

Monks Orchard Residents' Association

www.monks-orchard-web.org.uk
email: monksorchardweb@btinternet.com

Croydon

(Non Party)

(Independent)

NEWSLETTER - Winter 2004



Merry Christmas

And a Happy New Year

To All Our Members

The Monks Orchard Residents' Association was founded in 1923, and represents 2,500 residents.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

Christmas and the New Year is a time of hope, reflection and renewal, it is therefore appropriate to hope that our elected representatives in local and national government will give serious attention to the concerns of the hard pressed tax payers. The feed back from members of the local community suggests that the following are high on their list of hopes and concerns, (a) for a tax and benefit system that does not continue to punish those with savings and ensures that the feckless do not receive greater rewards than responsible and hard working citizens, (b) for a system of justice that is weighed towards the victim and not the perpetrator, (c) for next years Council Tax to be kept below the rate of inflation. Residents could, no doubt, compile a list of their own. My personal wish is that people will be sensitive to the needs and feelings of others.

I thank you for your valuable continued support and wish you a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Isitfair March - Saturday 2nd October 2004



A big "thank you" to everyone who attended the march. People came from all over the UK to support the campaign, and demonstrate their opposition to this unfair tax. We had people from Scotland, Wales, the North East, the North West, the South East, the South West, the Midlands and East Anglia. We certainly made our presence known. However, the turnout by MORA members was quite disappointing. With **only 8** members of Monks Orchard Residents' Association in attendance, we presume that members of Monks Orchard do not object to the recent and continuing increase in their Council Tax bills.

The media again supported us by advertising the March, reporting our march and interviewing many of us. Their support is vital and we thank them for this. We also thank PC Andy Sharp and his officers from the Metropolitan Police for looking after us so well. He must be due to win the "Walking Backwards" award again this time!



Isitfair organiser Christine Melsom handed in the second petition to Downing Street, and in total we have now handed in 87,000 signatures. We think this is a wonderful achievement, and thanks go to the effort of everyone who has made the effort to gather them. The Petition on the march was presented jointly with The National Pensioners Convention many of them had shirts that had a mixture of slogans painted on them eg. Take it its yours; Pick it up, its yours. They were allowed to leave three on the barricades, which were swiftly removed.



It is now time to move on and focus on the issues that will affect us in the near future. One of these will be the rebanding/revaluation exercise that will happen. We have already seen how this is impacting on Wales, **with properties moving up three or four bands**. The new bills won't arrive until next March, but it's fairly obvious what the outcome will be.



People pay Council Tax - not properties!

The same people still live in the same properties. Their income will not have increased. If they're struggling now then what happens in March 2005? Council Tax benefit may be the answer for some, but not for all.



PLANNING NEWS

The growth in property and land values continues to encourage owners to maximise on their assets by expanding their accommodation or by selling part of their garden for development purposes. This has resulted in an increase in the number of planning applications for rear and side extensions, loft conversions and garden developments. The necessary planning permission is denied to only a small proportion of such applications. The proposals that are refused are usually those for loft conversions requiring the installation of dormer roof windows that are likely to invade the privacy of the residents living nearby. Not all the applications that receive permission result in action being taken; some owners seek planning permission before offering their property for sale in the hope of increasing the market price whilst others experience difficulty in finding a reliable builder many of which have long waiting lists. Experience shows that a builder able to make an immediate start is probably best avoided.

The most contentious planning applications are often those for garden developments. Selling part of a long garden to a developer has financial advantages but the vendor relinquishes any influence on the choice of future occupant. The completed properties could be purchased for use as social housing or worse still the vendor could finish up with an aggressive near neighbour that constructs buildings on every available part of the land. This type of development is frequently associated with disagreements about rights of access, the inconsiderate parking of motor vehicles and the height of trees and fences used for screening.

