

JUBILEE DINNER

Elegantly dressed ladies and well-groomed gentlemen set the tone for a most enjoyable evening when we celebrated the Golden Jubilee of our Residents' Association. Tastefully laid out tables and pleasing background music provided the right atmosphere of festivity to the Maryfield Hall. The dinner was well prepared and efficiently served so that ample time was left for speeches and dancing.

Our Chairman, Mr. Jenkins, welcomed the guests and gave a brief outline of the Association's history. He was followed by our President, Mrs. Kirk, who voiced the feelings of deep gratitude felt towards our Secretary, Mrs. Gardner, for all her hard work on behalf of local residents. Her bouquet was a small token of our appreciation, but the words with which it was accompanied can have left little doubt in her mind that we value her efforts most highly. Ron Huzzard added his own appreciation of her hard work when he made a speech of "Farewell" after being a Mottingham Councillor for 14 years. He will be a loss to us and also to Bromley Council since he failed to get elected in his new seat at St. Paul's Cray.

Then we had the pleasure of being addressed by one of our founder members of the Association, Mr. W. Fuller, who gave a most interesting account of the beginnings of our thriving organisation. (His talk is reproduced in this magazine for the benefit of those members who were unable to attend the celebration).

The evening was rounded off with dancing to carefully selected music which catered for all tastes and styles of footwork.

Having celebrated our Fifty Years in grand style, we can now look forward to our Centenary in 2032!

(Cover picture by kind permission of Bromley Library Service)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Association's Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 27th April in the Maryfield Hall. After the previous year's excellent attendance numbers were rather disappointing. The meeting was opened by our President, Mrs. Kirk and then last year's Minutes were read and adopted. The Chairman, Mr. Jenkins then gave a brief outline of our efforts on behalf of the local community. The Treasurer, Mr. Pryke, produced a Balance Sheet which showed that funds are sufficient to ensure that no increase in the subscription is necessary for another year at least.

All last year's officers agreed to stand again for a further year of office and all were elected unopposed. Everyone was particularly relieved that our Secretary, Mrs. Gardner, was persuaded to continue her hard work for at least one more year. Her bouquet was a small token of the appreciation which is felt for her sterling service.

There were a few changes in the Executive Committee and we were sorry that pressure of work means that we lose the services of Jack Hollingum who was so hardworking in the past. We are happy to welcome some new faces to our friendly group.

Thanks were expressed to our Honorary Auditor, Mr. Botell, for his generous help and advice over the years.

Our biggest difficulty remains the collection of subscriptions so we were especially delighted to have offers to serve as Road Reps. in some roads which have recently been neglected.

From all the reports it is evident that Mottingham Residents' Association continues to be a thriving organisation, which has already survived for 50 years and should continue to flourish in the future.

After the business part of the meeting, two locally-based Police Officers gave suggestions for making households less vulnerable to burglary. Safe door locks were the main safe-

guard and it was stressed that it is pointless having a safe front door if the back door is completely ignored. A device can be fitted to patio sliding doors to prevent them being lifted from their tracks to gain entry. All windows should be fitted with locks and louvre windows are particularly vulnerable. Unless they are glued into their frames the glass sections can be removed easily. The local Police have a Crime Prevention Officer who will be happy to call on any household to give advice on home security. His services are free and a 'phone call to him may save you a lot of distress in the future.

Don't make it easy for your friendly neighbourhood burglar to drop in!

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT A COPY OF THE MINUTES OF EVERY MEETING OF YOUR ASSOCIATION IS AVAILABLE IN THE LIBRARY.

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

Meetings of the Greenwich Council's Development Control Sub-Committee are open to the general public. Your Association keeps a watch on local planning matters, and as this is my particular concern on the Executive Committee I had always wanted to attend a planning meeting. The opportunity arose over a recent case of unauthorised development so I set off for a 7 p.m. meeting in Woolwich.

The Town Hall, where the meetings take place, is a very elegant, late-Victorian building. It was built in those far-off days when local Councils seemed to have few budget constraints. Entering the building the visitor is confronted by a large, white marble statue of Queen Victoria set in a commanding position at the end of the magnificent entrance hall.

I was directed up the staircase, past the haughty presence of the old Queen, and took my place in the Public Gallery of the Council Chamber ready for the "off". This Chamber is very much in keeping with the whole style of the Town Hall - quite grand, with lots of fine oak joinery. As I was soon to discover - the acoustics are dreadful!

