

Mottingham Residents' Association

1

NEWSLETTER No. 15

JULY 1979

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Graham Jenkins

Once more we are beset with the problems of reduced local authorities' spending, with its consequent cut backs on services which are already clearly inadequate. We recognise that local authorities have a problem in allocating their limited resources in what they regard as the most effective way. Nevertheless, we must constantly be on our guard against the expensive and prestigious projects which can so readily blossom under the dotting eyes of some of our more politically motivated dogmatists. In these times, it behoves Associations like ours to be particularly vigilant.

The Annual General Meeting on 24th April was reasonably well attended according to our rather pedestrian standards and, as always, provided a useful interchange of ideas and views. There are a number of changes in the Executive Committee and we thank the retiring members for their efforts on your behalf, and welcome the new blood with its attendant bubbling enthusiasm and bright new ideas. We are particularly pleased to welcome back one old hand in the shape of Reg Cambridge who will be taking an interest in the new membership organisation which is this year headed by Brian Barker. This is an onerous job and Mr. Barker deserves your wholehearted support.

We are aware that some members did not get approached last year for their membership subscription and are hopeful that the current year's collection will be more thorough. As an act of faith we have retained the subscription at 25p with the usual exemption for Senior Citizens. I assume that the fact that you are reading this newsletter indicates that you have done your bit and paid up cheerfully. Any influence you can bring to bear on less enthusiastic neighbours would be very welcome.

Finally, the strength of our Association rests in its members and we can only represent the views of Mottingham residents forcibly and cogently when we can claim a thriving and numerically strong membership.

MOTTINGHAM'S IMPRESSIVE WEEK

Alistair Macdonald
Chairman, Mottingham Week Committee

A lot of work went into Mottingham Week 1979.

The programme offered a variety of events, mostly home-produced by local organisations but with some professional entertainments imported from outside. None of it - the fete, the exhibitions, the concerts, the music halls, the dances, the sports, the other events - none of it would have happened without many people devoting a great deal of their time. Let me, on behalf of the many people of Mottingham who enjoyed the Week, express thanks to all my colleagues on the Committee and to their helpers.

One interesting innovation in 1979 was a tent - that we dignified by the name of marquee - for the sale of tickets and badges, and thanks are due to the Methodist Church for allowing it to be pitched in their grounds. Thanks are due also to the Maryfield Club for giving up a Saturday night so that the dance might be held in their premises.

Another innovation in 1979 was that we decided before the Week began what any surplus made would be used for. The purpose of Mottingham Week was and is not to make money but to allow people of Mottingham to enjoy themselves - and in earlier years we have waited to see what the surplus was before deciding what to do with it. This year we decided in advance that we would use any surplus to finance a wheelchair.

We were fortunate in enjoying good weather, and many events showed an improved attendance. But comparisons are not really in order, for no Week is an exact copy of the one before - each new Committee suggests new events. I think also there is another reason why comparison is not apt - in 1979 there were more local organisations than ever before - and from all parts of Mottingham - making their contribution. It was very satisfying to see so many people involved.

I have actually heard that in other parts of both Bromley and Greenwich they are surprised that little Mottingham can on its own mount so impressive a festival. They didn't know us. Let's hope they do now!

High on the Agenda at the regular meetings of the Executive Committee of your Association is the problem of improving the car parking facilities in Mottingham.

Vigorous representations have been made to the interested parties, namely the G.L.C., the two Boroughs and the Police and this has resulted in the promise of a joint meeting to assess the problem and to agree a course of action. We are doing our best to get this meeting set up as quickly as possible.

Strolling around Mottingham, say on a Saturday morning, it is very easy to see what is happening. Most of the roads close to the shops are badly congested, to the frustration of the local residents. Cars are also parked (illegally) on the pavement on the north side of the High Road unless the Law happens to be in the vicinity.

So what can be done? Is the answer to put down yellow lines in an attempt to chase the motor car further away from the shopping area or, alternatively, to improve where possible the facilities.

At this stage it would be useful to review the various ideas which have emerged and to invite comments and suggestions from our Members.

It is of course appreciated that there are no ideal solutions but a tentative list of proposals arising from our discussions is as follows.

