALK, REGENCY WALK, CASTLETON CLOSE, HAM VIEW, RADNOR WALK, KELVINGTON CLOSE, OVERSTONE GDNS, CARRINGTON CLOSE.

**ROUND FIVE: SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JULY**

Dustcart meet at the bottom of The Glade/Long Lane end; THE GLADE 72/109 (up to Greenview Ave) taking in OAK WAY, ALDERSMEAD AVE, STOKES ROAD, GREENVIEW AVE, ASHTREE WAY, taking in ASHTREE CLOSE, FAIRWAY CLOSE, FAIRFORD AVE, FAIRFORD CLOSE, OAKWAY, STONELEIGH PARK AVE.

**ROUND SIX: SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JULY**

Dustcart meet at ORCHARD GROVE, LYCONBY GDNS, COVERACK CLOSE, ORCHARD RISE, OAKVIEW GROVE, PIPPIN CLOSE, FRESHFIELDS down ORCHARD AVE (from nos. 79-125/74-100), down THE GLADE (Nos. 1-70/2-107 as far as Greenview Avenue), via GLADE GDNS, CAMROSE CLOSE, DARLEY CLOSE.

Helping People with Disabilities to Help Themselves  
**Printed by**  
**CROSLINK**  
**Supported Workshop**  
020 8255 5473

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2002/03

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Vacant

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Marcia Nash

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