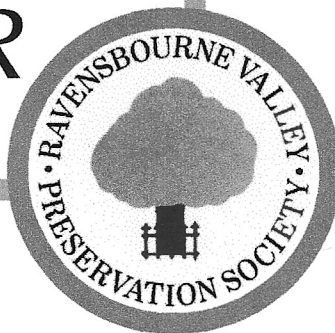


NEWSLETTER

3/2004

August 2004



EDITORIAL

This Newsletter marks the beginning of this year's subscription collecting. Some Road Reps will have already started, but many will wait until the end of the school 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 volunteers job more difficult that it need be?

At this time of year many of you probably visit the Council waste site at Waldo Road to get rid of garden rubbish and are frustrated by the long queues. If you are not already aware of it, the Council also opens several other sites over the weekends purely for green waste. They are open on Saturday afternoons from noon until 5pm and on Sunday mornings from 8am to noon. The two sites nearest to us are Norman Park, (Bromley Common, A21 entrance - not Hayes Lane) and St. George's Road car park off Albermarle Road. To use this facility you must have your Civic Amenity permit which was sent to all residents over a year ago. These additional sites for green waste will be open until the 31st October. If you compost your own waste Bromley have an arrangement with Blackwell Ltd for compost bins at reduced prices, from £14.50 to £17.50. For more information call Blackwells on 0870 844 3010 or Bromley Green Team on 020 8313 4989.

Dates for the Diary

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

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

We are scheduled to be in the Ravensbourne Suite but changes can happen so please check the hotel Activity Board on arrival.

Peter Pain - editor

TRANSPORT

Parking in Oaklands road

In the last Newsletter we reported that Bromley had told us that as they had no money for new schemes they would not be canvassing residents' opinions about a residents' parking scheme as it could only raise expectations which could not be fulfilled. Unfortunately, when we then pressed them for the lines of sight to be improved when exiting from Grasmere Road, we got the same answer - lack of

money. It is difficult to believe that some 10 feet of yellow line would break the bank! We will probably try again after a reasonable interval.

Street Furniture

In response to enquiries about the criteria for using particular types of materials and furniture in our streets, Bromley have produced a booklet "Streets in our Borough", illustrating types of product and their use with explanatory notes. Copies can be obtained from Richard Heaps 020 8313 4934.

Bromley South Railway Station Forecourt

If you have been in the area of Bromley South recently you would have been aware of the works to pedestrianise the forecourt. A new traffic light controlled pedestrian crossing and the relocation of the taxi rank and bicycle racks are all obvious. What is not so obvious is where to drop off or collect rail passengers by car. The only provision is on the opposite side of the road and nearer to Weatherspoons and the Churchill building than to the station. It consists of 6 metered bays two of which are for the use of disabled drivers. The elderly and those with heavy luggage seem not to have been considered. Parking on double yellow lines or in the taxi rank would be the only option on the station side of the road.

PLANNING

Unitary Development Plans (UDP's)

There is no further news on the slow progress of Bromley's updated UDP. However, Lewisham's UDP is now completed and was formally adopted on 16th June.

Planning Applications

2 Crab Hill This property is in the Downs Hill Conservation Area. That has not stopped a developer from submitting an application to demolish the existing bungalow and build a four-storey block of six, 3 bedroom apartments. We and a number of residents of the Conservation Area wrote letters of objection and Bromley have refused the application. The developer has now gone to appeal. He has also submitted a further application for a similar block containing ten, 2 bedroom units. By the time you read this we hope to have written a further letter of objection to this and to have made a written objection to the inspector who has been appointed to hear the appeal on the first submission.

Telecom Masts at Shortlands Golf Club There were originally two applications, one by Vodafone and one by T-Mobile for similar masts within the golf course near Farnaby Road. The land is designated Metropolitan Open Land (MOL). Both were rejected by Bromley. Vodafone has since appealed and was successful. T-Mobile had been looking for alternative sites but have now re-applied. Bromley have again rejected this but we are in little doubt that they will now go to appeal with some confidence of success.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Valley School

The original plan to fund a "Story Telling Chair" went on hold when the chestnut tree in the grounds which had to be felled proved too rotten to be used. An alternative tree from which to fashion the seat has now been found.

