

# MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## OFFICERS 1994-95

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			

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr B Barker	78 Grove Park Rd	851 9208
Mrs J Cobb	7 Carters Hill Cl.	857 1944
Mr D Drucquer	9 Birbetts Rd	857 6051
Mr G Howard	20 West Park	857 3366
Mrs Mackway-Jones	54a Mottingham Rd	
Mr P Norman	33 Highcombe Cl.	857 6347
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
R Yeldham (Mottingham Ward)	Members Room	
	Civic Centre BR1 3UH	658 5455

## COOPTED

Insp. Horak (Greenwich)	Eltham Police Station	853 1212
PC. Magee	Eltham Police Station	853 1212
Insp. Botting (Bromley)	Chislehurst Police Station	697 9521
PC McEwan	Chislehurst Police Station	697 9521

## COMMITTEES

Bromley Residents' Federation	Mrs Mackway-Jones & Mr D Edgar
Environment	Mr S Yates
Membership Coordinator	
Planning [Bromley]	Mr A York
Planning [Greenwich]	Mr G Howard
Publicity and Newsletter	Mrs C Witchlow
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



Mottingham Library

Kew Wilsons 79

SPRING 1995

AFFILIATED TO: LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY RESIDENTS' FEDERATION



In this Issue of the Mottingham Newsletter Notice is given and the Agenda printed for the Annual General Meeting of the Mottingham Residents' Association. As you read the Chairman's Comments you will realise how important it is that you attend this meeting. The meeting is in May when the weather will, hopefully, be warmer and the evenings certainly lighter. So please make a note of the date and we very much look forward to seeing you there.

#### CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

I write these words in the early days of the New Year 1995, and although at such a time it is usual to feel a certain amount of optimism, I see little, as far as the Residents' Association is concerned, to be optimistic about.

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death on 10th November of John Dartnell. John was a pillar of strength in this Association. In addition to being a member of the Executive Committee, he was also a Section Leader as well as a Road Representative. I have also the sad duty to report that Mr E. C. Botell, who, for many years has audited the accounts of the Association, died suddenly on New Year's Day. Both John Dartnell and Charles Botell had many friends in Mottingham and their considerable service to our community will be greatly missed. Our sympathy and prayers go out to Mrs Dartnell and to Mrs Botell and their families in their sad loss.

I have also to report that due to pressure of work, Mrs Janet Edwards, our Membership Secretary, has had to resign from the Executive Committee. This means that the Association is once again calling for volunteers to fill the vacant posts of Honorary Auditor, Honorary Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Section Leader in addition to the vacancies for Road Representatives listed below. The undersigned is currently being snowed under by the combined duties of Chairman, Honorary Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Section Leader as well as Road Representative for three Roads. On their own, each of these duties is not onerous, but combined, they constitute an unacceptable burden. Our call for volunteers has therefore become a matter of some urgency.

Although Mottingham Residents' Association has a membership of over 1300 households, all the work is undertaken by a relatively small number of volunteers. Your Executive Committee currently consists of 19 active members, including five co-opted members (3 Councillors and 2 Police Officers) and there are, at present, 35 Road Representatives covering 50 roads (9 roads are without Road Representatives). In addition to attending to such on-going matters, such as problems relating to refuse collection, street lighting, planning applications, road and pavement repairs, traffic and law and order offences, your Executive Committee has addressed a number of important issues. We successfully fought off an attempt by Greenwich Council to extend the Borough Boundary southwards to Dunkery Road. We played an active part in ensuring that the Channel Tunnel Rail-Link did not come through Mottingham. We were largely instrumental in persuading the Department of Transport to introduce measures to slow the traffic on the A20 and to improve the traffic flow at the A20 - Court Road Junction.

The shortage of volunteers to fill the increasing number of vacant posts would appear to indicate a lack of interest by residents of Mottingham in the work of their Association. PERHAPS THE TIME HAS COME TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY WHETHER OR NOT MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, WHICH WAS FORMED IN 1932, SHOULD CONTINUE TO EXIST. This matter will be included in the Agenda for discussion at our Annual General Meeting. If you feel that there is a need for an Association to continue to protect your interest as a resident of Mottingham, please attend the Annual General Meeting in the Oddfellows' Hall, Beaconsfield Road, on Wednesday, 3rd May 1995 at 8 pm. If you have a couple of hours to spare on alternate months and would like to take part in a useful and interesting community project, please volunteer for one of the vacant posts on the Executive Committee or as a Road Representative.

The following are the vacant posts requiring volunteers:

Honorary Treasurer

Honorary Auditor.

Membership Secretary.

Section Leader.

Road Representatives for the following roads:

Chapel Farm Road (Even numbers).

Crossmead.

Hinton Close.

Mottingham Road (1-95).

