

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

POLICE

GREENWICH 8853 1212 ELTHAM 8284 5625

COLDHARBOUR - NEW ELTHAM SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Sgt Scott Brownlie - 20 Well Hall Road, SE9 6SF 8284 5723 (Mobile) 07768 083607

E-mail: ColdHarbour. NewEltham. snt@met. police. uk

BROMLEY

BROMLEY HQ 01689 891212

MOTTINGHAM SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Sgt John Ward - 1A High Street, Chislehurst BR7 5AB
7161 9254/9255 (Mobile) 07880 781 483

E-mail: Mottingham. ChislehurstNorth. snt@met. police. uk

IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS DIAL 999

COUNCILS

GREENWICH - Main switchboard 8854 8888 Website - [www. Greenwich. gov. uk](http://www.Greenwich.gov.uk)

BROMLEY - Main switchboard 8464 3333 Website - [www. Bromley. gov. uk](http://www.Bromley.gov.uk)

LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Bromley

Roger Charsley 84601854 E-mail: roger.charsley@bromley.gov.uk

Charles Rideout 8466 6506 E-mail: charles.rideout@bromley.gov.uk

Greenwich

John Hills 57 Arsenal Road, Eltham SE9 1JT

Tel: Home 8319 4179, Office 8921 5049/5050, Mobile 07904 926075

E-mail: john.hills@greenwich.gov.uk

MOTTINGHAM NEWS

THE VOICE OF
MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
FOUNDED 1932



AUTUMN 2008

MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS 2008 -2009

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| Chairman | John Perkins | 29 West Park SE9 4RZ | 8851 8644 |
| Deputy Chairman | Tim Jones | 15 Grove Park Road, SE9 4 NP | 8857 4582 |
| Membership Sec | Mrs Mackway-Jones | 54A Mottingham Rd SE9 4QR | 8857 5886 |
| Treasurer | Sally Jones | 15 Grove Park Rd SE9 4NP | 8857 4582 |
| Auditor | Martyn Hill | 53 Leysdown Road SE9 3 ND | 8857 3798 |

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Sally Babi | 41A Mottingham Road SE9 4QZ | 07947 301581 |
| Laurie Bell | 1 Mottingham Road SE9 4QQ | 8851 8939 |
| Robert Blanks | Hilltop, Mottingham Lane SE9 4RT | 8857 8695 |
| Astrid Chklar | 7 Grove Park Road SE9 4NP | 8857 9440 |
| Clive Couldwell | 15 Court Farm Road SE9 4JH | 8851 0641 |
| Jim Heath | 11 Dorset Road SE9 4QY | 8857 1874 |
| Ted Hedges | The Porcupine, 24 Mottingham Road | SE9 4QW |
| Margaret Henderson | 10 Birbets Road SE9 3 NG | 8857 5800 |
| Ross Howie | 11 Dorset Road SE9 4 QY | 8857 1874 |
| Liz Keable | 54 Grove Park Road SE9 4QB | 8857 4183 |
| Dr Mayur Patel | 53 Grove Park Road SE9 4NS | 8857 7333 |
| David Roberts | 54 West Hallowses SE9 4EX | 8857 0423 |
| Margaret Southam | 40 Elmhurst Road SE94 DN | 8851 3456 |
| Tracey Tiller | 11 West Park SE9 4RY | 8851 6477 |
| Gay Walker | 18 Portland Road SE9 4TR | 8857 0931 |

MRA MEETINGS 2009

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| January 21 | Executive Committee | Dorset Road School |
| March 25 | Executive Committee | Dorset Road School |
| April 29 | A. G. M | Oddfellows Hall |
| May 13 | Executive Committee | Dorset Road School |
| July 15 | Executive Committee | Dorset Road School |
| September 30 | Executive Committee | Dorset Road School |
| November 25 | Executive Committee | Dorset Road School |

All meetings begin at 8. 00PM

ANY MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION CAN ATTEND COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND RAISE MATTERS OF LOCAL CONCERN.

