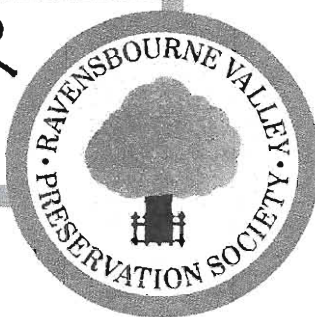


NEWSLETTER

2/2009

February 2009



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Notification inside

EDITORIAL

As this Newsletter was being prepared we learnt the sad news that Miss Frenkel, the owner of Bromley Court Hotel, our benefactor and Honorary Member, died peacefully at the Hotel on the 18th January. As many will remember she was 100 last June when we sent her some flowers plus a personalised card. We later heard that this was much appreciated. We arranged for a floral tribute to be sent for the cremation which was at Tunbridge Wells.

This Newsletter is to advise everyone about our forthcoming Annual General Meeting. Please make a note in your diaries and make every effort to come along. There will be only a limited number of agendas available at the door, so please keep this Newsletter and bring it with you. Non members are welcome to attend but, of course, they cannot vote.

Our guest speaker this year will be Councillor Michael Tickner who has been a Bromley Councillor for over 30 years. When we had a Lib/Lab Council he was Leader of the Opposition and he later became Leader of the Council. He has also served as Deputy Mayor and then as Mayor. In the course of his time as Councillor he has served on committees dealing with such diverse subjects as: children and young people, policy and resources and social services and housing.

Currently he is Chairman of the Audit Committee which stands apart from the various portfolio holders and scrutinises all aspects of the Council's activities. Clearly, with that breadth of experience he could talk all night about the what, the how and the why, of the Council's decisions and activities. However he will probably concentrate on his time as Leader and his present job as Chairman of the Audit Committee.

Don't worry, he has promised to lighten his talk here and there with the odd anecdote! With a Councillor of such wide experience as our guest speaker, I am sure that we are in for an informative and entertaining evening.

Prior to the sad death of Paul Bennett he had said that he would like to step down as Membership Secretary after the AGM and Linda Muller, one of our Road Reps had volunteered to take over. The fates decreed otherwise. Pending receiving a disc from one of Paul's sons, Linda has decided to try to compile the Membership list from scratch, using records held by the Road Reps. How she progresses depends on a speedy and accurate response from every Road Rep. Consequently her report at the AGM may be incomplete.

Dates for the Diary:

Thursday 7th May - Members' Meeting, 8.00pm, Bromley Court Hotel

Thursday 2nd July - Members' Meeting, 8.00pm, Bromley Court Hotel

Peter Pain (Editor)

UPDATE There follows a short update on various activities since our last Newsletter.

PLANNING

8 Madeira Avenue: Following the deferment of the application for a 4 storey block of flats because Plans Sub-committee 1 were unhappy about the height, depth, lack of soft landscaping and car parking, the application was reconsidered. This time it went to Plans sub-committee 4 but, for some reason they were not told of the reasons for the earlier deferment and they decided to refer it back to Sub-committee 1. At the time we were not told about Sub-committee 4's short involvement but did hear about the re-referral to Sub-committee 1, but with only a week's notice. In the end we lodged a request to speak and mustered over 35 residents to attend. It was the only item on the agenda and this time the Sub-committee refused the application on the grounds of the original deferment. Quite a messy business, but a big thank you to everyone who turned out at short notice. The Informal Hearing appeal continues and when we know the date we shall be looking for an even bigger turnout.

113, Foxgrove Road: The result of the Informal Hearing appeal for a block of 5 flats has been heard and has been allowed. The Inspector did say that the decision should not be taken as a precedent for further blocks of flats in the Conservation Area.

Correction: In the January Newsletter 42 Ravensbourne Avenue should read 46.

BECKENHAM PLACE PARK

Following the decisions by Lewisham's Mayor and Cabinet reported in the last Newsletter, officers are now actively putting in place proposals to improve signage and are working on a communication and marketing strategy to increase usage of the Park. In conjunction with the letting of a new maintenance contract for all of Lewisham's parks and gardens in 2010, they are also looking for increased funding for the Park and golf course. As part of that, the proposals for a 9 hole course instead of the existing 18 hole course may be resurrected.

There are also plans afoot for a cycle path between Beckenham Hill Road and Ravensbourne Avenue. This will be partly funded by S E London Transport Strategy (SELTRANS) who are part of Transport for London, the same people who are funding the making up of Crab Hill and part of Ravensbourne Avenue.

As a consequence of the Mayor and cabinet's decision, the responsibility for the Mansion has been transferred from "Green Scene" to the Director of Programmed Management and Property. This could make matters more complicated in the future for the Joint Working Party.

The old burning ground, west of the railway bridge is also causing concern. After the decision to allow Glendale, who manage all of Lewisham's parks and gardens to use the area for composting all of their green waste, the area used has doubled in size. It has also obliterated the footpath through to the Mansion and no diversion has been identified. We have suggested an alternative route. It remains to be seen whether anything will be done to implement it.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED !

Jon Casey, the Road Rep for Highland Road, Karen Court, Brackenhill Lane & Close, has expressed his wish to stand down. He also wishes to give up his job as Roads and Traffic Rep for the Society. Linda Muller is prepared to take over the Road Rep job but not as well as her present one of Calmont/Ashgrove Roads and Belgravia Gardens. The Roads and Traffic job involves liaising with Bromley's Highways Dept to try to sort out any problems that might be raised by residents. To date it has been a fairly light load.

If anyone is prepared to volunteer for either or both of these jobs please contact either our Secretary Tom Griffin on 8313 0306 or the Newsletter Editor on 8460 2828.

Finally our thanks to Jon for diligently doing these jobs over the past 2 years.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Thursday 5th March 2009

Location: Bromley Court Hotel

Time: 8.00pm

AGENDA

- 1 Chairman's welcome and opening remarks.
- 2 Guest Speaker - Councillor Michael Tickner

Break for refreshments

- 3 Approval of previous AGM Minutes
- 4 Chairman's Report
- 5 Treasurer's Report
- 6 Planning Officers' Report
 - a) East
 - b) West
 - c) Roads & Traffic
- 7 Community Projects
- 8 Beckenham Place Park Representative's Report
- 9 Membership Secretary's Report
- 10 Determination of Subscription for 2009 - 2010
- 11 Election of Officers
- 12 Chairman's closing remarks.

Posts for re-election	Present Holders
Chairman	Leslie Watmore
Secretary	Tom Griffin
Treasurer	Brian Sanders
Auditor	Wally Carloss

All of the present holders are willing to stand for re-election. If there are any nominations to stand against them, names, plus a proposer and a seconder, should be sent to the Secretary at least one week before the AGM. The name and address of the Secretary is given on page 4 of this Newsletter.

As you will know from the previous Newsletter, Linda Muller has taken on the job of Membership Secretary following Paul Bennett's death. This post is not subject to a formal voting procedure.