Mottingham Road (100-154).

Sidcup Road (375-447).

Sidcup Road (449-511).

Sidcup Road (522-620).

West Park (Even numbers).

Please call Dave Edgar (851 3788) or Marjorie Dartnell (857 2065).

DAVE EDGAR

#### COUNCILLORS' COMMENTS

COUNCILLOR ERNY DYER writes:

As we approach the start of a new Council year [April] residents will soon be receiving the news of their Council Tax rates for 95/96. At the time of writing in mid January, things do not look too good. Our Revenue Support Grant, which is by far the largest proportion of the Council's income is around £4,000,000 down on last year. So we are faced with a number of difficult choices: we can increase the Council Tax way beyond the rate of inflation, cut services, use some of our reserves or become even more efficient in the way in which we operate. I personally favour a combination of using some monies from reserves and aiming for greater efficiency, and this will form the basis of my recommendations. In addition, I would also reduce the amount used for the many functions surrounding the Mayoralty. The cost of having a Mayor only starts at £240,000 per annum! Now that's a lot of home help hours, a lot more mended pavements, street lights, school teachers etc.

In the five years that I have been on Bromley Council I have distanced myself from the 'social side' of being a Councillor, taking the view



that the people of Mottingham elected me to serve them. I do not consider that this has mitigated in any way my ability to operate as a Councillor. I will be continuing my long standing campaign to abolish, or at least dramatically reduce the cost of, the mayoralty. A position which is not in anyway a measure of the past service of the incumbent but used more as a 'political gift' awarded to a member of the majority party. If we were to have a first citizen in Bromley I would prefer it to be someone who has actually served the people of Bromley, perhaps a long serving teacher, nurse, road sweeper or similar. Once again I sound the annual 'alarm' regarding applications for grants. Even students applying for a statutory grant would be well advised to get applications in as soon as they can. In recent years, mainly as a result of under-staffing, many applicants have not received their first grant payments until months after they have started at University. As for those applying for a discretionary grant, get your application in early and don't be too hopeful! At the last meeting of the Education committee the majority party voted to yet again cut the amount of money available for this category of grants. Finally, If you have had, or are having difficulty in placing your child in the Secondary School of your choice I should very much like to hear from you.

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

Greenwich Council, after extensive trials in other parts of the Borough, propose shortly to introduce the "Wheelie Bin" refuse collection system to Mottingham people in Tarn Ward. Due notice and printed instruction will be given. It is said to be more efficient, more cost effective, more hygienic, resistant to foxes, rats, and vandals. Other advantages are claimed.

Householders will be required to wheel the bins to the pavement's inside edge to facilitate fast, easy collection. Clearly there are some householders who will find this requirement difficult or impossible. Examples are those flats above ground floor, terraced houses where the front door opens onto the pavement, houses with steep slopes/steps up to the pavement. Disabled, elderly and infirm householders might not be able to manage.

The Greenwich Head of Client Services allowed me to question him at length on these problems. He seemed anxious to help and he assured me that anyone with a genuine difficulty would be accommodated.

For residents in Sidcup Road (North) Service Road, the wheel has come full circle. Following a very frightening accident which happily avoided personal injuries, they petitioned the Council for speed calming measures. Peter Bottomley MP and I visited residents to ascertain facts and to give advice.

The Highways and Traffic sub Committee proposed "No Entry" at the western end. The residents, knowing that this would mean a reflex, down-slope entry at the eastern end, petitioned against one way traffic in this narrow road and the sub Committee withdrew its "No Entry" proposal. Marvellous. Democracy has spoken.

But in deciding on "No Action, the sub Committee leaves things as they were before the frightening accident. They can devise no permissible speed calming measures to prevent accidents in the road. The case for them would have stronger had there been some personal injury accidents.

Persistent argument to have The Tarn and Fairy Hill Park much better kept and restored to their admirable pristine condition has at last brought Council acknowledgement that standards had fallen and the assurance that, henceforth, things will be much better. Greenwich Council's seven leisure centres, which were unprofitable, have been transferred to the management of the staff who work in them. They team together as Greenwich Leisure Ltd. They have improved their performance beyond recognition. It's a great pleasure to use them and they are the envy of many areas in London and beyond. Do try them if you can get a place. This is evidence, to me, that if you challenge satisfied work people they will deliver the goods.

#### **POLICE NEWS**

Mottingham Residents' Association representatives attend the Sector meetings covering both the Bromley and Greenwich Policing of Mottingham. The Bromley Sector incorporating Petts Wood/Chislehurst/Mottingham is under the supervision of Inspector Kim Botting and the Beat Officer for Mottingham is PC G. McEwan.

