

MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



Chapel Farm, Mottingham.

Ian Wilson 82

Probably dates back to the mid-sixteenth century as the Chantry Priest's House and later appeared on maps c1800 as Whitechapel Farm, finally passing away in the 1940's era.

MOTTINGHAM NEWS

AUTUMN 1989

As reported briefly as an erratum to the last newsletter, Mrs. M.V. Gardner, the Association's former Secretary, died on 28 March 1989 after an illness lasting six months. Margaret, who had been Secretary since 1972, announced at the 1988 A.G.M. that she would be retiring from the Secretaryship this year. She had worked tirelessly, not only for the Association, but for Mottingham as a whole. A great debt of gratitude is owed to her. She is sadly missed throughout the whole of Mottingham and its organisations.

The new Secretary of the Association is Mrs. Y. Pengelly, who has bravely stepped in to take over a most onerous task. Yvonne is now tackling her innumerable problems with the expertise of an old hand.

Sadly, I have to report the resignation of the Association's Treasurer, Mr. R.J.W. Astill. The post of Treasurer is not one which is much in the public eye and Dick will perhaps be best remembered for his energetic salesmanship at Mottingham Week fetes. We thank him for his considerable services to the Association.

We welcome his successor, Mr. D.L.M. Edgar. David is a man who has spent most of his life in banking and brings his extensive experience to wrestle with the high financial intricacies of the Association. We trust that he will find his term of office interesting.

Graham Jenkins,
Chairman.

MOTTINGHAM
NEWS
AUTUMN 1989

126 - THE NEW ROUTE

The re-routeing of the 126 bus via Dunkery Road has caused no small inconvenience to residents of Grove Park Road and beyond. It would not seem too bad if it were not for seeing 124s and 126s following one another round the estate.

SELKENT have been less than helpful in replying to our petition and phone calls, saying that people on the estate asked for a direct route to Bromley. Let's face it, changing buses at Grove Park is no hardship - it has to be done if one wants to go to Lewisham. However, a glimmer of hope - the latest epistle (from the Marketing Manager this time) says they will be reviewing the July service changes and if the Grove Park Road route cannot be reinstated consideration will be given to our request that the 126S service (15.29 and 16.09 from Eltham) on school days be extended to a daily service which will help people with heavy shopping, especially in wintry weather.

Be sure to use these buses when possible to further our cause!

CHANNEL TUNNEL RAIL LINK (CTRL)

MRA MEMBERSHIP OF Bromley Council's Channel Tunnel Consultative Committee continues to provide information on BR's latest thinking on the proposed tunnels under Mottingham. The most recent map (dated September 1989) shows the preferred route substantially unchanged and with the deletion of the ventilation shaft in the Mottingham playing fields, the nearest shafts should present no great problem.

However, a word of caution, this map is endorsed "proposal for information and discussion purposes only, subject to later amendments" so things could change, even now.

Due to surface topography, limiting gradients and ground strata, the depth of the tunnels under Mottingham is rather less than was expected. A depth of about 70 feet to the top of the tunnel seems to be the latest BR plan and at this depth vibration and surface disturbance could be a problem. BR's detailed design proposals will require careful scrutiny.

BR have given detailed consideration to alternative routes (TALIS and RACHEL) and their Consultant's reports have been studied by your representative. Both alternatives would locate the link north of the Thames but they fail to meet BR's requirements with regard to the London termini of Kings Cross and Waterloo; for this reason they appear to be non-starters!

Visits to BR's local exhibitions are very worthwhile. Recently, your representative visited those at the Churchill (Bromley) and New Eltham Libraries, both of which were very informative, the Consultant's staff being available to answer questions from the public. Perhaps BR are improving their public relations after much criticism in the past!!

TOWN PLANNING - BROMLEY

9 & 10 Mottingham Gardens (No. 89/2683): Demolition of two semi-detached houses on the site. Your Association has objected on the grounds:-

- a) overdevelopment to the detriment of a presently attractive and peaceful cul-de-sac,
- b) the effect on the amenities of residents of the Gardens, Kippington Way and West Hallows,
- c) the development would require the destruction of several mature trees.

The Porcupine Public House (No. 89/2541F): Application has been made to construct a single storey building, adjacent to the public house for use as a hot, fast food takeaway - Pizza House. We have objected on the grounds:-

- a) the consequent loss of parking places for patrons of the public house,
- b) the additional traffic which would ensue at the already hazardous roundabout,
- c) a further cooked food outlet is unnecessary as, currently, there are several such purveyors in the village.