Those responsible for the construction of the rows of identical houses that form many of the roads and avenues that now exist in Monks Orchard had two opposing aims; the first to maximise on their investment and cram as

many houses as possible on a given site, the second was to attract purchasers by creating an attractive living environment. To meet these twin aims the more expensive semi detached and detached properties were built close together but evenly spaced to present a not too densely crowded appearance and to provide more recreational space for the occupiers. Sadly, many of the wider spaces that once existed between the houses have been in-filled by owners wishing to build side extensions to their homes in order to increase living space and to add to the value of the property. Applications for this type of development usually obtain the necessary approval even when the proposed extension fills the space between the houses and spoils the original architectural layout. One of the consequences of constructing rows of identical evenly spaced properties is that the fortunate owner of the house on the corner has a larger garden and a more generous open space at the side.

When the owner spots a financial opportunity and submits an application to build a small detached property on this garden space this quickly becomes a highly contentious issue. There are examples where such in-fill developments have resulted in substandard cramped dwellings that are completely out of character with the adjacent and nearby houses. The shoehorning of a property in the space between existing houses frequently fails to neither respect the existing pattern of the buildings and the spaces between them nor maximise the opportunities for creating an attractive and interesting environment. It can also be detrimental to the residential amenities of the occupiers of adjoining properties by reason of visual intrusion and loss of outlook.

PLANNING REPORT



The Glade

Hillcrest Homes (UK) Ltd. has been granted outline planning permission to develop the site at 104 The Glade. The proposal is to demolish the existing bungalow and to erect a detached three-bedroom house with accommodation in roof space, an attached garage and provision of parking space together with the erection of a detached three-bedroom house with 2 parking spaces and formation of vehicular access onto Watlings Close. Local residents supported by MORA opposed the application.

Tower View and Edgewood Green

An application for planning permission has been submitted for the erection of two detached bungalows at the rear of 66 Tower View with formation of vehicular accesses onto Edgewood Green and provision of associated parking.

Orchard Avenue and Woodland Way

The owner of 65 Orchard Avenue has been granted full planning permission to erect a detached three-bedroom bungalow fronting Woodland Way with

associated parking and provision of vehicular access at the rear of his property. Three previous applications were refused.

Lorne Gardens

The owners of 51 Lorne Gardens have submitted an application for full planning permission to build a separate detached two-bedroom house with formation of vehicular accesses in the garden adjoining their property. An earlier application was refused. Residents living nearby are resisting the proposal.

STAMP DUTY LAND TAX

Readers of the local newspapers will be aware that as a consequence of the recent increases in property values, well presented three bedroom houses or bungalows in Monks Orchard are now being offered for sale at prices in excess of £250,000. This increase in value will please many owner-occupiers but it does create unexpected complications for those owners wishing to sell their property and to move elsewhere.

On 1st December 2003, stamp duty land tax replaced stamp duty for land transfers and the new duty is charged as follows: purchase price of property below £60,000 nil duty, £60,000 to £250,000 duty payable at 1%, £250,001 to £500,000 duty payable at 3%. At a quick glance this may not look like a massive extra amount but on a property valued at £250,000 the duty payable is £2,500 and if valued over this amount the duty payable rises to £7,500 plus. It is in the interest of the potential purchasers to attempt to keep the price paid for a property at £250,000 or below in order to avoid paying an additional £5,000 plus to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The most obvious ways to achieve this aim is to make the vendor a lower offer, to agree a lower price and to include an additional generous amount for carpets, fittings and other sundries or by making a private agreement to make up the difference by handing over a large amount in cash to the vendor on completion of the purchase. Attempts are being made by the Government to stop these attempts at tax evasion but those planning to sell properties in the £260,000 to £300,000 plus price range should be prepared for those wanting to buy the property to explore ways of avoiding having to add over £5,000 to the cost of buying a new home and having absolutely nothing to show for it.

THE HISTORY OF MONKS ORCHARD AND EDEN PARK

Previous issues of this newsletter have contained appeals for historical information and photographs of Monks Orchard and the surrounding area. Residents responded in many ways and supplied stories, memories and photographs dating back as far as the early part of the last century. These recollections have been added to original research and edited by local



historians Ian Muir and Pat Manning to produce the Book of Monks Orchard and Eden Park, which is now available for purchase from local stores and bookshops.

