

NEWSLETTER

February 2010

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Web site: rvps.synthasite.com

E-mail: RVPS@talktalk.net



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Notification inside

EDITORIAL

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 Sam French, Assistant Headmistress at the Valley Primary School. After getting a degree in Biology, she went on to take an MSc in Environmental Management. That led to 3 years with Bromley Council before deciding that teaching was her vocation. On qualifying as a teacher she taught at Worsley Bridge School before moving to Valley School where she has been for the last 8 years. Currently she teaches year three pupils and is literacy co-ordinator. Because we have supported various projects at the school and she has been our principal contact, we have asked her to tell us more about them and, if there is time, to talk about possible future changes to primary education. As Sam has been the prime mover for these projects, this promises to be of particular interest to us.

In the last Newsletter we reported on the planting of a Cedar of Lebanon in Beckenham Place Park as a lasting memorial to Paul Bennett, our principal founder. When the final bills came in they proved to be less than we had budgeted for. It was decided at the last Members' Meeting that the funds not spent should be sent as a donation to Help the Aged, a charity Paul Supported.

As this Newsletter was being prepared we were saddened to learn of the death of Tom Griffin. He had been our Secretary for the past 8 years until recently when he had to stand down due to ill health. He had been diagnosed with a form of lung cancer caused by exposure to asbestos in his early working life. Despite chemotherapy the cancer continued and he died in St. Christopher's Hospice at the end of January. Tom was highly regarded and respected by all who knew him and he served the Society well. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife and family.

Dates for the Diary:

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

Thursday 1st July - Members' Meeting, 8.00pm, Bromley Court Hotel

Peter Pain (Editor)

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

BECKENHAM PLACE PARK

Cycle Path Beckenham Hill / Ravensbourne Avenue

Work is scheduled to start in mid-February. It is proposed to have two teams, one starting from each end - hopefully they will meet in the middle.

Signage

Mid-March should see brand new illustrated information panels at each main entrance and in front of the Mansion.

Mansion

The two consultant's reports referred to in the last Newsletter will go before the Mayor and Cabinet on 10th February. Lewisham are also preparing a bid to English Heritage for funding for essential repairs and weather proofing.

Future Maintenance

The present contract with Glendales ends in 2010. The procurement process for the future maintenance of the Park, golf course and Homesteads will be considered by the Mayor and Cabinet on 24th February. It is understood that both of these meetings will be open to the public.

ROADS AND TRAFFIC

Rerouting of 354 bus

We have established that by the end of January no decision had been made by Transport for London. When made, the recommendations will have to go to the London Mayor. Bromley will also have to put in hand the adoption of the newly made up sections and if the bus is to be rerouted, agree with TfL what parking restrictions will be required. It is unlikely that Bromley will be in a position to decide anything until after the Council elections on 6th May.

Warren Avenue Playing Field

Since June last year the Road Rep for Madeira Avenue has been trying to get some action from Lewisham about the state of the trees around the perimeter, some of which have been felled and not replaced, others were left as standing deadwood. Only after communicating with 8 different officers did Lewisham acknowledge that the playing field was their responsibility in spite of the fact that the area being on the Bromley side of the Borough Boundary. A ninth officer has at last made an audit in January and we understand that he will be making recommendations for replanting. They will have to move quickly as there is little time left in this planting season. Although there are no results yet, this saga illustrates the need for persistence followed by more persistence!

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Thursday 4th March 2010

Location: Bromley Court Hotel

Time: 8.00pm

AGENDA

- 1 Chairman's welcome and opening remarks.
 - 2 Guest Speaker - Ms Sam French
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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 2010 - 2011
 - 11 Election of Officers
 - 12 Chairman's closing remarks.
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Posts for re-election

Present Holders

Chairman	Leslie Watmore
Secretary	-
Treasurer	Brian Sanders
Auditor	Wally Carloss

As mentioned in the previous Newsletter, Tony Morton has volunteered to fill the vacant post of Secretary he has been proposed by Brian Atkinson and seconded by Bob Skinner.

All of the other present holders of office 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 Chairman at least one week before the AGM. His name and address is given on page 4 of this Newsletter.