

MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NOTICE is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the above Association will be held on Tuesday, the 27th April, 1976, at 8.00 p.m. in the Maryfield Hall, Leysdown Road, Mottingham, S.E. 9.

The second half of the meeting will be devoted to a QUIZ when our local Councillors from the London Boroughs of Bromley and Greenwich will answer questions from members on matters of local interest.

Please make an effort to attend this important meeting: it is the members of the Association who decide its policy, and it will be of great assistance to the elected officers and members of the Executive Committee to have your views.

Signed: Margaret Gardner,

Hon. Secretary.

A G E N D A

1. Opening of Meeting by the President.
2. Adoption of Minutes of Last A.G.M. (29/4/75).
3. Chairman's Report: To Receive & Approve.
4. Hon. Treasurer's Report: To Receive & Approve.
5. Election of Officers:-
  - (a) President
  - (b) Hon. Secretary
  - (c) Hon. Treasurer
  - (d) Executive Committee
  - (e) Hon. Auditor
6. Determination of Membership Subscription.
7. Appointment of Road Stewards.
8. Any Other Business.

- - - - -

MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No. 10

APRIL 1976

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

In this our tenth Newsletter our Officers are reporting on what has taken place since our last issue. I hope it will be of interest to you all. The news ranges from "what a young person feels about Mottingham" to "what about the Under-Fives?" We are all especially interested in what affects us personally: first, our own home, then what affects us with our neighbours, then the road loyalty, and so on. In discussions in Committee and in the Newsletter we will happily discuss any item relevant to Mottingham and its amenities. Let us hear from you at the A.G.M., at the Panel Brains Trust, or at any other time so we may consider your proposal at Executive Meetings or for inclusion, if suitable, in this Newsletter. We are a non-sectarian Association, and try to give everyone a say (although we obviously have our own convictions).

In these difficult days of considerable unemployment, early retirement, and of high charges and costs (I've just had my electric bill!) it is even more necessary to have a watch dog about. It is however inefficient and unfair - if we are interested in where we live - to hear only the voices of members of the Executive at meetings - we want to hear from you.

Do all the 60's and 70's know what is available? Where to go for services? Which shops will sell small amounts and portions? Do you know what the Community Health Council does, or who represents you on it? We are very happy to explain if you want us to.

DAVID PORTER,

President



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

Make a Note of this Date:-

T U E S D A Y 27th A P R I L 8 P.M.

at the Maryfield Hall, Leysdown Road, S.E. 9. This is your ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and your opportunity to put your questions and - hopefully - to receive answers.

It has been policy in the past to invite our guests alternatively from each of our Boroughs. This year we have invited Councillors Huzzard and Macdonald from Bromley and Councillor Mrs. Mitchell from Greenwich. They will participate in an open Forum, chaired by our President, Mr. David Porter. Our Councillors have assured us that any problem or question that they cannot answer will be answered by letter after the Annual General Meeting. If YOU have a question to ask but are unable to attend the A.G.M., please send it to our Secretary who will report back to you, after the meeting.

This year we are in need of about 14 Road Representatives; the task is not an arduous one. Would any member with a few hours a year to spare and who is willing to help our Association, please contact our Subscription Secretary?

The possible closure of the Eltham and Mottingham Hospital is of great concern to us. At the time of writing, petitions have been organised, backed by local M.P. Peter Bottomley and local Councillors. Residents Associations within the Borough are opposed to closure, as are we.

Our sympathy must be extended to the residents living in in appalling conditions created by the Council's contractors in Court Farm Road, from The Crossway to Mottingham Road. Work which should have taken about two months has gone on for nearly a year. The residents are asking for a substantial refund in rates paid for 1975/76. To date, no refund has been received, nor date that work will be completed. Councillors Macdonald and Huzzard are doing all they can to obtain some satisfaction for our residents.

(Ed. The road is now open).

Continued ....

I have now come to the end of my first year in office, and would like to thank the Committee and Councillors for the help they afforded me. My appreciation to Mrs. Gardner for her enthusiasm in tackling the vast volume of work she undertakes on behalf of the Association, including typing stencils and printing your Newsletter.