Populated since the late Bronze Age, the area has little recorded early history. Croydon was becoming established but the land on which Monks Orchard now stands remained largely open wooded and agricultural land. It was not until the 1800's that its close proximity to London began to attract the interest of the wealthy in establishing farms and building mansions. Two families, the Eden's of Eden Park and the Loyds of Park Farm were responsible for laying the foundations of the community that exists today. The beginning of the twentieth century saw the gradual demise of the large estates and the 1920 Monks Orchard auction of the Lyod lands resulted in the building of the present housing estates, which quickly spread over the former park and farmlands.

Monks Orchard and Eden Park are joined historically because both were established on the land of adjacent farms. Much of the information contained in the book is centred on Eden Park and the southern border of Monks Orchard where Monks Orchard Mansion once stood on the present site of the Royal Bethlem Hospital. The work becomes more fascinating as it progresses from the essential historical beginning to the memories of those who lived and worked on the farms, in the mansions and their gardens. The long hours worked for small reward is in stark contrast with the favourable employment conditions of the present day. It is interesting to note that new three bedroom houses, which could be obtained for a deposit of £25, are pictured in wide tree lined roads which were safe community areas where children could play before they were covered in concrete and tarmac to become a constricted and dangerous parking lot for motor vehicles. There are many pictures of earlier, certainly happier times, when there was a community spirit forged by years of living under threat of bombing during the 1939-1945 world war.

The scenes of street parties to celebrate VE Day still radiate happiness and many of the people that appear in these happy scenes will be alive today. It will be difficult for anyone that has lived in the area for thirty or more years not to recognise their own face or one they knew. The appeal of this work is that it evokes memories of times past and this is particularly applicable in the chapter devoted to businesses that traded locally, some of which still remain. Subsequent chapters are devoted to leisure activities, local churches and personalities that started life in the locality. The work concludes with an account of the fight for Bethlem's Metropolitan Open Land that still continues.

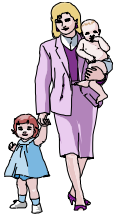
Residents living in the northern part of Monks Orchard towards Long Lane may feel that some of the history of their local area has been overlooked, for example, the development of the Lawdon Estate in the 1960's that changed the semi-rural nature of the centre of Monks Orchard by erecting a swathe of high density modernistic houses built in a series of courts which was

considered unique at the time. Nevertheless, the book is essential reading for young and old alike and would make a highly acceptable gift for a person who now lives elsewhere but retains fond memories of the area.

The work is one of the award-winning Community History series published by Halsgrave Community histories that provide a richly illustrated lifeline to the past and a link for future generations to treasure. The edition is large format (A4), 160-page hardback book containing historic photographs, numbering almost 300, maps, drawings and other illustrations. The book is priced at £19.95.

WALKING TO SCHOOL

Parents and carers are being asked to ditch the car and get involved in helping ensure pupils and the local community experience the environmental and health benefits associated with fewer vehicles on the roads in their neighbourhoods.



Nationally, one in 10 six-year-olds are obese. The total number of obese children has doubled since 1982. Obesity is linked to a raft of health problems including diabetes, cancer and heart disease. By using the journey to school to get their children to exercise parents could make a real difference to their child's health, now and in the future.

Walking to school can help children and young people to perform better in school; a recent government survey found nine out of ten primary school teachers questioned consider walking to school makes children brighter, more alert and ready for the first lesson of the day.

The 'school run' makes up around 20 per cent of rush hour traffic and in turn causes congestion, pollution and increases chances of road accidents. If those traveling to school use alternative means of transport roads would be quieter and safer. A National Walk to School week campaign was held on 4-8 October designed at encouraging parents to walk to school with their young children as often as possible. Disappointingly the campaign was poorly advertised and did not receive much support locally.

A recent government survey amongst primary school children found almost a third of all children who are driven to school live within 15 minutes walk of their school. One of the primary reasons given by parents that drive their children to school is to protect them from the danger of traffic and yet by doing so, more traffic dangers are being created at the school gate.

Councillor Adrian Dennis, Cabinet Member for planning, environment and urban development, said: "We fully appreciate how difficult it can be for busy and working families to find the time to walk to and from school together on a regular basis. We would however, like them to consider walking at least part of the way, by parking their vehicles well away from the school.

