

Mottingham Residents Association

NEWSLETTER No. 14

OCTOBER 1978

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Graham Jenkins

We live I am told in a world of change. Old dogs have to try to learn new tricks and those who are inflexible in their outlook go to the wall. Your Association endeavours to maintain a reasoned balance between traditional wholesome values and the new approaches which are necessary to achieve our objectives in these modern times.

One of the sad facets of this air of change is the extensive re-shaping of our executive committee. A number of the members felt unable to offer themselves for re-election at the AGM and I would like to mention a few of these especially. Our former membership secretary Reg Cambridge whose sterling work over many years has provided the Association with its life blood will be sorely missed. Marie Davies, our treasurer has sadly also left the ranks and we thank these Association stalwarts for all their hard work on our behalf.

Our saddest loss however is our former chairman Mrs Diane Kirk. Diane had been a member of the committee for many years and had been particularly concerned with road safety in Bromley. For the past three years she has occupied the 'hot seat'. Recently however she has been beset by domestic problems and commitments which have regretfully led her to the decision to curtail her activities. The Association is deeply indebted to Mrs Kirk for the onerous duties she has carried out over many years and we sincerely hope that her domestic problems will resolve themselves satisfactorily.

One of the more disastrous consequences of this loss is that the Association now has a new (and rather dog-eared) chairman. I shall do my best to keep from you my worst deficiencies.

And now to the future. We have a wealth of expertise and enthusiasm on the committee. I would like to mention Mrs Catherine Goldberg particularly. She has taken on the demanding job of membership secretary and together with her section leaders and road representatives faces the daunting prospect of getting you to part with your money. She deserves your support and co-operation.

While it would be unduly optimistic to describe the future of the Association as rosy the new - and comparatively younger - blood coupled with the experienced old hands augurs well for the future. You will be well served by them. But in any objective analysis the strength of the Association must lie in the strength of its membership. Your support complaints - and perhaps encouragement - are its *raison d'être*.

TRAFFIC TRIBULATION

ROAD BLOCKS THREATENED, shouted the headline in the Eltham Times. 'Residents' fury at car parking'. It seemed only one more step to 'UDI for Mottingham'.

That particular furore was over parking of cars in Devonshire Road in the village. Another protest which hit the headlines was over the volume of traffic using West Park as a main road to and from the A20 Sidcup Road. These were just the more vocal expressions of a concern about traffic and parking in Mottingham which has increasingly been occupying the attention of the Residents' Association.

Many people in Mottingham are very concerned about the large volume of fast and heavy traffic that now flows through the area every day and at the problems arising from parking of cars around the village. Individual matters have been raised with the Bromley and Greenwich councils in the past, but with little effect partly because Mottingham is on the edge of both boroughs and so tends to be ignored by both of them and partly because the problems in individual roads were just part of a bigger problem for the whole area. It could happen that an easing of the traffic problem in one area could intensify it elsewhere.

So the Residents' Association decided this summer to hold a special meeting to look at the problems of traffic and parking for the whole area. The meeting was held on August 16 and was attended by a good number of local residents Councillor Alistair Macdonald and representatives from Scotts (Mottingham) and Downtime - companies with premises in Dorset Road.

It was decided at the meeting that both boroughs should be approached and asked to consider the points raised on traffic and parking in Mottingham at a joint meeting of the two Borough Engineers.

The main flow of traffic through the village area is in Mottingham Road, Court Road, Grove Park Road, Mottingham Lane and West Park, and the strongest complaints over traffic have come from residents of Mottingham Lane and West Park. There is also concern over safety at the War Memorial roundabout and at the bends of Grove Park Road approaching the War Memorial.

Mottingham Lane has long been a cause of representations to Bromley council, and it was decided to ask once again that width restrictions should be placed in the road to keep out heavy traffic.

West Park residents have made separate representations to Greenwich council with the aim of closing the end of the road at the Sidcup Road. No West Park residents were present at the August 16 meeting but it was felt that to close the end of West Park completely would simply divert the traffic along West Hallows and Luxfield Road, which are much narrower.

An alternative recommendation was therefore made that no right turn should be allowed out of West Park or Luxfield Road into Sidcup Road. The effect could be to increase the rush-hour traffic jam in Court Road but it might also persuade some drivers to find routes avoiding Mottingham village altogether.

