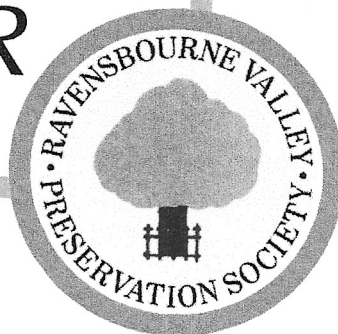


NEWSLETTER

2/2005

April 2005



EDITORIAL

The recent AGM was very well attended in spite of it being a bitterly cold evening. Doubtless the number present was due to the reputation of our guest speaker, Peter Mawson, Principal of the Bromley Music Trust. Many members remembered the excellent talk he gave seven years ago and this year he was true to form. Peter, a vigorous speaker, is proud and passionate about the work of the trust and its musical successes both nationally and internationally. Regrettably, despite being provided with press releases, the local press persistently fail to publish their successes. As a result he is always pleased to talk to groups like ourselves.

The Trust is involved with teaching musical skills, both vocal and instrumental, to about 6000 young people each year. Their ages span between 3 and 22 years. For the first time they now also have a specialist who works wonders with children who have special needs. He was at pains to make it clear that the trust was not elitist. Although fees had to be paid by those who could afford them, 100% remissions with free loans of instruments were available for those parents who could not. The trust is a charity and although supported by Bromley Council, other sources of income are essential for their work to continue and funding is an ever present issue. The talk was split into four parts and in the 3 intervals a young wind quintet brilliantly illustrated the degree of excellence that can be achieved with tutelage by the Trust

After refreshments, at which the young players and some parents joined us, the business of the AGM was tackled.

The main decisions were:

- ☐ The officers at present filling the posts of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Auditor were all re-elected.
- ☐ Subscriptions remain unchanged at £5 per household. Senior citizens and members in special financial circumstances may subscribe as they think fit.
- ☐ Our finances remain healthy and the continuation of community projects was confirmed.
- ☐ Special thanks were recorded to Miss Frenkel for her continuing support in allowing us to use the facilities of the Bromley Court Hotel.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 5th May 2005 - Members' Meeting 8.00pm, Bromley Court Hotel.

Thursday 6th July 2005 - Members' Meeting, 8.00pm Bromley Court Hotel

Peter Pain (Editor)

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

This year we shall again be supporting the Valley School, this time by funding a series of murals on one of the playground walls. The murals will depict images to support the curriculum - perhaps a world map or the solar system - the school will decide.

TRANSPORT

Members who use, or cross the A21 (London Road) will have realised that the traffic island near the junction with Warner Road has been removed for no obvious reason. Many found the island a useful crossing point to catch the bus to Bromley or to visit the convenience store in Warner Road. In fact we understand that, since its removal, there have been two accidents at the junction. Initially we asked Bromley about the removal but they referred us to Transport for London which is part of the GLA. To date, after several weeks, we have had neither acknowledgement nor reply so we sought the help of Bob Neill, the assembly member for Bromley and Bexley, who was our guest speaker at last year's AGM. If the saga of the 354 bus stops is anything to go by, we are in for a long haul.

BECKENHAM PLACE PARK

The management consultants that Lewisham employed to advise on a sustainable future for the park and buildings, were about a month late in submitting their draft report. Lewisham have now received it and an officers' meeting is being organised to consider it. Shortly afterwards a Working Party meeting will be convened for the same purpose. Our initial understanding is that the report has no radical proposals, fits broadly with the aims of Lewisham and the Working Party and deals mainly with ways to achieve those aims.