HANDS OFF OUR WAR MEMORIAL



A seemingly innocuous circular from Bromley Council about road works at the War Memorial in Mottingham contained a sting in the tail. The plan as outlined by the council was to widen the roundabout on which the Memorial is sited so as to slow down speeding traffic. So far, so good.

The plan was similar to the one carried out at the roundabout near Eltham College and local residents were asked for their views.

It took a former council architect and local resident to spot the flaw in the argument. The roundabout by Eltham College is plastered with blue Keep Left signs and black and white chevrons. Was this also going to happen to the War Memorial roundabout?

A request was duly sent to the exotically named "assistant sustainable transport officer" at Bromley asking whether this was indeed the case. There was no mention of signs in the circular but were they part of the plan?

No answer emerged and the deadline for consultation duly passed with the "sustainable transport officer" maintaining a sustained silence. At this point, the Residents Association made another request for an answer to the original question which had been posed three weeks earlier. The response was interesting.

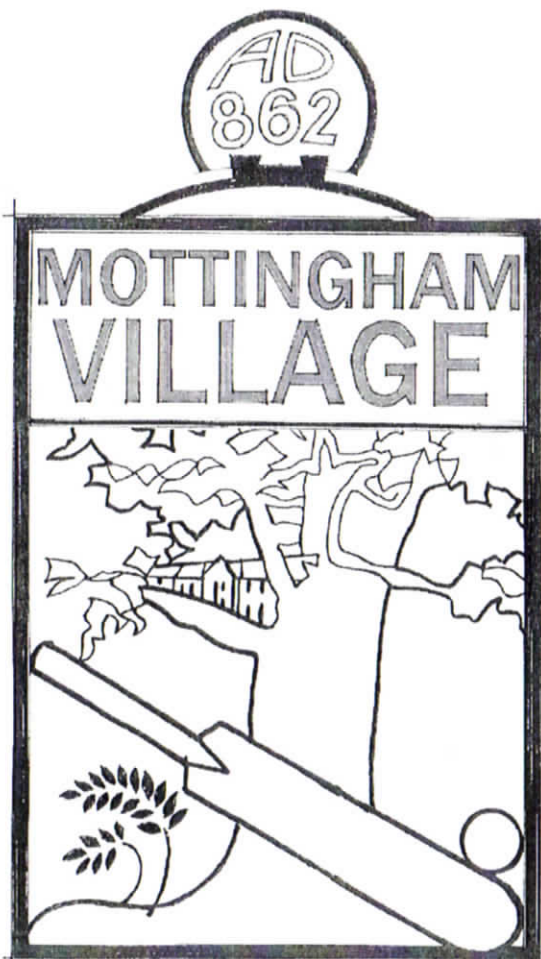
The first answer from the "assistant" official said signs would be considered "at the construction stage". This was then quickly followed by another reply from her senior officer who said he would "take advice" from other officers to see if they could "maintain the current situation" i. e. leave things as they are.

Translated into simple English, this meant nobody could actually give any assurance that the War Memorial would not be plastered in traffic signs if the scheme went ahead.

The Residents Association therefore lodged a formal objection to the plan. Anyone who attends the Remembrance Day service at the Memorial will understand the appalling visual effect signs would have and the difficulties they would present to people laying wreaths on Remembrance Sunday – an event which is attended by a substantial number of local people each year. One resident claimed it would amount to "desecration".

STOP PRESS: As the magazine was literally going to the printers, Bromley council got in touch to say that although they had approved the plan, they would give a "categorical assurance" that no signs would be erected. Thanks to local councillors Roger Charsley and Charles Rideout for their support and for committee chairman Colin Smith who wrote to say he shared our views about the "sanctity" of the Memorial.

PS. It's a moot point as to whether the new style roundabouts actually work anyway. The evidence of the one by Eltham College is that if anything cars from Grove Park Road now go even faster into the junction than before because they think they have more space!



