



NEWSLETTER

3/2000

May 2000

EDITORIAL

This Newsletter reports back on 2 events and gives an update on the various live issues of the moment.

The first event was the AGM. It was very well attended. Whether that was because of the high reputation of our speaker, his subject or the issues of the day it is difficult to say. Possibly a bit of each.

As advertised, the speaker was Brian Philp, leader of the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit. Before dealing with his specific subject "Archaeology in Bromley and Keston" he very cogently set the archaeological scene in the time frame of the Ice Age to modern times, plus the geological factors which influenced settlement from the time of hunter gatherers to pastoral communities. Then with the aid of colour slides he talked about most of the local finds - sometimes by accident, but more often by persistent detective work. Along the way he disposed of a few myths, such as Caesar's Camp at Holwood which is actually a fortified Iron Age settlement.

Altogether an engrossing talk which threatened to overrun.

Because Brian Philp made no charge for his talk, we did as we usually do in those circumstances and sent a contribution, in this case to the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit.

Enclosed with the receipt for the contribution was a copy of a letter he had sent to Bromley's Chief Planner. The letter referred to Holwood House and it seems that Brian Philp has reached an agreement in principle with Crest Homes. That agreement was for KARU to have a long lease on Holwood

House as a Heritage Centre subject to price and terms. Also a lease on the Hill Fort and Tile Kiln. He seemed quite pleased with the outcome. Of course KARU still has to get a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and presumably raise matching funding themselves.

Regarding the business of the AGM, all of the Officers were prepared to stand for re-election and were duly elected. It was again agreed to keep subscriptions unchanged at £5 per household or for senior citizens and unwaged a contribution of between 5p and £5.

The rest of the business will be updated and covered later in this Newsletter.



The second event was the unveiling of our Meridian Markers in Farnaby Road. Despite heavy rain early in the morning, this had cleared by 9.0 a.m. and the day was bright if a little breezy. About 150 members turned out for the actual unveiling which was performed by the Mayor of Bromley Councillor Polydorou JP. She proved to be a very good sport as the press photographer wanted both her and Leslie Tucker to sit on the pavement either side of the Marker Post - she did and so did Leslie. The subsequent reception in Shortlands Golf Club was also well attended and everyone who wanted tickets got them.

Most of our guests turned up including Eric Forth MP, Councillors past and present for Martin's Hill and Town, plus representatives from Bromley's Heritage & Urban Design Team who arranged the fixing of the Markers and have subsequently adopted them.

Also present were representatives of adjacent Residents' Associations and the local Churches and School. Unfortunately Miss Frenkel the owner of the Bromley Court Hotel was unable to be present which was a pity as we are greatly indebted to her for our bi-monthly meetings which are held in the Bromley Court.

The view generally expressed was that the Markers looked excellent and the event was well organised. Even the Police congratulated us on the

organisation and arrangements for controlling spectators and traffic. Many members also commented favourably on the 6 information display panels which Leslie Tucker had produced. The panels described our area, our history and gave an account of the Society's principal activities since it was formed. Quite a few people asked whether they could be produced in booklet form and Leslie is considering whether that is practicable. To do so they would need to be rewritten and the layout rearranged to make them readable, even on A4 paper.

All of those involved in organising the event are to be congratulated, but above all Leslie Tucker who undertook by far the bulk of the work over the past 3 years.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 4th May, Members' Meeting, 8.0 p.m. Bromley Court Hotel

Thursday 6th July, Members' Meeting, 8.0 p.m. Bromley Court Hotel

Peter Pain (Editor)

PLANNING ISSUES (Update)

Unitary Development Plans

Lewisham have published their Deposit Draft and we submitted over 2 dozen comments, many of them complimentary. Lewisham will now review all of the comments and probably make some changes. Any changes left outstanding may be taken up at the Public Inquiry.

Bromley have slipped behind but have recently published a Skeletal Deposit Draft. We had the opportunity to comment on that at a consultation meeting at the end of March. They have now issued notes of that meeting and invited written comments by the end of May.

Planning Applications

Lewisham None.

Bromley The Reform Synagogue, Highland Road After having made

many changes to their plans in order to meet local objections, the application was finally approved at the end of March.

3, 3a & 5 Spencer Road Earlier the developer had lodged an appeal against Bromley for not giving an answer within the required 8 weeks (non-determination) and a hearing was set for 28th March. However the developers then submitted modified plans for a slightly smaller building, but still with 24 flats. They followed that with notice that yet another set of plans would be submitted, this time for 22 flats.

The appeal was postponed to allow Bromley time to consider the latest submission, but we understand that it has not been received. When it is we shall make our objections known for the third time.