I would like to apologise for my non-attendance at the Annual General Meeting, due to a previous commitment. Your Chairman will be our Vice-Chairman, Mr. Graham Jenkins, who will make this a very successful evening if you come and support it.

DIANE KIRK,

Chairman

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A month or so ago an irate member phoned the Secretary to enquire: "What is the Mottingham Residents' Association supposed to do for the residents of Mottingham?" This query happened to coincide with a particularly busy week of dealing with members' problems, but with commendable restraint the Secretary quoted the Objects of our Association:-

(1) To safeguard the interests of the residents of Mottingham; and (2) To promote or support, without party bias, any movement for maintaining or improving the amenities of the district. These two Objects embrace a very wide field, and at their bi-monthly meetings your Executive Committee deals with both individual problems of every kind - queries, complaints, etc., as well as with wider issues affecting the community. To lessen the load, special representatives are appointed to deal with specific matters, and these representatives report back to the Executive Committee on such matters as new roads and their proposed development, road safety (Bromley and Greenwich), town planning and current applications, Bromley Residents' Federation, Oxford House, Greenwich Council Planning & Environmental Groups, Tree Conservation, Central Eltham Residents' Society, Eltham Social Services Group, etc.

Many specific complaints received by the Secretary from residents, concerning faulty fittings in council houses,



vandalised fencing and windows, uneven paving stones on the footway, road subsidence, etc., are channelled to our local Councillors - Councillors Alistair Macdonald and Ron Huzzard (Bromley) and Councillor Ray Martin and Cllr. Mrs. Wendy Mitchell (Greenwich), who are always ready and willing to help where possible. We are most grateful to them for their valuable help and guidance.

Other major problems such as the closure of our Mottingham Library on two days a week; the sewage work carried out by Bromley during the past nine months, causing maximum distress and inconvenience to so many residents; the threat of the Y.M.C.A. planning application in Grove Park Road with the loss of amenities to residents; the proposed closure of the Eltham & Mottingham Hospital - all of these formed the subject of special representations by the Executive Committee to the authority concerned. In the autumn your committee protested to Bromley Council over lighting restrictions in bye-roads; and were happy to see the restoration of full lighting by December.

Much time and thought was given to the subject of Road Safety during the year, more particularly from the pedestrian's point of view in Mottingham Road and the hazard faced by school children crossing to and from Ravensworth School; and from the motorists point of view in the dangerous situation at the A20 end of Leysdown Road where parked cars on both sides of a narrow road make a head-on collision between cars leaving and entering at that end a constant threat. Our representatives on both the Bromley and Eltham Road Safety Committees have made our views known, and we are promised action in the near future. Following the ban on overnight lorry parking by Bromley in residential streets, many roads in our Greenwich area suffered from this particular nuisance for some weeks. However, Greenwich eventually "followed suit", and this nuisance was gradually eliminated.

The question of the large increase in rates by both Boroughs was a matter for great concern; and at one meeting your committee devoted the whole evening to a discussion on local government services and suggestions for economies, to put to both local Authorities. You will find these suggestions listed in detail in an article by our Chairman appearing later in this Newsletter entitled: "Diminishing Services and Rising Prices". Our

committee were unanimous at the close of the discussion that no "cuts" should be made in welfare services, especially for the handicapped and the elderly.

Regular readers of our Newsletter will recall that two suggestions for economy made by our then Chairman, Doug Cater-Smith, in 1975, to Greenwich Borough Council have now been implemented: the cancellation of the Charlton Sports Centre project; and more recently, the cancellation of the 1976 Greenwich Show. In support of his charge of over-staffing, a recent report announced that one worker in ten in Greenwich is employed by the Local Authority.

