

February 2024
Issue 1



Annual General Meeting - Thursday 7th March 2024 at 7:30 pm at Shortlands Golf Club

	7.30 pm AGM start	
1	Vice-chair welcome, opening remarks & apologies	BO
2	Election of new Chair (proposed & seconded Jan 2024) & handover from Vice-chair	BO
3	Address from new Chair	MB
4	Guest Speaker <i>Beckenham Place Park improvements and Ravensbourne river conservation: Info from Park Ranger & environmental charity Thames21 Engagement Officer</i>	Catriona Ross
5	Questions from audience to BPP Guests, RVR Officers & Councillors	
6	Approval of minutes of previous AGM	MB
7	Chair's report – summary of year's work *	MB
8	Treasurer's report – summary of year's work & subscriptions *	DW
9	Election of other officers	MB
10	Appointment of Auditor	DW
11	Any Other Business (eg: <i>Parade Grant contribution vote</i>)	All
12	Chair's closing remarks	MB
	Social: getting to know one another to the sound of live background jazz music. Free tea / coffee / biscuits (other beverages can be purchased at the bar)	
	END – 9.30 / 9.45 pm	

BO: Beatrice Osborn; MB: Margaret Brearley; DW: Dave Wiltshire; CL: Clive Lees

We invite Members to stand for the following elective posts: -
Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary.

The current incumbents are Pete Saunders, Beatrice Osborn, Dave Wiltshire, Jacqueline St Quinton and Linda Müller respectively. Chair, Treasurer and Membership Secretary are standing down. Vice-Chair and Secretary are willing to stand again. Further information is at page 7 of the newsletter

If you wish to stand for **any of these posts**, please send a nomination signed by a proposer and seconder to the secretary at secretary.rvr@outlook.com. By 29th February.

* Please note: other officers' reports will be posted on our website prior to the meeting. They will be taken 'as read' although there will be an opportunity to discuss them at item 5.

Bromley Town News

Glassmill Pond Restoration Project Update

Originally, Glassmill Pond and the River Ravensbourne were separate waterbodies. However, in 1955 the river was diverted to flow through Glassmill Pond with the aid of two weirs at the inflow and outflow points. This seemed good at the time, but the connection between Glassmill Pond and the River also brought some challenges such as flood risk and barriers for wildlife to thrive.

Fast forward to today, Thames21 and its partners have been able to separate the water bodies again. The project involved the separation of the mill pond from the main channel with a bund (a barrier). The mill pond has been desilted, and the newly independent river channel now carries sediment down the river, helping to slow down the rate of siltation on the pond and maintaining its depth.



Details of the work done to date and further improvements planned during this decade are [here](#).

Shortlands Station

In December, 2023, Network Rail sent a letter to residents living near Shortlands station, providing information about the planned works to provide step-free access. A copy of the letter is on our website [here](#).

They followed up the letter by delivering an information session at Shortlands Station on 18th December concerning the plans.

The slides they presented, which include a timetable for the works, can be viewed or downloaded [here](#).

An article describing the project was published in KentOnline newspaper and can be viewed [here](#).

Artist's Impression of new staircase, lift turrets and bridge



Artist's Impression of brickwork of new turrets



Bromley Environment Network

The Bromley Environment Network (known as BEN) is a group of local Bromley community groups, charities and other organisations that share the belief that a greener, healthier and more sustainable borough is good for everyone. RVR is an association member of BEN.

Some of the issues BEN cares about and encourages members to work on are:

- Trees, plants and wildlife
- Reuse, recycling and waste reduction
- Renewables and saving energy
- Transport and road usage
- Clean air initiatives
- Building and planning



You can learn more about BEN, view their newsletters and elect to become an individual member via their website [here](#).

Library of Things



Greener & Cleaner Bromley and Bromley Council have partnered to bring Library of Things to Bromley. There, you can borrow useful things for your home and garden, projects and adventures. You'll find the borrowing kiosk inside the Greener and Cleaner Hub on the 1st Floor of The Glades. It's in between HMV and Superdry, and opposite The Entertainer.

For more information, see [here](#).

For other Greener and Cleaner projects, see [here](#).

