Monks Orchard Residents' Association www.monks-orchard-web.org.uk Croydon (Non Party) (Independent) **NEWSLETTER – Winter 2001** Wishing All Our Members HMerry Christmas And H Happy New Year!



The number of people wanting to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association was so great that the venue had to be transferred from the Council offices to the Fairfield Halls. This proves that law and order remains high on the agenda of the residents of Croydon. It is, therefore, tragic that the organisation of the Neighbourhood Watch has been allowed to fall into decline. Residents have complained that they are unable to make contact with the Watch Office. A full-time co-ordinator and new committee has been appointed and the Council has agreed to provide some extra funding. It is hoped that some improvement will be forthcoming soon.

The Association's web site is creating interest. The number of users is increasing and members are using it to contact the Association. Those without access to computers can access the site using the computers on the first floor of the Main Library, Katherine Street. Use of the computers is free of charge but there is a charge for printing. Our web site address is www.monks-orchard-web.org.uk

This issue of the newsletter coincides with the start of the festive season. On behalf of your Executive Committee and myself I wish you a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year. May 2002 be a year of peace and progress for all.

PLANNING REPORT

During the Autumn twenty five planning applications were made for developments in Monks Orchard. The most common being for permission to erect a side, rear, roof extension or conservatory. Permission for this type of proposal is usually granted providing there are no



strong objections from residents living in adjacent or nearby properties, However, some by reason of size, design or appearance can be detrimental to the visual character of the building and result in the loss of light, outlook and privacy of neighbouring residents.

It is always advisable to consult any neighbours who might be affected by your proposal. This will help avoid problems and unnecessary expenditure. Building contractors can sometimes add to problems by suggesting that a larger extension will be more economic and add more to the value of a property. Extensions can sometimes add to the appearance of a property but others are often constructed without much thought to the finished appearance. As a consequence, they can completely spoil the original appearance and character of a building. Furthermore they can appear unsympathetic to the surroundings especially when the extended property forms part of a terrace or architecturally important area.



PLANNINGNEWS

LOCAL SHOPS

Shopping parades built to serve the needs of local residents have been under threat since the arrival of supermarkets and the change in shopping patterns. Owners of parade businesses made a living by supplying essentials such as groceries, meat, bread, green grocery, medicines, toiletries, hardware, newspapers, wines and spirits. Many of these traditional outlets have now ceased trading and some have been replaced by shops offering a different range of products and services such as hairdressing, health and beauty, launderettes, dry cleaners.

By far the biggest change is from retail use (A1) to food and drink (A3). The occupation of a empty local shop by a Chinese, Indian, Pizza, Fish and Chip take away or workmans' cafe can help maintain the function and vibrancy of a shopping parade and prevent it from becoming derelict and unused. However they do create nuisance from odours and noise for those living nearby. Air quality can be effected by the emission of acrid cooking fumes and sleep disturbance can be caused by shops with late opening hours. The installation of extract ducting is usually mandatory but experience shows that this will not prevent pungent fumes from pervading the locality especially during the months of Summer. Often this is because the ducting is not maintained in accordance of the manufacturers instructions; the replacement of carbon filters is expensive and, as a consequence regular maintenance tends to become neglected.

BYWOOD AVENUE

Subsequent to the refusal of permission to change the use of the corner shop premises at 4, Bywood Avenue for purposes within Class A3 (food and drink) a new application has been made to change the use of 16, Bywood Avenue to that of food and drink probably a fish and chip take away. The premises are closely surrounded by domestic properties and the fumes omitted will affect those living close to the rear of the premises in The Rosary. Furthermore the late opening hours will encourage adolescents to gather in the area after dark. In the interest of nearby residents MORA has made a formal objection to the proposal.



WICKHAM ROAD

An application had been made to use the ground floor of 221, Wickham Road for purposes within class A3 (food and drink) plus alterations to the rear elevation.

WOODMERE CLOSE.

