

# MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## OFFICERS 1993-94

President	Mr T Hodges	42 Grove Park Rd	857 6913
Chairman	Mr D Edgar	32 West Park	851 3788
Deputy Chairman	Mr F Winpenny	12 Grove Park Rd	857 1417
Hon. Secretary	Mrs M Dartnell	16 Elmhurst Rd	857 2065
Hon. Treasurer			
Hon. Auditor	Mr E C Botell	18 Highcombe Cl.	857 1745

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr B Barker	78 Grove Park Rd	851 9209
Mr S Camp	69 Jevington Way	857 4588
Mrs M Carter	256 Court Rd	857 8413
Mrs J Cobb	7 Carters Hill Cl.	857 1944
Mr J Dartnell	16 Elmhurst Rd	857 2065
Mr D Drucquer	9 Birbetts Rd	857 6051
Mrs J Edwards	57 Leysdown Rd	857 5498
Mr G Howard	20 West Park	857 3366
Mrs Mackway-Jones	54a Mottingham Rd	
Mr P Noble	32 Mottingham Rd	851 0608
Mrs C Witchlow	13 Carters Hill Cl.	851 9131
Mr S Yates	12 Avondale Rd	857 9025
Mr A York	26 Grove Park Rd	857 4016

## COUNCILLORS

D Richards JP (Tarn Ward)	10 West Hallowes	857 5299
E Dyer (Mottingham Ward)	8 Cherry walk Hayes Kent	462 8635
T Yates (Mottingham Ward)	Members Room Civic Centre BR1 3UH	464 3333

## COOPTED

Insp. Pearce (Greenwich)	Eltham Police Station	853 8212
Insp. Botting (Bromley)	Chislehurst Police Station	697 9212
PC Hartley (Bromley)	Chislehurst Police Station	697 9212

## COMMITTEES

Bromley Residents' Federation	Mrs Mackway-Jones & Mr D Edgar
Environment	Mr S Yates
Membership Coordinator	Mrs J Edwards
Planning [Bromley]	Mr A York
Planning [Greenwich]	Mr G Howard
Publicity and Newsletter	Mrs C Witchlow
Road Safety Advisory Committee	Mrs M Carter
Greenwich/Police Community Consultative Group	Mr D Edgar & Mr T Hodges
Major Developments Standing Committee	Messr Drucquer, Edgar & Winpenny

# MOTTINGHAM NEWS

THE VOICE OF

MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1932



The Pavement, Mottingham c. 1907

SPRING 1994

AFFILIATED TO: LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY RESIDENTS' FEDERATION



The Spring Issue of The Mottingham News brings with it notice of the Association's Annual General Meeting. The agenda for this meeting is printed elsewhere in this issue. The AGM is a very important meeting in the Association's calendar. Please make a note of it and do your utmost to attend. It is a time when we can meet together as a community to discussed matters that concern us all, and time is given for individual members to raise matters that particularly affect them.

#### CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

In the "Mottingham News" it is usual for the Chairman's Comments to be a mixture of good news and bad news. However, for this issue, I am afraid that the only piece of good news that I can think of is that John Dartnell, one of our Section Leaders and a hard working member of the Executive Committee has made a successful recovery after a serious operation.

Two items on which I have to report in this issue relate to:

(a) the Borough changes which will come into effect on April 1st this year.

(b) the latest developments regarding the A20 gap closures.

As there is a lot to report on both these items, they are subjects of separate articles in this issue.

You will be aware that Roger's hardware store in the village has closed. This is a great loss, as Michael and his father before him, have provided a valuable service to the residents of Mottingham for many years. At the request of many of you the Residents' Association wrote to Michael thanking him for his service to our community and wishing him well for the future. Once again, I would appeal to all residents of Mottingham to make as much use as possible of our village shops and services. It would be a tragedy if our village became just a row of empty shops.

