

NEWSLETTER

3/2003

July 2003



EDITORIAL

This Newsletter marks the beginning of subscription collecting. Some Road Reps will have already started, but many will wait until the end of the holiday season. If you are out when your Road Rep calls they will probably put a reminder slip through your letter box. Please respond to it; why make a volunteer's job harder than it need be?

On the subject of volunteers, Gordon Rowlands, the Road Rep for Elstree Hill, Erin Close and Hillbrow has moved out of the area and we need a replacement volunteer. The Elstree Hill patch is the lightest load of all the Road Reps with just over a dozen members spread over some 60 households - albeit on a hill. Would anyone who feels that they could manage to deliver Newsletters 5 or 6 times a year and collect any subscriptions please contact Tom Griffin, our Secretary on 8313 0306 - don't be shy.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 4th September 2003 - Members' Meeting, 8.0pm Bromley Court Hotel

Thursday 6th November 2003 - Members' Meeting, 8.0pm Bromley Court Hotel

The booking schedule shows that we will be using the Ravensbourne Suite, but there can always be last minute changes, so please check the hotel activity board in the foyer.

Peter Pain (Editor)

BECKENHAM PLACE PARK

Regular visitors to the park may have noticed some changes -

- ☐ The Golf Management has been taken over by Glendale, who already manage the Park east of the railway line and Warren Avenue playing field. They will have at least 2 mobile Rangers on duty every day. The Rangers will tour the whole of the Park, not just the golf course.
- ☐ Crab Hill pavilion has at last been demolished. The rubble has been levelled off and covered with a sandy soil.
- ☐ The Bell Tower of the stable block has been taken down as it had developed a severe list. The bell itself is now stored in the Mansion. The lower part of the tower which houses the clock is still in situ.
- ☐ The pond in the formal garden has been filled in as it was attracting too much rubbish. It is now planted with geraniums.

Things to look forward to -

- ☐ The gates at the main entrance in Beckenham Hill Road are due to be repainted.
- ☐ The children's play area near the Old Bromley Road entrance is to be upgraded and renovated to modern standards. The paddling pool will be converted to a children's

active water feature consisting of a series of randomly programmed fountains set at ground level. The advantages are - no standing water, reduced likelihood of rubbish being deposited and greater fun for the children.

Regarding the long term contract, there was no news at either of the last 2 Working Party Meetings and Lewisham are still waiting for the revised details they requested several months ago.

PLANNING

4 Highland Road: A proposal for 7 flats was rejected by Bromley, the developer has lodged an appeal. (Hearing scheduled for 27th August).

14, Elstree Hill: The application for a garage has been turned down by Bromley.

Telecommunications masts, Shortlands golf Course: Both applications were refused, one of the applicants has lodged an appeal.

44 Coniston Road: The proposal for 5 town houses in Belgravia Gardens which, if approved, would result in severe parking problems for the existing residents was the subject of a noisy meeting with the Lewisham planners. Lewisham's response to the objections of the residents is not yet known.

95/97 Ravensbourne Avenue: An application has been made to demolish the single house on this site and build two detached houses in its place. The plans would involve deep excavations which would affect the adjoining properties unless proper ground retention measures are undertaken.

TRANSPORT

Shortlands Road Bridge: This is the last of the current major road works in the area. Road closures, diversions and time-scales are still as published in the last Newsletter.

Gravel - Elstree Hill/Calmont Road: Gravel brought down Elstree Hill into Calmont Road by traffic and rain continues to cause damage to properties when passing cars make the stones fly in all directions. There has been no real progress with Bromley Officers in solving the problem. Local householders, in desperation, will be involving their Councillor and the local press.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS - Visit to Valley School: (By L.Tucker)

As members will remember, for the last two years running we have helped to finance the Valley School's new "Sensory Garden" otherwise referred to as their "Outdoor Classroom". We have donated £250 in each of the last two years for this purpose. The construction of the garden is now virtually complete and it is in use. On the 18th June a visit by eight of our active members was arranged to inspect the garden and to discuss with the Head Teacher and staff if they had in mind any further projects of an ecological nature which we might be able to support.

We were met by the enthusiastic driving force behind the garden scheme, teacher Sam French. She first reminded those of us whose children attended the school in the (mostly distant) past, what the original building looked like - it was full of colour and a sense of quiet activity. The new building with its large hall, classrooms and attractive library space, has clearly improved the facilities enormously. Then to the outside; but before we reached the garden which we had come to see, there was another new enterprise recently completed. Behind an enclosing garden wall the school had, with the help and agreement of the Allotment Association, created a sheltered grassed area. During March it had been planted as an orchard with a variety of fruit trees specially selected to fruit before the end of each summer term.