There is a sizeable plot of Council land at the north end of Court Farm Road which seems a possibility for a car park. Unfortunately this site suffers from the disadvantage of being some distance from the main shopping area and it may be too far away for the heavily laden shopper. Incidentally, Bromley have rejected our proposals for the use of this site and apparently they prefer for the time being to keep it as it is, that is an unauthorised rubbish dump for anyone's household and other rubbish so that it is well on its way to first class eyesore status. Spare a thought too for the local gardeners coping with the flow of weed seeds from this patch.

Nearer to the centre of Mottingham, we already have a couple of lay-bys, one on each side of the High Road. As cars con-

tinually park on the pavement west of the Court Road intersection, it might be a good idea to make available for them a six-foot wide strip. This would still leave adequate space for pedestrians.

At the end of West Park, near the War Memorial junction perhaps room could be found for some parking bays, without restricting the flow of traffic and causing a hazard.

It is a matter of conjecture the effect that the lack of parking facilities has had on the business of our shopkeepers. It may be that the busy shopper is being driven away to Eltham or Bromley. So, shopkeepers, please let us have your views and support us where you can.

Comments and suggestions on these proposals would be appreciated - please send them to Jack Hollingum, our Editor, at 33, Devonshire Road.

On a lighter note, this problem may be of the sort that will just go away with the increase in price and shortage of petrol causing the end of the age of the motor car. Perhaps we ought to be thinking in terms of bicycle stands and tethering rails for horses. Who knows what the next ten years has in store for us.

How well do you know your church?

The Rev. Christopher Byers

1. The Church was consecrated a year after the foundation stone was laid. When do we celebrate our Centenary?
2. If Christopher Byers is the eighth, who was the first and is there anything in the Church which tells us anything about him?
3. What is the purpose of a Church in these secular days?
4. If you wanted to come and make arrangements for a wedding or a baptism or to talk privately with the clergy, when should you come?
5. Where do four saints and the four gospel writers stand on top of one another?
6. Two items in the Church should remind you of cricket. What are they?
7. Where would you go in the Church to catch a bus to Eltham?

- 5
8. What emblem of a political party can still be seen and what has St. George done with it?
 9. Who greets who in a foreign language?
 10. How much do the Government and the Church Commissioners pay towards the upkeep and maintenance of the Church and clergy salary?
 11. Is there a special programme of events being planned for the Centenary Year?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 9

BROMLEY'S SCHOOL PLANS IN THE BALANCE

Councillor Ron Huzzard

The Mottingham schools that fall within Bromley Borough have been in the news again. The determined campaigns by parents against the proposed closure of Dorset Road Infants and Castlecombe Primary schools paid off. Recently Bromley agreed to modify the plan issued eighteen months ago which caused so much concern.

It is clear that the big fall in primary school rolls is not being felt yet in Mottingham as Bromley's planners envisaged but which local councillors doubted. The numbers are up at Castlecombe and Dorset Road continues to take its maximum - 80 pupils. The latter school has a waiting list.

A new threat now looms. Bromley wants to close down Mottingham Infants school - purpose built in the late thirties - and transfer the small children and the pre-school playgroup into some classrooms within the secondary school building.

There are many practical problems in carrying through this scheme as soon as September, even if it can be advanced as an economy measure in the long term. With the continued pressure on Dorset Road school it seems crazy to take out of service the nearest infants school - Mottingham Infants. If 5 to 7 year olds are moved into secondary school premises then adaptations to toilets and other facilities should be carried out.

This move has been sprung on us at the end of the Summer term. The headteachers have not been consulted and the infants' parents ignored. The school managers and governors have said "No" to this move going ahead in September.

Finally, what about Mottingham Girls' secondary school? It has had a closure threat hanging over it since 1967. With the

change of Government Bromley has asked the Chief Education Officer to prepare a new secondary school plan that retains an element of selection!

A big question arises. If Beaverwood and Bullers Wood (both grammar schools) do not become all-ability schools, where will the Mottingham girls go if Bromley still goes ahead with its closure plan? Mottingham is a non-selective school. So once again doubts are cast over the school's future. At the time I write there is no more news. The uncertainty arising from chopping and changing policies places the Mottingham staff in an unenviable position. They deserve our sympathy.

NEWS FOR THE DISABLED

Councillor Alistair Macdonald

On 1st April 1979 the Rating (Disabled Persons) Act came into force. This Act says that where a disabled person requires a facility essential for his well-being - for example, a physically handicapped person might require a downstairs toilet - then the local Council must grant relief from the rates payable on that facility.

