



NEWSLETTER

2/98

February 1998

EDITORIAL

This Newsletter is to advise everyone about the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. The formal notice and Agenda are overleaf.

Please make a note of the date and venue in your diary and make every effort to come along

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 5th March 1998 at 8.0 p.m.

Bromley Court Hotel, Wellington Suite

Non-members or potential members are very welcome to attend, but of course they cannot vote.

We normally alternate our visiting speakers between civic matters and general interest. I am sure that everyone will remember last year's excellent talk and recital by the Principal, Peter Mawson and five of the pupils from the Bromley Youth Music Trust so, as there were no pressing civic issues, it was decided at the last Member's Meeting to have another general interest subject this year.

As a change from a musical theme, it was agreed that we ask Ken Wilson BA ARIBA to give his illustrated talk on "The Crystal Palace Ghost Train" - atmospheric railways and the intriguing mystery of a lost train. (And I had thought that only British Rail could manage that trick.)

Ken, a Yorkshireman, qualified as an architect, became Bromley's Deputy Borough Architect and was involved in the design of the Churchill Theatre & Central Library. Since his retirement he has found himself working full time as an artist, writer and public speaker.

After refreshments comes the business of the AGM. Fortunately this year the present holders of the posts of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Auditor, are all prepared to stand again. So no one need have second thoughts about coming to the meeting in case the fickle finger of fate points at them.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 5th March, AGM 8.0 p.m. Bromley Court Hotel.

Thursday 7th May, Members Meeting 8.0 p.m. Bromley Court Hotel.

Peter Pain (Editor)

Miscellany

Not Many People Know This.....(Leslie Tucker)

Recent talk in the media about full decimalisation of weights and measures reminded me of the problems encountered by many, when we changed from pounds, shillings and pence to decimal coinage back in 1970.

I thought it might make some of us feel better about it, if we pondered the plight of those living in the last century when they gave up the use of the following units of weights and measures which appear in a ready reckoner or "Traders Sure Guide" published in 1810. They probably thought that all of this was so much easier than those new-fangled measures we later learnt as children.

A Barrel of Ale 32 gals.	A Barrel of Beer 36 gals.
A Barrel of Anchovies about 18 lbs.	A Barrel of figs from 90 to near 300 lbs.
A Barrel of gunpowder 112 lbs.	A Barrel of herrings 500
A Cade of red herrings 500	A Cade of sprats 1000
A Clove of cheese 8 lbs.	A Clove of wool 7 lbs.
A Dicker of leather 10 skins.	A Firkin of butter 56 lbs.
A Firkin of soap 64 lbs.	A Fodder of lead 2184 lbs. or 19 ½ cwt.
A Keg of herrings 60, two of which make a hundred.	A Last 4368 lbs.
A Last of corn 10 Quarters or 2 Loads or 80 Bushels.	A Last of gunpowder 24 Barrels
A Last of hides 12 doz.	A Last of leather 24 Dickers
A Last of tar 14 Barrels.	A Load in common, means 40 Bushels.
A market load 5 Bushels	A Load of hay is from 25 to 30 cwt.
A Load of Scotch coals 1 cwt.	A Load of bricks 500
A Load of tiles 1000	A Load of timber 50 solid feet
A Pipe or Butt is 120 gals.	A Pack 240 lbs.
A Puncheon of brandy or rum from 70 to 100 gals.	A Puncheon of prunes from 10 to 12 cwt.
A Quintal of fish 100	A Rod is 5 ½ yds.
A Square Rod is 30 ¼ yds. or 272 ¼ feet	A Tod of wool 281bs.
A Ton means 20cwt.	A Ton of lead is 19 ½ cwt.
A Tun of wine 52 gals.	A Tun of sweet oil 236 gals.
A Truss of hay is from 50 to 60 lbs.	A Wey is 5 Chaldrons

Perhaps for the record, I should have left in the reminder that 12 inches is a foot!