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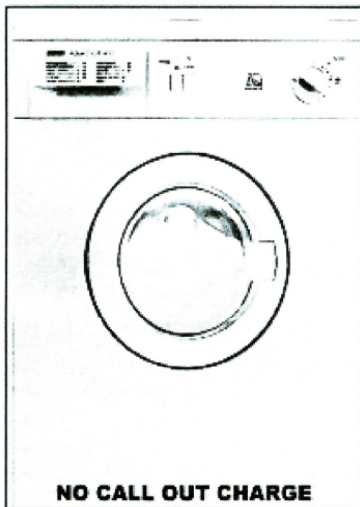
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"Surveys have also shown that children have been found to get a lot of enjoyment from walking to school, such as meeting friends, getting some exercise, and spending time with their mum, dad, gran or granddad.

"The benefits of fewer cars around the school gate are obvious: less congestion and pollution improved crossing visibility and therefore increased safety. There are also the social, health and fitness benefits of taking regular daily exercise."

In a further bid to help improve child health and reduce pollution and congestion around schools all year round, the council has recently employed its first school travel advisor. Schools are now offered help in developing a school travel plan, a tailor made document setting out practical measures that schools can adopt to help it easier for parents to walk to school safely with their child. Schools will now have help to access government grants to spend on measures outlined in their school travel plan, including CCTV, traffic calming on school access roads and new paths for pedestrians. Schools involved will be entered into a draw with prizes donated by local businesses Nestle, Ikea and Alders.

CROYDON PRIMARY CARE

Nearly 10% of boys and nearly 14% of girls aged 9-11 are seriously overweight. Childhood obesity is a serious problem, can we beat it? Do you know someone with diabetes? More than one million UK people have diabetes. What causes it? Can it be prevented?

Come and hear local experts discuss these problems, and put your questions to them on MONDAY 22nd NOVEMBER. Free refreshments at 7.00pm, meeting starts at 7.30pm at The Mayor's Parlour in Croydon Town Hall. It's free You don't have to book. For further details, call Phil Hatcher on [REDACTED]

POLICE LIAISON & SECURITY



We have a new inspector at Addington Station, Graham Davies, and the Sergeant at South Norwood is now P.C. Sue Thomas on 020 8649 1412. Denise Allen has left the beat to supervise in the station, so at present we have a single PCSO Police Community Service Officer patrolling our streets. The Inspector informed us that 3 teams are likely to be up and running in Selsdon, Heathfield and Shirley by late January 2005. Meanwhile, we can contact SAFER NEIGHBOUR on 020 8649 1323/1216.

The August Summer Holiday Clubs were overseen and well received by both parents and children. The youngsters were well behaved and polite throughout. The anti-social behaviour of youths here in Shirley has been addressed and seems to be successful, although a few instances with motor scooters still occur. Phone Addington Station Beat Officer on: 020 8649 1442

(answer phone) or 1440 (outer office), but not lunch hours (12.00am - 2.00pm) if you have a problem with youths on scooters. Also in August, Operation Optic was set up to deal with underage drinking in late night Bars and Clubs. The owners and managers have been very co-operative.

Our new Beat Officer, P.C. Gary Sugden will be gracing our streets by the beginning of November. I will endeavour to contact him with a view to his attending one of our meetings and to visit the Pop In at St. George's Hall to familiarise and meet us all face to face. August Crime Figures for the Shirley Sector are 66 overall for Burglary, Robbery, Vehicle Damage, violence to persons and beat crime; down 5% since May. Pyromaniacs at Schools have been addressed by the Fire Stations in New Addington, Croydon and Long Lane and will also be resolved by consultation with parents and culprits.

Jean Cook
Police Liaison/Security

BOGUS CALLER ALERTS



A 36 year old white male, believed Irish, short red hair, wearing blue and black top, black trousers and yellow gloves claimed to be from Transco. Victim discovered that £750 cash had been stolen from her handbag. Also two white males, in mid thirties both with Irish accents, one wearing grey jacket and black trousers, second male had short fair hair, blue shirt and yellow trousers claimed to be from water board. Victim was suspicious and said he would call police, nothing was stolen.