69 Mottingham Road: Application for part change of use from retail grocer to the sale of hot, takeaway food has been GRANTED by both Bromley and Greenwich Councils. Hours of opening are to be restricted to 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Saturday only, with no Sunday or Bank Holiday trading.

TOWN PLANNING - GREENWICH

Just one item of interest this time, reported on in Bromley's section, i.e. 69 Mottingham Road.

PLANNING APPEALS - NEW PROPOSALS

A Consultation Paper, issued by the Department of the Environment in July, proposes legislative changes in some development controls and planning procedures and asks for responses from Local Authorities and Residents' Associations.

The most contentious proposal is to change the present method of deciding whether to hold a Public Enquiry or for the Secretary of State to deal with the case by written representation. Presently, both the Appellant and the Local Authority have the power to request a Public Enquiry; the Consultation Paper proposes that this option

be discontinued and that only the Secretary of State should have this power. This, it is suggested, would save both time and money.

A letter has been sent to the Secretary of State expressing our objections in the strongest terms and we have told him that local planning must take into account local conditions and requirements, they should not be determined by a civil servant based many miles from the situation. We have also told him that the proposal is a negation of local democracy.

We are given to understand that other Residents' Associations and Local Councils are also registering their objections.

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COUNCILLORS' COMMENTS

Alistair Macdonald -
Councillor for Mottingham, London Borough of Bromley

Local Management Of Schools

Over the next two years, great new responsibilities will be placed on School Governors. By April 1992 they will, in effect, be responsible for running their school.

They will hire, fire and pay staff. They will be responsible for educational standards, including delivery of the National Curriculum. They will be responsible for maintenance and cleaning of the building and grounds - for the purchase of books and equipment - for heating, lighting and water supply - for school meals - for training staff in new teaching methods - for discipline - for deciding if there will be sex education in the school - and so on. They will not have to do all these things themselves - but they will be responsible for seeing that they are done. The school will be their school, and if it is not well run the Governors alone will be responsible.

Not the Council, which is the Local Education Authority. The role of the Council will be to provide the money - to inspect and advise - to deal with major capital works - to decide Borough-wide matters such as admission policy and the need (or not) for new schools. But not to run each school. The Governors, advised by their Head Teacher, will do that.

This at first sight may appear daunting. The money involved is not negligible. To give an example - in 1989/90 the estimated cost of running Mottingham Primary School is £231,380 (that doesn't include any capital expenditure, nor does it include any share of central costs such as the cost of Inspectors, Advisory Teachers and so on). The Governors have got to budget correctly - if they get it wrong, there isn't anyone to bale them out.

And they are responsible for education policy. If each one of us were asked - "What do you expect from a school?" - we could no doubt give a general answer. But could you say precisely? And if you could - could you tell if the school were delivering it or not? And if it were not - could you tell what was wrong and would you know how to put it right? The Governors will have to.

Of course, the Governors are not thrown in alone at the deep end. They will have the advice of their Head Teacher - and of the Borough's Inspectors, who will call on request. And a lot of what the school must do is now being specified in the National Curriculum, and there will be tests to see if that is being achieved. (In fact, there are those who think that there is really too much paperwork, so that the Head Teacher is becoming a teacher no longer, but a school Administrator.) But of course the National Curriculum, important though it is, is not the only component of education.

The Governors undertaking these responsibilities are quite ordinary people. Their number varies according to the size of the school - but if we again take Mottingham Primary

School as an example, for it is quite typical, there are 11 Governors - three appointed by the Council, three elected by the parents, one chosen by the staff and four co-opted. Each one serves for four years. The Council is now offering them courses - in education policy, in financial management, in interview techniques, and so on.

What's it all for? Well, it appeared that at some schools - whether due to the staff or to the Local Education Authority - some pretty hairy things seemed to be happening. The view was taken that the remedy is not more control from above, but more power from below. After all, who has a greater interest than parents in seeing that the school is well run? So the policy is - get more parents on to the Governors and give them more responsibility.

What happens if the Governors make a mess of it? If school discipline breaks down, the Council has power to take over. Curiously, if education at the school breaks down, the Council has no power - it can send in Inspectors, but the Governors cannot be compelled to do what the Inspectors say. The remedy there lies with the parents - they elected these incompetent Governors, they had better elect new ones. And in the last resort, parents can vote with their feet (or, more precisely, their children's feet) - catchment areas will be abolished, so if parents don't like a school they can't be stopped from sending their children elsewhere.

