MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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Mr D. Edgar 32 West Park Road, SE9 4RH. 8851 3788
Mr & Mrs Foster 15 Clarence Road, SE9 4SJ. 8851 2813
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Cllr. R. Yeldham (Mottingham Ward) 57 Ravenscroft Rd, Beckenham, BR3 4TP 8778 2741
Cllr. J. Kelly (Coldharbour Ward) 54 Rippon Road, London SE18 3QJ. 8316 2275
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Greenwich/Police Community Consultative Group Mr. D. Edgar
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Bromley/Police Community Consultative Group Mrs. Mackway-Jones & Mr. D. Edgar
Chislehurst/Mottingham Section Working Group Messrs. T. Jones, F. Winpenny,
Major Developments Standing Committee Mrs. Mackway-Jones & Mrs. M. Dartnell

AUTUMN 1999

MEMBER OF LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Typesetting & Printing: Ray Andrew - 020-8857 1351
CHAIRMAN'S VOICE

The Millennium is almost upon us: some people are busy making preparations for a family gathering, some cannot wait for the celebrations to begin and others will be glad when it's all over and the only reference to a 'bug' will be how to get rid of them from their noses! Whatever your plans are for the Festive Season, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Mrs. Mackway - Jones
Chairman

The reduction in the number of Police Officers is a matter of great concern to your Committee. Local crime figures are rising quite sharply and many crimes, such as minor vandalism to property or motor vehicles may not now receive Police attendance but you must advise the Police and a 'Crime Number' will be given to you for insurance purposes.

999 calls are now graded: obviously emergencies such as road accidents, assaults, or theft/robbery particularly where the perpetrator/s are still present, or information which can lead to an arrest, will receive urgent response, but there can be a delay in attending where the criminal is no longer on the scene.

There are many ways that residents can take action to reduce the possibility of becoming a victim:- remove all items visible in your car which would attract a thief - don't leave even a fanatic open downstairs when retiring or going out - above all NEVER let any stranger into your home without thoroughly checking their I.D. At a recent Committee Meeting a Police Inspector advised 50% of the domestic breaks-ins they had attended were sheds/garages where expensive garden equipment, bikes and tools were only protected by inferior locks which even a child could break. IS YOURS ONE LIKE THIS? Police time taken dealing with these, means less cover for assisting people whose homes have been violated.

In this newsletter, we are giving details of the relevant telephone numbers for contacting either Greenwich or Bromley Police:

Please keep these numbers handy, but IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS DIAL 999.

One way of helping to protect yourselves is to join a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. We are printing a letter from Inspector Horak to our Greenwich Members: please give his request your earnest attention: talk it over with your neighbours and friends and get a Scheme started in your road. There are quite a number of Schemes already operated by our Bromley residents, but if your road is not one of them, our Secretary would be pleased to give you details on how to apply. A number of Insurance Companies give good discounts on your household insurance premium if you are a member of a registered Watch Scheme.

Cllrs. Malone (Tam Ward), Cllr. M. Devaux (Coldharbour Ward) were asked for items for inclusion in this Newsletter - but at the time of going to press, no responses have been received.

GREENWICH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

Despite recent increases in reported crime, Greenwich remains one of the safest places in which to live and work. However, none of us can afford to become complacent, experience has shown that only communities, working with the police and other agencies, can combat crime and improve the quality of life in their area.

That's what Neighbourhood Watch is all about - looking out for each other. Neighbours uniting and acting together means that dozens of eyes and ears are ready to pick up on anything happening in their neighbourhood that could cause worry or concern. Its not about being nosy or interfering, it's about being a good neighbour and caring for your community.

Neighbourhood Watch means no-one is alone. Your neighbours will look out for you, your family, your home and your street or estate, and you will be able to do the same for them. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes also help the community to check on people within the neighbourhood who are more vulnerable. Children and young people, the elderly and the frail, and the people who have had their homes broken into before and can benefit by having an extra eye kept on them.

Everyone who joins a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme has a role to play. One of the most important things scheme members do is look out for suspicious or unusual activity and report it to the police. But it is always important to remember, when you see anything that concerns you, dial 999 and let the police check it out - you must NEVER put yourself at risk.

Neighbourhood Watch works by:
- Bringing people closer together
- Helping to reduce crime
- Lessening people's anxieties about crime
- Strengthening links with your local police and council

For further information speak to Sgt. Jim Brown at Eltham Police Stn. on 020-8282 5723.