Churchill Theatre

At our last members' meeting one of our councillors confirmed that the theatre is not for sale and that there are on-going negotiations with Trafalgar Entertainment about its future. The aspiration is that it will eventually be enlarged to provide a suitable auditorium to allow West End Shows to come to Bromley.

Community Foodbanks

Many supermarkets have foodbanks where you can make deposits of food to be donated to those in need.

There is also a website via which you can make one-off or regular financial donations or make purchases of specific gift items from their "Amazon Gift List"

Details are on the Bromley Borough foodbank website [here](#).

Planning

Congratulations go to our Planning Officer, Clive Lees, who has been awarded the Wilkinson Cup by Bromley's Environment Awards committee. The cup is awarded to those individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to planning in their communities.

Cllr Anthony (known as Tony) Wilkinson was a very long-serving Councillor in what was then known as Martins Hill and Town Ward (now essentially Bromley Town Ward). He is believed to have been first elected in 1968 and remained until 1994 when he was defeated by the Liberal Democrats.

Cllr Wilkinson returned to the Council four years later, this time as a Councillor for Copers Cope Ward with former Cllr Russell Mellor. He remained a Councillor until 2006. He was Chair of the Development Control Committee for about 14 years. The Wilkinson Cup dates from his time in office.

Recent Updates

20 Park End: A new application for a 4 person House of Multiple Occupation (HMO) has been submitted. details [here](#)

44 Beckenham Lane: The appeal for permission to build a house in the small gap on Beckenham Lane has been dismissed. The inspector's report can be found [here](#).

The Chalet, Kirkstone Way: A Planning Contravention Notice has been issued for The Chalet, Kirkstone Way - more details can be found [here](#).

Crime and Safety

Shortlands and Park Langley Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel (SSNWP)

This open Panel meets every 2 months to receive an update from the local Safer Neighbourhood Police Team (SNT) covering recent criminal activity and to discuss general community and crime issues. Agendas for the meetings and minutes thereof are produced by the Panel Secretary and distributed by the Chair, Graham Pyefinch. If you would like to receive copies of the correspondence and/or join the Panel as a group representative please contact Graham on graham658@hotmail.com giving your name and address and contact telephone number as well as the group you would represent, be it your neighbours, street or other Ward group.

Graham also distributes a fortnightly update of local Police SNT crime statistics and Police/Bromley Trading Standards advice on avoiding new types of criminal activity, scams and other relevant information. The most important part residents can play is to inform the Police immediately if a crime is going on, or there is suspicious criminal activity, by calling 999. If criminal activity has passed, then call 101 or enter details on the Met Police website (www.met.police.uk). This vital information helps the Police to build up local intelligence and to take appropriate action whenever possible.

Bromley Neighbourhood Watch Association (BNWA)

Members of Bromley Neighbourhood Watch are volunteers who work with neighbours, Police and Bromley Council, encouraging people to be vigilant (not nosey) and, by sharing crime prevention tips, to help reduce crime. For more information see their website: <https://bnwa.co.uk/>

If your street / flats / area is not covered by a Watch and you wish to start one, you should contact BNWA at <http://bnwa.co.uk> and complete an application form. When you are confirmed as a Watch Co-ordinator, you will receive regular newsletters and updates to distribute to your Watch members.

If preferred, you may be interested to register with Neighbourhood Watch Network (NWN) at www.ourwatchmember.org.uk. This National organisation is designed to create a Nationwide map of neighbourhood watches across the UK.

RVR Community Contributions

In September, 2022, our members voted to contribute £500 to the Queensmead Playground Regeneration project initiated by Cllr Aisha Cuthbert, matching the contribution made by Shortlands Residents Association (SRA). On 23rd January, 2024, following a formal request for payment, the commitment was honoured.

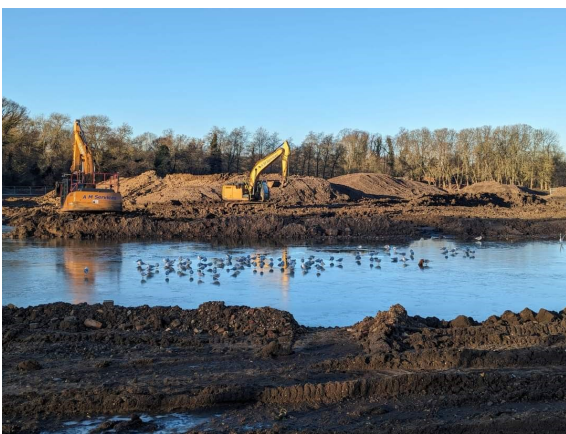
The photo shows our Chair, Pete Saunders, delivering a cheque to the Queensmead Project Officer, Jane Askew, at Bromley Civic Centre.