Are there any snags? Well, one possible snag is that the Governors have to carry out these tasks on money allotted to them by the Council - they have no say in how much that money should be. This is responsibility without power. Nothing stops the Governors from raising additional money - by hiring out their school hall and grounds, by seeking sponsors, by selling school T-shirts and so on, and by the traditional fetes organised by the PTA - but let's be frank, raising extra money will be easier in some areas than in others, yet it could be just those difficult areas that merit extra resources.

The Council won't be allowed to allocate such extra resources. It must allocate money to schools according to a pre-determined formula, in which by far the major component is the number of children at the school. Minor modifications (to the basic formula, not school by school) are permitted - for example, an allowance to counter diseconomies of small scale, so that the position of schools like Dorset Road Infant School may be protected. But once the formula is in place, that's it, and no extra funds are normally allowed. So if parents do vote with their feet, money for the school is reduced. That's an incentive, to keep the Governors on their toes - but once it does happen, it will be all the harder for an unsuccessful school to pull itself round.

The formula is harsh also on schools with a settled and experienced staff. The formula will allocate funds according to the average cost of teachers in the Borough - out of which the Governors must pay the salaries of the actual teachers in their school. If those teachers are long-serving and experienced, they will be at the top of their salary grade, and the money allocated to the school won't be enough - it will have to be made up by skimping on books or maintenance or whatever. Bromley are among the Councils protesting at this.

It's a bold experiment. Whether it's right, time will no doubt tell.

Derek Richards J.P. -
Councillor for Tarn Ward, Greenwich Borough Council

Rambling Around Mottingham Tarn Ward

"I have often walked down this street before" sang love-sick Freddy to his fair lady Eliza Doolittle. As Councillor I have often walked around Tarn Ward, Mottingham, perhaps more like Henry Higgins than fretting Freddy and I count five Roads, one Approach, one Avenue,

one Crescent, one Hallowes, one Mead, one Mare one Lane
and one Lawn - but not one Street!

Most people know that the great cricketer, Dr. W.G. Grace (1848-1915) lived in Mottingham, where he played his last game. He was the Geoffrey Boycott of his day. Another Boycott, Captain Charles Cunningham Boycott (1832-1897), English land agent in County Mayo, was refused social and commercial relationships in Ireland and his name was given to such refusal by common consent - the word "boycott" being part of everyday language today.

The Irish twist to this tale reverts to Mottingham because Charles Stuart Parnell, the Irish Nationalist leader (1846-1891) fell from grace over his divorce in 1889. The lady in the case, the "uncrowned Queen of Ireland", was Mrs. Kitty O'Shea and during their nine-year tryst they would meet in Court Road, near the Royal Blackheath Golf Club in Tarn Ward where there is an O'Shea Room, formerly the Museum and now a dining room.

"Les Richards", say the French, are men loaded with money. I am not one of those. The Richards, in the English speaking world, are men renowned as cricketers. Such are Barry Richards, a brilliant opening bat, Viv Richards, arguably the greatest present-day batsman and Jack Richards, the mercurial England batsman/wicket keeper. I am not one of those either! However, I am a cricket fan, the slowest extant fast bowler, the cricket representative on Greenwich Sports Council and a member of the XL Club, whose distinguished Hon. General Secretary, David Hamilton, also lives in Tarn Ward.

Road Sweeping: To return to practical matters and to the perennial complaint of road sweeping: All adopted highways shall be swept and Council may have to "cone" off sections to deter parking so that this may be done. The frequency of sweeping is variable dependant upon the status of the road, i.e. trunk, borough, residential or shopping area.

The method of sweeping varies too and can be orderly (one sweeper), vacuum, gang or precinct.

The Repair of Pavements: This may be the responsibility of the Council, the Department of Transport or a Contractor, i.e. British Gas, British Telecom, etc. Council should inspect pavements at regular intervals to ascertain their state, however, this can change overnight and you should alert Council if you see a pavement in disrepair. This will enable the wheels to be set in motion to effect a repair and Council will not subsequently be able to disclaim knowledge of the problem.

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FINALLY - FOXES

With people everywhere becoming more environment-conscious and willing to concede that other creatures have as equal a right to live as do we ourselves, it is somewhat surprising to record a number of recent complaints about foxes - mostly as a result of the inconvenience of occasionally looted dustbins.

Foxes have been living in our urban environment for years past, their numbers being kept in control naturally by a shortage of suitable sites for raising cubs. Moreover, urban fox mortality is high with many being killed on our roads. Nonetheless, the superabundance of food from our overflowing dustbins is a real attraction.