Some important issues were raised at the last meeting:

**"DOOR STOPPERS"** - A new "DOOR STOPPERS" campaign is being set up to stress the extreme importance to all residents of NEVER allowing an unknown caller into your home without thoroughly checking their identity.

**NO WAITING** - Many drivers are unaware that "No Waiting" restrictions can apply on Sundays - check the Parking Times notice if you wish to avoid expensive fines.

**PARKING** - Except where exemptions are clearly indicated, it is an offence to park with any part of a vehicle on (or protruding over) a public footpath, grass verge or driveway to a property. This is enforceable 24 hours a day.

**SCHOOL MARKINGS** - ALL school "Keep Clear" markings are now mandatory and apply to any vehicle including parents leaving and collecting school children and Orange Badge holders.

**DOUBLE GLAZING** - Burglars are gaining entry to houses by removing the external beading around double-glazing and lifting the complete window out. Orpington Police have drawn up a safety guide for everyone who has or intends to fit double glazing. The list can be obtained from MRA Secretary Marjorie Dartnell and will be available at the AGM. For your own peace of mind we urge you to ask an expert to check that your windows meet the safety requirement.

**MRS MACKWAY JONES**

**STOP GIVING YOUR DOG A BAD NAME** - It is an offence (fines up to £500) and offensive to others to allow your dog to soil ANY public footpath, grass verge or roadway without clearing it up. This bye-law will also shortly apply to Mottingham Sports Field. It doesn't take much effort to pop a plastic bag in your pocket, clean up after your dog and place the



bag in one on the numerous bins now provided in the Sports Field or dispose of it at home.

**GARDEN PROJECT** - Do you find gardening difficult? If you are elderly, disabled or a single parent family, then you may be able to get help with your garden.

This project is open to anyone living in the Bromley Ward of Nottingham. If you would like to know more then telephone 0181 851 0884.

**GREENWICH ENERGY ADVICE CENTRE** - The Greenwich Energy Advice Centre has been set up by the Government and the Council to give independent advice on ways in which residents and businesses can cut their fuel bills. Their literature states:

"The information we provide is completely free and impartial, our interest lies in helping as many people as possible towards the benefits of energy efficiency. Now that VAT has been imposed on fuel bills, we believe we can make a positive difference to homes, in terms of both comfort and budget. For more information telephone the Advice Line - 081 855 5533; their Office Line is 081 855 4663.

#### **PENSIONERS' TRAVEL NEWS**

At present concessionary permit holders travel at half price on British Rail London Services. From April 2nd 1995 pensioners will be able to travel free on these services. The new concessions enable pensioners to travel free after 9.30am on weekdays and all day at weekends and public holidays.

#### **MOTTINGHAM WEEK**

This year Mottingham Week will be from 10th - 18th June. The theme this year is to be "Town and Country"

Events planned so far include:

Saturday	10th	Afternoon Grand Parade and Fete Evening Race Night
Sunday	11th	Afternoon Cricket Match
Tuesday	13th	Evening Talk on Mottingham Past
Wednesday	14th	Evening Concert by the Metropolitan Police Band
Thursday	15th	Afternoon Senior Citizens Tea Party
Friday	16th	Quiz Night
Saturday	17th	Evening BBQ
Sunday	18th	All-day Football Tournament

Also there will be a United Church Service on the first Sunday, A Flower Festival at the Methodist Church, A Childrens' Painting Competition, and a Mottingham Quiz Sheet.

The last Mottingham Week raised nearly £2,100 which was mostly distributed to local playgroups and schools. This year's beneficiaries have not yet been chosen but we hope we can count on your support again. Perhaps your organisation would be interested in holding an event, joining the parade or have an idea suitable for inclusion in Mottingham Week. If you have any ideas or wish to book a stall at the fete please contact Maggy Park on 0181 851 4405.

## **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, 3rd May 1995 at 8 pm in:

The Oddfellows Hall,  
Beaconsfield Road,  
Mottingham SE9 4DN.

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 a talk on Community Care in Mottingham By Mr G.A. Jerrom, Mottingham Neighbourhood Development Officer and members will be able to raise items of local interest with him.

Local Councillors and representatives from the Police (Eltham and Greenwich) will also be present to answer residents' questions.

M. Dartnell  
Hon. Secretary  
16 Elmhurst Road  
Mottingham, SE9 4DN.

Tel. 081 857 2065

#### **AGENDA**

1. President's Opening remarks.
2. Apologies for Absence.
3. Minutes of the last AGM - 27th April 1994.
4. Chairman's Report.
5. Hon. Treasurer's Report.
6. Election of Officers.

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

7. Membership Subscription.
8. Membership Secretary's Report.

#### **INTERVAL**

Talk on Community Care by Mr G.A. Jerrom,  
Mottingham Neighbourhood Development Officer.

Question and Answer Forum.