We have also lost (temporarily I hope) the services of our Home Beat Police Officer P.C. Karen Hartley who is on sick leave. We wish her a speedy recovery and return to Mottingham. On the subject of policing you will no doubt be aware that, despite all our best efforts, Chislehurst Police Station is now closed from midnight until 6am. However, we have been assured that the Police response to any emergency calls will not be affected. Also, there is a telephone outside Chislehurst Police Station that is directly linked to the Police Authorities in Orpington.

I hope to see as many Mottingham residents as possible at our Annual General Meeting the Oddfellows' Hall in Beaconsfield Road on Wednesday April 27th 1994 at 8pm.

DAVE EDGAR

#### BOUNDARY CHANGES WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1ST 1994

##### BETWEEN BROMLEY BOROUGH AND LEWISHAM BOROUGH

The present boundary between Bromley Borough and Greenwich Borough runs between the Bistro and the old Barclays Bank, through the middle of the Library and on through the middle of the shops and premises on the north side of Mottingham Road. As this has caused many problems and anomalies; the boundary will be changed with effect from April 1st as follows: Along the north side of the Bistro and the Library and on behind the

shops and premises on the north side of Mottingham Road as far as Court Road where it will cut at an angle between the Carpet Shop and Edwards The Photographers to the middle of Mottingham Road then on eastwards along the middle of Mottingham Road. This will put all the premises from the bottom of West Park along to the Carpet Shop entirely into Bromley Borough and all premises from Edwards The Photographers entirely into Greenwich Borough

##### BETWEEN BROMLEY AND LEWISHAM BOROUGH

The present Borough Boundary runs along the ends of the gardens on the west side of Jevington Way and through the grounds of Grove Park Hospital. With effect from April 1st 1994 the boundary will be changed to run along the course of the River Quaggy, thus putting all of Jevington Way, Western Avenue and Grove Park Hospital from Bromley Borough into Lewisham Borough. As the area affected by the change has historically lain within the Parish of Mottingham, the residents have been represented by this Association. However, the members of the Executive Committee of the Association (all volunteers) already have two local authorities, two police divisions and two health authorities to monitor (Bromley and Greenwich), they do not have the resources to add the Lewisham local authorities to their workload. We therefore sent a circular letter to all the residents concerned, asking them if they wished to continue to be presented by this Association and if so would they volunteer to serve on the Executive Committee to liaise with the Lewisham local authorities. Of the 190 letters that were sent out we received only 17 replies. Only 14 of these wished to continue their membership and no one volunteered to serve on the Executive Committee. It is with much regret therefore, that the Executive Committee will at the Annual General Meeting be proposing an amendment to the Association's Constitution, defining the Association's area of responsibility as "all that part of the Parish of Mottingham that lies within the London boroughs of Bromley and Greenwich".

The only other boundary change brings all residents in Grove Park Road into Bromley Borough.

DAVE EDGAR

#### CLOSURE OF THE GAPS IN THE CENTRAL RESERVATION OF THE A20

For some months now, Messrs Oscar Faber TPA, a firm of traffic management consultants employed by the Department of Transport, has been carrying out a study of the proposed Red Routes including the A20. We have been in close liaison with Oscar Faber with the principal objectives of:

(a) Getting a roundabout constructed at the Dutch House, or at the very least, providing for U-turns at that junction.

(b) Further improving traffic flows at the Court Road junction.

(c) Providing pedestrian crossings over the A20, especially at the Green Chain Walk (King John's Walk) and at the top of West Park.

As Oscar Faber seemed to be sympathetic to our requests, we were very disappointed when we visited a recent presentation of their suggested changes and found that none of our requests had been included. Oscar Faber advised us that the Department of Transport had intervened and precluded them from suggesting changes for the A20 as either the closed



gaps were "under investigation" or there were insufficient funds available. They advised us that the only course open to us was to write to the Department of Transport.

I THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT WE FLOOD THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT WITH PAPER All Mottingham residents who have been inconvenienced by the gap closures and/or by the lack of pedestrian crossings over the A20 are urged to write NOW to:

The Traffic Director for London,  
College House,  
Great Peter Street,  
London, SW1P 3LN

Alternatively, if you contact me, Dave Edgar, at 32 West Park (Telephone 851 3788) I can let you have an official suggestion form of which I have a limited number.