But it won't happen automatically. A claim for rate relief has got to be made. So here are a few notes. They are not a complete authoritative statement of the law, so if you want fuller information, or want a form of application for claiming relief, you should apply to the Borough Treasurer.

1. Who can claim relief? A disabled ratepayer; or a ratepayer who has a disabled person in his household; or a disabled person paying an inclusive rent; or a person paying an inclusive rent who has a disabled person in his household.
2. Who is a disabled person? Any person who is blind, deaf or dumb or suffers from mental disorder of any description or is substantially or permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity. Any person who is registered as disabled under the National Assistance Act 1948 automatically ranks as disabled for the purposes of the Rating (Disabled Persons) Act. Other people not so registered may also rank as disabled, but they may have to prove disability (for example, by medical certificates).
3. What are the conditions for giving relief? There must be a facility actually existing; it must be rated already; and it must be essential for the well-being of the disabled person. At the outset this may involve a bit of paper-work. The disabled person claiming relief will have to prove that the facility is essential

7

for his well-being, with a certificate from his doctor or from a social worker, and the Council may want to come and inspect it. But note - it is not a condition that the facility was specially installed. If you need a downstairs toilet, and you move into a house that already has one, you may still claim relief.

4. What sort of facilities? An additional bathroom; an additional toilet; any additional room if it really is essential; space for a wheelchair; a garage, or a carport, or even just land, used for parking a disabled person's car (other than temporarily); a heating installation. There could be other examples.

5. How much relief? The Act doesn't prescribe the amount of relief - not just like that. What it does is to prescribe the rateable values on which relief is to be given. This seems more complex, but it is fairer. It means that if you live in a district of high rates you will get high relief, but if you live in a low rate area, where the rate burden is not so onerous, then the relief will be less. As examples:-

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Assumed rateable value</u>
Additional bathroom	£20
Garage	£25
Carport	£15

6. Will it affect rate rebates? Only a bit; if you are already enjoying a rate rebate, this new disablement relief may reduce the rate rebate a little, though it would be most unlikely to wipe it out altogether.

7. Will it affect rent rebates? Hardly at all.

8. Will it affect supplementary benefits? Yes. If you are receiving supplementary benefit, consult the DHSS to see whether it is better to claim this new disablement relief (and have supplementary benefit reduced) or to go on with supplementary benefit.

9. How long does it last for? This isn't decided yet; but it is likely that once you have applied for and got your disablement relief, you will get it automatically for the next five years, without the need to apply again each year. But this is not yet certain.

10. When is the time to apply? As soon as you like.

It unfortunately happens sometimes that citizens are involved in disputes over purchases, holidays, accidents, services and so on, where the cost involved, although important to the parties involved, is not sufficient to justify legal action.

It is for such situations that the London Small Claims Court exists. It deals with claims involving amounts between £10 and £350, but does not concern itself with crime, divorce or debt. The Court offers a speedy, informal and inexpensive method of arbitration, and both parties have to agree voluntarily to arbitration before it can proceed. Advice is not given by the Court and is best obtained from solicitors.

The prospective claimant completes a blank form setting out the problem, and if the Administrator of the Court considers the dispute suitable for submission he invites the other party to complete a form giving details of his defence. Both these statements, with other helpful documents, are sent to the Adjudicator, who decides whether any further enquiries must be made or steps taken before the case is ready for hearing. For example it may be necessary to commission an expert to report or test goods.

The Adjudicator then arranges a hearing, which is normally at the Court, which is an ordinary room, but in certain circumstances the hearing can be in the home, shop or office of either party. The atmosphere is extremely informal and civilised, and lawyers are not allowed to represent the parties.

Both parties must agree to accept the decision of the Court before the matter can proceed, because once a decision is made this is legally binding on both parties.

If the Adjudicator decides the claimant has proved his case he will direct the respondent to pay whatever sum he considers suitable. He will also decide which party must pay the fees, including all or part of the cost of any expert evidence. The claimant pays a £2 registration fee and a Court fee of £3 for claims under £100 or £8 for claims over £100. The Administrator can waive the fee if he thinks fit, and if the claimant wins it is likely that he will get back the total fee.

You can reach the London Small Claims Court at 235, High Holborn, WC1V 7DN, telephone 01-242 8531, but first you should consult a solicitor, legal advice centre, Citizens' Advice Bureau, Consumer Advice Centre or Trading Standards Office.