354 Bus Stop Seat

We have accepted the cost estimates for the provision and installation of a second seat in Farnaby Road and gave Bromley the go-ahead in mid May. Having noticed a lack of progress we followed this up with Bromley and it transpired that they had lost the correspondence. We re-issued our instructions and received apologies and a promise to shorten the usual delivery period for us, but no seat yet. Maybe it will appear before August ends.

SECURITY

Burglar Alarms (Registration)

A few Newsletters ago we included an article about the impending changes to the registration of burglar alarms. Those changes have now happened and the requirements are restated in case anyone missed out in the initial confusion. Residents risk being fined up to £5000 if their alarm becomes a nuisance and their keyholders have not been registered on the Metropolitan Police Keyholder Database. The new database replaces the old locally stored records with a centralised computer based system which is available, not only to the police, but also to environmental officers and emergency services.

There are two levels of service available :-

1. A free service that helps residents comply with the minimum statutory requirements (2 keyholder's contact numbers only). To register, call the database registration team on freephone 0800 197 7711.
2. A more comprehensive service which provides additional facilities and costs £15 for residential properties. Premium registrants can update details securely 365 days a year via the internet - phone 0870 060 1212 to register..

Residents who have alarmed property need to:-

- ☐ Ensure that the system is properly maintained.
- ☐ Ensure that the alarm has a 20 minute cut-out and reset mechanism as required by the London Local authorities Act 1991.
- ☐ Register keyholder details as above.
- ☐ Ensure that if they move property, the police are informed of the details.

BECKENHAM PLACE PARK

Following Lewisham's decision not to proceed with the "preferred bidder" for the management of the park, we are back to square one. Lewisham have resumed overall responsibility for the management although some elements are sub-contracted. To try to influence Lewisham's future thinking a few members of the Working Party (including RVPS Reps) met privately to discuss views. The outcome was a paper on preferred future policies and covered all aspects of the Park. The

paper has been sent to all members of the Working Party with a view to reaching early agreement and then forwarding it to the Mayor of Lewisham in the hope that it will influence Lewisham's future decisions.

LOCAL HISTORY

Blue Plaques.

Has anyone noticed the Blue Plaque at first storey level on the front of 58 Ravensbourne Avenue?

If not, the plaque is in memory of one Harold Bride 1890-1956. Harold Bride's parents with four sons and a daughter moved to Ravensbourne Avenue in the early 1900's. By the time he was 14 Harold had decided that he wanted to travel and work on ships. To do that he became a telegraphist and was registered at the British School of Telegraphy.

Marconi who had the monopoly in wireless telegraphy at the time employed the operators who worked their equipment installed on ships. All of their operators had to be at least 21 and have a Morse code speed of at least 25 words a minute.

As soon as he was 21 Harold joined Marconi International Marine Company and worked on various ships. In the spring of 1912 he found himself on the Titanic as second radio operator. Despite being told to abandon ship both operators stayed at their post sending out distress signals. Only when water was in the wireless room and affecting the equipment did they leave.

Unfortunately, along with so many others, the first radio operator did not survive but Harold Bride did and was picked up by the Carpathia