BOGUS METER READER

On 22nd September a dark European male 5'05" tall approx 35-40 years old knocked on a door and asked to read the meter. He was let in by the occupier and closed the door behind him, this was strange as usually they leave the door open. The male made two attempts to read the meter before asking the occupier his name. The male then left and got into a black Ford Focus, and drove off. He did not call at any other addresses. The utility companies confirm that there was no one in the area to read meters.

BOGUS BRITISH GAS EMPLOYEE

A white male aged approx 40 years posed as a British Gas employee but was refused entry. He drove off in a L registered black van.

Begging Issues

Insp John White Town Centre Team; " The Town Centre Team consisting of both Police Officers, PCSOs and street wardens have been continuing with their regular patrols in Queens Gardens to deal with incidents of aggressive begging. Queens Gardens also falls within the anti drinking zone and as such alcohol can and is being seized on a regular basis. We are currently working with the local council to deal with rough sleepers who typically occupy the Town Centre Car parks. We are planning to have joint patrols with outreach workers who will be able to provide advice and support to the homeless. As

with any incident that occurs in the Town Centre we do have CCTV for public safety and use it as a crime prevention tool.”

A REMINDER OF THE NUMBERS TO RING IF YOU NEED TO CONTACT POLICE

In an emergency call 999. This includes ‘bogus callers’ especially if the person is still in the area, do not worry about calling 999 the control room will make a decision on how to deal with your call.



If a crime has happened some time before, e.g. you were burgled earlier in the day call 020 8667 1212 and speak to Croydon Police Station.

If you are concerned about a situation that is occurring where you live over a period of time, e.g. graffiti, anti-social behaviour or criminal damage. Call your local Community Ward Officer or Safer Neighbourhoods Team. They will be able to decide the best way to address the problem. All local officers have answer machines in their offices and many have mobile phones also.

Police warn of “Fishing Rod” burglaries in Croydon as thieves target expensive vehicles parked on driveways

Crime Prevention Officers on the Borough are asking residents in Croydon to be extra vigilant following a recent number of “fishing rod” style burglaries in the Borough. There have been a number of these type burglaries reported to Police in the last few weeks and Police are taking this opportunity to offer valuable crime prevention advice.

Burglars use a common trick whereby they use a fishing rod through the letter box and manage to hook either the spare house keys or car keys which are often left in easy reach. One recent case resulted in an owner’s expensive brand new vehicle being stolen from the driveway of their home. The car has since been recovered by Police because it was fitted with a tracker system which assisted the Police with its recovery.

Crime prevention Officer PC Pat Simcox “Letter box burglaries is a common trick used by burglars. Residents should consider fitting an industry standard letter box guard to their front door which stops the letter box opening any further than needed for postal deliveries. It is also advisable to keep any keys out of sight. Most new expensive cars tend to be fitted with sophisticated tracking devices and immobilizers but if your’s hasn’t, it might be worth having these fitted by a reputable car security company”

DI Nick Downing “Burglary remains a police priority. It leaves victims feeling extremely vulnerable in their own homes. “We are committed to continuing the decrease in this crime but as always we need the public’s help. Crime prevention plays a major part in the fight against crime.

Crime prevention advice is available by visiting our website www.met.police.uk/croydon or by calling the Crime Prevention Office on 020 8649-1414.

NIGHT TIME BURGLARIES IN SHIRLEY AREA

Recent burglaries in the Wickham Road and Valley Walk. Prowlers have recently been reported in the Cheston Road and Wickham Road areas.

