

# MONKS ORCHARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Croydon

(Non Party)

(Independent)

NEWSLETTER – WINTER 1999



**Wishing All Our Members  
A Merry Christmas**



**New Year & Millennium**

# *A Message from your Chairman*

This issue of the newsletter marks the arrival of the festive season, the end of the old millennium and the start of the new. On behalf of your Executive Committee I wish you a Happy Christmas, a Prosperous New Year and good fortune in the New Millennium. The new age brings hope for the future and also new challenges. Many changes have been made to Monks Orchard during the latter half of the nineteenth century. New estates have been built, transport links improved and traffic calming installed in some roads. It is easy to predict some of the factors that will impact on residents in the new century. High on the agenda, are the continuing demand for housing, reductions in air pollution, traffic congestion, noise, waste disposal, security and crime. All these factors are monitored by MORA, which will try to assist with the need for change in the interest of all the residents.

The Local Government Commission has now completed its review of the electoral arrangements for Croydon. The stated purpose of this periodic exercise is to make voting fairer by changing boundaries to produce a more equal distribution of electors. Under the proposed new arrangements Croydon will still have a total of 70 councillors but the number of electoral wards is to be reduced from 27 to 24.

The Shirley community has been split into three pieces, the northern part being hived off to the Ashburton Ward, the south western part to the Heathfield ward and the remainder forming the new Shirley Ward. Curiously, Shirley Parish Church, Shirley Windmill, Shirley Inn are no longer in Shirley. Furthermore, in future Monks Orchard will no longer be considered as a separate electoral ward. It is to be divided almost in half, the northern part is to be combined with Ashburton ward and the southern part is to be combined with part of Spring Park to form a new Shirley Ward.

The new proposals will sever the link between wards and natural local communities. It is worth remembering that independent residents' associations such as MORA exist to represent local communities and to preserve and improve the nature and character of a geographical area rather than to work within

changing electoral boundaries. They attract and retain members on the quality of their work rather than for any political reason. MORA has represented the residents of Monks Orchard for seventy-five years and with your help and support will continue to do so.

## **Resignation of Planning Officer**

Owen Whalley who has been Honorary Planning Officer for over ten years has found it necessary to stand down because of pressure of work. He contributed considerable knowledge and experience to the work of MORA especially during the fight against the South London Roads Assessment proposals, the proposed Tesco development in Orchard Way and his work with the Shirley Oaks Residents' Association fight against the planning application for a Cemetery off Poppy Lane and proposals for an alternative Nature Reserve. Owen's expertise in planning matters will be sorely missed. However, it is hoped that he will remain available in order to contribute expert advice on major planning issues.

The work of the Planning Officer is of considerable importance and it can be interesting and rewarding work. The task is not always to oppose development but to ensure that it is appropriate to the area and will not impact too much on neighbouring properties. The main problem is that of developers who only too often want to cram as many houses as possible in a restricted space. Your Executive Committee would be pleased to hear from members who are interested in monitoring planning applications and have a few hours each month to spare in which to undertake this important task.



## **Over 60's Millennium Lunch**

We understand that a Millennium Lunch is being organised for the Over Sixty's Club and we wish them all an enjoyable and happy time.

## *Advance Notice of AGM*

The Annual General Meeting of the Association is to be held on Friday March 31st. in the Main Hall, St George's Church, Elstan Way beginning at 8.00 p m.

The speaker is to be Mr. Brian Irving and he will talk about Sustainable Transport Consultation. This consultation process on future transport strategy is important. The decisions made could have an impact on all residents.



## *Planning Report*



Most of the planning applications made in the ward over the recent months comprised proposals to build garages or extensions to existing properties.

However developers are constantly active scouring the area seeking suitable land for building. Usually this will result in infill or backland housing schemes which cause anxiety for MORA members who have the misfortune to live close to these sites. There remain a number of outstanding applications still to be determined among these is that of the Shirley Oaks Tree Nursery site.

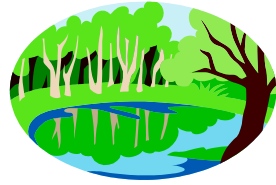


## *In Memory of Alan Cogin*

It is with deep regret that we learn of the death of Alan Cogin, an active MORA committee member and area manager for many years. Alan died on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1999 aged 80 years. Our deepest sympathy at this sad time are offered to his wife and family - from the Committee and all MORA members who knew Alan.

## *The Nature Reserve, Poppy Lane:*

The Nature Reserve Committee thanks all those who wrote to the Council Planning Officer opposing the application of the Garden of Remembrance. Nearly two hundred and fifty letters, that had been signed by residents and collected by the committee, were taken to the Town Hall. A large number of residents had also written individually to the Planning Officer.



