

# NEWSLETTER

3/2007

March 2007



## EDITORIAL

The AGM was well attended and two of our Ward Councillors were also present - Cllrs Hastings and Phillips.

Our visiting speaker this year was Frank Whiting who is the Bromley Town Centre Project Director. The main thrust of his talk was that towns either evolve and prosper or fail to compete and stagnate.

Since the Glades opened in 1991, commercial competition has increased with the opening of Bluewater in 1999, the expansion of Croydon's facilities plus the Tramlink and Lewisham's expansion plans following its access to the Docklands Light Railway.

Many areas and ideas were being explored including Bromley North and its station, extensions to the Glades, improving Queen's Gardens and the area round the Churchill Theatre. There are also proposals to improve the business areas, redevelop the old Army and Navy building, Bromley South Station and the Westmoreland Road car park.

The final preferred options are intended to be resolved by April - May 2007, with Bromley Council approval by September. A period of statutory consultation followed by a Public Inquiry would then be necessary aiming at adoption by the autumn of 2008.

The talk obviously created a lot of questions, discussion and interest.

The main decisions taken at the AGM were:-

- ☐ The present officers in the posts of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Auditor were all re-elected.
- ☐ Subscriptions remain unchanged at £5 per household with senior citizens and members in special financial circumstances subscribing 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.

In the last Newsletter we sought a volunteer to take over from Leslie Tucker as Planning Officer. Fortunately we had two volunteers. Clive Lees will take over as Planning Officer but wants some relief from his Road Rep duties. He is happy to continue with Warren Avenue but wants to give up Calmont Rd, Ashgrove Rd and Belgravia Gardens. (About 20 members). Can we please have a volunteer? Anyone interested please ring Clive on 8464 4699.

The second volunteer was Jon Casey and he has agreed to take on Roads and Traffic issues as well as becoming Road Rep for Highland Road, Brackenhill Lane, Brackenhill Close and Karen Court from Leslie Tucker who will retain Bromley Avenue and Grasmere Road.

At the AGM Elizabeth Davies, our Chairman also announced that she was intending to move

to Colyton near Axminster and Lyme Regis. She already has her house on the market and has received an offer. So we shall be looking for a new Chairman. In the interim the Vice-Chairman will reluctantly take over when Elizabeth leaves. It would be nice to have a volunteer ready and waiting.

More immediately we need a volunteer to take over Elizabeth's other job as Road Rep for Ravensmead Road. Anyone who is interested should contact Elizabeth on 8460 0189.

### **Dates for the Diary**

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May - Members' Meeting 8.00pm - Bromley Court Hotel

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July - Members' Meeting - 8.00pm - Bromley court Hotel

Peter Pain (Editor)

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### **PLANNING**

**126 Madeira Avenue:** Notice has been received that the developer has lodged an appeal against Bromley's refusal to grant planning permission for 8, 4 storey town houses on the site. The appeal will be an Informal Hearing.

The Society will be writing formally to the Inspector with our objections to the proposed development and requesting that the appeal be dismissed. Local residents have been asked to do likewise.

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### **BROMLEY YOUTH CONCERT BAND**

For those of you who enjoyed the two occasions when they played at our AGM and want to hear more, the following dates may be of interest.

St. Georges Beckenham, Arts Festival Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May - 5.30 pm.

Ravensbourne School, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June - 7.30 pm.

Outdoor Concert and Barbeque, Bromley Youth Centre, Southborough Lane,  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July - 3.30 pm.

Peter Mawson, who spoke to us so enthusiastically at those AGM's, retired as Principal and Music Director at the end of December. He had directed the band for 24 years and I am sure that all who attended those AGMs and heard him speak and heard the excellent playing of the pupils will wish him well in his retirement.

### **SECURITY**

In an earlier Newsletter we wrote about various break-ins in the area. The latest case involved some 13-14 year olds in Ravensbourne Avenue who seemed to be messing about in a front garden. When a neighbour knocked on their window to show that they were being observed they kicked in the front door. Later that night the garage was broken into and items stolen. Since then there have been a number of thefts from other garages & garden sheds in Ravensbourne Avenue.

It is really important that we all make sure that our property is secure.

## GREEN WASTE

Keen gardeners will be pleased to learn that Bromley will be reopening the satellite garden waste sites at Easter. The nearest ones to us are St. Georges Road car park, Beckenham and Norman Park - the Bromley Common entrance.

Opening times are Saturdays, 11 am to 4 pm and Sundays 8 am to midday.

## HOME COMPOSTING

If you feel like doing composting at home, Bromley are offering a range of 3 composting bins of various sizes and prices. The cheapest is 220 litres at £8, the next is 330 litres for £10. The most expensive is a box style bin of 250 litres at £20. Delivery is free. For an extra £2 you can order a caddy for the kitchen to take your peelings etc to the bin.

To order ring 0845 077 0754 or online at [www.RECYCLENOW.COM/COMPOST](http://www.RECYCLENOW.COM/COMPOST) - quote Reference HCA1.

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## LOCAL INTEREST - (by Christine Thomas)

### Howard Charles Davis, a.k.a. Guy Cobden 1909 - 2001

*Gunmen of Gozo, Death in the Scillies, Renegade from Russia.* Readers of books in large print may find these titles familiar. Howard Davis, the author of a string of murder thrillers, also writing as Guy Cobden, started his career as a novelist at 102 Farnaby Road.

Howard started work at the age of sixteen in a warehouse, having been sent to the Warehousemen, Clerks' and Drapers' School in Addington after he was orphaned. However he was not happy as he had gained the grades to go to university and soon got a position in a bank eventually rising to be deputy of Lloyds City Office Foreign Department.

His hobbies were golf and the Territorial Army and he had started to write a few articles for the Evening Standard at the onset of World War II. Already married to Mary by this stage, he joined up, serving in the Royal Artillery and achieving the rank of Captain. It was during the war that his family moved into a requisitioned house at 102 Farnaby Road, where his two younger children were born. Memories of that period are of two doodlebugs dropping in the area, one of them on the golf course.

Howard was stationed in Germany for a while when hostilities ceased before being demobbed and rejoining the bank. It was now that he began writing seriously, starting the next novel as soon as he finished the previous one. His children remember him working away on the kitchen table weekends and evenings - no interruptions allowed. It took him some time to get published by which time he had moved to Chislehurst. But he was a member of Shortlands Golf Club and played at weekends for many years, having a pretty good handicap when in his prime.

He published about thirty titles, all thrillers or murder mysteries. By the seventies his work was looking a little dated until suddenly, in the eighties, he was taken up by the Linford Company for the large print market. Some of his titles can still be found in Bromley Library.

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**Going to Pot:-** Notice seen near the sink in an office-

"AFTER TEA BREAK STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD".

Warning - do not try this at home!