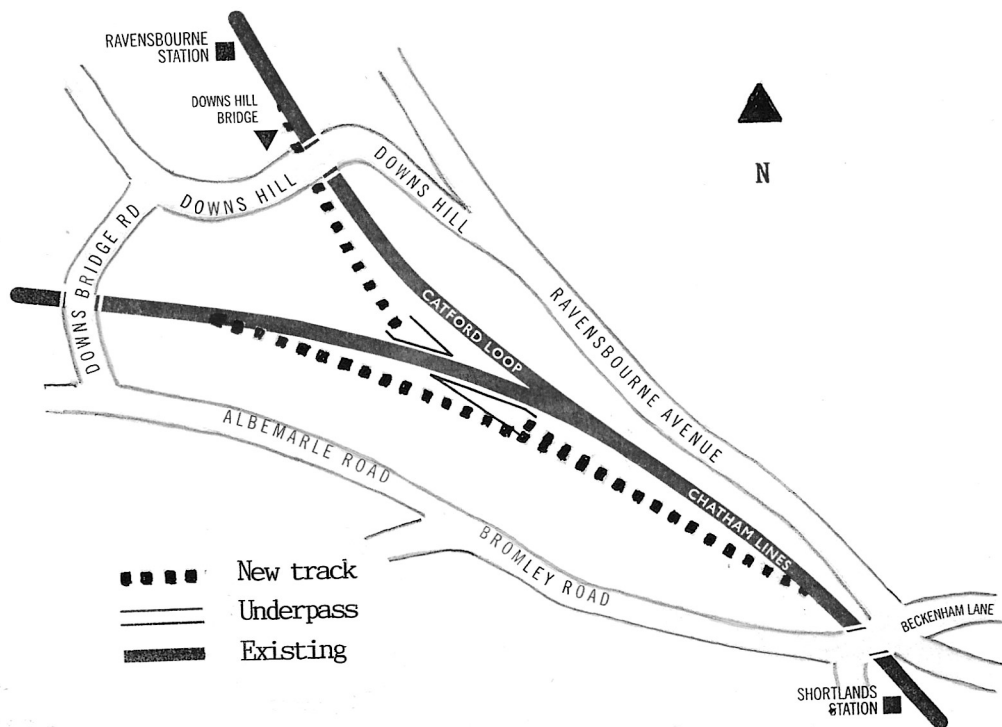
31, 33 Downs Hill The original proposal for 10 large detached houses, the demolition of No. 31 and the felling of some 120 trees has been withdrawn. A new application has been put in for 8 detached houses. But, this still involves the demolition of No. 31 and the felling of many trees. The same objections of over development in this Conservation Area still apply. However, this latest application may be a ploy on the part of Berkley Homes to improve the market value of the site as it takes no account of the recent proposals by Railtrack to build an underpass between the Main line and the Catford loop which will require part of this site. (See next item.)

TRANSPORT

Rail Underpass Shortlands Junction

Earlier this year, Railtrack set up an exhibition caravan in the Trees Estate car park and circularised local residents to tell them about their ideas for an underpass at the junction. The purpose of the underpass is to ease the bottleneck problem on routes to London from the South East and the Channel Tunnel and hence reduce Eurostar delays. Trains travelling North will be able to switch from the Main line to the Catford loop without crossing other tracks. The work will require substantial widening of Downs Hill bridge and take a slice off the site at Nos. 31 & 33. It will

also involve the felling of many mature trees between the junction and Downs Hill bridge. Railtrack's plans are not yet finalised and they have promised to hold more consultations and exhibitions as plans and options mature. The sketch below shows Railtrack's initial concept. The timescale is aimed at probable completion in 2003



BECKENHAM PLACE PARK

Six tenderers for the long-term contract have been invited by Lewisham to submit detailed proposals for final evaluation. The original plan was for the successful tender to take over from the short-term contractor in May

2000. However, at the last meeting of the Working Party, Lewisham conceded that their time scales had already slipped and when pressed admitted to a slippage of 4 months. For reasons which are not clear, this did not please the short-term contractor who also happens to be one of the final 6 for the long-term contract.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

This item by Arthur Barwell follows on from his earlier one in the December Newsletter.

After the warning about "bogus builders" in the December Newsletter, a fresh one has come to light. Leaflets are hand delivered offering to value and buy antiques. . . . This warning came on "Ring Master" which is a computerised telephone system which passes messages to all NHW Co-ordinators in the borough. We have been asked to let the Police know if any of these leaflets are delivered in our area.