A collection of Councillors, with a Chairman supplied by Council officers, took the "centre stage" and the proceedings began. The Chairman set a cracking pace, mindful no doubt that there was a fairly heavy agenda to get through before closing time. Of course, the position on the agenda of any one item is determined by the Chairman, so I settled down for what might be a long wait.

Members of the public, at the discretion of the Committee, and having given notice the day before, may address the assembly for a period of about five minutes. Once the address has been delivered they must sit down and keep quiet, unless requested to say more. The proceedings were considerably enlivened when one individual, having made a rambling statement in support of his planning application, attempted to argue with the chairman. He was told in no uncertain terms to "be silent".

At one stage a lady seated next to me asked if I could hear what was going on. I had to admit it was very difficult. Full of enterprise she said that a note must be sent to the Chairman asking if the Committee members could possibly speak up a little. A note was duly scribbled and reached the Chairman by a very circuitous route. Perhaps he had never had such a request before, because he seemed rather surprised that anyone there was really interested. He informed his colleagues of the need to make themselves heard and joked that those in the Public Gallery would rather like to hear as well as see the Committee.

Eventually, after much shuffling of papers, plans and photographs my subject reached the head of the queue. The Council officers had already prepared a report and recommendation on the matter, but despite this, some contrary views were expressed by one Councillor and a statement was made from the Public Gallery. Finally, the Chairman summed up the consensus view and duly endorsed the decision on the application.

So that was it! An Enforcement Order would be issued. I left the Council Chamber, down the imposing staircase, past Queen Victoria and out into Wellington Street. On the way home I pondered on local democracy in action. It was obvious that a lot of hard work was being undertaken on our behalf by our Councillors and others, and it seemed to me, admittedly after only a brief experience, that the system was being operated with evident fairness and efficiency.

MOTTINGHAM MEN'S WORKSHOP - In March 1982 the money raised by last year's Mottingham Week was put to good use in the local community. It has been used to buy tools and to help with the rent for Mottingham Men's Workshop. This group of retired men meets on Tuesday afternoons at St. Andrew's Church, where they do woodwork and create saleable items to make them self-financing. It is an excellent chance for older men to get away from their homes for a while and to practise or learn new crafts in congenial company. The group will be happy to welcome new members and enquiries can be answered by Mrs. O'Keefe tel. 464 3333. It is always encouraging to hear of new activities being carried out in the local community and we wish them success in the future.

BROMLEY COUNCIL WARNS OF "LOFT COWBOYS" - Householders, and particularly the elderly, are advised to beware of callers who offer to undertake loft insulation work. They claim that grants are automatically available from the Council but this is only so if the work has actually been approved after application on the special forms provided by the "Improvements" Section. At least two estimates should always be obtained before any work is agreed and no deposit should be handed over unless the firm is known to be a reputable one.

LINDENHURST ENQUIRY - Following a local enquiry the Ministry of the Environment Inspector dismissed the appeal against Bromley Council's refusal of outline planning permission for three blocks of 3 storey, 2 bedroom flats together with 18 rear garages and 9 car parking bays.

The Enquiry was held on December 10th 1981 and was attended by a number of residents, two members of the Association's Executive Committee and Cllr. MacDonald. Our Councillor put the residents' case for dismissal most comprehensively and lucidly.

In support of his decision, which was published in February, the Inspector made the following points:

- a. It would be beneficial to formulate an alternative layout with a less formal style.
- b. The proposed access ran too close to the whole South East boundary of No. 20 Mottingham Gardens and the parking bays would abut this property.
- c. The proposed garages were inappropriately sited, being arranged immediately adjoining the boundaries of the neighbouring houses.

- d. In his opinion the use of the access road, parking bays and garage complex would affect the amenities of the adjoining properties in an unacceptably detrimental manner.

THE "MOTTINGHAM WEEK" WHEELCHAIR IS AVAILABLE FOR BORROWING IN TIMES OF ILLNESS OR INJURY. NO FEE IS CHARGED. PLEASE RING 857 7391 WHEN IT IS NEEDED.

MOTTINGHAM AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

The Mottingham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild celebrated its 18th Anniversary last December. Mrs. E. Clifford, the first Founder Chairman, and Mrs. E. Winpenny, Founder Secretary, were welcomed with other founder members to the "Coming-of-Age" party by enthusiastic present members of the Guild.

