

SHORTLANDS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1934

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017

www.shortlandsresidents.org.uk

Annual General Meeting

This year's A.G.M. takes place at **8.00 on 26 April in St Mary's Church Hall**. You should receive the formal notice including reports from the President, Chairman and Development Officer with this Newsletter.

Regular attendees will know that we try to deal with the formal aspects of the A.G.M. before moving on to cover a topic of local interest. This year, Victoria Miller will give a short presentation on the major parking survey we carried out at the end of last year. We have discussed the conclusions and recommendations with both local Councillors and officers at the London Borough of Bromley, inviting them to consider the report and come back with proposals both for specific "hot spots" and for a wider parking strategy for the area.



We are hoping that Cllr Colin Smith, the Portfolio Holder for the Environment, will be at the A.G.M. to give the Council's response.

Development News

The last few months have seen a continuation of the substantial number of applications for side and rear extensions, most of which fall within the "deemed approval" provisions.

The effect is that, save for the planners having to consider the comments of immediate neighbours, approval is almost automatic. However, I continue, writes Development Officer, Danny Miller, to see

several applications in respect of larger scale projects rejected as being disproportionate to the location.

So, for example, two applications to demolish an extension to an existing property and then to build one or more houses in the existing garden space, have been rejected.

One property on which I have commented in the past, where the original application was to demolish a house on a corner site and replace it with a block of seven flats, has now been the subject of three applications and two appeals, all of which have been rejected. This has happened despite the fact that the number of proposed flats has reduced progressively. The latest application seeks approval for a block of four flats.

Most recently we have seen a challenge to the finish of a property where the development did not comply with approved plans and where the Enforcement Officers of the Planning Department have become involved together with our Councillors.

South Hill Wood Fountain Clean-Up

The Friends of South Hill Wood and Kingswood Glen have recently applied for a *Tesco/Groundwork UK Bags of Help Scheme* grant to enable them to carry out a 'Fountain Clean-Up' to clear the area around the famous fountain in the middle of South Hill Wood and survey the fountain (currently in many pieces) for a future grant application to restore it.

Their bid is one of three that have been successful in being put forward to a customer vote in local Tesco stores between 1 March and 29 April. The



project with the highest number of votes across our area will receive up to £5000, the second placed project up to £2000, and the third £1000.

The stores where you can vote include Elmers End, Bromley Express, West Wickham Express, Bromley High Street, Penge Express, Shirley Croydon Express, and Anerley Road Crystal Palace Express. To vote you will need to make any purchase in-store and receive a token. Tesco's staff will help you if you have any questions.

A Walk Through Shortlands' History – 17 June

From the Celts and Romans through to Oliver Cromwell, from railway terminus to the home of world famous childrens' writers Enid Blyton and Richmal Crompton, Shortlands is full of history...if you know where to look.

Why not join us on our next guided Walk of historical Shortlands and see for yourselves? It will start at **2.30 p.m. on Saturday 17 June** at Shortlands Station Ticket Hall and will take us over one and a half hours through many phases of our local history, flagging up sites of special interest...and finish off with a well earned sit-down over tea and cakes! As usual there is no charge.

South Hill Wood Walk

Speaking of South Hill Wood, there are still places available on our first ever Guided Walk of South Hill Wood at **2.30 p.m. on Saturday 6 May**. If you would like to join this tour of the Wood, its history, flora and fauna, please call Mike Ricketts on 0208 460 0395. We shall start off from the South Hill Wood Bowling Club in Tootswood Road

Keeping Gallery Visit – 14 October

Famous artists Charles and Renata Keeping lived for many years at 16, Church Road in Shortlands, just down from St Mary's Church, and we are organising a special guided visit to the Gallery they set up at their home - **at 2.0 p.m. on Saturday 14 October**.

Charles was internationally renowned in the mid-twentieth century for his illustrations in works ranging from 'Beowulf' to 'Black Beauty', and the Gallery has the finest collection anywhere of his artworks, including a particular love he had of depicting carthorses...from the time in his childhood when he was brought up next to a brewers' yard!

Renata, who used to teach art at the Gallery to many students, young and old, specialised in her own texture and fabric based style of art, and the most striking of all her works to be seen at the Gallery is a sort of 'Bayeux Tapestry' collage of her and Charles' life together in Shortlands – over 30 feet long.



For those interested in joining us on this visit, we shall meet up at the front gate of the Gallery at 16, Church Road just before 2.00 p.m. There will be a small entry charge, but, as usual, there is a discount for SRA visitors on what is normally charged.

SRA Community Notice-Board

Many of you will have seen and, hopefully, read items on our SRA Community Notice-board in the Ticket Hall of Shortlands Station. It has all sorts of information on it about events coming up locally and in Greater Bromley, but we really need more posters, especially in colour, to keep it topical and interesting.

So, if you have an event or a local organisation you want to publicise, please email about it to info@shortlandsresidents.org.uk, ideally with a poster.

We may well be able to feature it on our website as well.

Visit Shortlands Great House

Our first two guided visits to Shortlands' 'Great House', now Bishop Challoner School, proved a huge success and so we are running another visit, this time at **2.30 p.m. on Friday 11 August**.



See how the House, built over 300 years ago, has gradually developed over the centuries, from the only large 'mansion' in Shortlands, occupied in turn by many august families, through to it becoming a private hotel between the World Wars, and then, in the 1950s Bishop Challoner School.

Learn of the famous characters who have passed through the House...including none other than Oliver Cromwell!

Places on the visit are likely to be at a premium; so, please put your names down soon to join the tour. We shall meet up and start the visit in front of the School main building – parking will be available as school holidays will still be under way.

New Chances To Advertise In Our Newsletter

In 2013 we introduced advertising on the back page of our regular Newsletter for the first time. This proved very popular, but a few new 'spaces' are emerging in 2017.

The spaces are available in fractions of one eighth and one sixteenth of a page at very reasonable rates - £100 and £64 respectively for appearing in four editions over 12 months. Well over 1000 local households receive the Newsletter by subscription.

If you are interested in taking out advertising with us, please contact Mike Ricketts (0208 460 0395) or Mark Dempsey (0208 460 4060).

See And Be Seen

Our item in the *Autumn Newsletter* which asked residents to ensure plants in their front gardens did not overhang boundaries and obstruct pedestrians using the pavement prompted a related concern. Residents are urged to ensure that the view of/from their driveways is not obstructed by vegetation so that drivers and pedestrians can see and be easily seen.

Scam Warning

The Police have advised of a scam whereby a resident was contacted recently on their mobile 'phone by someone who claimed to be from "Citizen's Advice." They spoke with a foreign accent, knew the resident's name and claimed to have legal papers against them for "unpaid bills." The resident did the right thing and challenged them and the caller put the 'phone down.

Needless to say, Citizens Advice is an organisation that will not ask for money over the 'phone and this is just another group trying to scam innocent people.

The Police, the real Citizens Advice Bureau and Bromley Trading Standards are looking out for this scam and have asked residents to be alert and inform any neighbours and friends that you know, especially those you would consider vulnerable.

Police warnings about (mercifully low) crime in Shortlands together advice on keeping safe can be found on the SRA website - www.shortlandsresidents.org.uk under Police Information and Advice.

Booking Your Place On Walks And Tours

If you are interested in joining any of these tours and visits, please call Mike Ricketts on 0208 460 0395. (We now have BT Call Guardian installed, so, when you call, you may be asked to give your name before being put through. Please continue to hold after giving your name.)

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