Croydon Council has requested a second report on the site, as a Garden of Remembrance, from the London Ecology Unit (LEU). The previous report on the site was for the cemetery application, prior to our own application for the Nature Reserve. In its first report the LEU recommended that areas of the site should be retained for conservation. The committee hopes to get a copy of the latest report, as this would be of great help in planning the necessary work to create the reserve, and provide useful information to fight the application for the Garden of Remembrance.

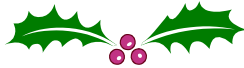
The agent for the owner still refuses to discuss selling the site to us. Despite the report from LEU, he does not consider that the site has any special value as a conservation site. However, his latest ploy is to ingratiate the council by offering a compromise deal. He is prepared to designate part of the site for nature conservation. Close inspection reveals that this small part of the site contains the water-course and the majority of trees that have protection on them. It is also the wettest part of the site, waterlogged in winter. Obviously this part of the site would be useless to him for the Garden of Remembrance. He also remarks that the entrance to the conservation part of the site would be from Labernum Gardens. No mention was made of visitor parking places; it is presumed that they would have to park outside residents' houses in Labernum Gardens.

At the Selsdon Forestry and Country Show in August, Heathfield Ecology Centre kindly allowed us to use part of their stall to promote our fight for the Nature Reserve. We were able to

spread the word of our plans and we received over one hundred signatures on a petition opposing the Garden of Remembrance.

If anyone would like to join the Shirley Oaks Nature Reserve Committee, please contact Mick Hewish, on [REDACTED]. We will continue our efforts to acquire land for the Nature Reserve.

Mick Hewish  
Chairman  
Shirley Oaks Nature Reserve Committee.  
Evans).



## "Lifetimes"

Most of MORA's members travel frequently to Croydon for work, shopping or entertainment. They arrive in a town centre which has undergone many changes. A few buildings remain to remind us of the past but with so many modern structures it is sometimes difficult to appreciate that the town has a long and interesting history. If you wish to know how a small Surrey town became the busiest commercial and shopping centre in the South East outside London then you should make a visit to your local museum. If you think that museums are dusty and boring places, then think again!

The present interactive exhibition at the museum centred in the Clocktower complex successfully combines history with state of the art technology. It is called 'Lifetimes', an exhibition based on real life experiences of Croydon people from 1830 to the present. There are six linked displays depicting the following times; Market Town 1830 – 1880, Turn of the Century 1881 – 1918, Suburbia 1919 – 1938, Wartime and Austerity 1939 – 1955, Mini-Manhattan 1956 – 1970 and Croydon Now 1971 to Today. Most of the exhibits have been lent by local people and you can use the touch screens to call-up their stories.

One cannot fail to be impressed by the amount of research, planning and design that must have been involved in creating

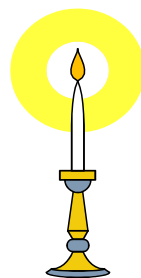
this remarkable insight into the lives of local people. The exhibition has a wide audience appeal and has proved to be immensely popular. The arrival of the new Millennium will evoke thoughts of the past and the future. This is therefore a good time to explore some of the more fascinating parts of local history.

Visit the exhibition at the Croydon Clocktower, Katherine Street. Opening hours are Monday to Saturday 11a.m – 5 p.m. Sundays and Bank Holidays 12 noon – 5 p.m. Admission to Lifetimes is free.



## The New Millennium

Readers will have doubtless heard about the Millennium Candles being offered by Churches to households up and down the land. If you would like one of these special candles on New Year's Eve, you are invited to collect it from one of the distribution points arranged in Shirley:



- The Shirley Churches stall at the **Shirley Christmas Lights** on Friday November 26<sup>th</sup> at 185 Wickham Road.
- The **Christmas Arcade at All Saint's**, Bridle Road, on Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- **Dr. Ford's surgery**, 2 South Way, Shirley, during December (until supplies run out).
- The **Shrublands Coffee and Advice Shop** during its normal opening hours in December – Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 9.30am to 1.00pm.
- The **Shirley Library** on Tuesday December 16<sup>th</sup> from 10.00am to noon and then from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

- **The Post Office at 134 Wickham Road** on Friday December 17<sup>th</sup>, from 10.00am to noon, and then from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.
- **Shirley Methodist Church** on Saturday December 18<sup>th</sup> from 10.00am to 12.30pm.
- **The Post Office at Woodmere Avenue** on Tuesday December 21<sup>st</sup> from 10.00am to noon.

If you are unable to get to any of these distribution points, or to your local Church for one of its normal Sunday services when most will have candles available, please call Liz Bebington on [REDACTED] to arrange for someone from a local Church to bring a candle to your home.

Whether or not you light a candle, we ask you to take a moment as the old year ends and the new year begins to read and make your own this Millenium Resolution:

Let there be  
 Respect for the earth  
 Peace for its people  
 Love in our lives  
 Delight in the good  
 Forgiveness for past wrongs  
 And from now on  
 A new start.