CRIME ALERTS

Offence	Location	Date	Method
Criminal Damage to Motor Vehicle	The Glade	14/06/2004	School children threw a rock at the bus window whilst standing at the side of the street.
Burglary (Residential)	Gladeside	25/07/2004	Two 18 year old white male suspects were seen acting suspiciously around a house, including hiding behind cars and vans. As one kept a lookout one entered the house. They were seen and chased. One detained at the scene by a witness.
Burglary (Residential)	Longheath Gardens	26/07/2004	Three male suspects were disturbed at the scene of a suspected attempted Break-in
Criminal Damage (£5000 or less)	The Glade	04/10/2004	Ex-partner attended venue with baseball bat and possibly further damaged a car, extent of damage unknown due to non-cooperation of witness. Ownership of car unknown.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 81st Annual General Meeting of Monks Orchard Residents' Association is to be held on **Friday 18th March 2005** in the Church Hall of St. George's Church, Elstan Road Shirley beginning at 8.00 p.m.

Following the general business there will be guest speaker on alternative medicine.

All members and those interested in joining are welcome.
Light refreshments will be available.



Spring Park Table Tennis Club

Meets at 7.30pm every Wednesday
8th September to 15th December 2004
And 12th January to 29th June 2005

Junior Hall, Spring Park Primary School, Bridle Road, Shirley

Anyone aged 16 to 99 is welcome to join us - whether an experienced player or a bit rusty! We play doubles on the last Wednesday each month and singles all other weeks. It's fun and very healthy - and you will be in good company at our friendly club.

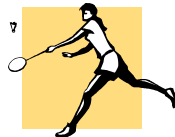
So why not come along and give it a try?

There is a £2.50 weekly admission fee for visitors, but these payments may be off-set against the annual subscription fee for those who join as full members.

Website: <http://www.webspawner.com/users/spttcweb>

Telephone Alban Liard on [REDACTED] for further details – or just turn up with your bat! It's fun and very healthy - and you will be in good company at our friendly club.

All Saints Badminton Club



All Saints Badminton Club play every Tuesday evening at Shirley Parish Church Hall, Wickham Road from 8.00 until 10.30. We are a very friendly, very small local club and welcome most standards (but no beginners please). Why not come down and meet your neighbours and keep fit at the same time! Please feel free to come and meet us or if you would like to know more please call Kirty on [REDACTED].

Correction to Post Office Collections

The mail collection times from the local post boxes have also been changed and the notices affixed to the boxes are out of date. The Royal Mail has informed us that collections from local post boxes take place at approximately 11.30 p.m., 2.30 p.m., and 5.30 p.m. on weekdays including Saturdays and 9.00 p.m. and 12.00 p.m. on Sundays. The cost of mailing a letter has increased considerably but the service has been reduced and there is no guarantee that a first class letter will be delivered on the following day. The new arrangements were introduced in April and it will be interesting to note how the new arrangements cope with the Christmas post.

A Christmas Poem



*Christmas Eve—it's all done!
Cards sent, presents wrapped, food bought and drinks in the fridge.
The frenzy is over.
Have we forgotten anything?
No?
What about a star, a manger, a baby and Joy to the World?*
Patricia Turner
2004

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of MORA has always been subject to change as residents depart to live elsewhere and newcomers arrived to live in the area. The process of change has usually been gradual but more recently the process has accelerated. The causes are complex and numerous, one of the driving influences has been the dramatic rise in property values, another is the use of The Glade development for social housing and another factor is that many of those that moved into the area at the end of the 1939-1945 World War and chose to remain are now entering their twilight years. The pressure applied by property developers has also resulted in residents selling their properties and leaving to live elsewhere. The consequence is that many long-standing members of MORA have departed and are not being replaced. It is vitally important that the membership of the local residents association remains strong and active to protect the interests of residents.

Road Stewards have an important role to play in calling on new arrivals and encouraging them to become members. Members can help by passing on their newsletters to a friend or neighbour and telling them about MORA. Sadly many of the members that have contributed to the work of the association by acting as Road Stewards are growing older and are finding it difficult to continue distributing the quarterly newsletters and collecting the annual subscriptions. The danger is that if they are not replaced the members residing in the nearby area will lose contact with the Association. It is therefore vitally important that anyone with an interest in the well being of the local community gets in-touch with Alyce Menhinnitt (telephone [REDACTED]) to offer any help they can give.

Your Association needs help at all levels; volunteers with energy and time to spare will receive a warm welcome. The work is rewarding and sometimes exciting but seldom dull. Monks Orchard is a friendly thriving community situated among attractive homes, parks and playing fields but the pressure on the area is increasing every day. It can only be defended by those good people willing to freely devote a few hours each month to represent the community.