The application by Wren Homes to build in the rear gardens of 18 - 24 Gladeside on land adjacent to 3, Woodmere Close was refused. The proposal was for the erection of 2 three bedroom detached bungalows with attached garages. Subsequently, Wren Homes have submitted a further amended application for the same number of bungalows but with the garages detached. This application has also been refused because the developers have again failed to address the problem posed by Woodmere Close which is a narrow, unadopted road which cannot accommodate additional traffic.

CHESTON AVENUE

Antler Homes have made an appeal to the Secretary of State following the Councils' refusal of planning permission to build on land at 25 - 31 Cheston Avenue. The appeal is to be determined at a hearing of the parties concerned. The proposed development was for the demolition of existing buildings; erection of 3 two storey four bedroom and 6 two/three storey five bedroom detached houses with integral garages; formation of vehicular access road and provision of associated parking spaces. The application is opposed by residents living nearby and MORA. The hearing is to take place soon and the result will be published in a later issue of this newsletter.

THE GLADE

Almost a year has passed since work came to a halt on the clearing of the site at 78 - 80 The Glade extending to the corner of Greenview Avenue. The partially enclosed site has been invaded by squatters, vandals and fly tippers. Local residents are depressed and troubled by the daily sight of damaged and decaying buildings plus piles of rubble which evoke memories of a World War II bomb site. An amended application to demolish the two bungalows and to erect 9 four bedroom detached houses with integral garages received the necessary approval. When granting permission the Council makes a condition that the development shall begin within five years. The high cost of building land usually ensures that most sites are speedily developed so that the houses can be offered for sale. One reason given for the long delay was that the site had been sold on to another developer who is expected to submit a new planning application proposing greater density housing. To date there is no news of a new application having been submitted. The other, more likely, reason for the delay is that the developer hopes that the nearby residents will become disenchanted with living amidst the debris and decay and decide to move elsewhere thus providing the chance for an even greater amount of development land and a greater profit

ORCHARD WAY

Greenacre Homes have made an appeal to the Secretary of State following the Councils' refusal of planning permission to build on land at 164, Orchard Way. The appeal is to be determined at a hearing of the parties concerned. The



developers wish to demolish the existing bungalow and to erect 4 three bedroom and 3 four bedroom houses plus the formation of a road for vehicular access and provision of parking spaces. This application is being opposed by The Council and the residents of The Lawdon estate support by MORA. The Inspectors decision is expected soon.

ORCHARD AVENUE

News had just been received that Land Investments and Developments have made an application to demolish the existing buildings at 79, Orchard Avenue and to erect 4 semi - detached town houses and 1 detached bungalow with garage plus formation of vehicular access into High Trees.

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. 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

PUBLIC FOOTPATH - BURRELL AVENUE / GREENVIEW AVENUE.

The decision reached following the Local Public Enquiry held on 6th. and 7th. August 2001 is that the order for the creation of the Public Path be confirmed. The Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State considered the case for the need for a path, the objections from nearby residents and the alternative routes. In reaching his conclusion the Inspector was persuaded by the overall comulative weight of evidence from both sides that there is a need for a footpath to connect Burrell Close with Greenview Avenue and that creating one would add significantly to the convenience of persons resident in the area. The path will shorten journeys from Greenview area to the shops and to Nos. 358 and 194 buses in Elmers End Road by 565 metres (a 38% reduction): from Orchard Way to The Glade to catch the 367 bus by 140 metres (a 23% reduction): from Orchard Way to the Tramlink Arena Stop by 570 metres (a 25% reduction). Subsequent to the order being confirmed it is expected that this long awaited footpath will be opened in February/March 2002 and will include all the necessary safeguards to protect the privacy and security. When completed the public footpath will be advertised and sign posted. Those using the footpath are respectfully requested to be sensitive to the need for peace and privacy of those living nearby.

Croydon Council has decided to promote the establishment of ten Neighbourhood Partnerships as a means of enabling the community to have a greater say in local issues. Three pilot Neighbourhood Partnerships were set up in 2000 and ward based Partnerships are now to be established throughout the borough. The Council is to provide support by booking rooms, paying for their hire and providing administrative support to enable meetings to be arranged, publicised and notes taken.

