

NEWSLETTER

June 2013

4/2013

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EDITORIAL

Our newsletter issued each year at about this time usually gives as its main immediate purpose the fact that we are approaching the beginning of the time when Road Reps could be calling for the next year's membership fees. It is also pointed out that the majority will not actually be collected until after the most popular holiday months have passed - probably in September to October. This issue is also directed to this matter but in it we also have the sad task of relaying to all Members the news that our great supporter, Peter Pain, died on 11th May after his long illness. We realise that most of you will have already heard this news as was proved by the number of you who found the time to attend his funeral on 24th May.

For one who did so much for so long for the RVPS I will attempt to give readers an outline of the massive contributions Peter made to the running of the Society over the years.

Peter was a founder member joining in 1987 and was soon taking an active part in all policy discussions. The first few years were busy with many major issues which required research and detailed reports for the many and various cases which crowded into our workload during our learning period. As things settled down our respective tasks became better defined and Peter emerged as our Newsletter Editor and our Meetings organiser in 1989. He held these two posts until he was forced to give them up due to his failing health in the summer of 2012. In addition to these two important positions he also served as our Chairman from 1992 to 1997 and as Vice Chairman from 1997 until 2012. He was also our representative on the Beckenham Place Park Working Party from 1994 until 2012.

It must be made clear that in holding the many offices listed above with great efficiency, it should not be assumed that is all he did. Indeed it would have been enough but he gave more. His businesslike efficiency and ability to clearly understand the issues set the standards for the rest of us. For me personally, he became not just a colleague but a friend who was a pleasure to work with. His knowledge, wisdom, advice and ability to tell a yarn, will be greatly missed.

For many, the loss of Peter will serve as a stark reminder that very few of the founder members who have sustained the Society for the last 25 years remain with us and those who do cannot be expected to continue to be active for very much longer.

As one of those older members I welcome the fact that a new group of younger active members have offered their help. I refer to our two Planning Officers, our

Membership Secretary our new Secretary as well as a few new Road Representatives who have not yet lost the ability to climb sloping garden paths and reach both high and low letter boxes.

When the opportunity arises we will need others like these to put their hands up if we are to continue! I hope we will - I think we should.

Leslie Tucker (Editor)

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 4th July - Members' Meeting 8.00pm, Bromley Court Hotel

Thursday 5th September - Members' Meeting 8.00pm, Bromley Court Hotel

PLANNING

44-46 Bromley Hill:

A revised application was then made to Lewisham.

Billingford, Elstree Hill:

A revised application to build flats on the site of this house has been refused by Bromley. An appeal has been lodged by the developer against the decision.

The Italian Villa, Elstree Hill

The proposals for internal alterations to this Listed building were refused by Bromley and an appeal has been made by the developers. A decision is awaited..

Queens Gardens

The developer has lodged an appeal against Bromley's refusal of their applications to build a block containing space for 5 new restaurants here. The proposed building would encroach into the garden area. The appeal was heard during the first three days of May. Our Ward Councillors were against the proposals and so are many residents, including us. It is no coincidence that there has been a move by the Bromley Civic Society for this part of Queens Gardens, including the land affected by the above proposal, to apply for the area to be declared a Town (or Village) Green. If this were to be granted It would bestow another layer of protection which would mean that the restaurants could not be built here. A Public Inquiry has been held. The inspector's decision is awaited.

35D Highland Road

The too high, virtually white, garden fence which appeared here a few months ago required a retrospective Planning Application which was refused. Since then the

owners have painted it a darker colour which is much less intrusive. Whether the Council will accept this or not we do not know. We will wait and see.

TREES

10, Crab Hill: With the support of all three Copers Cope Councillors and local residents it is still hoped that the trees threatened here might still be saved. It was considered at a meeting in mid June. When a decision was postponed.

A Warning

We have recently received an Important message from Councillor Tickner about a dangerous threat to our oak trees asking us all to watch out and report any sign of attack on street trees in our area to Julian Fowgies of Bromley Borough on 020 8464 3333 ex. 3225. If the oak is on private land then ring the Plant Health Section of the Forestry Commission on 0131 314 6414.

The villain you are looking for is known as the Oak Processionary Moth. Its name is derived from the habit of its grey hairy caterpillars which “process” nose to tail, one behind the other, either on the trees or on the ground. The early summer is the most critical period. In early summer they build white silken webbing nests in oak trees and leave white silken trails on trunks and branches. In July of 2012 a significant outbreak of OPM was discovered in the grounds of the Royal Bethlam Hospital, Monks Orchard Road, where some 4000 nests were removed by Council Tree Officers. Other smaller infestations were also dealt with and the search is still on for more this year. If you see anything like this description on an oak tree **DO NOT TOUCH IT** but contact one of the numbers given above. For pictures of these nests and caterpillars and a little more information, see our website.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

At our last Members’ Meeting I asked those present for any ideas for things we might support financially in our area this year. As you know in the past for quite a few years, we have donated to the Valley School in support of various projects or provided bench seats in a number of locations. The costs have usually been up to about £600 to £800 during each year. We could go a little higher if the chosen project could be seen as good value for money. It would be good if we could find another suitable cause within our budget. I have been investigating the possibility of sponsoring the planting of the raised bed at the junction of Bromley Avenue and Farnaby Road and will be able to discuss this at our July meeting. From what I have learnt so far, I doubt that this will be practical so we need more ideas - please let me know or bring them to the meeting!

R.V.P.S. OFFICERS June 2013)

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|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Chairman | Leslie Watmore |
| Vice Chairman | Clive Lees |
| Secretary | Beatrice Osborn |
| Treasurer | Brian Sanders |
| Auditor | Pura Atkinson |
| Planning Officer-East | Clive Lees, |
| Planning Officer- West | Mike Mielniczek |
| Membership Secretary | Linda Muller |
| Newsletter Editor | Leslie Tucker |
| Roads & Traffic Rep. | Brian Atkinson |
| Tree Warden | - |
| LBBRF Delegate | - |
| BPP Joint Working Party Rep. | Leslie Tucker |
| Hon. Legal Advisor | Richard Thomas |
| Web Master | Clive Lees |

ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Bromley Ave. Grasmere Rd. | Leslie Tucker |
| Brackenhill Lane & Close Highland Rd. /Karen Ct. | Linda Müller |
| Coniston Rd / Ullswater & Hawkshead Closes | Barbara Price |
| Downs Hill / Crab Hill | Wendy Watmore |
| Elstree Hill / Erin Close / Hillbrow | Roger Legg |
| Farnaby Rd (nos. 1 -108) | Roger Thelwell-Pichler |
| Farnaby Rd (nos. 109 +) | Kay Shaw |
| Madeira Avenue | Brian Atkinson |
| Oaklands / Spencer Rds. | David Page |
| Ravensbourne Ave. (evens) | Ann Rowswell |
| Ravensbourne Ave. (odds) | Ann Freiter |
| Ravensmead Road | Peter Saunders |
| Warren Ave. | Clive Lees |
| Calmont Rd /Ashgrove Rd. Belgravia Gdns/Ambleside | Rita Smith |

Footnotes:

If available to you, don't forget that our website can be more responsive to changing events than this steam-driven Newsletter can be - check it out from time to time.

One of our longest term members, Road Rep. Roger Legg, has recently published a very nice book about Country Walks he has known. Find out more from Roger - his address is in the list above.