This last year, in the belief that "laughter is the best medicine" we have had a good percentage of light-hearted talks - Mrs. Darby's "This is Your Life" was a most entertaining account of her life as a Naval Chaplain's wife - whereas Mrs. Richardson amazed us with facts on Genealogy and we went home "walking tall" and thinking it possible that we may be related to King Edward 1st (albeit along with several million other Britons).

We have our serious side too, in discussing what we as a Guild do and say about items such as "Glue Sniffing" and the "Common Market".

By Coffee Mornings and Ploughman's Lunches etc. we are doing our best to promote community friendship and at the same time raise funds. Our charity this year is the local St. Christopher's Hospice.

Other activities include Arts and Crafts, Gardening and Bridge. Our outings are well supported and have included visits to the Cotswolds, Broadlands, Arundel, Fishbourne and Chichester.

We shall be pleased to welcome any new members to our monthly meetings at 2 p.m. on the first Wednesday in each month (except August) at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Court Road, S.E.9. For any further details, please contact our Chairman - Mrs. Jill Smith (857 1355).

FIFTY YEARS A RESIDENT

It all started about 1930. Mottingham had been a quiet, sleepy village, in which the biggest daily happening was the movement of the large Express Dairy herd of cattle from one part of the village to another.

But suddenly, certain large plots of land became available for building, and country tracks soon became busy streets.

The old village pub, the Prince Wales (no "of") was where the new residents met to discuss their grievances: "no street paving, no lamps, not many buses, etc." - over their pints of Styles & Winch's good Kentish ale.

Among the newcomers were Mr. Reg Pike, Mr. Tommy Ramsbottom and myself, who thought it was time we did something about it. So, at our own expense, we prepared a few circulars about the position and invited new (and old if interested) residents to a meeting in the wooden hall at the rear of the Prince Wales. About thirty people attended, and the Association was formed.

Our first Chairman was Reg Pike and Mr. S. Lambert was the first Secretary (for a short time only) until he handed over to Mr. E.G. Rodnell. I was Assistant Secretary and I suggested the name "Mottingham Residents and Ratepayers Association" which the meeting accepted.

Tommy Ramsbottom became our "grouser in chief" because of his knowledge of Local Government affairs.

In those days we had a Parish Council, with no money to spend and no teeth. The big overlord was the Bromley Rural District Council, whose offices were at Orpington - a remote place in those days.

Within a few months I was elected onto the Parish Council, and am now the only surviving member of that amusing body. Mr. B.J. Saunders, the reporter of the Eltham Times, wrote many amusing columns about our doings, including a lovely one about our last meeting in 1934.

When the new Chislehurst & Sidcup Urban District Council was formed Mr. Ramsbottom and I were elected to it, unopposed, and I remained on the Council until 1958 or thereabouts and had the honour to be its Chairman in 1952 and Coronation Year 1953.

In the meantime the Residents' Association had grown and prospered under its first President, Mr. Roger Pannell, and those fine Secretaries: Mr. Whiting; Mr. and Mrs. Abbott, Miss Eve and later, Mr. Lynn.

The War made things difficult, and for quite a while I had to live at Sidcup. Although sitting for a Sidcup Ward I still watched Mottingham interests.

Where there were once acres of playing fields, there are now big Council estates (Mottingham and Coldharbour), plus hundreds of new private houses. Mottingham Lane is a "lane" no more. Beaconsfield Road and Court Farm Road have no dairy herd, and no muddy, unpaved tracks.

But there is still a "village atmosphere", and fifty years of thoughtful and generous service by its Residents' Association and their officers have done much to keep this spirit alive. Long may it do so.

PRINCIPAL PRE-WAR HAPPENINGS

In 1933 the old Parish Council, after extreme pressure by the Association, negotiated the purchase of the small park at the south of Elmhurst Road. This little open space was then fenced in and a grove of shrubs was planted. To celebrate the Silver Jubilee of King George V a lovely carved boulder was prepared by our own Charles Folkard (of Teddy Tail fame) incorporating a quotation from the King's speech - "To the children of England your King is speaking to you". In addition, a sundial was provided from local funds. In the wartime the railings were taken for scrap and the boulder and sundial disappeared.

The Association arranged all the public celebrations for the Jubilee and also for the Coronation of King George VI, by which time a great many houses on the new L.C.C. estate were occupied. To feed all the children was quite a problem, and it was made worse by a heavy downpour which occurred just before the open-air feast was about to begin! Consequently many of us spent the evening delivering bags of food all round the village and new estate.

