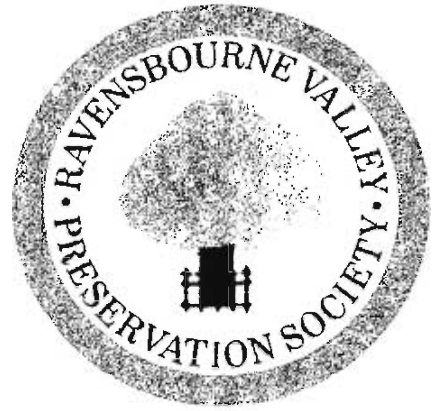


# NEWSLETTER

April 2011 3/2011

Web site: [rvpsbromley.org](http://rvpsbromley.org)

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## EDITORIAL

As usual our AGM was well attended.

Ward Councillors from both Bromley Town and Copers Cope were also present.

Our guest speaker this year was Neil Lloyd who had been a teacher for nearly 40 years and started giving evening talks back in 1987. Since retirement his range of subjects has widened and now covers large parts of Europe as well as the UK. His subject for us was "A Kentish Conflict" and contained a detailed account of the development of railways in Kent from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup>. The two companies concerned developed their own lines quite independently because their Chairmen did not get on with each other. This resulted in routes which were largely dictated by the terrain and ease of construction rather than for the convenience of the paying travellers. However despite the often long journey times, railway travel to the coastal towns of Kent was popular. Eventually the two companies were compelled to cooperate and other companies became involved. Consequently subsequent development was more coordinated.

Prior to the AGM a presentation of a digital radio was made to Walley Carloss who had been our Auditor for the past 18 years until he decided to stand down for health reasons. In accepting the radio, Walley threatened to speak for an hour - but he didn't. He did however range over some of the past battles of the Society - most notably the Christ Church side extension which affected him personally as he was living in Karen Court at the time. We will miss Wally's dry sense of humour and willingness to go for the extra mile for the Society.

The main decisions taken at the AGM were:

- Subscriptions to remain at £5 per household with senior citizens and members in special situations to pay as they thought fit.
- Our finances remain healthy and the continuation of community projects was confirmed.
- The present Officers of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were all re-elected. Following the retirement of Walley Carloss as Auditor, Pura Atkinson had volunteered to fill the post. She was proposed by Bob Skinner and seconded by Leslie Tucker. The motion was carried unanimously.
- Our formal grateful thanks to the Hotel Board for their loyal support was strongly endorsed and recorded.

## Dates for the Diary

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May - Members' Meeting 8.00pm, Bromley Court Hotel

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July - Members' Meeting 8.00pm, Bromley Court Hotel

## COMMUNITY MATTERS

**Valley School** The issues which had been causing delays for the School making their new pond are now resolved and the work has now been completed including the aquatic plants which we agreed to fund.

**Seat for Walkers, Beckenham Place Park** We are in discussions with Lewisham about the feasibility of providing a seat near the river in the Common. If the costs and design are acceptable then, subject to agreement at a Members' Meeting, we will proceed.

**Litter bin by bus stop in Farnaby Road opposite Ravensmead Road** This bin is being regularly used for domestic waste, including food waste. As a consequence it is raided by foxes who strew the contents over the pavement. It is an offence to use street bins for anything other than casual litter and the Council is actively trying to catch the offender. If anyone has any information about this please contact Bernadette Houklam on 8313 4621. Any information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

**Queens Mead Bowling Club** The club which is in Queens Mead near Shortlands Station is holding Open days on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May between 10.30am and 4.30pm each day. For more information contact Cliff Broughton on 8460 1053.

## PLANNING

**113 Foxgrove Road** All told there have been 6 planning applications for this site. The sixth and latest has been for a lift overrun housing on the roof. We have written opposing it as we consider that this was already an unsatisfactory plan for a block of flats which was now being made worse by yet another incremental change. Just before the application went before the Committee, it was withdrawn.

**Travelodge, Blyth Road / London Road** After getting approval for a slightly reduced in size budget hotel, Travelodge submitted their plans for signage. Included in their proposals were two very large internally illuminated signs. Permission for these has been refused. Other smaller signs have been approved.

**7 Calmont Road** Having felled an oak tree which was thought to be protected but turned out not to be, the owner applied to build a bungalow in the back garden. Although we and others objected, Lewisham gave permission subject to their Heritage Team investigating a very old wall in the garden.

**Ravenbourne Station** A large black screen has been erected next to the access ramp to the station to protect the privacy of the nearby residents. The intention is that 30 laurels will grow and the screens can then be removed. However many of the laurels have died. The Council have been asked to pursue Network Rail to replace them as they are required to provide these under the conditions attached to the approval of the access ramp.

## ROADS AND TRAFFIC

***Ravensbourne Avenue junction with Beckenham Lane & Station Road*** After the resurfacing of Ravensbourne Avenue the central white line had been reinstated nearer to Shortlands making it impossible for two vehicles to draw up alongside each other. That has now been corrected and two lanes are now marked out with arrows. This eased the throughput of traffic but leaves unresolved the problem of those who jump the red light in Station Road. Our Safer Neighbourhood Team do not have the resources to deal with this and have not observed many vehicles jumping the lights.. As they are in uniforms this is not surprising. We have made our own observations and on the three occasions we monitored the junction between 16.30 and 17.30 we counted an average of 39 vehicles from Station Road turning left on red. We have now written to the Head of Police in Bromley (Commander Griggs), about this hoping that he will instigate some action.

***Oaklands Road / Grasmere Road*** The promised extension from 3metres to 10 metres of yellow line at this junction has not yet taken place. We were told that it would be incorporated in the Traffic Orders for other road marking works. We are assured by Bromley that it is not forgotten and will be completed by early July.

***Oaklands Road / London Road*** We are preparing a case for the truncated red line on the southern corner of Oaklands Road to be made at least as long as that on the northern corner. At present parked cars can make exiting and entering tricky at busy times.

## BECKENHAM PLACE PARK

***Park, Golf Course and Homesteads*** The tender period ended on 10<sup>th</sup> March and the award report will be presented to the Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) on 26<sup>th</sup> May. A provisional date of 1<sup>st</sup> September has been set for the contract start. Apart from the maintenance and management of the Park and golf course, one of the key features of this contract will be the refurbishment and extension of the Homesteads and Stable block. The intention is that the area becomes the focus for all users of the park.

***Mansion*** It is still unclear whether both, only one or neither of the two parties who have declared an interest in this contract, will be invited to submit a tender.

***Squirrel Statue*** This statue near the Mansion has been deteriorating for some time. Lewisham Arts Council have now donated £750 for its restoration / repair. The original work was carried out by Goldsmiths College in the early 1970's.

## MEMORIES

***The Blitz April 1941*** Seventy years ago, on the evening and night of 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> April 1941 many local people were killed or injured during probably the heaviest raid which Beckenham experienced. Do you have any memories of that night? Please let us know if you have - we may be able to publish them in the next Newsletter or on our web site.

While on the subject of looking back, we understand that Westminster City Archives are planning an exhibition on the 1948 London Olympics. They invite anyone with memories of these games (however small) to let them know. Contact Georgia Vassou - 020 7641 5162 or e-mail [gvassou@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:gvassou@westminster.gov.uk)