Inspector Horak

Cllr. John Kelly - Coldharbour Ward

Cllr. Kelly stated that a meeting of the Community Safety Trust, Neighbourhood Watch, Police and Greenwich Council Representatives had been arranged for October 13th. The meeting was primarily to invite those who replied to the circular earlier in the year, to talk over the issues concerned with setting up a Neighbourhood Watch.

No information regarding this meeting has been forthcoming.

Neighbourhood Watch - Bromley

The contact for Bromley Neighbourhood Watch is:-

D.L. Wright on 020-8284 8173 or (mobile 07836 - 781867 (up to 10.00pm. weekdays only)

Oct '99
INSPECTOR T. CROZIER - BROMLEY CENTRAL SECTOR

After several years of decreasing crime across the whole of London, we are now starting to see a gradual increase in the number of offences and this increase is also apparent in the Mottingham area.

During the past year the total number of burglaries of all types in Mottingham has risen from 97 to 137, this occurred mainly between June and August although it now appears to be declining again.

In preparation for this article I examined our reports regarding these offences and it was particularly frustrating to note that in 21 cases the thief did not even have to break in - entry was simply gained through an open door or window! In almost half of these offences no additional security had been installed.

My reason for quoting these figures is to urge everybody to take better care of their property. A few simple steps such as the fitting of reasonable locks to all external doors and downstairs windows and preventing access to rear gardens will do much to prevent you from becoming a victim of a burglary. We are more than willing to visit you and offer advice about security. The cost of additional security is not unreasonable when you consider what you might lose especially with Christmas approaching which traditionally sees an increase in these offences.

Motor vehicle crime has also increased during the same period with 239 offences compared to 163 in the previous year. Once again there is much that owners can do to reduce these numbers. It is quite amazing that responsible owners leave expensive property ranging from car radios to the tools that they require for their work in unattended vehicles without a thought to the temptation it presents.

Over the past year we have experienced some success working with the local authority and the housing associations to deal with anti-social neighbours and their teenage children who can make life a misery for others. I am also very keen to continue this work especially as police have now been given additional powers to prosecute for this sort of behaviour by virtue of the Crime and Disorder Act.

However, we frequently do not get to hear about quite unacceptable behaviour until matters have got out of hand. I can only urge residents to report this disorder when it occurs. It may be that we cannot always attend immediately especially at our busiest times but if I am aware of the problem I can take action to resolve it or prevent a recurrence.

If you would like some advice either for your house security, your car or any other matter please contact me at Bromley on 020-8284 8703.

ELTHAM SECTOR NEWS

Perhaps I ought to introduce myself to you all. I am Sgt. Brown and I am the Deputy in Charge of the Eltham Sector Team which covers the Greenwich side of the Mottingham Parish. Inspector Jones is in charge and we can be contacted on 284 5653. We would be pleased to hear from anyone who has a problem where you think police involvement may be of value. The Eltham Sector Team has been up and running since last April and I believe that we have managed to re-establish ourselves with the community. As from 4th October, your area now has a new Home Beat Officer, PC Abigail Wood. Over the next few months Abigail will be making herself known to your community but should you need to speak to her please contact her on 284 5723.

It is very much appreciated that the village has been suffering from all kinds of problems over the past few weeks. It would appear, however, that most of the crimes and the suspects live on the Bromley side and consequently my colleagues at Chislehurst have been taking a lead on those issues. We are liaising with them on a number of problems which affect both sides of the village.

Whilst it has been reasonably quiet in the Greenwich Borough there have been a number of vehicle crimes committed in the West Park area, i.e. stolen, broken into or damaged. Please watch out for any suspicious characters hanging around cars and look after your own cars. Don't leave anything in view in your cars and think about an alarm system if you haven't already one fitted.

On a final matter, can I point out that you are all welcome to join us at the Eltham Police Area Committee. This is a public meeting and we are keen to ensure that everyone is welcome. It is held bi-monthly from January on the first Monday of the month at St. Mary's Community Centre, Eltham High Street. Please ring me if you are interested or just pop along on the evening. I am sure David Edgar would be pleased to assist you also.


USEFUL EMERGENCY NUMBERS

ELTHAM POLICE SECTOR - Borough of Greenwich District
CRIME REPORTING 020-8853 1212
Eltham Sector Office 020-8284 5723
Eltham Sector Inspector & Sgt. 020-8284 5653

EMERGENCIES 999
If in doubt, do not hesitate to contact the Sector Office for advice on 020-8284 5723.