At this time the musical offshoot (Mottingham Music Circle) did their bit to make the new residents welcome by staging concerts and recitals at "The Knoll" in Elmstead Lane, but did not get much appreciation, despite the efforts of Mr. Pike and our first lady Committee member, Mrs. Gooding. During the Second World War a few of us staged gramophone recitals and similar small activities at lonely gun sites and balloon stations.

Mottingham has had a few celebrated residents:

Mr. Mantovani - the well-known musician who lived in Grove Park Road.

Charles Folkard - artist and sculptor, and his son who was also an artist.

Paddy Purcell - who founded and ran the London Youth Band.

Sergeant Major Colper - first flautist and senior member of the celebrated Royal Artillery Band.

Some of our original members still survive: Mr. G.D. Soerville, Mr. H. Hook, Mr. Edwards, Mr. S. Walker, Mrs. E. Gooding, Mrs. Benning (Mr. Pike's daughter).

Widows of original members are Mrs. H.C. Roberts, Mrs. A.J. Ing and Mrs. Ellis.

Mr. Fuller is certainly an excellent advertisement for the health-giving effects of years of public service. His wide range of interests and activities - which included cricket and fund-raising - as well as his Council work have made him a fascinating man to talk to. We owe a debt of gratitude to him and his colleagues for their initiative and enterprise so many years ago.

MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Officers and Executive Committee : 1982/83

PRESIDENT : Mrs. D V Kirk: 10 Scotsdale Close,
Orpington, Kent 66 34834
VICE PRESIDENT : Mr. H Lynn: 24 Ashdale Road, SE 12
CHAIRMAN : Mr. G W Jenkins: 61 Court Farm Road, SE 9 857 8709
VICE-CHAIRMAN : Mr. G D Podmore: 32 Lavidge Road 857 4111
HON. SECRETARY : Mrs. M V Gardner: 55 Leysdown Road 857 6654
HON. TREASURER : Mr. C R Pryke: 76 West Hallows 857 3005
HON. AUDITOR : Mr. E C Botell: 18 Highcombe Close 857 1745

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mrs. M Baldwin: 2 Royal Court, Court Road, SE 9 857 1662
Mr. B J Barker: 78 Grove Park Road, SE 9 851 9209
Mr. K Callinan: 250 Court Road, SE 9 851 4995
Mr. R C Cambridge: 7 Lavidge Road, SE 9 857 1291
Mrs. J Cater-Smith: 2 West Park, SE 9 857 6239
Mrs. S T Coker: Fairmount, Mottingham Lane, SE 9 857 1064
Mr. J L Gold: 9 Lulworth Road, SE 9 857 4475
Mr. T W Hodges: 42 Grove Park Road, SE 9 857 6913
Mrs. B Mackway-Jones: 54A Mottingham Road, SE 9
Mrs. A E M Paine: 22 Bowmead, SE 9 857 3308
Mrs. B M Powell: 9 Mottingham Gardens, SE 9 857 7391
Mr. L H A Rickson: 203A Mottingham Road, SE 9 851 9622
Mr. A Stammers: 31 Porcupine Close, SE 9 857 4077
Mr. C E Ward: 79 Grove Park Road, SE 9 857 8518
Mr. F Winpenny: 12 Grove Park Road, SE 9 857 1417

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Bromley: Cllr. A H Macdonald: 79 Oakdene Avenue,
Chislehurst 857 8219
Cllr. Mrs. E A Vincent: 169 Castleton Road
SE 9 857 7938
Greenwich: Cllr. D M Richards JP: 10 West Hallows
SE 9 857 5299
Cllr. P Richardson: 311 Footscray Road
SE 9 850 0143
(Advisory): Cllr. Mrs. Wendy Mitchell JP,
2 Glenhouse Road, SE 9 850 3591

SUB-COMMITTEES, etc.

New Roads: Mr. C E Ward

Bromley Residents' Federation: Mrs. B Mackway-Jones

Road Safety Advisory Committee: Bromley: Mrs. D V Kirk

Greenwich: Cllr. D M Richards JP

Greenwich: Mrs. J Cater-Smith

Membership Sub-Committee: Mr. B J Barker

Section Leaders: Messrs. B J Barker, R C Cambridge,

C D Podmore and A. Stammers

Town Planning: Bromley: Mr. T W Hodges

Greenwich: Mr. F Winpenny

Publicity Sub-Committee: Editor: Mrs. B M Powell: with

Mrs. J Cater-Smith, Messrs. Pryke, Winpenny, Cambridge;

Mrs. Gardner and Mr. Jenkins ex officio.