A third point which it was agreed should be pressed with the borough councils was that the configuration of the War Memorial roundabout should be altered to ensure that traffic moving from Grove Park Road into West Park had to reduce its speed drastically. At present traffic from Grove Park often considers that it has right of way and is already travelling at speed when it enters the roundabout and on into West Park. A replanned roundabout would be safer and would reduce the speed of traffic in West Park.

Finally because of the danger between traffic and dense parking at the Sidcup Road end of Leysdown Road it was recommended that no right turn should be allowed out of Sidcup Road into Leysdown Road.

Parking in Mottingham was the other main concern of the meeting. The areas most affected here are Devonshire Road and Dorset Road. Devonshire Road, as a cul-de-sac in the middle of the village, is a favourite parking place. It also houses the premises of Goldsmiths Motors and the stores used by the Mottingham Horticultural Society. In Dorset Road the parking

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problem is aggravated by the movement of through traffic and the presence of Scott's garage, Downtime and a school.

Difficulties are also created at times by parking on the pavement on Mottingham Road itself and it is quite clear that parking facilities in the area are quite inadequate.

Four proposals were agreed at the meeting for sending to the two councils. Two were concerned with on-street parking which could make a small contribution. There is space for a lay-by for on-street parking on the north-east side of Mottingham Road between say Nos 17 and 59. There is also space for a lay-by for parking on the south-east side of Court Road between say Nos 275 and 281.

Two sites were suggested for off-street parking - one in each borough. On the Bromley side there is an overgrown site in Court Farm Road which is earmarked for a future replacement for Dorset Road School, but at present it is used intermittently by the Borough Engineer.

It was proposed that this should be converted into a public car park on the understanding that it should revert to its originally intended purpose when the replacement of Dorset Road School becomes possible.

A tentative offer was made at the meeting by Mr. Crompton a director of Scotts that his company might be prepared to lease the site and convert it to use as a public car park provided that some space were made available to his firm.

While this was seen as a suitable site some doubt was expressed at the meeting that even if it were suitably signposted many motorists would consider it to be too far from the centre of the village.

The only off-street site that could be created in the village centre would be behind the shops in Mottingham Road and in the area behind that currently used as a nursery, and it was agreed that the boroughs should be asked to look at this possibility.

The present situation is that a meeting between the Borough Engineers of Bromley and Greenwich is planned, and Councillor Alistair Macdonald has emphasised to Bromley that it should be held at an early date.

ARE YOU BEING SERVED?

What makes a good community - a place where people enjoy living - is not good shops and local services, easy transport, attractive roads, trees, nicely cared-for houses and gardens; though all these things help. A community is people, and a good community is one where people are friendly, considerate, willing to help each other when needed.

Lots of help of this sort is going on all the time in Nottingham - that's why many people say it's a friendly place. But there are still many people here who are not getting all the help they need - people who are elderly and can't manage those jobs around the house and garden like they used to; families where a member is handicapped in some way; families where one parent is struggling to bring up a family single-handed; people who are housebound and would appreciate having somebody just to come and talk to them.

At the same time there must be people who have the time and would be willing to give a hand in cases of need; perhaps people who themselves have known what it is to be lonely or unable to cope with all the work to be done.

It is to bring together the people who need help and those who are able to help them that a Good Neighbour Scheme is being launched by the Nottingham Community Service Project at a meeting - get out your diary - on Monday November 6 at 8 pm at the Nottingham Community Centre in Kimberidge Road.

The programme is being supported by the Bromley Council for Voluntary Service and the Bromley Borough Social Services Department, as well as local Nottingham organisations, and we are appealing for helpers of all ages from teens upwards from people who can give only a little time to those who can give a lot of time, for all kinds of help from digging the garden to driving somebody to hospital.

At the meeting on November 6 we want to do three things:

- find takers for some vacant jobs
- start a pilot survey of part of the area to discover what needs are still not being met and to find more volunteers
- launch a 'lifebelt scheme' allowing housebound people to call for help in emergency.

The Nottingham Community Service Project began work two years ago on the Bromley side of Nottingham but it is hoped

that we shall be able to expand into the Greenwich side.

In its first two years the Project has been run entirely by young people and has been aimed at helping the elderly with gardening and similar jobs and through this work to build better understanding and friendships across the generations.

We intend to continue and build up this part of the work because it has proved very successful, but at the same time we believe there is a wider range of needs that can be satisfied by bringing all age groups into the project.

MOTTINGHAM WEEK AGAIN

Planning has started for Mottingham Week 1979 and the committees are looking for new ideas for the programme.

