



NEWSLETTER

2/2002

April 2002

EDITORIAL

Unfortunately the AGM was not as well attended as in previous years. Reasons are unclear, certainly the weather was not to blame. Perhaps the subject matter of our visiting speaker did not appeal, in which case they missed a well illustrated and fascinating story.

John Ridley dealt briefly with the historic background from the 13th to the mid 19th centuries and the inevitable sewage problems created by the rapid growth in London's population. The real story began when the Metropolitan Board of Works were created with the remit to find a comprehensive solution for all of London. Spurred on by several epidemics of cholera and the 'great stink' of 1857 the Board's chief engineer Joseph Bazalgette proposed 2 large pumping stations, one north and one south of the river. The southern one Crossness was the main subject of John's talk. Crossness had been abandoned in 1952 and it was not until 1985 that the Crossness Trust was formed. They immediately set about restoring the buildings, one of the 4 pumps with their enormous beam steam engines and the associated decorative cast iron work to their former glory. Before and after slides were shown of the impressive results of the dedicated work done by the volunteer members of the Trust over the past 17 years.

Following past practice when our speaker comes from a Trust or Charity we sent a thank you donation to the Crossness Engine Trust.

After refreshments came the business of the AGM. The key decisions were:

- ☐ As there were no other nominations the officers currently filling the posts of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Auditor were re-elected.
- ☐ Subscriptions remain unchanged at £5 per household. Senior Citizens and members in special financial situations may subscribe as they see fit.
- ☐ The Treasurer's report confirmed that our finances were healthy which led to confirmation that we continue with the community projects.

- ❑ Thanks were also recorded to Miss Frenkel for the continuing use of the facilities at the Bromley Court Hotel.

The reports on the community projects, from the planning officers and the Beckenham Place Park Working Party representative are covered in updates later in this Newsletter.

Two more points, the first is that Brian Atkinson has volunteered to become the Road Rep. for Madeira Avenue. I am happy to say that we also had a second volunteer but Brian got in first. Thank you and welcome. Also a belated welcome to Gordon Rowlands who has taken over Elstree Hill from Tom Griffin.

The second is something we do not normally cover. But, Roger Legg one of our members tells me that his brother Douglas has completed a book on his 5000 mile walk round the coast of Britain. Profits from the book will go to Save the Children charity. If anyone wishes to know more Roger or his brother can be contacted on 020 8464 1927.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 2nd May, Members' Meeting, 8.0pm, Bromley Court Hotel.

Thursday 4th July, Members' Meeting, 8.0pm, Bromley Court Hotel.

Peter Pain (Editor)

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Valley School: A further £250 has been donated, supplementing a lottery grant to set up an "outdoor classroom". The classroom will consist of 7 sections each with a theme ie a taste garden with herbs, a sound garden with bamboo and grasses and so on. The Headmistress has promised that we will get progress reports from time to time.

Bus Stop Seat: Although the future of the 351 route has not yet been finally resolved, it has been decided to go ahead anyway in order to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee year. The seat will have a suitably engraved plaque fixed to it and will be sited near the junction of Farnaby Road and Ravensbourne Avenue. Because it will be positioned on what is technically the footway, Bromley have agreed to obtain and fix the seat on our behalf.

Improving Raised Beds: Discussions continue with Bromley about improving the planting in the raised bed at the junction of Bromley Avenue and Farnaby Road. Little progress has been made except for trimming of the existing shrubs to try to improve the sight lines at the junction.

PLANNING

5 Oaklands Road (Greenhill Care Home): Having received planning permission for a replacement building, work has started with its complete demolition. To be more exact it was dismantled - as there is a good market for the old tiles and bricks which are often specified for renovations or extensions to older properties.

14 Oaklands Road: A planning application to demolish a large Victorian house at the junction of Oaklands and Spencer Roads and replace it with a block of nine 2 bedroom flats is still in hand with Bromley. The block would be 3 storeys high with access for pedestrians and off-street parking from Spencer Road. In view of the high level of street parking in the area we have written objecting to the limited amount of on-site parking being proposed. We have also raised other objections. However, because many of the buildings in Oaklands/Spencer Roads have already been replaced by blocks of flats the chances of preventing any redevelopment here are remote.

Unitary Development Plans: There has been no change since the last Newsletter.

BECKENHAM PLACE PARK

The situation is virtually unchanged since the last Newsletter. However, Lewisham are currently holding discussions with the preferred tenderer, Royal Victoria Hotels (RVH) to explore whether they would be prepared to take over management of the Park prior to getting planning permission for the changes to the Mansion and the Stable Block/Homesteads. The RVH have responded positively but no agreement has been reached on the terms.

One of the many 'desire' paths in the Park has now been recognised as a footpath. It is called the Willow Carr Way and runs from the old 'burning ground' near the railway bridge, past the old lake, onto the present golf practice area, to the right of a small copse, and crosses hole 14 near the tee, emerging by the Squirrel near the Mansion. A useful short cut to the Mansion if you enter the Park from Crab Hill or Old Bromley Road.

TRANSPORT

Railtrack - Shortlands Grade Separation: The Community Liaison Meetings, chaired by Bromley continue to be held. Each meeting has been less contentious than the last as Railtrack show their willingness to listen and act. Work for the 'box' to be pushed under the main line is on schedule for August Bank Holiday weekend. Failure to meet that date would delay completion of the work beyond 2003 with the result that it would be later than the completion of the new high speed dedicated track for Eurostar trains.

R.V.P.S. OFFICERS (April 2002)

Chairman	Elizabeth Davies, 12 Ravensmead Road, BR2 0BT
Vice Chairman	Peter Pain, 74 Madeira Avenue, BR1 4AS
Secretary	Tom Griffin, 9 The Chestnuts, Oaklands Rd. BR1 3SJ
Treasurer	Brian Sanders, 41 Farnaby Road, BR1 4BL
Auditor	Wally Carliss, 28a Parkhill Road, BR2 0LF
Planning Officer-Bromley	Leslie Tucker, 5 Bromley Avenue, BR1 4BG
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
Railway Rep.	George Hodson, 20 Ravensbourne Avenue
Roads & Traffic Rep.	
Tree Warden	Arthur Barwell, 14 Grasmere Road, BR2 4BA
LBBRF Delegate	
Police Consultative Com. Rep.	Kay Lincoln, 12 Ravensmead Road, BR2 0BT
BPP Joint Working Party Rep.	Peter Pain, 74 Madeira Avenue, BR1 4AS
Hon. Legal Advisor	Richard Thomas, 118 Ravensbourne Ave, 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 3BZ
Downs Hill / Crab Hill	Barbara Brown, 34 Downs Hill, BR3 5HB
Elstree Hill / Erin Close / Hillbrow	Gordon Rowlands, 14 Inglewood Ct. Oaklands Road.
Oaklands / Spencer Rds.	Daphne Robeson, 2 Lynton Court, London Rd.
Farnaby Rd (1-108)	Audrey Burford, 90 Farnaby Road, BR1 4BH
Farnaby Rd (109 +)	Maureen Johnson, 69 Farnaby Road, BR1 4BN
Madeira Avenue	Brian Atkinson, 94 Madeira Avenue
Ravensbourne Ave. (evens)	Ann Rowsell, 164 Ravensbourne Ave, 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 / Ashgrove Rd. / <i>Belgraveia Gardens</i>	Alan Weatherley, 50 Warren Avenue, BR1 4BS