

# MONKS ORCHARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**Croydon**

(Non Party)

(Independent)

NEWSLETTER – Winter 1998

## Wishing All Our Members

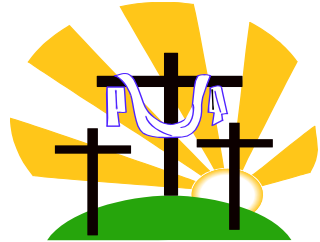


# A Merry Christmas And a Happy New Year



## SHIRLEY GROUP OF CHURCHES

Ideas for the Millenium year got a good airing at our Council Meeting in October and some occasioned differing streams of thought. However, we are progressing, though I feel it would be difficult to precis the thinking behind them in a short newsletter like this. Rather I would suggest that all those who are interested in what we may be planning – and I hope there are many – should contact their church S.G.C. representative(s) to discuss our proposals.



Looking back over recent past, 104 children attended the Shirley Christmas Club in August and £400 was raised for Christian Aid at the Bring & Buy Sale. Sincere thanks to all involved in running and supporting this event

Carol Singing will be held on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> December, starting at Shrublands Advice Centre AT 10:00a.m., then moving on to the Shirley Co-op. By about 11:00a.m. We shall be collecting for the YMCA Cold Weather Shelter, so please do give us your support.

The Cold Weather Shelter will open on 1<sup>st</sup> December in Ingram Road Thornton Heath and stay open until the 30<sup>th</sup> March. They need funds and clothing, food and toiletries urgently, but please note these should be taken/sent to KEVIN GIBBS at YMCA, 32 Dingwall Road (the old YMCA building) in plastic bags labelled “YMCA Winter Shelter”, between 8:00a.m. and 9:00p.m. Alternatively, they could be taken to the Croydon Advertiser office in Katherine Street, similarly labelled.

Special services after Christmas feature a Watchnight Service on New Year’s Eve at 11.30p.m. at St. John’s; a New Year’s Covenant Service at Shirley Methodist Church on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January at 10.30a.m; and Epiphany services on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> Jan at All Saints and ST. George’s, both at 8:00p.m. All are most welcome at these services.





## **ALL SAINTS BADMINTON CLUB**

All Saints Badminton Club plays every Tuesday evening at the Parish Hall in the Wickham Road. The club has been in existence for more than 30 years and is made up of a friendly non-cliquey bunch with a wide age range. Recently, however, we have found that the club really needs more members, particularly men. It would be such a shame if a nice relaxed club such as ours folded when surely there are people in Shirley who might like to join. You don't have to be brilliant for social badminton. It's good fun and we play with feather-shuttles. So even if you're rusty at the sport, why not give the club a try and pop down one Tuesday evening where you will always be welcome.



You can get more information from Veronica Gower on [REDACTED].



## **BETHLEM ROYAL HOSPITAL**

The Bethlem (in Monks Orchard Road) is desperately seeking volunteers to serve teas, sandwiches, etc., in its WRVS shop. Can you help? Can you spare a few hours a week?

If so, please contact Ruth King, telephone [REDACTED].



# Planning News

## **WOODMERE AVENUE / ROUND GROVE PLANNING APPLICATION SUBMITTED**

MORA has just been notified of the submission of a planning application for the residential redevelopment of the land at the rear of nos. 60 and 60A Woodmere Avenue (between Round Grove and Woodmere Close). The applicants, Linden Homes propose the erection of 6 four bedroom and 4 three bedroom detached houses with integral, attached and detached garages. It is proposed that the access to the new houses would be from Round Grove. Notification arrived on the copy deadline for the newsletter and so the MORA Planning Officer, Owen Whalley hasn't had a chance to look at the drawings yet. He will do so shortly and make representations on behalf of the Association

## **SHIRLEY OAKS TREE NURSERY UPDATE**

### **The Cemetery**

The waiting goes on! Despite pleas from both MORA and the Shirley Oaks Residents Association, the Council seems prepared to wait until next March at the earliest to determine the cemetery planning application. This was submitted with practically no supporting information by a land speculator last January.

The Environment Agency has asked that details about the level of the water table on the site be provided from readings taken in November and March. This will allow an assessment to be made as to whether the graves may cause water contamination. Given the rain we've had recently, MORA believes that it will be impossible to demonstrate that the water table will remain three metres below the surface all year round. On that basis the Association has urged the Council to consider the position after

receipt of the November readings. Only if the water table is demonstrated to be one metre below the deepest grave is it worthwhile waiting until the March readings.

MORA believes that continuing delays are intolerable and an abuse of the planning system which is encouraged to provide speedy decisions and some certainty over land use issues. If you have not already written to the Council expressing your concerns about the cemetery proposals and the delays that have occurred in determining this proposal, please consider doing so now by writing to Mr. John Rawlinson, Department of Planning and Development, London Borough of Croydon, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon, CR9 1JT. Please quote the application reference number which is 98/0080/P.

### **The Nature Reserve**

To counter the cemetery proposal MORA is actively supporting the Shirley Oaks Residents Association to develop proposals for a nature reserve on the same site. A well-researched and cogently argued planning application was submitted in September proposing that the site be used as a reserve for plants and animals. This is a much more appropriate use, and has so far received widespread support.



The scheme proposes that the area of the nature reserve closest to Woodmere Avenue should be retained as a buffer zone to protect the privacy and security of residents. The existing trees would be kept and managed as maturing woodland. The site would be secure, fenced and gated. While there would be access during the daytime, at night the site would be locked and kept secure (see plan on pages 6 & 7).

The management proposals for the nature reserve anticipates the creation of a pond, new planting, a stream and filter beds, as well as an education area and new wildlife habitats.

MORA believes that this scheme is far more desirable than the cemetery and hope that you too will support the scheme and will provide a genuinely community based sustainable project which will provide a lasting local legacy for the Millennium.