Councillor Alistair Macdonald was elected chairman of the steering committee at an open planning meeting which was held on October 13 when it was decided to go ahead with the fourth of Mottingham's biennial festivals. Because there is a lot of secretarial work in planning the week a secretariat of three was elected: Valerie Bartlett, Joan Huxley and Audrey King.

One important difference next year will be that a theme is to be chosen for the Week as a whole, and the aim will be to make a profit for some worthwhile local charity. But there is no intention that the financial objective will override the main purpose of Mottingham Week which is to let people enjoy themselves get to know each other better and develop the identity of Mottingham as a community.

Apart from this change programme ideas appeared to be developing along similar lines to last year's successful Jubilee Mottingham Week.

Besides the main steering committee which will represent all areas of Mottingham four special committees have been set up and a co-ordinator appointed for each. They are:
 Fete committee: Rose Kennedy Model Farm Close. 857 6266
 Sports committee: Brian Mills 308 Green Lane. 851 0423
 Arts and Crafts Committee: Ron Julyan 9 West Park. 857 4328
 Publicity Committee: Jack Hollingum 33 Devonshire Road. 857 5856

Secretariat for the steering committee are: Valerie Bartlett 13 Court Farm Road, 857 7889; Joan Huxley 71 Court Farm Road 857 6099; and Audrey King 30 Lavidge Road 857 2333.

IN BRIEF

Albert Road: Councillor MacDonald reports on progress. Two families are still to be rehoused from the terrace houses on the south side before they can be demolished. Following collapse of negotiations with the Prince of Wales for exchange of some land the Borough Architect is examining the possibility of building old people's dwellings on the site of Nos 1-14. The corner site long used unauthorisedly as a lorry park, has been bought and will be fenced. The purchaser wants to build two houses there.

Old people's club: The club in Nunnington Close on the Geffery Homes Estate is to open very soon. A committee has been formed and Councillor Ron Huzzard is a co-opted member. Bromley Social Services are being asked to provide a luncheon club.

Book your rates rebate: Winifred Parkinson Mottingham Librarian has been looking through the interesting new books recently added to stock and adding up their prices. Non-fiction she calculates averages about £6 a book, fiction £5. 'For only 10p' she says 'you can reserve a book and perhaps be the first to handle a new book and experience the joy of its glossy new cover and clean pages as well as your favourite reading. Over 1 000 new books were added last year and we can also borrow from the stocks of all the libraries in London and the South East.

'Why not retrieve part of your rate demand in this attractive form of rebate?' says Miss Parkinson. 'What an enjoyable way of getting back at the borough treasurer.'

No doctors: With the closing of Dr Worth's practice in Court Road there are now no doctors practising in Mottingham and his 330 patients are being referred as far afield as New Eltham. But even there patients are being turned away by doctors who cannot accept any more. Residents' Association secretary Margaret Gardner has written to the Bromley and Greenwich Family Practitioners' Committee and a representative from Bromley is coming to see her shortly. A spokesman for Greenwich said that they could not force doctors to come into the area and that a doctor needed about 2 000 patients to make a practice viable.

Rats: Number 24 West Park has been empty for several years and neighbours say the house is infested with rats. All that MRA secretary Margaret Gardner can get from Greenwich borough is that they cannot trace the owner and that they cannot

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make a compulsory purchase order without notifying the owner. She is now doing some detective work of her own to find out whose house it is. If you have any clues please pass them to her.

Calling lone parents: Mrs Hendy wants to start a club for them. If you are interested ring her on 857 2954.

OUR SCHOOLS

by Councillor Ron Huzzard

Primary schools

Mottingham parents reacted strongly to Bromley's plan for closing both Castlecombe Primary and Dorset Road Infants' Schools. Determined action groups were formed by parents at both schools.

Bromley's new Education Committee chairman Councillor Mrs J. Bryant had to meet both groups. The Chief Education Officer and Mrs Bryant heard the school managers plead for the retention of both schools at a special meeting held on September 7.

Bromley's plan assumed falling rolls at all Mottingham's schools. In fact the numbers at Dorset Road are up to 80. At Castlecombe the roll has reached 200 compared with 173 a year ago. Mottingham's councillors predicted rising numbers, bearing in mind council housing development in the area.

Early closure of either school seems a long way off. We now want the words 'to close' deleted from Bromley's plan. Both schools are popular and parents do not want to see a single large school on the Ravensworth site as the only choice left.

Mottingham Girls' School

Education minister Mrs Shirley Williams has told Bromley to adhere to its secondary education plan and re-organise all its schools on comprehensive lines by September 1979.