At a recent meeting your committee discussed in detail the Greenwich B.C. pamphlet: "A Future for Eltham Town Centre". A report of our findings was submitted to the Planning Department and we are informed that these will be "fed into a computer". While realising that some development was inevitable, we rejected any major development which would result in a "mini Croydon", of multi-storage car parking or major office development. Some members thought that the planting of trees along Eltham High Street would be a great improvement and lend character to an otherwise uninteresting thoroughfare.

No review of the year would be complete without referring to "Mottingham Week 1975", which was an outstanding success; and our Association organised a stall (thanks to two valiant ladies) at the opening Fete. In November, many of us participated in the Remembrance Sunday Service held in the Porcupine P.H. forecourt, and heard a wonderful address by the Rev. Chris Byers. We recall with pride and pleasure that our Association was largely instrumental in having this annual service reinstated.

On a recent visit to Mottingham Library, the writer noticed that Bromley Council has now planted over 100 rose trees around the gleditschia tree our Association donated in the "Plant a Tree in '73" year. Residents will be able to enjoy "the view" this summer, when resting on our seat outside the Library - the seat also donated by our Association. This is all part of our service!

MARGARET GARDNER,  
Hon. Secretary.



HOW THE MONEY COMES - AND GOES !

Whilst not wishing to present even more facts and figures as is the trend nowadays, from our well meaning economists, statisticians and politicians, until our very minds boggle, we feel for those of you who are unable to attend the Association's Annual General Meeting, yet stalwartly pay your annual subscription, the following information may prove to be of interest to you.

For the financial year ending 31/3/75 we had 1369 paid up members giving us an income of £205.35; our Newsletter expenditure amounted to £113.61; after various donations and sundry expenses, we had an excess of income over expenditure of £26.05 carried forward to 1976.

Thanks to the efforts of our Membership Secretary, Mr. Reg Cambridge and his Road Stewards, our membership figures for 1975/76 are continuing along the same lines; but you will appreciate with ever escalating costs, an excess of income over expenditure for the current period is doubtful. We have been most fortunate in receiving from one of our members a duplicating machine which should reduce the cost of producing the Newsletter.

Our subscription has not been increased since April 1971, when it was raised from 12½p to 15p.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Association.

MARIE DAVIES,  
Hon. Treasurer.

WHAT ABOUT A "GOOD" EDITOR ?

There must be many editorial experts in Mottingham with a little time and lots of ideas. We are looking for such a person. Qualifications: interest in all aspects of Mottingham life; with a tolerant husband or wife or other person unspecified; imagination and enthusiasm; charming personality an additional advantage!

Seriously, we would like to hear from anyone interested in making this Newsletter more interesting. Our Secretary, Mrs. Gardner, does much of the work; and we have a duplicating and stapling team!

(Temporary Acting Editor)

OUR ROAD STEWARDS and AN APPEAL FROM "REG":

Albert Road	Mrs. Ferguson	29 Albert Road
Ashdale Road	Mr. Lynn	24 Ashdale Road
Avondale Road	Mr. Jones	25 Elmhurst Road
Beaconsfield Road	Mrs. Brown	52 Beaconsfield Road
Beaconsfield Rd. (Council)		
Birbetts Road	Mr. Pass	13 Birbetts Road
Bromhedge	Mr. Farrer	9 Lavidge Road
Carters Hill Close	Mr. Semrock	14 Carters Hill Close
Cedar Mount	Mrs. Winterbourne	26 Cedar Mount
Chapel Farm Road East	Mr. Farrer	9 Lavidge Road
Chapel Farm Road West	Miss Hyde	49 Crossmead
Clarence Road	Mrs. Hollingum	33 Devonshire Road
Colview Court	Mr. South	"Littleholme", Motting- ham Lane
Court Road	Mr. & Mrs. Moncur	234 Court Road
Court Farm Road	Mr. McCall	171 Mottingham Road
Crossmead	Miss Boiteux	59 Crossmead
Crossway	Miss Rencell	3 Crossway
Devonshire Road	Mrs. Hollingum	33 Devonshire Road
Dorset Road	Mrs. Redgrove	48 Dorset Road
Downleys Close		
Elmhurst Road	Miss Barker	80 Beaconsfield Road
Evans Court		
Evelyn Court	Mrs. Jenkins	16 Evelyn Court
Everest Court		
Grove Park Rd (Odd)	Mr. Willis	56 Grove Park Road
Grove Park Rd (Even)	Mr. Wimpenny	12 Grove Park Road
Hall View	Mr. Willis	56 Grove Park Road
Hartsmead Road	Mrs. Roberts	1 Mottingham Road
Highcombe Close	Mr. Norman	33 Highcombe Close
Hillary Court		
Jevington Way (Odd)	Mr. Rogers	11 Devonshire Road
Jevington Way (Even)	Mr. Durell	54 Jevington Way
John Hunt Court		
Lavidge Road	Mr. Fitzgerald	60 Leysdown Road
Leysdown Road (Odd)	Mr. Wood	44 Highcombe Close
Leysdown Road (Even)		
Lulworth Road	Mr. Hollingum	33 Devonshire Road
Luxfield Road	Mrs. Forrester	41 West Hallows