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The aim of these meetings is to bring together local stakeholders who are active in the community. Residents' Associations, Church Leaders, School Heads and Governors, representatives of ethnic groups, disabled people, young people and senior citizens are invited to discuss local concerns and aspirations with residents, ward Councillors and Council Officers. Statuary agencies like the Police and the National Health Service and other service providers also have the opportunity to take part.

Monks Orchard has been grouped together with Fairfield, Heathfield and Spring Park to form one of the ten partnerships. MORA will be represented at the first meeting on Wednesday 21st. November. A report of the meeting will appear in the next issue of the newsletter. Furthermore, issues that effect our locality and ideas on how things could be improved will be discussed as part of the agenda of the Annual General Meeting.

The arrival of colder weather will mean that the heating has to be

turned on in order to keep warm. It is not always recognised that the boiler or appliance that keeps us warm and cosy can also kill. Every year some 30 people die from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by gas appliances and flues which have not been properly installed or maintained. When gas does not burn properly, excess carbon monoxide is produced which is poisonous.

You can't see it, You can't taste it, You can't even smell it. But carbon monoxide can kill without warning in just a matter of hours. You are particularly vulnerable when you are asleep. The early symptoms of poisoning include tiredness, drowsiness, headache, pains in the chest and stomach pains.

You are at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning if your appliance was poorly installed: your appliance is not working properly: your appliance has not been checked for safety or maintained regularly: there is not enough fresh air in the room: your chimney or flue gets blocked up: you allow unqualified people to install or maintain your appliance.

There is a particular risk if you sleep in a room where an appliance, which is not of the room-sealed type, is left burning at night.



To ensure that no problems occur you should never use gas appliance if you think it's not working properly. Signs to look out for include yellow or orange flames, soot or stains around the appliance and pilot lights which frequently blow out. Never cover an appliance or block the convention air vents. Never block or obstruct any fixed ventilation grills or air bricks. Never block or cover outside flues. Furthermore, whenever draught exclusion, double glazing is fitted to a room containing a gas appliance, the appliance should be checked for safety. All gas consumers are advised to have appliances checked for safety at least every 12 months by a CORGIregistered installer.

If you need any further advice about any of these gas safety issues please ring The Gas Safety Advice Line on 0800 300 363.



MONKS ORCHARD AREA

Previous year in brackets

AUGUST 2001 SEPTEMBER 2001	55 33	(58) (52)
OCTOBER 2001	42	(40)
Total Numbers 2001	120	(160)

Total Numbers 2001 130 (168) This shows an overall fall of 38.

Shirley Oaks Estate

AUGUST 2001 0 (5) SEPTEMBER 2001 2 (7)

OCTOBER 2001

7 (7)

2 Domestic incidents (same venue)3 Assault3 Criminal Damage1 Indecent Exposure

As we are now fast approaching the end of the year 2001, I again put pen to paper and update you all as to the problems and trends in the Monks Orchard Ward area for the year. The crime figures show a fall covering the period 01/01/2001 until 23/10/2001 in comparison with the same period this year - 511 as opposed to 567 (all crimes). This is a fall of 56, which in the current trends buck the spiral elsewhere. This is due to a large extent to the vigilance you all show when looking after each other.





There has been a few what we call BURGLARY ARTIFACE offences. This is where callers pretend to be gas officials or the like. Please be aware and check for identity. If you are unsure, call the company direct, or the Police - we will be only too willing to attend and assist.

The crime prevention advice still remains the same. When you go out, ensure you are locked up. Take a second to look at your property. If you can break in, so can a burglar - think about locks and windows. Please don't leave items on display in the window during the coming festive There is nothing an intruder likes more than seeing the new season. computer or the likes under the Christmas tree in full view.

This also applies to motor vehicles. Please do not leave items in full view to passers by. The people that steal from vehicles are mostly opportunistic thieves. If they cannot see anything they will leave the vehicle alone. Don't leave keys in the car whilst unattended, or leave them in an obvious place in the house. We have had one or two incidents where keys to expensive vehicles have been stolen by means of burglary.

After saying all this, the area has been quiet throughout the year, and you all have to be congratulated. The Graffiti Clean up day went well and as a result the incidents have fallen by 70%. Please keep an eye out so we don't slip back.