We pray that we may all have a Happy New Year!



### *Message from the Editor:*

I must apologise for missing the autumn edition of the Newsletter this year due to pressure of work and family commitments. I would welcome any contributions for future Newsletters via e-mail to: [REDACTED]



# Croydon's Millennium Celebrations

Just to bring you up to date with some of the Millennium celebrations in Croydon and by the time you receive your newsletter some will already have started.

## **Monday 15 November 1999 - 6 January 2000**

Ice Rink in The Queen's Gardens

Tickets: Adults - £4.50  
Children: £3.50 (under 16)  
Children Under 4 - free



## **20 November 1999**

### **Every Saturday and Sunday until 19 December**

Junior Ice Disco (under 12's) - 6pm - 7.30pm

Ice Disco (over 12's) 8pm - 10pm

Tickets: £5.00

## **30 November 1999**

Street Entertainment commences in Central Croydon

## **4 December 1999 - 6 January 2000**

Old Time Fayre opens in The Queen's Gardens

## **18 December 1999 - 6 January 2000**

Luminarium opens on College Green (adjacent to Fairfield)

Tickets: £3.00  
Under 4's free

## **31 December 1999**

Millennium Firework Display

## **3 January 2000**

Fun Day 10.00 am - 10.00 pm



Hope to see you there.

The Executive Committee wish all our readers a happy, healthy and prosperous Millennium.

# Croydon's Primary Care Community Network

A discussion on health care action to advance Primary Care Groups in Central Croydon was planned to be held on November 25<sup>th</sup> at Oval Primary School, East Croydon. Unfortunately notification missed this edition of the newsletter.

However if anyone is interested in the subject matter and results/outcome of the discussion please contact Arthur Taylor on [REDACTED].



## Crime Report



### **COUNCIL TO NAME AND SHAME GRAFFITI LOUITS**

Croydon Council has vowed to prosecute anyone who vandalizes the town through criminal damage. Mike Jewitt, highways and transportation committee chair has said: "Our aim is to make the pests responsible for harming our environment, pay for their misdemeanours. Identifying them and publicly naming them, particularly when they have been dealt with by the courts, will send a tough message that people who mess with our town can't expect an easy ride." The Council encourages people to use the Crimestoppers free number 0800 555 111 to report this and other types of illegal acts of vandalism.



# *Crime Statistics*

## **Monks Orchard Ward June 1999**

BEAT = 29 (21)                      MAJOR = 14 (11)  
BURGLARY = 11 (8)                VEHICLE = 8 (9)

## **July 1999**

BEAT = 28 (20)                      MAJOR = 5 (12)  
BURGLARY = 16 (7)                VEHICLE = 16 (10)

## **August 1999**

BEAT = 31 (16)                      MAJOR = 14 (9)  
BURGLARY = 15 (9)                VEHICLE = 12 (11)

NOTE: Numbers in brackets indicate last year's figures.

**Beat crime** can include Minor Thefts, Criminal Damage, Graffiti, **Domestic Crime**, Minor Assaults and Racial incidents.

Major crime can include Drugs Offences, Malicious Phonecalls, Deceptions, Major and Indecent Assaults.

**Burglary** can include residential and non-residential (i.e. garages and sheds) where entry has been gained and property stolen and any attempts (i.e. without gaining entry). Also, where deception has been used to gain entry (e.g. posing as a water board official).

**Motor Vehicle crime** can include Theft of Vehicle, Theft from Vehicle, Criminal Damage to Vehicle and Interfering with Vehicle.

Most incidents of note listed in the Borough reports fortunately for us are elsewhere in the Borough, and not in our Ward. However, there is an extensive undercover operation concerning the attacks in the early hours on elderly ladies asleep in ground floor bedrooms (three such cases in Shirley in the past 18 months), and it continues under the direction of a special incident room at Addington and with extra manpower brought in from other divisions. The last incident in Shirley was in February.



If you see anything suspicious, please dial 999.

## Crime Prevention

**Meet your local police crime prevention officer** at Shirley Library, on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December, from 10.00a.m. – 4.00p.m.. The crime prevention officer can advise on all aspects of crime prevention, including home and car security, property marking and personal safety.



## Transport and Highways

As you know we will have Tramlink with us very soon, but when is not yet certain

The position with the bus services is not yet clear since London Transport have not yet announced their final decision on the proposals they have made.



The main proposal was to cut back many routes from Croydon and use them as feeder services to the Tramlink. Other routes would be re-routed. The main effect to Monks Orchard would be the termination of route 54 at Elmers End instead of Croydon, and the re-routing of the 446 to Addington instead of Shirley.