There are one or two interesting "News" items. An organisation has been set up by Jack Straw called the Property Crime Reduction Team to work with the Police to find ways to reduce property crime and make better use of the Criminal Justice System to reduce re-offending. They are also investigating burglaries during funerals and incidences of "second" break-ins. £34m is being spent over a 2 year period to set up a new DNA data base of known criminals (about 3 million). There are also going to be free security packages (door and window locks etc) for pensioners, to run in parallel with the Home Efficiency Schemes (i.e. for people on specific benefits).

For those using the Internet and interested in the Criminal Justice System there is a good web page www.homeoffice.gov.uk go to Index and then Digest 4-Information on the Criminal Justice System.

A nice little twist in the NHW philosophy - a NHW in SE15 organised a rota to do a daily check on the well being of a 98 year old resident. Have we such a need ?

Editors Note: On the subject of scams, readers may have missed an item in a recent News Shopper. Apparently the victim is called by someone claiming to work for a 'phone company trying to carry out a test on a line. They ask the victim to press 3 keys and then hang up to complete the test. Doing so allows the caller to place long distance, international and chat-line calls and debit them to the victims account. The Police have put warning notices in libraries. If this happens to you, do not respond. If it has already happened, tell the Police and your telephone provider.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Wetlands Bromley are running a campaign to raise the awareness of wetlands in the borough and the often vulnerable wildlife species that they support. Since 1960 about a quarter of all of the mapped ponds in the borough have been lost, which makes those remaining, plus garden ponds all the more important.

To raise awareness Bromley are running 2 quasi educational field events each month through to the end of August. They would also like to know of any sightings of frogs, toads or newts.

If you would like to know more or to report a sighting, contact either Bromley's Countryside Management Service on 8313 4665 or the Ecology Projects Officer (Sue Swales) on 8313 4448.

Gardens Bromley are running 23 events in the borough up to the end of August to explain what can be done to help the environment in your garden or in patches of land at schools or business premises. Again if you are interested and would like to know what the programme is offering contact the Countryside Management Service on 8313 4665.

Leaflets are available for both the Wetlands and the Gardens projects.

R.V.P.S OFFICERS (MAY 2000)

Chairman	Elizabeth Davies, 12 Ravensmead Road, BR2 0BT
Vice Chairman	Peter Pain, 74 Madeira Avenue, BR1 4AS
Secretary	Roy McCarthy, 16 Ravensmead, Road BR2 0BT
Treasurer	Brian Sanders, 41 Farnaby Road, BR1 4BL
Auditor	Wally Carloss, 28a Parkhill Road, BR2 0LF
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Planning Officer-Lewisham	Paul Bennett, 12 Elstree Hill, BR1 4JE
Membership Secretary	Paul Bennett, 12 Elstree Hill, BR1 4JE
Newsletter Editor	Peter Pain, 74 Madeira Avenue, BR1 4AS
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Roads & Traffic Rep.	
Tree Warden	Arthur Barwell, 14 Grasmere Road, BR2 4BA
LBBRF Delegate	
Police Consultative Com. Rep.	Kay Lincoln, 12 Ravensmead Road, BR2 0BJ
BPP Joint Working Party Rep.	Peter Pain, 74 Madeira Avenue, BR1 4AS
Hon Legal Adviser	Richard Thomas, 118 Ravensbourne Avenue, BR2 0AX

ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

Bromley Ave./ Karen Ct. / Grasmere / Highland Rds.	Leslie Tucker, 5 Bromley Avenue, BR1 4BG
Coniston Rd / Ullswater & Hawkshead Closes	Barbara Price, 85 Coniston Road, BR1 4BG
Downs Hill / Crab Hill	Barbara Brown, 34 Downs Hill, BR3 5HB
Elstree Hill / Hillbrow / Oaklands / Spencer Rds.	Daphne Robeson, 2 Lynton Court, London Rd BR1 3B2
Farnaby Rd (1-108)	Audrey Burford, 90 Farnaby Road, BR1 4BH
Farnaby Rd (109 +)	Maureen Johnson, 69 Farnaby Road, BR1 4BN
Madeira Avenue	Ray Terrett, 70 Madeira Avenue, BR1 4AS
Ravensbourne Ave. (evens)	Ann Rowswell, 164 Ravensbourne Avenue, BR2 0AY
Ravensbourne Ave. (odds)	Ann Freiter, 128 Ravensbourne Avenue, BR2 0AX
Ravensmead Rd	Kay Lincoln, 12 Ravensmead Road, BR2 0BT
Warren Ave./Calmont Rd.	Alan Weatherley, 50 Warren Avenue, BR1 4BS