VILLAGE SIGN FUND LAUNCHED

Our campaign for a village sign for Mottingham has been officially launched with a Target of £2,000 to be raised by next June. Opposite is a first draft of the design drawn up by Stewart Clark of Bromley's Urban Design department.

It's based on your response to the last MRA newsletter which was delivered to every household in the parish and contained illustrations of 20 different village signs in Bromley Borough.

Residents were asked to vote for their favourite and the most popular by far was the one for Biggin Hill. Stewart's design is based on that with the main features being Eltham College and its grounds and a cricket bat and ball representing the famous cricketer WG Grace who used to live in Mottingham Lane. The corn stalks in the bottom left are a reminder of the time when Mottingham was an agricultural area from which Court Farm Road and Chapel Farm Road got their names. The date on the top of the sign refers to the first known mention of Mottingham in AD 862.

The sign will be 3 ft x 2ft wide and have a painted metal finish. It will sit on a 10ft column and be sited at the junction of Court Road and Mottingham Road.

The unveiling is scheduled to take place at the start of the Mottingham Festival next June - with the ceremony possibly being performed by the Mayor of Bromley.

What we need to do now is to raise £2,000 towards the cost with Bromley Council promising to match that figure.

A special account has been set up for donations and there is a form enclosed with details of where to send your money – cheques only please. A list of donors will be published in the next newsletter and there is a section on the form for you to tick if you would like your name included.

MOTTINGHAM MISSING WREATH MYSTERY

The annual Remembrance Day service in Mottingham this year was soured by the theft of one of the wreaths - and the local vicar and Chairman of the MRA being interviewed by the "hate crimes" unit of Bromley police.

The service itself - organised by Churches Together in Mottingham and conducted on the forecourt of The Porcupine by Rev Ian Welch from St Andrews church - was well attended as usual and many local organisations and individuals laid their wreaths on the memorial.

It appears however that one of the wreaths - from the British National Party (BNP) - was later removed and this led to a complaint to Bromley police who designated it as a "hate crime".

The Chairman of the MRA and the Rev Welch were subsequently interviewed on the grounds they were involved in the organisation of the ceremony and may therefore know something about the alleged theft. Neither was able to throw any light on the incident and investigations continue.

TREE TROUBLE



Residents in the Greenwich part of Mottingham have been suffering double trouble with their trees this year.

In West Hallowes the problem is being caused by some new trees planted in the pavement by Greenwich council. Nicknamed "The Tree of Heaven" their official name is *Ailanthus Altissima* so called because they can reach a height of 30 metres. In some countries like the USA they are classed as an invasive species because of their habit of throwing up shoots several feet away from the base of the tree.

This is what has happened in West Hallowes with subsequent damage to the pavement and nearby walls and paths. Local residents have been complaining to the council and asking for trees to be removed.

Greenwich's street tree manager Bob Charlton says on reflection the trees were probably not the best choice for footway planting although he says there have been relatively few complaints about them. If residents are experiencing problems however, the council will remove the tree altogether and this is what will happen to some of the trees in West Hallowes this Winter.

Round the corner from West Hallowes the famous horse chestnuts of West Park have also been having a bad time of it this year.

They have been a shadow of their normal magnificent selves and it's because they have been hit by a triple whammy of – leaf miner moths, fungus and drought.

It's the leaf miner moth - *cameraria ohridella* - that is causing most of the damage. It lays its eggs on the leaves and its larvae are what causes the leaves to shrivel, turn brown and fall early. Although the trees look as if they are dying there is no evidence of this actually happening. The effect appears to be purely visual.

The moth was first observed in Macedonia in the late 70s and rapidly spread across Europe. The first sighting in England was in chestnut trees on Wimbledon Common in 2002 since when the South of England has borne the brunt of the invasion.

As if this wasn't enough, the trees are also being hit by a canker fungus and the effects of a dry Summer which has lessened their resistance to disease. The current fashion for turning front gardens into parking areas is also creating a problem because water can no longer soak into the ground and into their root systems.