For many residents, when you weigh up the pros and cons of having foxes around, the fox wins paws down. Not only does their presence deter rats and mice, but they will normally stay well clear of domestic cats and dogs. Those keeping rabbits, guinea pigs and poultry should take care, but shut up securely at night these should be in little danger.

There are residents who treasure the companionship of resident wild foxes, leaving food out on a regular basis

and being rewarded on occasions with the sight of cubs playing on their lawns during late summer evenings. Put into perspective alongside the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, or even un-neighbourly bonfire burning, surely there are more serious matters to complain about than occasional upset dustbins - and even those may be down to next door's cat!

However, notwithstanding, we approached Bromley Council who advise a deterrent would be to wash the area with a strong detergent such as Jeyes Fluid and use creosote on fences - Ed.

OFFICERS

President	Mrs D Kirk, 10 Scotsdale Close, Chislehurst Road, Orpington	0689 34834
Vice-President	Mr H Lynn, 61 Court Farm Road	857 8705
Chairman	Mr G Jenkins, 61 Court Farm Road	857 8705
Deputy Chairman	Mr T Hodges, 42 Grove Park Road	857 6913
Hon. Secretary	Mrs Y Pengelly, 84 Grove Park Road	857 3319
Hon. Treasurer	Mr D Edgar, 32 West Park	851 3788
Hon. Auditor	Mr E Botell, 18 Highcombe Close	857 1745

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mrs M Baldwin	2 Royal Court, Court Road	857 1662
Mr B Barker	78 Grove Park Road	851 9209
Mrs Di Bouglas	14 Beaconsfield Road	857 7371
Mrs J Cobb	7 Carters Hill Close, Nottingham Lane	857 1944
Mrs S Coker	23 Highcombe Close	857 5886
Mr D Drucquer	9 Birbetts Road	857 6051
Mr J Gold	9 Lulworth Road	857 4475
Mr M Hill	53 Leysdown Road	857 3798
Mrs Mackway-Jones	54a Nottingham Road	
Mrs Vicki Packard	79 Court Farm Road	857 7515
Mr Bob Sharpe	77 Court Farm Road	851 0621
Mr B Taylor	24 Porcupine Close	
Mr F Winpenny	12 Grove Park Road	857 1417

Mrs C Witchlow
Co-opted:

13 Carters Hill Close, Nottingham Lane	851 9131
PC Ben Lyon, Chislehurst Police Station,	
47 High Street, Chislehurst	697 9521
PC T Sutherland, Eltham Police Station,	
Well Hall Road, Eltham	855 8311

COUNCILLORS

Bromley:	Cllr A Macdonald, 79 Oakdene Avenue, Chislehurst, Kent, BR7 6DZ	857 8219
	Cllr Ms P Waitman, 19 Camden Grove, Chislehurst, Kent	467 7992
Greenwich:	Cllr D Richards JP, 10 West Hallows	857 5299
Advisory:	Cllr Mrs W Mitchell JP, 2 Glenhouse Rd	850 3591
	Mr A Segall, 7 Hall View, Grove Park Rd	857 8274

SUB COMMITTEES

Bromley Residents' Federation: Mrs Mackway-Jones
Road Safety Advisory Committee, Bromley/Greenwich: Mrs Kirk
Town Planning, Bromley: Mr Hodges, Greenwich: Mr Winpenny
Membership Co-ordinator: Mrs Bouglas
Publicity & Newsletter Editor: Mrs Vicki Packard

ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

Section One - Mr Gold

Albert Road	Mr & Mrs Robins, 22 Albert Road	857 8664
Avondale Road	Mrs Mitchell, 11 Lulworth Road	851 3092
Court Road 201-277	Mr Carter, 256 Court Road	857 8413
Court Road 202-286	Mrs Moncur, 234 Court Road	857 1964
Evelyn Court	Mrs Breen, 49 West Park	857 7848
Jevington Way	Mrs Witchlow, 13 Carters Hill Close	851 9131
	Mrs Cobb, 7 Carters Hill Close	857 1944
Lulworth Road	Mr Gold, 9 Lulworth Road	857 4475
Nottingham Rd 100-154	Mrs Higgs, 38 Leysdown Road	857 8339
Nottingham Rd 1-95	Vacant	
Porcupine Close	Mrs Washbrook, 63 Chapel Farm Road	857 8122
Sidcup Road 449-511	Mrs Jones, 260 Court Road	857 8712