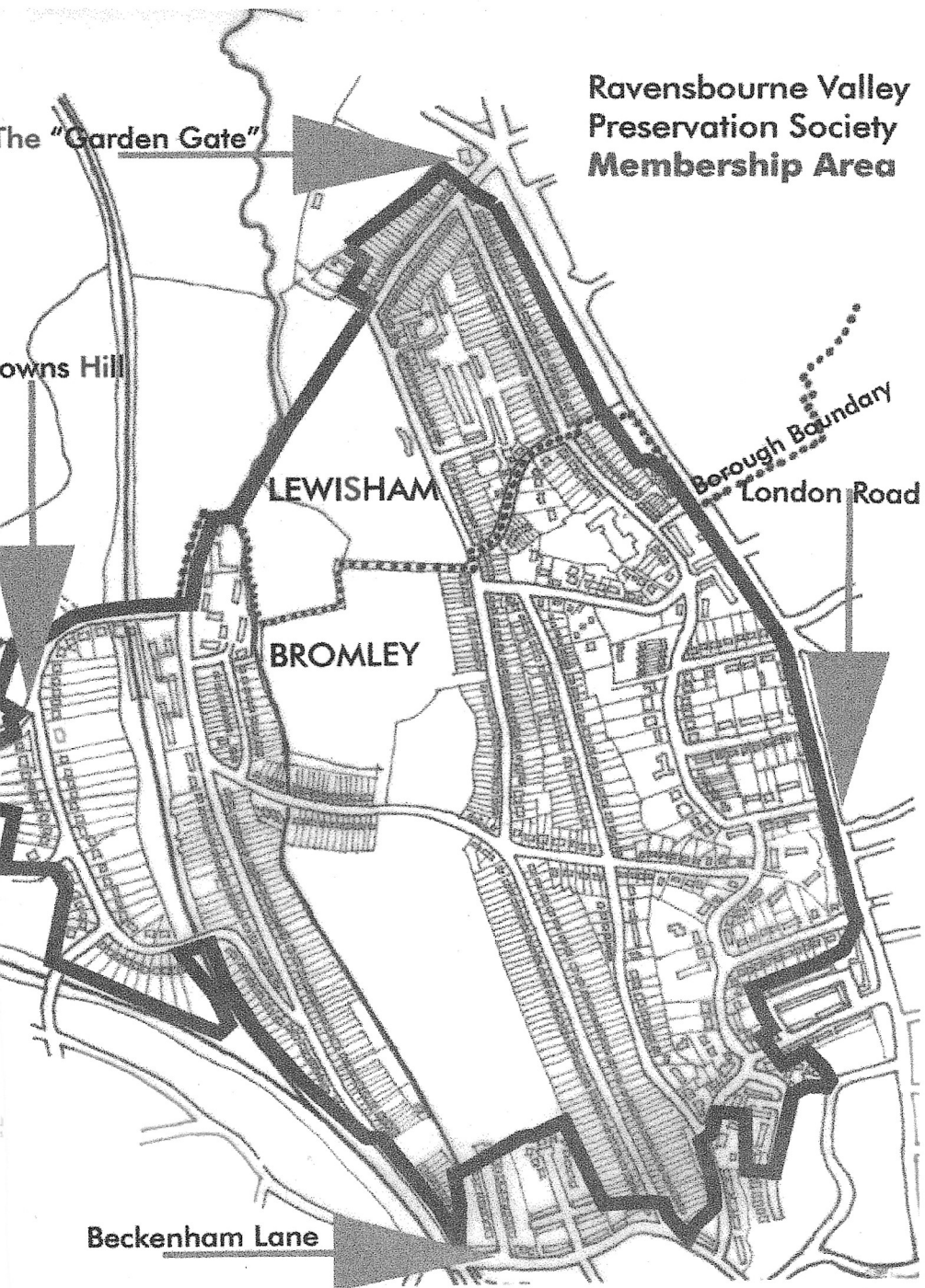
FOUNDING THE SOCIETY - Leslie Tucker

This is the second article in which we remind long-standing members, and inform more recent joiners, of the history of this Society.

In the autumn of 1986 a planning application was made to Lewisham to redevelop the site of "Cedarhurst" - an unoccupied detached house off Elstree Hill. A block of flats was proposed. The house could hardly be seen from beyond the boundaries of its garden but the site could be identified from across the valley by the fine cedar tree distinctively rising above the surrounding woodland..

The residents who wished to object were advised that their case would be more effective if they formed themselves into an association and made a coherent case based on planning rules.

This was the impetus which, led by Paul Bennett, ended with the formation of the Ravensbourne Valley Preservation Society with a membership stretching from Beckenham Lane to Ashgrove Road and from London Road to Downs Hill.



THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIETY

Membership grew across the valley as the development boom of the late 1980's brought a flood of new proposals for the area. At first, meetings took place in member's homes. As numbers grew meetings were held in Christ Church Hall until the owner of the Bromley Court Hotel generously offered to provide a room for our regular meetings there.

From the beginning the regular meetings were not restricted to formal committee members but were open to any member who wished to attend or had a particular interest in a current issue. As issues came and went, so those attending the meetings changed.

