

# NEWSLETTER

April 2012

3/2012

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

E-mail: [RVPS@talktalk.net](mailto:RVPS@talktalk.net)



## EDITORIAL

The recent AGM was well attended and we were pleased to welcome Councillors MacMull (Bromley Town) and Tickner (Copers Cope).

Our guest speaker this year was Marie-Louise Kerr, the Curator of Bromley Museum which is located in the Priory building in Orpington. Her talk was called "Building Over Bromley" and was illustrated by copies of old photographs and paintings of buildings and the surrounding countryside, all from the Museum's collection. Many of the examples were no longer with us and those which had survived are often now in very different settings.

Her presentation included details of some of the owners who lived in the larger houses as well as details of the houses themselves. The Priory itself was covered as was the Bromley College (at the top of Beckenham Lane), St. Georges Church, Beckenham and the Mansion in Beckenham Place Park. One example of prominent buildings which had been demolished was the Chislehurst Water Tower which bridged the top of Summer Hill near the Rambler's Rest pub. It was remembered by some of our older members as a serious impediment to the flow of traffic.

Other illustrations showed views of the very different environment existing in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, including oast houses in Orpington, the market square in Bromley, a lone cottage at the top of Masons Hill and the post card view from Martin's Hill with the Crystal Palace in the distance. All were remarkable for the few people and the lack of any traffic to be seen as compared with today. The speaker was particularly pleased to hear from the audience that the Bromley Court Hotel was originally the home of Lord and Lady Farnborough who owned a large area between the London Road and the River Ravensbourne in the first part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The main decisions made at the AGM were:-

- Subscriptions were to remain at £5 per household with senior citizens and members in special financial situations to pay as they saw fit.
- Our finances remain healthy and the continuation of Community Projects was confirmed.

- The present officers of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Auditor were all prepared to continue in Office and were duly re-elected.
- A formal vote of grateful thanks to the Hotel Board for their continued loyal support was strongly endorsed and recorded.

#### *Volunteer(s) Wanted:*

Peter Clarke, the Road Rep for Farnaby Road has decided to stand down for health reasons. He has said that he will distribute this Newsletter, but it will be his last. As Farnaby is quite a long road, in the past it was covered by 2 Road Reps who divided it lengthwise between them. Nearby long roads such as Ravensbourne Avenue are divided into odd and even numbers. It is entirely up to whoever volunteers. If 2 people volunteer the work would entail the delivery of about two dozen newsletters five times a year. It is preferred if these are delivered by hand to save money although postage expenses can be claimed if this is necessary. However knocking on a door seems to be more effective when collecting annual subscriptions.

Anyone prepared to volunteer should contact either Tony Morton, the Secretary on 8460 1259 or Peter Pain, the Editor on 8460 2828.

It is with great regret that we have just heard that Diana MacMull, the Bromley Town Councillor who has been very supportive to the Society, has resigned and a by-election will be held coinciding with the election for the Mayor of London on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. The reason for her resignation is that she is to get married and will be living in Sevenoaks. So congratulations are in order and we extend our best wishes to her and her husband.

#### **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.

#### **PLANNING**

##### ***Queens Gardens***

The application by Capital Shopping Centres to build 5 new restaurants in the area currently part of the "Italian Garden" and terrace was narrowly refused at a recent Planning Committee Meeting. Apart from objections received from the public, we understand that several of the existing cafés / restaurants in the Glades also opposed the proposals. To date neither an appeal nor a fresh application has been made, but it seems unlikely that this proposal will not be pursued in some form or another.

### ***Bromley South Central***

The application by the Cathedral Group to demolish the Westmoreland Road multi-storey car park and redevelop the site has been approved as part of the Bromley Town Centre Action Plan. The £90 million scheme will result in a 24 storey block with 10 story spurs. The project will provide 200 flats, a 130 bed hotel, 9 restaurants, a 9 screen multiplex cinema and an underground 400 space car park. Work is expected to start late 2012 with completion in 2014.

### ***44-46 Bromley Hill***

A recent application was made to Lewisham for demolition of these properties and their replacement by a block of flats. The site backs on to Coniston Road. We objected and attended the Planning Committee Meeting. Permission was refused.

---

## **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

### ***Warren Avenue Playing Field***

A further nine trees were purchased by Lewisham. Despite earlier commitments planting by Glendales has been sporadic. Some were put in the wrong place and had to be repositioned, others have been planted in ones and twos. The recognised planting season ends in March and the last three trees were finally planted in the last week in March.

The seven Lombardy poplars planted last spring show no sign of life so far, despite our watering them until Glendale took over later last summer. It remains to be seen whether our efforts were in vain. If they were we will be pressing Lewisham to replace them during the next planting season.

The sign to the playing field at the Warren Avenue gate is looking very careworn. Lewisham have now agreed to have a new sign made and erected.

---

## **ROADS AND TRAFFIC**

### ***Ravensbourne Ave / Station Road / Beckenham Lane Junction***

We are continuing to monitor traffic at this junction and the various adjustments made to the traffic light timing. There has been no material improvement to the right turn out of Ravensbourne Avenue. This is wholly due to the red light running by traffic exiting Station Road. We have once again returned to the previously vetoed suggestion of reducing the green light phase for Station Road be tried on an experimental basis. Our argument being that if the same number of red light jumpers continues then the actual throughput of vehicles from Station Road will be much the same as the theoretical throughput obtained by computer simulation. We understand that all traffic signal timings are based on computer simulations.