CHISLEHURST & MOTTINGHAM POLICE SECTOR - Bromley District
CRIME REPORTING 020-8313 1212
Chislehurst Police Station 020-8770-69280
Mottingham Sector Office (Pc. Duncan, H.B.O.) (Mobile) 020-8284 8704

EMERGENCIES 999
If in doubt, do not hesitate to contact the H.B.O. or Bromley Police Stn. on 020-8284 8704.
ELTHAM COLLEGE - Development Plan

Last February, in his report on the Public Inquiry, the Inspector found in favour of the School's Development Plan Phase I.

The School have now submitted to Bromley Planning Department, an outline application for Phase II of the plan, involving the construction of a replacement Junior School with Pre-Preparatory Classes and ancillary works.

In detail, this would involve the closure of the existing Junior School at The Grange in Mottingham Lane. The new Junior School with associated car parking and play areas would be located on playing fields at the West end of the School Buildings. It is planned to be part single, part double storey construction. As an attempt to balance the loss of playing fields, the School had intended to purchase 6 acres of adjacent Sports Ground.

Your Association view this development very seriously and have decided to oppose it by making our views known to the Planning Authority. Our objections are summarised as follows:

1. The transfer of School traffic from The Grange to the Planned NEW ENTRANCE in Grove Park Road will result in an increase of 50% in movements, at peak times, across a very dangerous bend which has a long history of traffic accidents. This large increase is over and above the traffic figures submitted to the Inspector for consideration at the appeal in connection with Phase I of the Development Plan.

2. Mottingham is very fortunate in possessing large areas of Green Belt land and your Association has always opposed development on this important amenity. The proposed new Junior School would cause loss of Green Belt/Metropolitan Open Land. Residents on the South side of Mottingham Lane enjoy an open aspect over Green Belt land. This would be seriously damaged by the proposed structure. It is important to note that the Inspector at the recent Inquiry, in giving approval to the new Staff Car Park, laid down conditions to minimise its impact on this area of open land. The new Junior School would seriously undermine the Inspector's good intentions.

3. The displaced and relocated Cricket Pavilion would be in a highly visible site close to the SW corner of the School.

This is an outline application but success with this would have a major impact on Bromley's Unitary Development Plan (U.D.P.) currently in the process of revision.

Cllr. E. DYER - MOTTINGHAM WARD

In my capacity of Chair of the Education Committee, I was recently invited to open a 'Parents Learning Area' in Castlecombe School. This is comprised of two rooms to which parents can come along to the school and have their own space in which to discuss issues that concern them, and/or take up daytime courses in such areas as basic literacy and numeracy, first aid skills, computer studies, etc. This is now another step towards making this Mottingham school more accessible to the local community. It is the intention of the current administration to do all we can to 'open' our schools to the wider communities in which they are situated. School buildings are, I am told, used for only about 25% of the potential time available. So there is considerable scope for much more community use.

During the course of calling on residents to discuss a local lamppost replacement programme I 'knocked' on the front doors of a number of elderly residents. I then introduced myself as a local councillor and was, on three occasions, immediately invited in. Whilst I might welcome this friendly treatment, it did make me aware of just how trusting some people can be. And how vulnerable this makes, often frail individuals, to being robbed or worse. Please, please, do not let anyone into your home unless they have pre-arranged to visit or have clear written proof of their identity.

Continuing the theme of vulnerable individuals within our community, as we approach winter I would ask that rather than only having a 'neighbourhood crime watch'. That residents keep an occasional eye on elderly or disabled neighbours especially during very cold spells that lie ahead. There are still far too many vulnerable people who do not ask for the help that they need and deserve.

Bromley council has recently allowed the first 'Farmers Markets' to be held in the central shopping area of Bromley. These markets allow many local producers to sell their products (including organic vegetables and organic 'fast food') directly to the consumer. Any local producer, market gardeners, allotment holders, craftspeople, gardeners, etc. can apply for a stall. So cut out the 'middleman' and come along to this lively market. Dates and time available from 464 3333.

At the September Residents Association meeting one of the executive committee members told me that she has recently seen two bats flying around the northern end of the recreation ground. Bats are rapidly disappearing from the suburbs as old buildings are being demolished, or are being renovated with holes whereby bats gain entrances to roof spaces being sealed. I wonder if anyone out there would know which species of bats we still have in Mottingham and are there any other sites where bats can be seen.
BROMLEY HOUSE TO HOUSE PAPER COLLECTION

The London Borough of Bromley is continuing this scheme: Paper should be placed in the plastic Recycling Box which has been provided / carrier bags left nearest the pavement but not on the pavement by 7.0 a.m.

Paper collection operates on a fortnightly basis and will be on your normal refuse day.

Your paper will be collected weeks commencing -
November 1st., 15th. and 29th.
December 12th. and 27th.
January 10th. and 24th.