ROAD STEWARDS (Contd.)

Model Farm Close	Mrs. Morgan	41 Beaconsfield Road
Mottingham Court	Mr. Smith	22 West Hallowses
Mottingham Gardens	Mrs. Davies	1 Cedar Mount
Mottingham Lane	Mr. South	"Littleholme", Motting- ham Lane
Mottingham Rd (1/93A)	Mr. Cater-Smith	2 West Park
Nos. 2/56 & 100/154	Mr. Cater-Smith	2 West Park
Mottingham Rd (122/154)	Mrs. Ferguson	29 Albert Road
Mottingham Rd (127/203)	Mr. Bannister	68 Leysdown Road
Pickwick Court		
Porcupine Close	Mr. Bannister	68 Leysdown Road
Portland Crescent	Mr. Watson	31 Highcombe Close
Portland Road	Mr. Watson	31 Highcombe Close
Priory Leas	Miss Cater-Smith	2 West Park
Senlac Road	Mr. Lynn	24 Ashdale Road
Royal Court	Miss Boiteux	59 Crossmead
Sidcup Road NW	Mr. Smith	22 West Hallowses
Sidcup Road SW	Mr. Pryke	76 West Hallowses
Sidcup Road NE	Mr. Ravetta	559 Sidcup Road
Sidcup Road SE	Mr. Ravetta	559 Sidcup Road
Tensing Court		
Westdean Avenue	Mr. Jeffery	24 Westdean Avenue
West Hallowses	Mrs. Gillibrand	30 West Park
West Park	Mr. Cater-Smith	2 West Park
Winn Road	Mr. Lynn	24 Ashdale Road
Woodmere	Mr. Cambridge	7 Lavidge Road

The continuing maintenance of our membership is entirely due to the efforts of our Road Stewards; without them the the Association could not continue.

As several of our Road Stewards are retiring, having done this job for many years; or are moving out of the district, we are asking for volunteers for next year. We believe some 14 new Stewards will be required. Only some six hours is involved in the year: it can be a means of making new acquaintances and often getting to know your neighbours better.

If you can spare a few hours during the year, can we please ask you to volunteer for this simple duty, thus allowing your Committee to concentrate on dealing with the problems affecting us all in Mottingham.

REG CAMBRIDGE

ROAD SAFETY

Bromley:

A census of traffic and pedestrians was taken in Mottingham Road on Monday, 8th December, 1975, at a point opposite Kingsley Wood Drive and covering all pedestrians who crossed between Dunkery Road and Ravensworth Road.

The figures met the criteria laid down by the Department of the Environment for the provision of either a "Pelican" or an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing. Officers of the G.L.C. and Traffic Branch, New Scotland Yard, have been consulted and accept that the volumes justify a crossing. However, the G.L.C. now have considerable doubt regarding the safety aspect of "Pelican" crossings in such circumstances.

It was felt that an uncontrolled crossing on this stretch of road would also fall short of the desirable standard of safety, particularly when one realises the stretch of road referred to is some 300 yards in length.