As for the year 2002, the Police are once again undergoing change. Your Ward, MONKS ORCHARD, is being split - half going to SOUTH NORWOOD and the remainder going to SHIRLEY. What is going to become of myself still has to be decided.

I think that is all I can impart to you at this time, except to say I hope you all have a happy festive season and a happy and peaceful 2002.

PC 290ZD Chas TIMMS Permanent Beat Officer





NEWS AND DIARY DATES FOR **DECEMBER 2001 AND JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2002**

Our Bring and Buy Sale held in September, raised £250 for Christian Aid. A big thank you to everyone who came along to help on the day! Thank you also to Longheath Community Care & Church Centre for letting us to hold the sale on their premises.

We recently held our **Quiet Day** at St. John's Shirley. We were given ample time to reflect, and with the wonderful weather we had that day, also had the chance to wander in the Church Yard as well. Thanks go to St. John's for accommodating us for the day and to Rev'd Arthur Quinn for leading such a relaxing and reflective day!



The Shirley Group of Churches will be holding a **Hunger Lunch** in aid of Christian Aid at Shirley Methodist Church from 12-2pm on Saturday 1st December. You are all welcome to attend.

Carol Singing – Thursday 20th December: Starting at approximately 7pm from Longheath Baptist Church and circling the estate for a couple of hours. Please come along and join in, especially Choir Members! **Saturday 22nd December** starting at 10am opposite the parade of shops between Oak Avenue and Bridle Road and continuing at around 11am outside the Co-op, Wickham Road. Again, we thank Andy Bebington and Brian and Jeanette Stewart for their musical accompaniment. It just wouldn't sound the same without them! We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible! Money raised will once again, go to the Croydon YMCA Cold Weather Shelter.

The Neighbourly Care Scheme continues to do excellent work. Its Coordinator, 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 **Excercise**. The more names on the register of volunteers lightens the load. You never know, you may need the services of the Scheme one day!

An exhibition of the life and work of Sir George Gilbert Scott and his family, is being held at St. Peter's Church in South Croydon until mid January 2002. Open on Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon to 4pm. Admission: £2 adults, £1 under 16's. Party rates available, call **Example**. Light refreshments available.

Have a wonderful and peaceful Christmas.

Julie Turpin



The tragic recent events in New York have served to underline that major accidents and acts of terrorism can occur almost anywhere. It is, therefore, of interest to know that the local authority is not unprepared for such disasters.



The Home Office and Croydon Council are concerned to ensure that the community is aware of the local authorities role in planning for major emergencies. It is recognised that while a major incident of disaster is unlikely, an emergency response capability must be sustained at all times.

Potential incidents or disasters which would require an emergency response could include air transport crashes, rail system disasters, large chemical and pollution incidents, disorder incidents, bombs and terrorist activity, extreme weather - storms and flooding, building and structural collapse.

The immediate response by the Emergency Services, police, fire and ambulance, to incidents of this nature would be expected to require emergency support response from the Council and other agencies. The Council therefore maintains an emergency response capability to ensure when an emergency does occur: the appropriate specialist help can be deployed. This service functions 24 hours a day, 365 days a year through the Public Services & Works Department, Security Control Room at Taberner House.

The Emergency Planning Section of the Public Services and Works Department has prepared and maintains, in updated condition the Council's major emergency response plan. Updating is provided via regular liaison meetings internally with Council departments and externally with the Police. Fire and Ambulance Services, Military, Health, Environment Agency, Private Utilities, Transport organisations and the Voluntary Sector to ensure coordination, understanding, flexibility and a rapid response between all the bodies involved.

In addition to a generic major emergency plan the Council holds reviews, on a regular basis, plans to deal with environmental issues such as rabies, legionnaires disease and food poisoning. Training and simulated exercises of personnel, equipment and systems is also a regular component of the planning arrangements.

The type of support that the Council would provide in a emergency could include: Transport, care of casualties, structural engineering, environmental health, forestry skills, highway matters, drainage, cleansing, flooding and traffic expertise, and the equipment to perform a variety of tasks.