Under the plan passed by Bromley Council a year ago, Mottingham Girls' School - currently a secondary modern school with 360 girls on its roll - is planned to close in September 1980. The girls are to be transferred to Beaverwood (Chislehurst) and Bullers Wood (Bickley) - both girls' grammar schools and scheduled to go comprehensive in September 1979. Extensions are planned at both these schools.

Whether or not Bromley implements this plan time alone will tell. It should be remembered that Mottingham Girls' School

has been listed for eventual closure in all Bromley's plans for the last twelve years.

The school has had this threat hanging over it for too long. While the schools offered to Mottingham boys and girls in the future are all excellent Mottingham as a local community will have no secondary school less than two miles away. The nearest will be Coopers the co-educational school in Chislehurst.

MEET NEW MRS CHIEF ROAD REP

One of the most important jobs in our Residents' Association is that of the co-ordinator of the membership sub-committee, because it is this person who is especially responsible for maintaining the links between the executive committee and the entire membership.

Until this year the task has been handled very ably by Reg Cambridge who has been a greatly liked and hardworking member of the executive. For the past year or two Reg has been trying to find a successor to take over the work, and at this year's annual general meeting we found a volunteer - Mrs. Catherine Goldberg.

Cath Goldberg lives in Beaconsfield Road with husband Dennis and their two children Ross, aged seven and four-year old Danielle. In the four years they have lived here they have come to like Mottingham very much. 'We find it a friendly place' says Cath.

In the task of collecting subscriptions and distributing these newsletters Cath is helped by a team of road representatives headed by four section leaders. When she took over there were quite a number of gaps to be filled where people had been unable to continue as representatives or as section leaders. So from the outset she was faced with a recruiting task.

She now has all but one of her section leaders and a loyal band of road representatives and is very appreciative of their help but there is still a need for more road representatives and if you feel you can help in distributing these magazines twice a year and collecting subscriptions once each year - not an onerous task - Cath would welcome a phone call or a letter from you. She is at 13 Beaconsfield Road, SE9 and the number is 851 3955.

The list of road representatives and their roads is now as follows. The gaps to be filled are also shown.

Section leader:

Birketts Road	Mr Pass	13 Birketts Road
Bowmead	Mr Pass	13 Birketts Road
Bromhedge	Mr Farrer	9 Lavidge Road
Chapel Farm Road East	Mr Farrer	9 Lavidge Road
Chapel Farm Road West	Miss Hyde	49 Crossmead
Crossmead	Miss Boteux	59 Crossmead
Downleys Close	Mr Wood	44 Highcombe Close
Leysdown Road (odd)	Mr Wood	44 Highcombe Close
Leysdown Road (even)	Mr Wood	44 Highcombe Close
Hartsmead Road	Mrs Roberts	1 Mottingham Road
Lavidge Road		
Royal Court	Miss Boteux	59 Crossmead
Sidcup Road N & SE	Mr Horsman	9 Grove Park Road

Section leader: Catherine Goldberg

Albert Road	Mrs Ferguson	29 Albert Road
Avondale Road	Mr Herbert	14 Chapel Farm Road
Beaconsfield Road	Mrs Goldberg	43 Beaconsfield Road
Court Farm Road	Mr Jenkins	61 Court Farm Road
Crossway	Miss Rendell	3 Crossway
Dorset Road	Mrs Redgrove	48 Dorset Road
Elmhurst Road	Miss Barker	20 Beaconsfield Road
Model Farm Road	Mrs Rogers	45 Beaconsfield Road
Mottingham Road 100/154	Mrs Ferguson	29 Albert Road
Mottingham Road 127/203	Mr Bannister	62 Leysdown Road
Porcupine Close	Mr Bannister	62 Leysdown Road
Portland Crescent	Mrs Redgrove	48 Dorset Road
Portland Road	Mrs Redgrove	48 Dorset Road
Bourdillon Court		
Evans Court		
Everest Court		
Hillary Court		
John Hunt Court		
Tenzing Court		

Section leader: Dennis Goldberg

Court Road E & W	Mr Goldberg	43 Beaconsfield Road
Evelyn Court	Mrs Currie	131 Mottingham Road
Highcombe Close		