BEWARE HELPFUL RUBBISH COLLECTORS

A word of warning if you are approached by someone offering to take away your rubbish - **YOU** could end up in court for fly tipping!

This is what happened to a local resident recently who had moved house and had packing cases and various other bits of household detritus piled at the front of the house awaiting disposal.

A "man with a van" knocked on the door and offered to take it away there and then rather than wait for the local council to come round and take it. Asked for an assurance he wouldn't just dump it on the nearest piece of waste land, he proceeded to produce an official looking certificate on a clip board which said he was a licensed waste remover. He assured the householder the rubbish would be disposed of at an officially recognised waste transfer station.

Imagine the householders surprise when three days later they received a letter from Kent County Council saying the rubbish had been found dumped in a lane in Kemsing and they could now face prosecution for fly tipping. The householder was traced because among the rubbish was an envelope with their name and former address.

When the circumstances were explained, the council dropped the threat of prosecution but the council's enforcement officer John Evans said householders should always insist on asking for a contractors Environment Agency licence number before agreeing to let them dispose of rubbish.

If you want to check the number is genuine you can ring the Environment Agency on 08708 506 506 and ask for "waste carrier validation".

PS. As with most things bureaucratic, this number seems to operate only during normal office hours from Monday to Friday. At weekends - when most of these fly tippers are at work - the Agency only has a recorded message service. Spot the gap ?

WHEN IS A SHED NOT A SHED

Great consternation among residents living in Highcombe Close and West Hallowes about a structure that has appeared in the rear garden of a house in Highcombe Close.

Technically the structure is a shed but that said it's rather a large one being almost 12ft high. Because of the difference in height between the gardens in Highcombe Close and the gardens in West Hallowes it backs onto it - the height is exaggerated and the building dominates the skyline and the view from the houses in West Hallowes. It is also – to put it politely – no architectural gem.

Bromley council's enforcement team has looked at the building and ruled it doesn't contravene any planning rules - however large and intrusive. This is because it falls within what is known as "permitted development" i. e. not needing planning permission. In this case what this means is that so long as the building is more than 15ft away from the rear of the house, does not take up more than half the garden and is under 12ft high it is perfectly legal.

What the building cannot be used for however is for business purposes or living accommodation.

POLICE COMPLAINT

The following is based on genuine exchange between a frustrated local resident and his local police force and has become something of a classic because - although it happened in the West Country - it rings a bell with most law abiding people wherever they live. It is also well written and done with a sense of humour.

Dear Sir/madam/automated telephone answering service,

Having spent the past twenty minutes waiting for someone at Bodmin police station to pick up a telephone I have decided to abandon the idea and try e-mailing you instead.

Perhaps you would be so kind as to pass this message on to your colleagues in Bodmin, by means of smoke signal, carrier pigeon or Ouija board.

As I'm writing this e-mail there are eleven failed medical experiments (I think you call them youths) in St Marys Crescent, which is just off St Marys Road in Bodmin.

Six of them seem happy enough to play a game which involves kicking a football against an iron gate with the force of a meteorite. This causes an earth shattering CLANG! which rings throughout the entire building. This game is now in its third week and as I am unsure how the scoring system works, I have no idea if it will end any time soon.

The remaining five walking abortions are happily rummaging through several bags of rubbish and items of furniture that someone has so thoughtfully dumped beside the wheelie bins. One of them has found a saw and is setting about a discarded chair like a beaver on speed.

I fear that it's only a matter of time before they turn their limited attention to the bottle of calor gas that is lying on its side between the two bins. If they could be relied on to only blow their own arms and legs off then I would happily leave them to it. I would even go so far as to lend them the matches. Unfortunately they are far more likely to blow up half the street with them and I've just finished decorating the kitchen.