Beyond a group of allotment gardens was the school's sensory garden. The beds are all raised about eighteen inches (50cms) above the gravel paths. The garden is

roughly circular with the beds arranged as segments separated by radiating paths round a central space. Each bed is devoted to plants which primarily excite one of the five senses - smell - touch - sound - taste and sight. Obviously scented plants provide for "smell"; touch or feel can be explored by comparisons between shiny evergreen leaves and soft furry ones with a few examples, like thistles in the "don't touch" category; sounds are provided by grasses and other plants which rustle in the wind; taste needs no explanation and sight is best satisfied by colour. The gardens have largely been planted and are maintained by the children - manicured perfection is not their priority but learning is. One other type of garden - a bog garden - is being contemplated. At the entrance to the garden is a willow arbour framing a seat for the teacher who would be facing a class on rows of rustic bench seats. The garden is separated from the school's playing field by a hedge and on its other two sides is mature woodland. It is in this woodland that a natural pond is hidden with the potential for the school to one day have its own little nature reserve.

After showing us all this, Sam returned with us to meet Mrs. Head (the head teacher) and her deputy to discuss how we might best help the school's endeavours during the rest of this year. Over a good cup of tea we had a fruitful discussion which ended with the agreement that Sam would consider the various options discussed, taking our preference for supporting activities with an ecological content into account, and send us a short list of three before our next members' meeting. This she did.

Their three preferred options were:-

- A) A "STORY TELLING CHAIR" - This to be sited in a corner of the new orchard to provide a further outdoor teaching area. The idea would be to have it carved out of the trunk of the horse chestnut tree at the entrance to the school which has been condemned as being unsafe and has to be felled. The cost is estimated as approximately £400.
- B) A WROUGHT IRON GATE - This would be set in a new opening in the wall separating the new orchard from the playground (at present there is no direct access between the two). It would allow the children to see into the orchard to watch the seasonal changes there as well as giving them a safe access to the orchard and the sensory garden without having to pass through the car park.
- C) PLANTERS IN PLAYGROUND - these would be designed to provide a boundary between the playground and the "quiet area". By incorporating a small pergola it would also provide some shade in the playground and the planting would add colour to the playground area and give the children responsibility to care for the plants. The cost of this was also estimated as being about £400.

Our members at the July meeting discussed these options and the Story telling chair proved to be the preferred choice. By using the well-known horse chestnut tree (to be felled during the summer holiday), it would not only be a useful seat but it would also provide a link with the school's past and be an excellent example of recycling. In consultation with our treasurer it was agreed to fund the seat by donating £400 to the school this year.

All those who visited the school were impressed with the general atmosphere of the school and of the imagination and drive of the staff.

MISCELLANEOUS: Summer Festival 11th - 16th August

Bromley's Community Safety Partnership has organised a festival of fun and safety on the above dates. The purpose is to celebrate all the work that the partners and community groups carry out in the Borough. The idea is to showcase the work done by groups such as the Police, Fire Service, Health, Probation and many others. As well as the more serious side, the fun events include drama and art workshops and a free concert in Church House Gardens on the 16th.

For more information call David Nicholson on 8313 4310 or e-mail <david.nicholson@bromley.gov.uk>

R.V.P.S. OFFICERS (JULY 2003)

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 Carlross, 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.	Arthur Barwell, 14 Grasmere Road, BR1 4BA
Tree Warden	Arthur Barwell, 14 Grasmere Road, BR1 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 OAX

ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

Bromley Ave./Karen Ct./
Grasmere / Highland Rds.
Brackenhill Lane

Leslie Tucker, 5 Bromley Avenue, BR1 4BG

Consiton 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

(POSITION VACANT - VOLUNTEERS PLEASE!)

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, BR1 4AS

Ravensbourne Ave. (evens)

Ann Rowswell, 164 Ravensbourne Avenue, BR2 OAY

Ravensbourne Ave. (odds)

Ann Freiter, 128 Ravensbourne Avenue, BR2 OAX

Ravensmead Road

Kay Lincoln, 12 Ravensmead Road, BR2 0BT

Warren Ave./Calmont Rd /
Ashgrove Rd./Belgravia Gdns

Alan Weatherley, 50 Warren Avenue, BR1 4BS