Answers to the questions to be found on page 4

1. The foundation stone facing Court Road was laid in 1879 and the Church consecrated on 18th March 1880. 1980 is therefore St. Andrew's Centenary Year. Originally it was intended to build at the junction of Mottingham Road, Mottingham Lane, Court Farm Road and Grove Park Road but the owners of this part of Mottingham refused to part with any of their estate. They also fought against the inclusion of their part of Mottingham into the London County Council when it was formed, hence the division which affects us today.
2. George Barker Peregrine Viner was the first Rector who established the parish and built the Church at a cost of £2,765. He was here for 33 years and died at the age of 95. There is a plaque to his memory in the sanctuary. We still have notes about his sermons and members of his family still keep in touch with the parish.
3. Members of the congregation spent some time together working this out. This is our statement of purpose. "The purpose of our Church is to be a family of people committed to Christ who in fellowship with each other together worship God with joy and love and seek to be guided and enlivened by the Holy Spirit. We are to bring others to share in the faith, freedom and peace offered to the world in Christ, deepen our understanding of this faith and apply it to every aspect of our individual family, social, working and community life".
4. Vestry Hour is held in Church every Monday and Thursday between 7 p.m. and 7.45 p.m. but of course appointments can be made at other times by telephone.
5. On the oak reredos behind the altar. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John stand above Andrew, David, Patrick and George. They are very simple and attractive plaster cast figures. There is no record of who made them or who gave them to the Church. The painting behind the altar is a copy of Perugino's altar piece. The original is in the National Gallery.
6. The desk in the clergy vestry was given by Dr. W.G. Grace. More recently one of the newly made kneelers depicts a field with stumps set at either end. The Rector can say his prayers while on the cricket pitch! It is generally supposed that the Church porch, the last addition to the

Church, was given by the Grace family.

7. A window in the north wall depicts a rural setting on the one side and a picture of Court Road on the other with a 161 bus on its way to Eltham. A reminder of how times have changed. When the Church was built there were 700 people living in Mottingham, now there must be 25,000. Once a pastor could know all his flock, now we must all share in the ministry of the Church to the community.
8. Another window on the same wall is a memorial to those killed in air raids during the second world war. Part of it is made up of fragments recovered from the shattered East window which was never replaced. The slain dragon wears a swastika arm band but St. George has him firmly under foot.
9. On the opposite wall is a picture of Berlin in 1912 given to St. Andrew's by our friends from a church in Frohnau West Berlin. Parish visits in either direction have been going on for many years. We have been invited again next year. So opposite memories of conflict are gifts of friendship and reconciliation.
10. Neither the Government nor the Church Commissioners pay anything towards the upkeep and maintenance of the Church. £385 per annum is paid by the Commissioners towards the Rector's salary. Everything else has to be found by members of the parish. The future of any Church depends entirely on the regular financial support of parishioners. This needs to be understood before it is too late.
11. A Centenary brochure is being prepared. There will be a programme of social events including concerts, dinners, dances and garden fetes. Special services will be held. A centenary Appeal has been launched for £15,000 to restore the Church and install some heating. We are hoping to build a flatlet scheme for the elderly similar to the one at Evelyn Court and a new and more reasonably sized Rectory. We need your help.

Road Representatives - continued from page 12

Sidcup Road (NW)	Mr. J. Gold	9, Lulworth Road
Sidcup Road (SW)	Mr. Wedderburn	13, West Hallows
West Hallows	Mrs. M. Hunt	8, Luxfield
West Park	Mr. Bond	38, West Park
Woodmere	Mrs. Cornish	29, Lavidge Road

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1979/80

PRESIDENT Rev. C.M. Byers 233 Court Road, S.E.9 857 1691
 VICE-PRESIDENT Mr. H. Lynn 24, Ashdale Road, S.E.12
 CHAIRMAN Mr. G.W. Jenkins 61, Court Road, S.E.9 857 8705
 VICE-CHAIRMAN Mr. L. Bannister 68, Leysdown Rd.S.E.9 857 2497
 HON. SECRETARY Mrs. M.V. Gardner 55, Leysdown Rd.S.E.9 857 6654
 HON. TREASURER Mr. S.E. Smethurst 16, Portland
 Crescent S.E.9 857 1828