We are not alone as we are in closed liaison with the Horn Park Action Group who also want a roundabout at the Dutch House and pedestrian crossings over the A20.

#### **COUNCILLOR DEREK RICHARDS writes**

What does a local Councillor get up to, people often ask. Well, in addition to attending quite a number of committee meetings at the Town Hall each month, especially those in which matters concerning his ward are up for discussion or decision. An experienced Councillor will walk around his ward vigilant for signs of change, disrepair or difficulty. He will also be pleased to follow up fellow residents' unresolved problems.

For example, in the extreme west of Tarn Ward Mottingham, between the Sidcup Road and Middle Park Avenue in some fifty yards of the Green Chain Walk, I observed,

1. The whole length of fencing of a house had blown down into a back garden.
2. A London Borough of Greenwich notice board had been destroyed.
3. All light bulbs on the British Rail footbridge had been smashed or removed thus putting it out of use for any wise woman, elderly person or child wishing to use it.
4. Obscene graffiti had spoilt the London Electricity substation.

I reported these matters for the attention of the Council's Leisure Services and Housing Departments, British Rail and London Electricity Board and arrangements have been made to deal with all these matters.

At the eastern side of Mottingham on Fridays between 10.30am and 12.30pm free legal advice may be sought at Plumstead Law Centre (Outreach), The Mound, Coldharbour SE9. It is funded by the London Borough of Greenwich. One may just drop in or phone 855 9871 for a prior appointment.

A Mottingham resident was allocated a renovation grant for the repair of his property. A requirement was to complete the work within twelve months. Sadly delay and dispute meant that the deadline would not be met, but I intervened with the Director of Housing and the deadline was extended.

A teenager normally insouciant, was most unhappy at her school. I visited the family to hear their viewpoint. I asked for meetings involving the Greenwich Education Officer and the school authorities and

now a much happier girl is working rather better in another school. An elderly lady who lives on the fringe of a park in Mottingham, was troubled after the park's closing time by people trespassing into her garden to enter the park. They aggravated the nuisance by breaking the fence, starting fires and using insulting words. I contacted the Directorate of Leisure Services who dealt with the matter and alerted the Park Police. These few instances might just give a flavour of a Councillor's service to his ward. Each incident is very important to one or more Mottingham residents. A more complete account could fill a book.

#### **COUNCILLOR ERNY DYER writes:**

One pressing problem facing local communities today is how to control or prevent crime. Recently there has been some success in reducing certain categories of crime but the trend in nearly all criminal activity is one of increase. The Council is seeking more co-operation between themselves the police and the public. To facilitate this there is to be a number of public meetings across the borough in the early months of the year. The intention being to gauge residents views of the relatively small increases in the council tax in order to fund specific security initiatives. The nearest such meeting to Mottingham is to be held on 21st March at Edgebury Primary School, Belmont Lane Chislehurst.

Whilst I favour more spending on street-level security, my four years experience as a councillor has taught me that there is considerable 'financial fat' that can be reduced to fund proposals to make our communities safer. I wonder whether the cost of the mayoralty, banquet, receptions, trips abroad etc., are absolutely necessary. I purposefully avoided all such 'freebies' and do not feel that this has adversely affected my role as a councillor. Indeed, I have more time available to attend to important public duties. So there is considerable potential within current budgets to divert to crime prevention without increasing the Council Tax.

We do need full co-operation between the Council, police and residents, but I think the only way we are going to reduce crime is to take a close look at our society; it is increasingly excluding a growing section of our young people many of whom are wasting their lives and potential on the dole. For years now Britain has experienced division in our communities as the over promotion of individualism and materialism, has had a detrimental effect on the welfare of our society. We might consider the purpose of economic growth, that 'idol' worshipped by most politicians. Is it to be simply to create more wealth for those fortunate to be in employment or should we not be considering other aspects of what makes for a healthy society, economic fairness, equality of opportunity and the like? Higher spending on security only addresses the symptoms of crime, not the underlying causes, and whilst necessary, I do not believe that this is enough.