Following a Bank Holiday Monday, collections will be one day late. Christmas collections should not be affected this year.

Good Friday is a normal working day.

Your paper must be placed as close to the pavement as possible but not on the pavement.

Your Recycling Box is sturdy enough to be left outdoors. It will be emptied by the collection crew and returned to the edge of your property with the lid underneath so that other crew members can easily see that your box has been emptied. Due to supply limitations, a recycling box cannot be replaced if it should go missing.

Your paper must be available by 7 a.m. on the morning of collection and must be as close to the edge of the property as possible. Exceptions for registered disabled and elderly people can be made - please call 020-8313 4301 with your details.

Cardboard packaging and large boxes must be flattened and torn up to fit into your box. The paper vehicle's loading mechanism cannot deal with extra large cardboard items and these will be left if not small enough.

Last year, Bromley residents recycled 9700 tonnes of paper - that's about 437,000 trees worth!

TIME TO LISTEN

Greenwich Councillors have launched a major new initiative designed to change the way the Council works with local people. 'Time to Listen' will feature regular community meetings covering the whole Borough.

For more information on meetings - including support for people with disabilities - call 020-8921 5151.

PATTERNS OF LIFE

We met, we married, a long time ago.
We worked long hours when the wages were low.
No T.V. No wireless, no bath, times were hard.
Just a cold water tap and a walk down the yard.
No holidays abroad, no posh carpets on floor,
But we had coal on the fire and we didn't lock doors.
Our children arrived, no pills in those days
And we brought them up without any state aid.
They were quite safe to go play in the park
And the folk could go for a walk in the dark.
No Valium. No drugs and no LSD,
We cured most of our ills with a nice cup of tea.
But if you were sick, you were treated at once,
Not fill in forms and come back in 6 months.
No vandals, no mugging there was nothing to rob,
And we were quite rich on a couple of bob.
People were happy in those far off days,
Kinder and caring in so many ways.
Milkman and paper boys used to whistle and sing,
A night at the pictures was our mad fling.
We all got our share of trouble and strife,
We just had to face it. "The Pattern of Life",
But now I'm alone and look back through the years,
I don't think of the bad times, the trouble and tears,
I remember the blessings, our home and our love,
And that we could share them together

And thank God above.
BITS AND PIECES

Parking offences are no longer dealt with by the Police (except Red Routes) but by local Council Traffic Wardens. Please remember it is an offence to park ANY part of a vehicle on a public footpath or grass verge except in designated areas, and recently many Mottingham residents have found this breach of the law has cost them a £60 fine.

Pre-paid green postcards are available for reporting on any abandoned vehicles, public footpath, street lighting etc. that may need attention. The postcards for Borough of Bromley are available from Mottingham Library and for the Borough of Greenwich from Eltham Library. (there is no need to give your name and address if you do not wish to).

Any Bromley faulty Street Lights can be reported on a Freephone Service 0800-328-1904. This service is operational 24 hours a day.

Well done to Beconsfield Road residents, who realised the installation of new street lights left the footpath through to the Recreation Ground unit and Well Done Bromley Council for agreeing there is a safety problem and who are placing a new light at the end of the path.

Note re New Telephone Numbers (from 22nd April 2000)
New telephone numbers are effective now (both the old and new can be used at present) but after 22nd April 2000 only the new numbers can be used.

Bromley Council are planning to make alterations to the War Memorial Roundabout: initially by hatch markings, followed by permanent infilling if they consider the experiment is successful. The proposals will reduce the approach from Grove Park direction down from three lanes to one and one lane exit from West Park, instead of two.

Your Committee are unable to accept there is any reason for these alterations and are certain they will cause serious congestion and tail-backs at peak hours. The matter is still ongoing at the time of issuing this Newsletter.

ROAD STEWARDS

SECTION ONE LEADER - MR TUNSTALL - 65 Leysdown Road 8857 4225
Albert Road Mrs Cheeseman152 Mottingham Road 8851 1747
Highcombe Close (odd & even) Mrs Hollingum 33 Devonshire Road 8857 5856
Lulworth Road Mrs Harvie 16 Lulworth Road 8325 3579
Mottingham Road 100-154 Mrs Cheeseman 152 Mottingham Road 8857 1747
Porcupine Close Mrs Washbrook 65 Chapel Farm Road 8857 8122