The alternative was to install three pairs of central islands spaced over this length of road. These would provide the crossing facility for those pedestrians, and there will be many, who will not walk 100 yards to a crossing centrally sited in the length of road.

The Sub-Committee recommended that the proposal for three pairs of central islands to be put forward, via the Highways and Works Committee, to the G.L.C. for approval. Approval still awaited.

Greenwich:

Satisfactory replies are still awaited from Greenwich Borough Council as to suggestions put to them regarding parking and short cuts through and in Leysdown Road and Crossmead Road.

DIANE KIRK



DIMINISHING SERVICES & RISING PRICES

This has been a very difficult year for everyone. The constant rise in prices for consumers and commuters, in Nationalised Industries and Borough Rates, is alarming. One is told that one gets what one pays for: this does not appear to be so.

Trains: Rises again in train fares, with proposed cuts in services. It is reported that Mottingham, Lee and New Eltham Stations are to be closed on Sundays from April. How does the Sunday Commuter reach his/her destination?

Buses: Fare increases, with fewer buses and sometimes an hour's wait for one; again large cuts in weekend services, creating difficulties for weekend workers.

Energy: Due to energy crisis we are asked to be more economical in the use of fuel. Result - less fuel used, so up go prices to compensate for loss of revenue. What a situation!

Post Office: Two-tier postal system introduced. The cheaper system more popular with public, overburdening the postman on the second delivery. Large losses are forecast on postage side, together with cuts in services. Telephones, despite a 66% increase in charges, are forecasting about 100 million profit this year. Answer - cheaper to telephone than write a letter and assurance of delivery, instead of wondering if and when your letter will arrive.

When will they learn that competitive prices, with efficient service, is what the public requires and consequent increase of revenue.

Rates: Is it not time for each department within Government to operate on similar lines to private industry? How long can the hard pressed rate-payer continue to cut back on things he is accustomed to, in an effort to try to pay our ever increasing rate demands, although we receive less each time for our money.

Some Rate Economies could be made in the following:-

- (1) Town Twinning: This could be abolished as no facts are to hand of any benefits our council or ratepayers receive from them, only expenses incurred.
- (2) Glossy Project magazines and pamphlets could be cut.
- (3) Free film shows could be cut down.

- (4) Making a borrowing charge for cassettes and gramophone records at present free from public libraries.
- (5) Sharing of some facilities with the I.L.E.A.
- (6) Redeployment of Council staff which would lead to greater efficiency.

(7) Comprehensive Education System: The change to this system will be expensive, upgrading schools for all-ability intake. The extra fares incurred in travelling between schools, which keep rising.

The United Kingdom had the finest education system in the world, allowing each child whatever its ability to go to a school that suited that ability, regardless of family income or circumstances. MUST this be abandoned?

(8) Housing: In the private sector, tenants of unfurnished properties are responsible for interior decorations, their landlords for exterior decorations. In council dwellings, the council redecorates the interior as well as the exterior plus paying disturbance money whilst improving property, thereby increasing the burden on each rate-payer.

We learn of large rent arrears. Could not the names of defaulting tenants be published? Of Social Security payments for rent being paid direct to the tenant, instead of a direct credit scheme to the council concerned. For regular defaulters, surely the council could remove them to inferior accommodation, or to accommodation awaiting improvement?

The Inland Revenue expects every private landlord to show a profit, which is then taxed at the high unearned rate of income tax. Councils pay no tax on profits, therefore profits would go to build more homes, or improve existing ones.

Councils waste money buying blighted property, stripping houses of central heating, or any other refinement put in by previous owners, to bring each house in line with its neighbour. A house with more facilities could charge more rent.

Why not experiment with a conversion of some of the larger properties councils own - making flatlets with resident warden to hand. Elderly people would still have their independence. Central heating for the complex would be cheaper than trying to pay bills on their own.