Geraint Davies MP Report to Monk's Orchard Residents Association, October 2004

As your local MP, I have been pressing the Council to protect our environment from inappropriate redevelopment and to release more land for community use. In particular, alongside Shirley RA, I presented the Leader of the Council with a petition of more than 1000 names opposing the possible redevelopment of 5,6 & 7 Oak Gardens. I am also calling on the Council to compulsorily purchase an area of open land that was bought by speculators and has remained a derelict eyesore since the 1980s. Originally the land was used as a park by the community and with the new compulsory Purchase and Planning Act 2004, the Council have the authority to bring it back into public use.

I was recently the guest speaker at Croydon's Homelessness Conference held by Croydon Churches. Housing isn't just about statistics and everyone should have the right to a home and that's why it's important that there's sufficient supply of affordable housing whilst protecting our environment.

Many people are concerned about the future of pensions in Britain and that's why I recently brought together the President of the TUC, Roger Lyons, Government Pensions Minister, Malcolm Wicks and leading figures from the Pensions Industry to discuss the balance of responsibility between companies, the individual and the State in providing a secure future. Longer life expectancy and uncertainty in the Stock Market underline the need to take action to ensure all three provide a greater contribution.

Naturally many of you will be concerned about Iraq, in particular terrorist attempts to undermine reconstruction and the elections due in January. I met the Vice President of Iraq in Parliament to discuss these issues, and I am pleased to report that the great majority of Iraq, in particular in the North and South, is secure and reconstruction is moving apace with some 300 political parties already formed. The Vice President said that the terrorist attacks on the Iraqi people that have occurred are perpetrated by al-Qaeda Afghans and a few remnant elements of the Saddam regime whose aim is to prevent the emergence of a peaceful democracy that helps to bring stability to the Middle East.

I am sure we are all looking forward to a Happy Christmas and I know that our thoughts and prayers will be with the people of Iraq wishing them peace and security in the New Year.

I have helped over 300 local people with individual problems in the last two months. So if you need my help and advice, contact me, Geraint Davies MP, PO Box 679, Croydon CR9 1UQ

T: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

E: GeraintDaviesMP@parliament.uk

MORA COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2004/5

Chairman:	BOB AKERS	
Vice Chair & Secretary:	ANNE JOHNSON	
Membership Secretary:	ALYCE MENHINNITT	
Hon. Treasurer &		
Advertising Manager:	TERRY GREENWOOD	
Editor:	DEREK RITSON	
Transport & Highways &		
Area Manager:	ELAINE ECKHARDT	
Social Secretary:	CHRISTINE ROSS-SMITH	
Police Liaison/Security:	JEAN COOK	
Primary Care:	MARCIA NASH	
Committee Member + AM:	MICHAEL NASH	
Committee Member + AM:	PATRICIA TURNER	
Committee Member:	MARGARET DOMONEY	
Neighbourhood Watch rep:	ANDREW SEGRAM	

Recycling



DID YOU KNOW THAT BRITAIN RE-CYCLES LESS WASTE THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN EUROPE?

Waste is becoming a major problem in our lives with landfill sites becoming more difficult to find, so with Christmas just around the corner here are a few ideas and addresses / telephone numbers to re-cycle those unwanted Christmas presents, cards, Christmas trees etc.

Cardboard

Factory Lane, Purley Oaks

Christmas Cards

W H Smith, Tesco and Boots accept cards in early January or use them to make your Christmas tags for next year.

Christmas Wrapping Paper

Put in your green re-cycling box (except foil paper)

Christmas Trees

Look in the local press a little nearer Christmas for the address.

Stamps

Farplace Animal Rescue Stamp Appeal

PO Box 9191. Wishaw, Lanarkshire. ML2 0YB

Of course, there are the charity shops for those unwanted gifts. Look on the Croydon Council's website at www.croydon.gov.uk for more addresses and ideas of re-cycling. Just think, if we all saved one black bin bag going to a landfill site per week what a difference that would make.