Although we all hope that it never happens, it is reassuring to know that that behind the scenes planning and preparation is taking place to ensure that the Council is able to quickly response to any type of major incident.

If you would like more information on Emergency Planning in Croydon please ring the Borough Emergency Planning Officer on 020 8686 4433.





Going to court as a Witness or as the Victim of a crime can be a worrying experience, particularly if it is your first time and you don't know what to expect.

THE WITNESS SERVICE HELPS WITNESSES, VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE HEARING.

THE FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL SERVICE IS RUN BY VICTIM SUPPORT, THE NATIONAL CHARITY THAT HELPS PEOPLE COPE WITH CRIME.

> WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO START TRAINING IN FEBRUARY 2001

Volunteers need to be understanding, supportive, have a caring nature and be able to listen and communicate with a wide range of people. They will have to commit to working during the day for at least one day per fortnight.

> You will receive not only training but: SUPPORT AND SUPERVISION TRAVEL EXPENSES INSURANCE COVER

If you are interested in helping people in court, please phone:

WITNESS SERVICE 020 8686 0409 OFFICE HOURS – 9am to 5pm.

INFORMATION FOR WITNESSES AND VICTIMS GOING TO MAGISTRATES' COURT OR CROWN COURT

Going to court as a witness or as the victim of a crime can be a worrying experience, particularly if it is your first time and you don't know what to expect. Court procedures can be confusing. The information below is aimed to help you if and when you are called.

The Witness Service

The Witness Service helps witnesses, victims and their families before, during and after the hearing. The service is confidential and free. Trained volunteers provide emotional support and practical information about court proceedings. The Witness Service will normally contact you in advance of the court hearing to offer its services.

The Witness Service helps:

• Witnesses who are called to give evidence, including defence witnesses

• Victims of crime and their families and friends attending court for any reason

• Children as well as adults.

If you are attending court, you may find it useful to take the following:

- A friend or relative you don't have to attend court alone (at the Central Criminal Court, known as the Old Bailey, you will have to give notice in advance that you are bringing someone with you)
- Any information you have regarding the case (for example, the name of the police officer dealing with your case, if you know it)
- The letter asking you to attend court, if you receive one
- Something to read or do you may have to wait a long time for the case to be called
- Money to cover costs on the day, such as car parking or refreshments.

Claiming expenses

If you are called as a witness, you can claim your expenses after the trial. These expenses may include travel to the court, essential childcare, or loss of earnings. Ask the Witness Service for more information on claiming expenses.

The Witness Service can offer:

- Someone to talk to in confidence
- A visit to the court centre and, where possible, a look round a courtroom before you are called as a witness
- Information on court procedures
- A quiet place for you to wait before and during the hearing
- Someone to accompany you into the courtroom if you have to give evidence
- Practical help, for example with expense forms
- To put you in touch with people who can answer specific questions about your case (the Witness Service cannot discuss evidence or offer legal advice)
- A chance to talk over the case when it has ended and to get more help and information.

The Victim Supportline (on 0845 30 30 900) can put you in touch with your local Witness Service. **Contact the Witness Service at:**

MCWS Magistrates Court Barclay Road CROYDON CR9 3NG

Tel: 020 8686 0409

OFFICE HOURS – 9am to 5pm



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

Crime affects everyone and consistently remains a key concern for residents, visitors and businesses alike. In the last two years total recorded crime is down by 6%. Burglary has fallen by 19% and vehicle crime by 12%, but street crime has risen by 19%. These local trends reflect national trends.

This audit presents information about he patterns of crime and disorder in the Croydon borough during the period 1st April 1999 to 31st March 2001. Croydon has a lower crime rate than the average for London boroughs.

A copy of the full audit document is available via the internet www.croydon.co.uk. Below is a summary of the major findings:

These figures show the levels of crime reported to the police over the last two years:

- From 1st April 1999 to 31st March 2000 the police recorded a total of 37,487 crimes.
- From 1st April 2000 to 31st March 2001 the police recorded a total of 35,193 crimes.
- This means 2,294 fewer recorded crimes in the second year a reduction of 6%.
- Three murders were recorded last year compared to eight the previous year.