At its inception the Society agreed a constitution. This was reviewed in 1991 and, due to changing circumstances, was further revised in 1995.

The Society's principal objectives, as set out in that latest constitution are:-

"To preserve the best and improve the rest of the environment of the Ravensbourne Valley and its surroundings and to work for the benefit of the membership as a whole".

To do this we monitor planning applications made to both Bromley and Lewisham which affect our area and consider appropriate responses. These can be supportive as well as critical.

We do not usually involve ourselves with applications for minor additions or alterations to individual properties unless they are obviously detrimental to the general scene or unless they might create an undesirable precedent if approved. Of course, if a member is concerned about a proposal nearby advice will be given if requested. Law & order, transport and other relevant issues are also addressed.

Our first duty is to deal with our own area but If major development proposals are made elsewhere which might affect policy principles set down in the Unitary Development Plans of either of the two Boroughs, we are likely to react.

The Society is a member of the London Borough of Bromley Residents Federation which has about forty members representing residents in all parts of the borough. Federation meeting are usually held at Keston Village Hall - we are at present in need of a member to act as a delegate. Any volunteers?

The officers of the Society are:-

Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer: these are elected at our Annual General Meetings along with our Auditor. We also have members who take on the tasks of monitoring planning applications made to either Lewisham or Bromley, who arrange meetings, edit the Newsletters, keep track of membership records and act as Society representatives for each of the roads in the area. From time to time other tasks require attention and help is always welcomed.

The current holders of these positions are listed on the back page of this Newsletter.

Our Newsletters keep members informed of our current activities. There are at

least four each year and us usually more. One issue each winter, reporting our activities of the previous year, is distributed to all residents in the area whether members or not. This usually results in tempting a few more residents to become members.

THE CEDARHURST SAGA

Cedarhurst not only prompted the formation of the Society but also provided it with an effective training ground in which to learn some of the intricacies of planning procedure. The course lasted about eight years.

1987 saw three schemes submitted - for 26 flats, then 22 flats and then 20 flats. They were each objected to by RVPS and rejected by Lewisham. Each scheme would have involved 4/5 storey buildings cutting into the skyline. The developer appealed against all three rejections in 1989, RVPS gave evidence against the proposals and the appeal was dismissed by the Inspector.

Later in 1989 another plan, this time for 19 flats in a four storey block, was submitted to, and rejected by, Lewisham after more RVPS objections.

1990 saw apparent capitulation when the developer submitted a proposal for a modest 9 houses. This was unopposed and planning permission was granted. This never again saw the light of day.

Instead, two more slices of the salami were produced - for 18, then 16 houses. Again these were opposed by RVPS and rejected by Lewisham. Another appeal followed in May 1992 which confirmed the rejection.

The final compromise was reached in August 1992 when approval was given to a scheme for 14 houses by a Housing Association. Building was completed in 1994.

THE CEDARHURST CEDAR TREE

The long battle had not so much been about saving the house itself but about preserving the woodland character of the south side of Elstree Hill and avoiding over-development. But the cedar tree on the site had not only given the house its name but was a recognisable skyline landmark as seen from the valley. The protection of this tree became a battle in itself during the various planning appeals and during construction.

In view of its importance in the first years of the Society it would not have been a surprise if our logo had featured a Lebanese cedar rather than an oak - perhaps it demonstrates that the founders realised that they would be moving on to consider other sites in the future.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

R.V.P.S. OFFICERS (August 2004)

Chairman	Elizabeth Davies, 12 Ravensmead Road, BR2 OBT
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 OLF
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 OBT
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	Roger Legg, 39, Madeira Avenue, Bromley BR1 4AP
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 Rowsell, 164 Ravensbourne Avenue, BR2 OAY
Ravensbourne Ave. (odds)	Ann Freiter, 128 Ravensbourne Avenue, BR2 OAX
Ravensmead Road	Kay Lincoln, 12 Ravensmead Road, BR2 OBT
Warren Ave./Calmont Rd / Ashgrove Rd./Belgravia Gdns	Alan Weatherley, 50 Warren Avenue, BR1 4BS