At our members' meeting in January 2024, AFC Shortlands, a community junior football club based at the Queensmead Recreation Ground, requested RVR to contribute towards the cost of a defibrillator for the benefit of the general community. RVR members agreed to contribute £500. Our treasurer, Dave Wiltshire, presented a cheque to the club on Saturday 3rd February.

Along with Shortlands Residents' Association (SRA) and Park Langley Residents' Association (PLRA), RVR have also voted to contribute, starting next year, one third of the costs of the SSNWP meetings (see page 4). This is anticipated to amount to around £45 - £50 per year.

Beckenham Place Park



Further progress continues at Beckenham Place Park East Side improvements. The latest update can be viewed on Lewisham Council's website [here](#).

A nice pictorial impression of the intended final result can be viewed in the September 2023 update [here](#).

This image of the works was recently posted on the Facebook page of Beckenham Place Park. There are many more photos with appropriate links [here](#).

There is an extensive range of activities and events planned in the park and the Mansion. See below.

Park activities: <https://beckenhamplacepark.com/> via the "Things to see and do" menu

Park events: <https://beckenhamplacepark.com/events>

Mansion events: <https://www.beckenhamplace.org/>

RVR Street Friends

The Beckenham Place Park river walk planned for 5th December was postponed due to weather conditions. Nonetheless the attendees had a very interesting and enjoyable morning receiving information about the regeneration and flood alleviation project on the east side of the park and being provided with refreshments in the old nursery building which will be a new café.



We requested Catriona Ross (Environmental Charity Thames 21 Engagement Officer) and James Allen (Beckenham Place Park Ranger) to talk at our AGM on 7th March. James is involved with the local elections that evening so Catriona has confirmed that she will deliver a presentation, including information from both of them, titled *Beckenham Place Park improvement and Ravensbourne river conservation update*.

The weather was more clement for our next Friends' meeting on 6th February and we were able to complete the walk and collect several bags of rubbish, including a rusting microwave oven !



RVR Street Friends and Downham Men's Group
with organiser Catriona Ross on the right side.



The Friends up-river testing the wading attire.

Bromley Council have reminded us, yet again, that all RVR Street Friends need to register with Bromley Council both as Street Friends and Tree Friends as we do both litter picking and basal pruning/cutting back overgrowth and thus there is an overlap. It is necessary for all Friends, and not just the co-ordinator, to be registered with the Council so they know we have received adequate training. The benefit is we are then individually covered by the borough's liability insurance which is specific for the work we do. If you are a Friend and have not yet registered, please do so [here](#).

Feedback from departing member Siobhan O'Connell

Thank you all for the minutes and all the good work done by RVR. I am not renewing my membership as I have moved away and am selling my flat. RVR does a fantastic job and I wish you all the best in 2024

RVR Association Matters

Elected Officers

We invite Members to stand for the following posts: -

Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary. The current incumbents are Pete Saunders, Beatrice Osborn, Dave Wiltshire, Jacqueline St Quinton and Linda Müller respectively.

Pete Saunders is standing down as Chair. Margaret Brearley is standing and was proposed and seconded during our members' meeting in January.

Dave Wiltshire is standing down as Treasurer, as he has done his statutory 10 years in the position.

Linda Muller is standing down as Membership Secretary, as she has done her statutory 10 years in the position. Alastair Holmes is standing and will be proposed and seconded at the AGM.

Beatrice Osborn and Jacqueline St Quinton are willing to continue in their roles for the coming year.

If you wish to stand for any of these posts, please send a nomination signed by a proposer and seconder to the secretary at secretary.rvr@outlook.com by 29th February.

Appointed Officers

The appointed officers are currently Auditor, Planning, Newsletter Editor, Roads and Traffic, Street Friends Coordinator, Webmaster, Beckenham Place Park Rep. and Hon. Legal Advisor. The current post holders are shown on our website.