What I suggest is this - after replying to this e-mail with worthless assurances that the matter is being looked into and will be dealt with, why not leave it until the one night of the year (probably bath night) when there are no mutants around then drive up the street in a panda car before doing a three point turn and disappearing again. This will of course serve no other purpose than to remind us what policemen actually look like.

I trust that when I take a claw hammer to the skull of one of these throwbacks you'll do me the same courtesy of giving me a four month head start before coming to arrest me.

I remain sir, your obedient servant

???????

Mr ??????

I have read your e-mail and understand you frustration at the problems caused by youth playing in the area and the problems you have encountered in trying to contact the police.

As the Community Beat Officer for your street I would like to extend an offer of discussing the matter fully with you. Should you wish to discuss the matter, please provide contact details (address / telephone number) and when may be suitable.

Regards

PC?

Community Beat Officer

Dear PC ?

First of all I would like to thank you for the speedy response to my original e-mail. 16 hours and 38 minutes must be a personal record for Bodmin Police station, and rest assured that I will forward these details to Norris McWhirter for inclusion in his next book.

Secondly I was delighted to hear that our street has its own community beat officer. May I be the first to congratulate you on your covert skills? In the five or so years I have lived in St Marys Crescent, I have never seen you. Do you hide up a tree or have you gone deep undercover and infiltrated the gang itself? Are you the one with the acne and the moustache on his forehead or the one with a chin like a wash hand basin? It's surely only a matter of time before you are headhunted by MI5.

Whilst I realise that there may be far more serious crimes taking place in Bodmin, such as smoking in a public place or being Muslim without due care and attention, is it too much to ask for a policeman to explain (using words of no more than two syllables at a time) to these lovers that they might want to play their strange football game elsewhere. The pitch on Fairpark Road, or the one at Priory Park are both within spitting distance as is the bottom of the Par Dock.

Should you wish to discuss these matters further you should feel free to contact me on xxxxx. If after 25 minutes I have still failed to answer, I'll buy you a large one in the Cat and Fiddle Pub.

Regards.....

With apologies to our local Safer Neighbourhood Team. We know it would never happen in Mottingham.

Quote of the year. .

This is a genuine excerpt from a letter sent out by Greenwich NHS inviting local residents to focus group meetings on the new Eltham Community Hospital "You will be re-inburst you for your time". We have demanded our Human Rights and asked for an English translation!

ROAD STEWARDS

Section one

Section leader **MRS HOLLINGUM - 33 Devonshire Road** **8857 5856**

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Albert Road | Mrs Cheeseman | 152 Mottingham Road | 8851 1747 |
| Highcombe Close | Mrs Whale | 22 Dorset Road | 8325 7542 |
| Lulworth Road | Mr Harvie | 16 Lulworth Road | 8325 3579 |
| Mottingham Road | | | |
| 100-154 | Mrs Cheeseman | 152 Mottingham Road | 8851 1747 |
| 127-167 | Ms Cater-Smith | 167 Mottingham Road | 8857 2318 |
| 169- 203A | Mrs Hollingum | 33 Devonshire Road | 8857 5856 |
| Porcupine Close | Mrs Robbie | 23, Porcupine Close | 8857 6367 |

Section two

Section leader **Mac Mackway-Jones 54A Mottingham Road** **8857 5886**

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Hinton Close | Mr/Mrs Perkins | 7 West Park | 8851 8644 |
| Luxfield Road | Ralph Harrison | 9 West Hallowses | 8857 8736 |
| Sidcup Rd | | | |
| 375-511 | Dr M Patel | 53 Grove Park Road | 8857 7333 |
| 452-508 | Tracey Tilling | 11 West Park | 8857 6477 |
| 522-620 | Dr M Patel | 53 Grove Park Road | 8857 7333 |
| 551-655 | Dr M Patel | 53 Grove Park Road | 8857 7333 |
| West Hallowses | Ralph Harrison | 9 West Hallowses | 8857 8736 |
| West Park (odd) | Mr/Mrs Perkins | 7 West Park | 8851 8644 |
| West Park (even) | Mr/Mrs Perkins | 7 West Park | 8851 8644 |