Burglary

When compared to the 32 other London boroughs, Croydon has the 6th lowest burglary rate.

- Compared to 1999-2000, residential burglary reduced by 21% in 2000-2001.
- Compared to 1999-2000, non-residential burglary reduced by 18% in 2000-2001.
- Overall, when residential and non-residential burglaries are taken together, burglary in Croydon has reduced by over 19%.

Vehicle Crime

CCTV in Croydon has contributed to a significant reduction of vehicle crime in car parks.

Croydon has the fourth lowest vehicle crime rate in London.

- Vehicle crime reduced by 12% in 200-2001, compared to the previous year.
- Vehicle crime accounts for 25% of all recorded crime.

Data received from the London Fire Service shows 275 cars were set alight during this period.



Violent Crime

• In line with national crime trends, violent crime rose by 19% in 2000-2001 compared to the previous year.

• Research shows the risks of being a victim of violent crime are proportionately higher for certain groups of the population – particularly young people.

- Street robbery involving theft of mobile phones has contributed to this increase. This usually involves young people as both victim and offender.
- 64% of victim are aged between 10-19 years of age.
- The peak age of known offenders is 15 years.

Croydon police are tackling street robbery involving theft of mobile phones by working with schools with high levels of offenders/victims.

Criminal Damage

- Accounts for 18% of crimes recorded by police.
- Although it is considerably under-reported, vandalism and graffiti impacts on people's quality of life and raises the fear of crime.
- A total of 13,499 offences were recorded during the two-year period.

Anti-social Behaviour

- Anti-social behaviour can take different forms, from noise nuisance to disturbances in licensed or private premises.
- In 2000-2001 there was a 5% increase in anti-social behaviour incidents to 15,881. Most of these were 'disturbances in a public place'.

Patient: News From The Primary Care Groups

There have been community clean-up campaigns to remove graffiti.

Patient Involvement

Patients and the public will play a greater role than ever before in shaping local NHS services, as set out in radical new proposals published last week by the Government.

The proposals outline plans for:

- A new national body called "Voice the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health".
- Patients' Forums for every NHS Trust and Primary Care Trust to inspect NHS services, including casualty watch checks.
- Patients' Surveys will also be introduced so that Trusts can act on patients' views about their services.



Contact your Link Person or Ann Ball, Community Network Officer on 020 8401 3900 x 5933 for more information.

Carers



Croydon GP Practices are being actively encouraged to continue adding names to their registers. The NHS Direct website (www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk) is being amended to include details of the Croydon Carers Contactline. Details will also be included in the directory used by call handlers. This is very positive news for carers in Croydon.

Carers' Week will be held during the week beginning 10th June 2002, and plans are underway to organise activities for this period. The PCGs are hoping that carers will once again take part in voting for their "Most Caring GP surgery" and win the Dr. Paul Wolffe Award. For further details on these items call Rachel Lewis on **Exercises** or Beverley Baldwin, Carers Services Manager, at the Council on 020 8686 4433.

GP Survey

A survey of all GPs in Croydon is to be conducted by the PCGs in conjunction with the University of Manchester. A sample of 200 patients from each surgery will be sent a questionnaire for completion. Questions will include practice location, access, waiting times, GP and nurse attitudes and also about the current health of the patient himself. The survey will be entirely confidential and anonymous.

Patients Advocacy and Liaison Service (PALS) at Mayday

By April next year every Trust should have a PALS service in place. Their job is to give the public information, advice and a voice in the NHS. Discussions are currently underway on how the PALS service will be expanded and developed within the proposed new Primary Care Trust from April next year to help members of the public, their families and carers access information and advice on health matters.

The Commission for Health Improvement (CHI): Report on Mayday Hospital

The CHI Report conducted a review at Mayday between March and August 2001. The review is part of a rolling programme of all NHS organisations. A summary of the report can be obtained via your Link Person or the full report of findings and recommendations can be accessed via the CHI website on www.chi.nhs/eng/report/index.shtml

Ann Ball

Community Network Officer 020 8401 3900 x 5933



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