Sidcup Road 452-508	Mr Edgar, 32 West Park	851 3788
Sidcup Road 522-620	Mrs Washbrook, 63 Chapel Farm Road	857 8122
Westdean Avenue	Mrs Witchlow, 13 Carters Hill Close	851 9131
	Mrs Cobb, 7 Carters Hill Close	857 1944
Woodmere	Mrs Clark, 13 Avondale Road	857 6600

Section Two - Mrs Coker

Highcombe Close	Mrs Coker, 23 Highcombe Close	857 3879
Luxfield Road	Mr Page, 7 Luxfield Road	
Sidcup Road 375-447	Mr & Mrs Fuller, 237 Court Road	857 7945
West Hallowses	Mr Norriss, 31 West Hallowses	857 3928
West Park (even)	Mrs Mortimer, 2 West Park	850 2050
West Park (odd)	Mr Hodges, 42 Grove Park Road	857 6913
Pickwick Court	Mr Conibere, 43 Pickwick Court	857 4129

Section Three - Mr Barker

Beaconsfield Road	Mrs Pugh, 59 Beaconsfield Road	851 9678
Carters Hill Close	Miss Macdonald, 25 Carters Hill Close	857 6947
Cedar Mount	Mrs Neal, 14 Cedar Mount	857 2571
Colview Court	Mrs Lewis, 1 The Crossway	857 4071
Grove Park Rd (even)	Mr Winpenney, 12 Grove Park Road	857 1417
Grove Park Rd (odd)	Mr Barker, 78 Grove Park Road	851 9209
Hall View	Mr Barker, 78 Grove Park Road	851 9209
Model Farm Close	Mrs Payton, 7 Clarence Road	857 1760
Mottingham Gardens	Mrs Lewis, 1 The Crossway	857 4071
Mottingham Lane	Mr Donoghue, 16 Mottingham Gardens	857 3257

Section Four - Mrs Mackway-Jones

Clarence Road	Mr & Mrs Foster, 15 Clarence Road	851 2813
College View	Mr & Mrs Foster, 15 Clarence Road	851 2813
Court Farm Road	Mr Jenkins, 61 Court Farm Road	857 8705
Crossway	Mr Jenkins, 61 Court Farm Road	857 8705
Devonshire Road	Mr Noble, 32 Mottingham Road	851 0608
Dorset Road	Mr Hollingum, 33 Devonshire Road	857 5856
Elmhurst Road	Mr & Mrs Foster, 15 Clarence Road	851 2813
Kippington Drive	Mr & Mrs Foster, 15 Clarence Road	851 2813
Layzell Walk	Mr & Mrs Foster, 15 Clarence Road	851 2813

Mottingham Road 2-56	Mrs Mackway-Jones, 54a Mottingham Road	
Portland Crescent	Mr & Mrs Foster, 15 Clarence Road	851 2813
Portland Road	Mr & Mrs Foster, 15 Clarence Road	851 2813
Silverdale Drive	Mr Bouglas, 14 Beaconsfield Road	857 7371
Sycamore Close	Miss Foster, 18 Sycamore Close	

Section Five - Mr Drucquer

Bill Hamley Close	Mrs Fox, 23 Leysdown Road	851 6878
Birbetts Road	Mrs Pass, 13 Birbetts Road	857 3733
Bowmead	Mrs Pass, 13 Birbetts Road	857 3733
Bromhedge	Mr Stageman, 64 Chapel Farm Road	857 2527
Chapel Farm Rd (odd)	Mr Stageman, 64 Chapel Farm Road	857 2527
Chapel Farm Rd (even)	Vacant	
Crossmead	Mrs Baldwin, 2 Royal Court	857 1662
Downleys Close	Mr Hill, 53 Leysdown Road	857 3798
Hartsmead Road	Mr Glover, 20 Bowmead	857 7616
Lavidge Road	Mrs MacDonald, 25 Lavidge Road	857 2315
Leysdown Road	Mr & Mrs Harrington, 31 Leysdown Road	857 0852
Margaret Gardner Way	Mrs Fox, 23 Leysdown Road	851 6878
Ministry Way	Mrs Fox, 23 Leysdown Road	851 6878
Mottingham Rd 127-205	Mr Drucquer, 9 Birbetts Road	857 6051
Royal Court	Mrs Baldwin, 2 Royal Court	857 1662
Sidcup Road	Mr Grace, 33 Lavidge Road	857 3987

If you would be interested in helping in the collection of subscriptions, two roads are currently vacant. Please contact Di Bouglas, 01-857 7371.

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