SECTION TWO LEADER - MR CHKLAR - 7 Grove Park Road 8857 9440
Hinton Close Mrs Stevens 1 Layzell Walk 8857 2687
Ludfield Road Mr Page 7 Ludfield Road 8857 2680
Sidcup Road 375 - 511 Mr Leakey 475 Sidcup Road 8851 3788
Sidcup Road 452-508 Mr Edgar 32 West Park 8851 3788
West Hallowes Mr Norriss 31 West Hallowes 8857 3928
West Park (odd) Mr Treadwell 236 Court Road 8853 3433
West Park (even) Mr & Mrs Perkins 7 West Park 8851 8644

SECTION THREE LEADER - MRS COBB - 7 Carters Hill Close 8857 1944
Beaconsfield Rd (odd & even) Mrs Pugh 59 Beaconsfield Rd 8851 9878
Carters Hill Close Mrs Webber 26 Carters Hill Close 8851 3696
Cedar Mount Mrs Cobb 7 Carters Hill Close 8857 1944
Colville Court Mr Jeffrey Berry Narbor, Mottingham Lane 8857 6423
Grove Park Rd. (even) Mr Wimpenny 12 Grove Park Road 8857 1417
Grove Park Rd. (odd) Mr Barker 78 Grove Park Road 8857 9208
Hall View Mr Barker 78 Grove Park Road 8857 9208
Model Farm Close Mr Holmes 16 Model Farm Close 8851 9895
Mottingham Gardens Mr Donoghue 16 Mottingham Gardens 8857 3257
Mottingham Lane Mr Jeffrey Berry Narbor, Mottingham Lane 8857 6423

SECTION FOUR LEADER - MRS DARTNELL - 16 Elmhurst Road 8857 2065
Avondale Road Mr & Mrs Foster 15 Clarence Road 8851 2813
Clarence Road Mr & Mrs Foster 15 Clarence Road 8851 2813
College View Mr & Mrs Foster 15 Clarence Road 8851 2813
Court Farm Road Mrs Lockwood 23 Court Farm Road 8525 3695
Crossway Mrs Lockwood 23 Court Farm Road 8525 3695
Devonshire Road Mr Noble 32 Mottingham Road 8851 0608
Dorset Road (odd & even) Mr Heath 11 Dorset Road 8857 1874
Elmhurst Road (odd & even) Mr & Mrs Foster 15 Clarence Road 8851 2813
Evelyn Court Mrs Swanton 9 Model Farm Close 8851 1523
Kippington Drive Mr & Mrs Foster 15 Clarence Road 8851 2813
Layzell Walk Mr & Mrs Foster 15 Clarence Road 8851 2813
Mottingham Road 1-95 Mrs Stevens 1 Layzell Walk 8857 2657
Mottingham Road 2-58 Mr Noble 32 Mottingham Road 8851 0608
Portland Crescent Mr & Mrs Foster 15 Clarence Road 8851 2813
Portland Road Mr & Mrs foster 15 Clarence Road 8851 2813
Silverdale Drive Mrs Lockwood 23 Court Farm Road 8525 3695
Sycamore Close Mrs Swanton 9 Model Farm Close 8851 1523

SECTION FIVE LEADER - MR D. JONES - 260 Court Road 8857 8712
Bill Hamling Close Mrs Henderson 10 Birbetts Road 8857 5600
Birbetts Road Mrs Pass 13 Birbetts Road 8857 3733
Bowmead Mrs Pass 13 Birbetts Road 8857 3733
Brombridge Mr Stageman 64 Chapel Farm Road 8857 2527
Chapel Farm Rd (even) Mrs Robinson 47 Chapel Farm Road 8857 0324
Chapel Farm Rd (odd) Mr Stageman 64 Chapel Farm Road 8857 2527
Court Road (odd) 201-277 Mr Wyborne 240 Court Road 8857 1524
Court Road (even) 202-286 Mrs Jones 260 Court Road 8857 8712
Cross Mead (odd & even) Mrs Abrahams 21 Lavidge Road 8857 2407
Dowmeys Close Mr Hill 53 Leysdown Road 8857 3798
Downmeys Close Mr Hill 53 Leysdown Road 8857 3798
Hartsmead Road Mr Glover 20 Bowmead 8857 7616
Lavidge Road (odd & even) Mrs Abrahams 21 Lavidge Road 8857 2407
Leysdown Road (odd & even) Mr Hill 53 Leysdown Road 8857 3798
Margaret Gardner Drive Mrs Henderson 10 Birbetts Road 8857 5600
Ministry Way Mrs Henderson 10 Birbetts Road 8857 5600
Mottingham Road 127-205 Mrs Henderson 10 Birbetts Road 8857 5600
Sidcup Road 222-620 Mr Tunnall 65 Leysdown Road 8857 4225
Sidcup Road 551-655 Vacant