The Executive Committee hopes that MORA members will support this exciting and sustainable initiative which could provide a lasting project to commemorate the Millennium. Please write and express your support for this scheme. Letters should be addressed to Mr. John Rawlinson at the Council at the address given above, quoting the reference number 98/2161/P.

We have produced an illustrated submission in support of the planning application. Its production has incurred costs and we are charging £1.00 per copy. If you would like more details about the nature reserve, and would like a copy, please contact Owen Whalley, the MORA Planning Officer on [REDACTED].



## **BP EXPAND GARAGE SITE WITHOUT PLANNING PERMISSION**

British Petroleum has begun its strategy to expand its petrol filling station and shop on the Shirley Road by stealth. Having been frustrated in its proposal to demolish the now long boarded up and vacant no 181 Shirley Road, the Company has now knocked down the attached domestic garage and built a timber fence alongside the house. This has effectively increased the size of the petrol filling station site. All this has been done without any contact with the Croydon Planning Department or the submission of a planning application.

Increasingly urgent contact with the Croydon Planners has urged the Council to take enforcement action against the Company and counter its blatant attempt to achieve its expansion plans.

## **EXPANDED ESTATE AGENT PROVISION FOR THE WICKHAM ROAD**

Those male MORA members who experienced the tonsorial elegance dispensed by Rodney's Hairstylists at 285 Wickham Road may be interested to learn that planning permission has now been granted to allow the adjoining Proctors estate agents to expand. The property market must be alive and well to sustain Dixon Hind, Johnson, Proctors and Bairstow Eves on the Wickham Road between Orchard Avenue and Shirley Oaks Road. Permission has also been granted for the change of use of no.219 Wickham Road (between the dry cleaners and the antique shop), for use as a restaurant/take away. Looking for new homes must create voracious appetites!



### **THE MILLENIUM**

The year 2000 will soon be upon us – only another 400 days (at the time of going to print)!

Croydon Borough Council have lots of exciting events planned for 31<sup>st</sup> December 1999 and throughout the year 2000 and these will soon be advertised across the borough.



Many charity and voluntary organisations are holding events and MORA would like to be part of those celebrations and organise an event in our Ward for our Members. We have some ideas of our own but would like to know what you would like and how you would like to celebrate this occasion.

I know this is a very busy time but would ask if you would give this some thought over the Christmas and New Year period and let me have your ideas.

We cannot let this historic occasion pass without some celebration.

Contact: Christine Ross-Smith, [REDACTED], Tel: [REDACTED].

## SECURITY MATTERS

### Making it difficult for the Burglar

With break-ins on the increase, it is imperative that everyone does all they can to make it difficult – or even impossible – for a criminal to gain access. After all, in two out of every ten burglaries, the perpetrators do not even have to use force to gain access – they simply climb through an open window, or walk in through an open door!



Take a look at your property through the eyes of a burglar. If you wanted to break-in, how would you go about it and where would be the easiest point of access? Are there any hidden or blind spots that would make it easy for the thief to smash a window or even force a lock without fear of being seen by the neighbours? Are the locks on your doors and windows strong enough to withstand an attack? Three out of every ten burglaries are through gaining access by a rear window.

It is only by asking yourself questions like these, that you will get a fair impression of just how secure and burglar proof your property really is.

As the Festive period fast approaches and we all fill our households with presents – may I ask that these be put out of sight and somewhere secure so that they may not be seen from outside. Bogus Callers come in all shapes and sizes.

When answering the door, always follow the KNOCK code –

**K**now your caller

**N**ever allow entry without valid identification.

**O**pen the door only when you are satisfied that the caller is genuine

**C**all the Police if you are suspicious.

**K**ee a constant eye on callers when they are in the house; be very suspicious if there are more than one.





## **MONDAY POLICE SURGERY:**

10:30 – noon at St George’s Church, Elstan Way, Shirley. Any resident is welcome to come along and bend my ear about local, non-urgent problems.

Urgent matters, Please Dial 999 immediately.

I would like to take this occasion to wish all MORA residents’ a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Jonathan Smith – Beat Officer Monks Orchard  
Addington Police Station



## **ROAD STEWARDS**

We would like to make a special thank you to all our Road Stewards, without whom newsletters would not be distributed and MORA would not be able to continue. Thanks and seasonal greetings from all of us in the MORA executive committee.



## **DIARY DATES:**

### **Early Notice of AGM - 26<sup>th</sup> March 1999**

Any contributions for the next newsletter should be with the Editor by the - **6<sup>th</sup> Feb 1999** at the latest. The earlier the copy is received, the more chance of its inclusion as the total copy must result in a multiple of 4 pages.



# ***COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1998/9***

President:	Vacant	
Chairman: Bob Akers	████████████████████ ████████████████████	████████████████████
Vice Chairman: John Walkington	████████████████████ ██████████	████████████████████
Acting Secretary: Bob Akers	████████████████████ ████████████████████	████████████████████
Treasurer: Ken Butler	████████████████████ ████████████████████	████████████████████
Planning Officer: Owen Whalley	████████████████████ ██████████	████████████████████
Minutes Secretary: Bob Akers	████████████████████ ████████████████████	████████████████████
Editor: Derek Ritson	████████████████████ ████████████████████	████████████████████
Transport Officer: Peter Mortimer	████████████████████ ██████████	████████████████████
Highways Officer: Peter Mortimer	████████████████████ ██████████	████████████████████
Membership Sec: Alyce Menhinnitt	████████████████████ ████████████████████	████████████████████
Hon. Historian & Area Manager: Charles Hutchings	████████████████████ ████████████████████	████████████████████
Area Manager: Arthur Taylor	████████████████████ ████████████████████	████████████████████