Greenwich B.C. Committees: Planning & Environmental, etc.:

Mr. F Winpenny

Tree Group: Mr. L H A Rickson

Eltham Social Services (Area 5) Group: Mr. L H A Rickson

Eltham Times: Miss Caroline Mead, 154, Eltham High Street

Road Representatives

Do remember that your Road Representative is always there to pass on requests and complaints to the Association. Unless we hear of your problems we cannot do anything to help you.

Road Representatives:

Section Leader: Mr. Stammers, 31 Porcupine Close

Court Rd. (West): Mr. J Gold, 9 Lulworth Road

Court Rd. (East): Mrs. Corrigan, 18 Lulworth Road

Evelyn Court: Mrs. Currie, 131 Mottingham Road

Highcombe Close: Mrs. Roberts, 4 Mottingham Road

Luxfield Road: Mrs. Forrester, 41 West Hallows

Mottingham Road: (1-93A) Mrs. Currie, 131 Mottingham Road

Mottingham Road: (2-56A) Mrs. Mackway-Jones, 54A " "

Priory Leas: Mr. & Mrs. Stammers, 31 Porcupine Close

Sidcup Road (N/W): Mr. J Gold, 9 Lulworth Road

Sidcup Road (S/W): Mr. Wedderburn, 13 West Hallows

West Hallows: Mr. & Mrs. Stammers, 31 Porcupine Close

West Park: Mrs. K Jones, 44B Grove Park Road

Woodmere: Mrs. Cornish, 29 Lavidge Road

Section Leader: Mr. B J Barker, 78 Grove Park Road
Carters Hill Close: Mr. Semrock, 14 Carters Hill Close
Cedar Mount: Mr. Foot, 7 Cedar Mount
College View: Mr. S Goddard, 27 Cedar Mount
Colview Court: Mr. Searle, Studland, Mottingham Lane
Clarence Road: Mr. K Payton, 7 Clarence Road
Devonshire Road: Mrs. Hollingum, 33 Devonshire Road
Grove Park Road: (odd Nos.) Mr. T Hodges, 42 Grove Park Road
Grove Park Road: (Evens) Mr. F Winpenny, 12 Grove Park Road
Hall View: Mr. T Hodges, 42 Grove Park Road
Lulworth Road: Mrs. K Payton, 7 Clarence Road
Mottingham Gardens: Mrs. Goddard, 27 Cedar Mount
Mottingham Lane: Mr. Searle, Studland, Mottingham Lane

Section Leader: Mr. R Cambridge
Birbetts Road: Mrs. Pass, 13 Birbetts Road
Bowmead: Mrs. Pass, 13 Birbetts Road
Bromhedge: Mr. Farrar, 9 Lavidge Road
Chapel Farm Road: (East) Mr. Farrar, 9 Lavidge Road
Chapel Farm Road: (West) -
Crossmead: Miss Boteux, 59 Crossmead
Downleys Close: Mrs. Grace, 33 Lavidge Road
Hartsmead Road: Mr. Gardner, 38 Chapel Farm Road
Lavidge Road: Mr. Podmore, 32 Lavidge Road
Leysdown Road: Mrs. Grace, 33 Lavidge Road
Royal Court: Miss Boteux, 59 Crossmead
Sidcup Road (N/SE): Mr. Horsman, 9 Grove Park Road

Section Leader: Mr. G Podmore, 32 Lavidge Road
Albert Road: Mrs. Baldwin, 2 Royal Court, Court Road
Avondale Road: Mr. Gardner, 38 Chapel Farm Road
Beaconsfield Road: Mrs. Keen, 56 Beaconsfield Road
Court Farm Road: Mr. G Jenkins, 61 Court Farm Road
Crossway: Mr. G Jenkins, 61 Court Farm Road
Dorset Road: Mr. O'Mahoney, 25 Devonshire Road
Elmhurst Road: Mr. Wilmount, 30 Elmhurst Road
Model Farm Close: Mrs. Keen, 56 Beaconsfield Road
Mottingham Road (100/154): Mrs. Baldwin, 2 Royal Court
Mottingham Road (127/203): Mrs. B Mackway-Jones,
54A Mottingham Road
Porcupine Close: Mr. G Podmore, 32 Lavidge Road
Portland Crescent: Mr. O'Mahoney, 25 Devonshire Road
Portland Road: Mr. O'Mahoney, 25 Devonshire Road