Services in which Economies Should NOT be Made:-

- (1) Meals on Wheels.
- (2) Closure of hospitals and cuts in district nursing.
- (3) Services to the elderly and infirm.
- (4) The handicapped, whatever the case, be it an accident, at birth or through disease.
- (5) Care for the Blind.

Your views and ideas are needed at THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Why not come and air them?

DIANE KIRK

NOTES FROM THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY RESIDENTS' FEDERATION

Rates: Federation delegates from surrounding areas with Mottingham raised the question of the very high rates demanded by Bromley Borough Council, resulting in the following motion being put forward by the Federation: "That the Federation deplores the 55% increase in domestic rates 1975/76 and calls upon Bromley Council to control finances to ensure that any increase in 1976/77 is kept to a minimum".

Bromley Community Health Council: This Council wants the main finances for this year to be for the mentally ill and handicapped in hostels and living in the community. It feels people in the borough have to go too far for psychiatric services, and is pressing for these to be within the borough. As the Community Health Council wishes to become known on matters of health services, the public should communicate with it direct on relevant matters, i.e. complaints, suggestions, praise, etc., per Mrs. Hall, or the Secretary, c/o Lennard Hospital, Lennard Road, Bromley.

Heavy Lorries: The Federation submitted lists of roads where members suggested heavy lorries should not have access. A very comprehensive list was sent from Mottingham.

MOTORWAYS: The London Motorway Action Group remains ever vigilant regarding motorway plans, for though Ringway 2 has been dropped, there are still some aspects of future plans which require careful consideration. The chairman of our New Roads Sub-Committee attends the L.M.A.G. meetings.

M.A. BROWNING.

WHAT DO YOUNG PEOPLE DO ? AMENITIES IN MOTTINGHAM.

It could be said that Mottingham is abundant in social amenities with its three churches and public houses; but for the young person it is sadly lacking in "night life".

The churches run various activities for children and teenagers: for example, Youth Clubs, Scout, Guide, Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade groups. If one is not the type of person to enjoy these activities, what is there to do? There are other youth clubs, like Castlecombe, but with these a new problem crops up - their positioning - none are near to the centre of Mottingham Village.

The nearest cinema, in Eltham, was closed a few years ago and no moves to replace it have yet been made. For anybody living in Mottingham this cinema was in a perfect place - three buses were available to carry the film-goer to his Mecca. Now if a film finishes at 11 p.m. (as they often do) there is a mad dash to reach the 126 bus stop before the last bus does.

The nearest "good" concert hall is in Croydon ("good" meaning that it has people appearing that one has heard of). The Fairfield Halls are a highly praiseworthy complex, but a certain amount of difficulty is to be found in getting to and from Croydon without the co-operation of a parent who will act as chauffeur for an evening. The nearest theatre is conveniently in Eltham - "Eltham Little Theatre".

Parental pressure led me to join the "Young Conservatives" and I now realise that this is the best thing that I could have done. I expected to have politics rammed down my throat or to be met by an ageing group of tweed-clad individuals - I was, fortunately, mistaken. I had a choice of New Eltham or Chislehurst groups. I chose New Eltham, and have since enjoyed a very full social life with dances, interesting and not necessarily political speakers and other such activities - none of which have been centred in Mottingham (predictably!)

The only alternative that I could see from joining the Y.C.s was to go into London for entertainment. One problem presented itself here - money! An evening out in London is expensive.

There is nothing for the average teenager to do in Mottingham. He cannot afford to go into London for an evening out,



and there is difficulty in getting to Bromley or anywhere that has any "night-life"! Can young people be expected to sit at home, or to go into London whenever they want to go out?

The Young Conservatives have been my panacea for evening boredom, and I can strongly recommend them - but will every teenager have the same luck in finding something to do? (I welcome any enquiries from the 16 - 35 age group about the Y.C.s - please 'phone me on 857 8264).

DEBBIE NEWLOVE

(Ed.: One view. Will other young people please tell us what they have joined, and how they enjoy their leisure?)

#### PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

The Association receives notification of all planning applications submitted for development within its area. These are examined with a view to making appropriate representations if it is considered that they are likely to affect adversely the amenities of the area.