The implications of the change to route 54 are that bus passes are not valid (although elderly persons permits are) which means that a travel card is needed, or a premium fare payable, and of course that there is no direct link by Bus to Croydon. Other issues have been raised about security relating to the greater distance between tram stops than bus stops.

Along with many other organisations we have written to London Transport objecting to these cutbacks and fare increases. We are still awaiting their decision.

Peter Mortimer [Transport]

# *Croydon Neighbourhood Car Association*



Everybody needs Good Neighbours – or so the song goes – but not everybody has them. That's where the 22 member groups of the Croydon Neighbourhood Car Association try to help.

They link local people together as volunteers, so they can help each other, especially with the simple tasks that most neighbours would willingly help with if they could.

Good Neighbour volunteers sit and have a chat, share memories, offer lifts in their own cars to the hairdresser, chiropodist, shops, lunch club or bank, etc, push a wheelchair, walk a dog, fetch bits of shopping, run lunch clubs and pop-ins, relieve carers, act as escorts on mini bus shopping trips, help a young mum who is ill... The list of possibilities is almost endless. All that is asked is that the person needing help lives in the area or neighbourhood of the group offering it, that the help needed is appropriate for a volunteer to give and that the group can find a local volunteer willing and able to do the task required.

Of course, it doesn't all happen without a lot of effort. The local group has to recruit, vet and support their volunteers, receive the requests for help, match the two together, raise money to refund the volunteers' expenses and other costs and generally ensure their group is meeting the needs of their local area as best it can.

They are supported in all this by the staff of the Croydon Neighbourhood Care Association, who link the groups together so they can share ideas and information. Sadly, not everyone lives in the area of a Croydon Neighbourhood Care Group, so the Croydon Neighbourhood Car Association staff also work with local communities in the 'gap' areas to set up new groups.

If you would like to know more, to volunteer as a Good Neighbour or if you want to know if there is a group local to you that might be able to help you, please ring the Croydon Neighbourhood Care Office on 020 8 686 4522 and ask for Liz or Lynda. They will be glad to try to help – Neighbourhood Care makes a difference to the quality of life for so many people – why not join them?



## *Shirley Group of Churches*

On Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, we shall be Carol Singing, starting at 10am at Shrublands Advice and Coffee Shop and moving on to outside the Shirley Co-op at 11am. Warm refreshments will be provided at both venues.



Do join us and help raise funds for the YMCA Cold Weather Shelter, which will open on 1<sup>st</sup> December. Gifts of money, clothing, toiletries and canned food are urgently needed – send to Peter Hale, YMCA Alexandra Club, 32 Dingwall Road, CR0 2NB (██████████). Cheques should be made payable to “Croydon YMCA – Cold Weather Shelter” and other items in black sacks with a label “Cold Weather Shelter”.



## *Recycling*

Don't know what to do with your Christmas cards after Christmas - **don't throw them in the bin.**



Boots the Chemist have re-cycling bins in most of their stores.

The following organisation would be grateful for your used stamps (please do not include the envelope)

Bransby Home of Rest for Horses  
(Dept WH)  
Bransby  
Lincoln LN1 2PH

or you can pass them to Christine Ross-Smith, ██████████  
██████████



# STRESS BUSTER

Are you...  
A hard-pressed worker?  
A harassed parent?  
Or  
Newly retired?



Why not try allotment gardening – exercise at your own pace in the open air and grow fresh fruit and vegetables. Our allotment holders are men and women from all walks of life, aged from 18 to 88. All for only 50p a week.

Our site has over 350 plots. The current rent is £26 a year, for a 10 rod plot (300 sq. yds), inclusive of water rates and membership to the Allotments Trading Hut.

The trading hut is one of the best stocked in the South of England. Opening times are as follows:

## **Saturdays**

10.30 – 12.15

2.30 – 4.15

## **Sundays**

10.30 – 12.15

## **Wednesdays, from April to September**

2.30 – 4.00

The site has good parking and WC facilities. On summer weekend mornings, the canteen is open, selling refreshments.

There is also a licensed social club with a programme of popular music, barbeques and other events. For more information, contact Brian Holloway and Bill Evans (available most Saturday mornings) regarding any enquiries regarding plot rentals. Phone: [REDACTED] (Brian Holloway), or [REDACTED] (Bill

# *COMMITTEE MEMBERS*

## *1999/2000*

Chairman: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
Bob Ackers [REDACTED]

Vice Chairman &  
Treasurer: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
John Walkington [REDACTED]

Membership Sec: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
Alyce Menhinnitt [REDACTED]

Secretary: Vacant

Planning Officer: Vacant

Minutes Secretary: Vacant

Transport & Highways  
Officer: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
Peter Mortimer

Area Manager: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
Arthur Taylor [REDACTED]

Hon. Historian & Area  
Manager: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
Charles Hutchings [REDACTED]

Editor: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
Derek Ritson [REDACTED] e-mail:  
[REDACTED]