Lewisham have initiated several minor works aimed at improving things:-

- ☐ A disabled access ramp will be installed at the main entrance to the mansion using stone to match the existing steps and portico. We are assured that the railings will be restored and reinstated.
- ☐ New toilets are to be installed in the Mansion which will have a disabled facility.
- ☐ A toilet for the disabled will also be added to the toilets between the gardens and the café.
- ☐ The main gates in Beckenham Hill Road which were rammed and bent some weeks ago have been straightened and rehung - only to have been rammed a second time.
- ☐ New gates and crash bars have been installed at the southern entrance which is accessed off the road called Beckenham Place Park. Eventually stronger new gates are promised at all entrances in an attempt to prevent stolen cars being dumped and torched within the park. When this has been completed closing times will be displayed. Pedestrian gates as well as road gates will then be locked at night.
- ☐ Now that an earlier drainage problem has been cleared, the drive, car park and several paths will be progressively resurfaced.
- ☐ Garden Cottage is also to be refurbished, probably to house the golf professional.
- ☐ All the above work has the approval of English Heritage.

ENVIRONMENT

Recently there have been local outbreaks of both graffiti and fly-tipping.

Graffiti: Bromley Council will remove graffiti from private property free of charge if it can be seen from the public highway. However, the householder must agree and sign

his/her consent. The contact number is 8313 4557 or www.bromley.gov.uk/heatstreet.

The Council have recently signed a 3 year contract with Caxton Facilities Management (their vehicles in Bromley are signed Kier Group). Part of that contract allows for graffiti to be removed 7 days a week and within 48 hours of the report.

Fly-tipping: Fly-tipping is an offence and if caught the person doing it faces prosecution and an unlimited fine. If a householder lets someone else take away their rubbish and that person fly-tips, the householder is also liable. The only safe way is to make sure that whoever takes it away is registered as a "waste carrier" with the Environment Agency. All skip companies should be registered as are many reputable builders and roofers. Alternatively take it to the Bromley waste and recycling centres at Churchfields Road and Waldo Road. They will accept almost anything but may make a charge for rubble. The Council also run a bulky waste collection service but make a minimum charge of £25.

If, when out and about, you see rubbish that has been dumped, the Council will normally clear it if you let them know. Contact 8313 4557 or www.bromley.gov.uk/heatstreet.

Green waste: Last year Bromley ran satellite centres for garden rubbish for a limited period. That was a success and over 1000 tonnes was collected. This year the scheme is to be extended to include more sites and for more weekends. The nearest sites are:- St. Georges car park Beckenham and Norman Park, Bromley Common. They will be open until the end of September on Saturdays 11am to 4pm and Sundays 8am to noon. Do not forget to take your Civic Amenity Site permit with you. A much better bet than queuing at Churchfields Road or Waldo Road - especially over a weekend.

Getting it Right? Recently the Council sent out several pamphlets to, amongst others, Resident's Societies, entitled "Getting it Right". It detailed the various stages of making a complaint, comment or suggestion. Attached to the pamphlet was a tear-off page which could be filled in and sent to the Council. This was actually done by our vice Chairman who had a problem reporting an abandoned car. Regrettably, despite the pamphlet saying that it would be acknowledged or answered within 5 working days, he has heard nothing for several weeks. If he had another tear off page he could complain!

PLANNING

28A Highland Road: This proposed development on part of the site belonging to the Synagogue for 3 two bedroom apartments was withdrawn and replaced by one for 2 three bedroom flats. The second application is less intrusive than the first but would still cause the rear of the much lower level houses in Farnaby Road to be unacceptably overlooked. The site is also very narrow with too little space at the rear. We have objected to both proposals.

48 Farnaby Road: This site for a detached 3 bedroom house is accessible from Madeira Avenue and is in, what was originally the garden of 48 Farnaby Road. The proposal has been rejected by Bromley but, like the Highland Road site referred to above, would have resulted in serious loss of privacy for several Farnaby road premises. We had supported the concerns of a large number of objectors living nearby.

2, Crab Hill: The two proposals for blocks of 6 or 10 flats to replace the existing bungalow were rejected as were the appeals made by the developers against those decisions.

30, Downs Hill: The application for a new detached house with 8 bedrooms was rejected by Bromley but has since been replaced by one with 7 bedrooms and removal of the need to take cars to a garage at the rear of the house. In principle, there can be no objection to a detached family house on this site especially as the existing house is of no great merit. However, many feel that the proposal is still too large.

R.V.P.S. OFFICERS (April 2005)

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	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 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