The only major application still brewing is the development for housing of the Y.M.C.A. playing fields off Grove Park Road. You will recall that an outline application for this development was refused by Bromley Borough Council in 1974. An appeal against this decision was lodged and since then three dates have been fixed for a Public Enquiry. The appellants have yet again cancelled the latest date and according to press reports are investigating a more wholesome use of the site. However, the appeal against Bromley Borough's planning decision has yet to be withdrawn. Your Association will be watching the situation closely.

Court Farm Road: Hopefully the continuing story of chaos at the north end of Court Farm Road caused by the laying of a new sewer is drawing to a conclusion. At long last the pumps, which have been keeping families awake at night, have ceased. The work started in June 1975 when it was anticipated that it would take approximately eight weeks for that part of the scheme to be completed. From that time, a chapter of accidents has meant that residents have been subjected to continuous noise, /

continuous noise, difficult access, water supplies being turned off without notice and, more recently, the whole of the road being flooded with sewage.

The long suffering residents have now submitted a petition for a reduction in rating valuation in view of the disruption of all of their amenities over a long period of time. On the evidence it would seem that they have an irrefutable case.

GRAHAM JENKINS

(Ed.: At last the road is re-opened; let us hope the work is complete and well done, and soon cleared of its accumulated debris).

HISTORIC BUILDINGS, TREES and OTHER THINGS - or PLANNING,  
CONSERVATION and THE ENVIRONMENT.

Your Association is represented on a number of Committees and Groups set up by the London Borough of Greenwich, which meet regularly at Woolwich Town Hall.

The purpose of the meetings is to provide an opportunity for Council Officers and Councillors to meet representatives from the various local amenity Societies, such as ours, which flourish within the Borough and to discuss with them subjects of conservation and planning, so that the views of the residents are taken into account by the Council in the formulation of policy. Also serving on these committees are the three Members of Parliament for the area as well as nominees appointed by professional bodies such as the RIBA, RTPI and RICS who provide valuable expert advice related to their particular fields.

Over the past year, time has been devoted to the compiling of a "Local List of Buildings of Architectural Interest". The various societies were invited to submit lists of buildings which they considered to be of architectural or historic interest. With the aid of photographs and brief descriptions prepared by the Council, discussion has taken place at various meetings to assess the merits or otherwise of the buildings proposed. One of the obvious



difficulties in assessing architectural quality is that so much is a matter of opinion and the old adage that "one man's meat is another man's poison" is very true. On one occasion a lively argument took place over the relative claims of a number of "Pubs", all built in the latter half of the last century and all having some points of interest. One member even suggested lightheartedly that account should be taken of the standards of service and comfort and the quality of the beer, but sad to say the proposal came to nothing.

It has been agreed that a way in which to rationalise the procedure was to establish criteria, and currently a small sub-committee is wrestling with a list of 5 or 6 headings against which it is hoped that each building proposed for inclusion in the local list can be fairly judged.

Another aspect of the work of these Committees relates to planning, and at each meeting of the Conservation Area Advisory Committee a number of planning applications are submitted by the Council officers for comment.

Although not so directly affected as Eltham residents, members of this Association will be aware of the PLAN FOR ELTHAM TOWN CENTRE. The Planning Department of Greenwich, who prepared this excellent and very detailed plan, have been consulting the amenity societies and have raised the matter for general discussion during the meetings at Woolwich, in order that as large a cross-section as possible of the residents in the area can advance their views on how they think the centre of Eltham should develop and how a balance can be struck between the rival claims for residential, office and shopping development for the future. From the various discussions we have had on the alternative proposals contained in the plan, it would appear that the general consensus favours some small-scale development but not at the expense of existing housing and not to attempt to compete in a shopping sense with the larger areas of Bromley and Woolwich.

Another activity in which your Association participates is the Tree Group, which meets from time to time to discuss with Council officers their policy on the planting of trees.

Continued ....