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. B.J. Barker	78, Grove Park Road, S.E.9	851 9209
Lt. Cdr. G.L. Bond	38, West Park, S.E.9.	857 3306
Mr. R.C. Cambridge	7, Lavidge Road, S.E.9	857 1291
Mrs. Corrigan	18, Lulworth Road, S.E.9	
Mr. J. Gold	9, Lulworth Road, S.E.9	
Mr. J.R. Hearn	10, Pickwick Court, West Park, S.E.9	851 2523
Mr. J. Hollingum	33, Devonshire Road, S.E.9	857 5856
Mr. G.D. Podmore	32, Lavidge Road, S.E.9	857 4111
Mr. C.R. Pryke	76, West Hallows, S.E.9	857 3005
Mr. F. Winpenny	12, Grove Park Road, S.E.9	857 1417
Mr. R.P. Wood	44, Highcombe Close, S.E.9	857 1251

BOROUGH COUNCILLORSBromley:

Cllr. A.H. Macdonald 79, Oakdene Avenue, Chislehurst 857 8219
 Cllr. R.W. Huzzard 37, Hollingsworth Road, Petts Wood 467 5367

Greenwich:

Cllr. R.L. Martin 11, Croucherft, S.E.9 857 3340
 Cllr. D. Richards 10, West Hallows, S.E.9 857 5299
 Cllr. Mrs. Wendy Mitchell 2, Glenhouse Road, S.E.9 850 3591
 (Advisory)

The list of road representatives and their roads is now as follows:

Section Leader - Mr. B.J. Barker - 78, Grove Park Road

Cedar Mount	Mrs. Winterbourne	26, Cedar Mount
College View	Mrs. H. Davis	1, Cedar Mount
Colview Court	Mrs. H. Davis	1, Cedar Mount
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 Rd. (even)	Mr. Winpenny	12, Grove Park Road
Hall View	Mr. Willes	56, Grove Park Road
Lulworth Road	Mrs. Hollingum	33, Devonshire Road
Mottingham Gardens	Mrs. H. Davis	1, Cedar Mount

Section Leader - Mr. G. Podmore 32, Lavidge Road

Albert Road	Mrs. Ferguson	29, Albert Road
Avondale Road	Mr. Gardner	38, Chapel Farm Road
Beaconsfield Road	Mrs. Goldberg	43, Beaconsfield Rd.
Court Farm Road	Mr. G.W. Jenkins	61, Court Farm Road
Crossway	Mr. G.W. Jenkins	61, Court Farm Road
Dorset Road	Mr. O'Nanby	25, Devonshire Road
Elmhurst Road	Miss Barker	80, Beaconsfield Rd.
Model Farm Close	Mrs. Rodgers	45, Beaconsfield Rd.
Mottingham Rd. 100/154	Mrs. Ferguson	29, Albert Road
Mottingham Rd. 127/203	Mr. Bannister	68, Leysdown Road
Porcupine Close	Mr. Bannister	68, Leysdown Road
Portland Crescent	Mr. O'Nanby	25, Devonshire Road
Portland Road	Mr. O'Nanby	25, Devonshire Road

Section Leader - Mr. R. Cambridge 7, Lavidge Road

Birketts Road	Mrs. Pass	Birketts Road
Bowmead	Mrs. Pass	Birketts Road
Bromhedge	Mr. Farrer	9, Lavidge Road
Chapel Farm Rd. (East)	Mr. Farrer	9, Lavidge Road
Chapel Farm Rd. (West)	Miss Hyde	49, Crossmead
Crossmead	Miss Boteux	59, Crossmead
Downleys Close	Mr. Wood	44, Highcombe Close
Leysdown Road	Mr. Wood	44, Highcombe Close
Hartsmead	Miss Gammons	29, Leysdown Road
Lavidge Road	Mr. W. Podmore	32, Lavidge Road
Royal Court	Miss Boteux	59, Crossmead
Sidcup Road N. side	Mr. Horsman	9, Grove Park Road

Section Leader - Mr. J. Gold 9, Lulworth Road

Court Road (West)	Mr. J. Gold	9, Lulworth Road
Court Road (East)	Mrs. Corrigan	
Evelyn Court	Mrs. Currie	131, Mottingham Road
Highcombe Close	Mrs. Roberts	4, Mottingham Road
Luxfield Road	Mrs. Forrester	41, West Hallows
Mottingham Rd. 1/93a	Mrs. Currie	131, Mottingham Road
Mottingham Rd. 2/56a	Mrs. Huxley	71, Court Farm Road
Friory Leas	Mr. Bond	38, West Park

(continued on page 10)