Luxfield Road	Mrs Forrester	41 West Hallows
Mottingham Court		
Mottingham Road 1/93A	Mrs Currie	131 Mottingham Road
Mottingham Road 2/56	Mrs Huxley	71 Court Farm Road
Pickwick Court		
Priory Leas	Mrs Issias	23 Carters Hill Close
Sidcup Road NW		
Sidcup Road SW		
West Hallows	Mr Gillibrand	30 West Park
West Park	Mr Bond	38 West Park
Woodmere		

Section leader: Bob Roalfe 28 Cedar Mount Mottingham Lane

Cedar Mount	Mrs Winterbourne	26 Cedar Mount
Colview Court	Mr South	Littleholme, Mot. Lane
Clarence Road	Mrs Hollingum	33 Devonshire Road
Devonshire Road	Mrs Hollingum	33 Devonshire Road
Grove Park Road (odd)	Mr Willes	56 Grove Park Road
Grove Park Road (even)	Mr Wimpenny	12 Grove Park Road
Hall View	Mr Willes	56 Grove Park Road
Lulworth Road	Mrs Hollingum	33 Devonshire Road
Mottingham Gardens	Mrs Davies	1 Cedar Mount
Mottingham Lane	Mr South	Littleholme, Mot. Lane
College View	Mrs Davies	1 Cedar Mount

Section leader: Brian Barker 78 Grove Park Road

Ashdale Road		
Carters Hill Close	Mr Menzell	12 Carters Hill Close
Jevington Way (odd)	Mr Lingham	12 Cedar Mount
Jevington Way (even)		
Senlac Road		
Westdean Avenue		
Winn Road		

WHO'S WHO

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1978-9

(All addresses SE9 except where indicated)

PRESIDENT	Rev. C.M. Byers	233 Court Road	857 1691
VICE-PRESIDENT	Mr H. Lynn	21 Ashdale Rd SE12	
CHAIRMAN	Mr G.W. Jenkins	61 Court Farm Rd	857 8705
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Mr L. Bannister	68 Leysdown Rd	857 2197
HON. SECRETARY	Mrs M.V. Gardner	55 Leysdown Rd	857 6651
HON. TREASURER	Mr S.E. Smethurst	98 Leysdown Rd	857 0990

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. B. J. Barker	79 Grove Park Rd.	851 9209
Lt. Cdr. C. J. Bond	38 West Park	857 3306
Mrs. C. E. Goldberg	43 Beaconsfield Rd.	851 3955
Mr. D. Goldberg	43 Beaconsfield Rd.	851 3955
Mr. T. Goldsmith	153 Pinks Hill Swanley Kent	Swanley 68130
Mrs. S. Grove	31 Cedar Mount	Mottingham Lane 857 2794
Mr. J. Hollingum	33 Devonshire Rd.	857 5856
Mrs. J. Huxley	71 Court Farm Rd.	857 6099
Mrs. G. Laurence	3 Belvoir Close	857 2203
Mr. W. A. Lingham	12 Cedar Mount	Mottingham Lane 857 2466
Mr. C. R. Pryke	76 West Hallows	857 3005
Mr. R. Roalfe	28 Cedar Mount	Mottingham Lane 851 3695
Mr. F. Winpenny	12 Grove Park Rd.	857 1417

SUB-COMMITTEES ETC.

NEW ROADS: Mr. L. Bannister

BROMLEY RESIDENTS' FEDERATION: Cllr. D. Richards

ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Bromley: Cllr. D. Richards
Greenwich: Mr. C. R. Pryke

MEMBERSHIP: Mrs. C. E. Goldberg and Section Leaders

TOWN PLANNING: Bromley: Mr. G. I. Jenkins
Greenwich: Mr. R. RoalfePUBLICITY: Chairman and Editor Mr. J. Hollingum Messrs. Pryke
Winpenny Mesdames Huxley Goldberg with Mr. Jenkins and
Mrs. Gardner ex officio.GREENWICH B.C. Committees (Planning Environmental and Tree
Group) Mr. F. Winpenny

ELTHAM SOCIAL SERVICES (AREA 5) GROUP: Mr. Lingham Rev. C. Byers

ELTHAM ASSOCIATIONS COMMITTEE: Mr. Lingham Mr. Winpenny

MOTTINGHAM WEEK: Mrs. M. V. Gardner

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

A. H. Macdonald	79 Oakdene Avenue	Chislehurst	857 8219
R. W. Huzzard	37 Hollingsworth Road	Pettis Wood	857 5367
R. L. Martin	11 Crouchcroft		857 3840
D. Richards	10 West Hallows		857 5369
Mrs. Wendy Mitchell	(Advisory) 2 Glenhouse Road		857 5367