Mottingham is very fortunate in having a large number of street trees of many varieties which do much to enhance the environment; but other areas of the Borough are not so well endowed and it is in these areas that the Council is concentrating its main effort. Tree planting is really one of the cheapest ways of effecting a quick and easily visible improvement of the local scene and we believe that the Council should be given every encouragement in their endeavours. For our part we are co-operating with the Council in the preparation of a tree map for our area and in the identification of those areas which would benefit from new planting.

Over the past year your representative at Greenwich has obtained a valuable insight into the working of the Council on planning and environmental affairs, and it is very satisfactory to learn, in these days of financial difficulty, how much care and attention to detail is given to those matters which affect the quality of our surroundings.

Pat Winpenny.

ARE YOU A GARDENER ? THEN THE MOTTINGHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY IS FOR YOU.

The object of the Society is to help home gardeners and allotment holders in their gardening pursuits. The Society runs a programme of social activities, two Flower Shows each year, and a small trading shed where members may purchase their horticultural requisites at very reasonable prices.

If you would like to know more about the Society, come along to the next open meeting at 8 p.m. on Thursday, 29th April at the Methodist Church, Cray Hall, Dorset Road, which is an illustrated talk on Maxicrop by Mr. D. Penman (admission 15p) and see if you like what we have to offer. The Summer Show on 19th June will be held at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Court Road. At both of these events, facilities for joining the Society will be available.

If you really can't wait that long, then contact the Secretary, Mrs. R. Jenkins, 61 Court Farm Road (857 8705)



FACILITIES FOR THE UNDER-5s IN MOTTINGHAM (BROMLEY SECTION)

PLAYGROUPS (For children 3 - 5 years).

There are now three Play Groups to choose from, as a new one has recently been opened (March 1st) by:-

Mrs. Maureen Newall,  
73, Beaconsfield Road, S.E. 9.

Enquiries welcome (Tel. 857 7694).

Mrs. Newall hopes to take part in an exhibition of children's work organised by the Bromley Pre-School Play Groups Association to be on show at Mottingham Library during Play Group Week, June 12th - 19th, 1976.

The two longer established Groups are:-

(1) Mottingham Community Centre,  
St. Keverne Road, S.E. 9.

Enquiries to Mrs. Dixon,  
68, Cattistock Road, S.E. 9.

or to Mrs. Jeycock,  
84, Cattistock Road, S.E. 9.

(2) Mrs. Ruiz, at 37, Avondale Road, S.E. 9.

Enquiries: Tel. 851 9128.

MOTHER & TODDLER CLUB:

Meets on Wednesday afternoons at  
"The Willows", Red Hill.

CHILD MINDERS:

Registered childminders in the area have some vacancies. Anyone needing such daycare for an Under-5 can get details from:-

Mrs. Neal,  
Bromley Social Services,  
15, Palace Grove,  
Bromley, Kent.  
Tel. 464 3333 Ext. 5225.

All the above services are available in the Bromley part of Mottingham. In the next issue we hope to print details of similar services in the Greenwich Borough.

Any comments or suggestions on Under-5s in general would be welcome.

Joreen Hollingum.

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

Floral Arrangement Society:

Members meet on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Court Road, Mottingham, for lectures and demonstrations by qualified demonstrators. Further information available from the Secretary: Mrs. J. Chadwick, 11 Court Farm Road, S.E. 9.

Mottingham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild:

New members are welcome to attend their meetings held on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Court Road, Mottingham. Further particulars available from the Secretary: Mrs. A. Reeves, 10 Haver Croft, S.E. 9.

Mottingham Residents:

If you have any problems which you feel our Residents' Association can help you to deal with, please contact your nearest committee member or Road Steward as listed on pages 8/9. Our Executive Committee meets bi-monthly on the fourth Wednesday in the month. Our next meeting is on May 26th. In emergencies, please contact the Hon. Secretary:-

Mrs. M.V. Gardner,  
55, Leysdown Road,

Tel. 857 6654 (H) Mottingham, SE9 3ND. (B) 850 0137 a.m.