In my last piece I requested information of local bird-life. The response was tremendous. Both Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers nesting, owls, heron and nearly all the range of finches native to SE England and even a flock of Parakeets which has built up over the years from escaped domestic pets which have bred successfully have been sighted. It is good to see such interest.



## CHANGES TO BUS ROUTES

The 161 will in future link Woolwich and Chislehurst. The Section of the journey to Bromley North will be discontinued.

The 161A Woolwich to Chislehurst route which goes to Bromley North and Petts Wood at certain times will be discontinued altogether.

The lost buses will be replaced by a new minibus 162 service linking Beckenham Junction, Petts Wood Station and Chislehurst.

NEW ROUTE 424 to replace 124S and 160S.

This new route 424 will link Eltham Green, Grove Park, Mottingham, Eltham, Falconwood and Welling Corner with Crown Woods School, Avery Hill.

The Service will run at school starting and finishing times and WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ALL PASSENGERS. Bus passes, travel cards and all similar tickets will be accepted but the service will not run on Saturdays, Sundays or School and Public Holidays.

**M. DARTNELL**

**A REMINDER** to Road Reps. Subscriptions are slowly coming in. Please let your Section Leader or the Chairman have the money that you have collected from your roads as soon as possible

**NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN:** Get a grip on litter, April 15th -24 1994.

Each year thousands of people throughout the country pull on their gloves and get a grip on local litter problem. Some people adopt a plot of neglected land and litter pick it, or tidy up a church yard; whilst others clear ponds streams or footpaths.

Many litter blackspots can be tackled without getting your hands dirty. Simply telling the land owner or site manager that you find the site unacceptably untidy or dirty may be enough to get action taken.

Bromley Council won the last 'Clean & Tidy' trophy for having the cleanest streets in the London area.

The Environment Promotions Co-ordinator of Bromley may be able to help with the loan of equipment such as litter pickers, a skip etc. All this is provided on a first come, first served basis.

If everyone decides to do something, no matter how small or big we will all enjoy the benefits of a cleaner environment.

**PAT ELLENDER**

**Environment Promotions Coordinator**

**HOLES:** Residents who see holes which they consider dangerous or which have remained unfinished for too long, should first telephone the utility identified on a board at the site. If you cannot find out who is responsible, then telephone the Council or send in post free a Green Card (Bromley) or White Card (Greenwich) available from libraries.

**DRAINS:** With all the rain recently it is important to keep drains clear. Blocked drains should also be reported to the council in the manner described above.

**EDITOR'S NOTE** Thank you to all contributors to this Issue. Space has been at a premium this time. It has been necessary to edit some items. Hopefully this has not detracted from their contents.

## MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION will be held on Wednesday, 27th APRIL 1994 at 8p.m. at:

The Oddfellows' Hall  
Beaconsfield Road  
Mottingham SE9 4DJ

There will be a business meeting to report to members on the activities of the past year together with the Election of Officers.

During the interval refreshments will be served and there will be a raffle in aid of our funds.

The latter half of the meeting will be in the form of a Question and Answer Forum, to enable members to raise any items of local interest to our Association.

M.Dartnell  
Hon. Secretary  
16 Elmfield Road  
Mottingham SE9 4DN

Tel. 081 857 2065

### AGENDA

1. President's Opening Remarks .
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of the last A.G.M. - 28th April 1993.
4. Chairman's Report.
5. Hon. Treasurer's Report.
6. Proposed change to the Constitution.
7. Election of Officers.

- a. President.
- b. Hon. Secretary.
- c. Hon. Treasurer.
- d. Hon. Auditor.
- e. Executive Committee.

8. Membership Subscription.
9. Membership Officer's Report.

### INTERVAL

10. Question and Answer Forum.