Linda Müller has volunteered to take on the new role of Social Events Coordinator.

The tasks of the Webmaster will be distributed to other officers until a new Webmaster is appointed.

There is no formal process for making these appointments. The appointments are generally agreed by a quorum of the elected officers.

If you would like to take over or assist with any of these appointed roles please inform the secretary by email at secretary.rvr@outlook.com.

Road Reps

Elstree Hill / Erin Close / Hillbrow Road: Our Rep for this round, Mick Pinson, has retired due to health issues. Many thanks go to him and his wife Marilyn for their service in recent years.

Fortunately we have a volunteer who has taken over with immediate effect, viz: Nicki Martin.

Oaklands Road / Spencer Road / Hawkshead Close / Lullington Garth: Our Rep for this round, David Page, has filled the role for many years but will stand down at the AGM in March. Once again we are very grateful for his long service and wish him well.

We also have a volunteer to take over this round after the AGM, namely Stephen Edwards .

Meeting Dates

Members' meetings in 2024 will be held on the first Thursday, every other month, at 8pm at Shortlands Golf Club. All members and prospective members are welcome. The meetings normally last between 60 and 90 minutes and focus on local community and planning issues, the latter normally illustrated by a slide show. There is usually at least one of our local councillors in attendance to answer questions and log concerns. The bar is open during and after the meetings.

If you are registered for email delivery, you will receive minutes of completed meetings, agendas for forthcoming meetings and quarterly newsletters.

Forthcoming meetings, all at Shortlands Golf Club, are as follows:-

The Annual General Meeting: Thursday 7th March 2024 at 7:30 pm

Members' Meetings: 2nd May, 4th July, 7th September, 7th November at 8 pm

Twitter

Don't forget that we post, on Twitter, items that we believe to be relevant, interesting – and sometimes urgent, such as burst water mains and traffic problems. Click on the box on the right to view our posts and feel free to post items yourself if you have some news or information of interest to our members.



Current Officers

Chair	Pete Saunders	chair.rvr@outlook.com
Vice Chair	Beatrice Osborn	vicechairman.rvr@outlook.com
Secretary	Jacqueline St Quinton	secretary.rvr@outlook.com
Treasurer	Dave Wiltshire	treasurer.rvr@outlook.com
Planning Officer	Clive Lees	planning.rvr@outlook.com
Membership Secretary	Linda Müller	membership.rvr@outlook.com
Newsletter Editor	Euan McMaster	editor.rvr@outlook.com
Webmaster	Alastair Holmes	webmaster.rvr@outlook.com
Roads and Traffic	Andrew Lancaster	roadsandtransport.rvr@outlook.com
Street Friends Coordinator	Monica Wiltshire	trees.rvr@outlook.com
LBBR Delegate	Vacant	secretary.rvr@outlook.com
BPP Rep	Liz Logan	bpp.rvr@outlook.com
Hon. Legal Advisor	Richard Thomas	
Auditor	Alan Williams	

Road Representatives

Bracken Hill Lane and Close / Highland Road
 Bromley Ave / Grasmere Rd
 Calmont & Ashgrove Roads / Belgravia Gardens
 Coniston Road / Ullswater Close
 Downs Hill / Crab Hill
 Elstree Hill / Erin Close / Hillbrow Road
 Farnaby Road (1–81)
 Farnaby Road (82–194)
 Madeira Avenue (Evens)
 Madeira Avenue (Odds)
 Oaklands Road / Spencer Road / Hawkshead Close /
 Lullington Garth
 Ravensbourne Ave. (Evens)
 Ravensbourne Ave. (Odds)
 Ravensmead Road
 Warren Avenue

Linda Müller
 Jane Willcocks
 Rita Smith
 Jane Doherty
 Emma Fagg
 Nicki Martin
 Jaki Moody
 Cathy Davies
 Judy Adcock
 Anne Lancaster

David Page
 Monica Wiltshire
 David MacKenzie
 Peter Saunders
 Clive Lees

If you wish to contact your road representative please email or write to the RVR Secretary :

secretary.rvr@outlook.com

Or

RVR Secretary
35 Downs Hill
Beckenham
BR3 5ET