Section three

Section leader **MRS COBB - 7 Carters Hill Close** **8857 1944**

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Beaconsfield Road | Mr O'Hare | 2 Court Farm Road | 8851 3454 |
| Carters Hill Close | Sheila Blanks | Hill Top, Mottingham Lane | 88578695 |
| Cedar Mount | Mr O'Hare | 2 Court Farm Road | 8851 3454 |
| College View | Mrs Stevens | 1 Layzell Walk | 8857 2687 |
| Grove Park Road | | | |
| (even) | Mr Keable | 54 Grove Park Road | 8857 4183 |
| odd | Mr Barker | 78 Grove Park Road | 8857 9208 |
| Hall View | Mr Barker | 78 Grove Park Road | 8857 9208 |
| Kippington Drive | Mrs Ewin | 3 Kippington Drive | - |
| Layzell Walk | Mrs Stevens | 1 Layzell Walk | 8857 2687 |
| Model Farm Close | Mr Wakeling | 8 Model Farm Close | 8249 0544 |
| MottinghamGardens | Mrs Longhurst | 17 Mottingham Gardens | 8860 9349 |
| Mottingham Lane | Miss McDonald | 25 Carters Hill Close | 8857 6947 |
| Mottingham Road | Mrs Stevens | 1 Layzell Walk | 8857 2687 |

Section four

Section leader - **LAURIE BELL 1, Mottingham Road** **8851 8939**

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Avondale Road | Mrs McDougall | 8 Avondale Road | 8851 9547 |
| Clarence Road | Mrs McDougall | 8 Avondale Road | 8851 9547 |
| Court Farm Road | | | |
| 1-45 | Mr/Mrs Bell | 1 Mottingham Road | 8851 8939 |
| 47-103 | Mr/Mrs Huxley | 71 Court Farm Road | |
| Crossway | Mr/Mrs Bell | 1. Mottingham Road | 8851 8939 |
| Devonshire Road | Mrs Watterson | 4 Teign Mews, Dorset Rd | 8851 9713 |
| Dorset Road | Mr/Mrs Luxford | 16 Dorset Rd | 8851 8202 |
| Elmhurst Road | Mrs Keable | 54 Grove Park Rd | 8857 4163 |
| Evelyn Rogers Court | Christine Wood | 19 Evelyn Rogers Ct | 8857 0536 |
| Mottingham Rd | | | |
| (2-56) | Ross Howie | 11 Dorset Road | 8857 1874 |
| Portland Crescent | Mrs Shimell | 7 Lulworth Road | 8851 3495 |
| Portland Road | Mrs Shimell | 7 Lulworth Road | 8851 3495 |
| Silverdale Drive | Mr/Mrs Bell | 1 Mottingham Road | 8851 8939 |
| Sycamore Close | Mrs Lawrie | 265, Court Road | 8857 0685 |

Section five

Section leader **MRS HENDERSON** **10 Birbetts Road** **8857 5800**

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Bill Hamling Close | Mrs Henderson | 10 Birbetts Road | 8857 5800 |
| Birbetts Road | Mrs Henderson | 10 Birbetts Road | 8857 5800 |
| Bowmead | Mrs Henderson | 10 Birbetts Road | 8857 5800 |
| Chapel Farm Rd | Mr/Mrs Laurance | 47 Chapel Farm Rd | 8857 4234 |
| Lavidge Road | Ms Clarke | 78 Chapel Farm Rd | 8355 1236 |
| Margaret Gardner Drive | Mrs Henderson | 10 Birbetts Road | 8857 5800 |
| Ministry Way | Mrs Henderson | 10 Birbetts Road | 8857 5800 |

Section six

Section leader **MR HILL** **53 Leysdown Road** **8857 3798**

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
| Bromhedge | Mr Hill | 53 Leysdown Road | 8857 3798 |
| Court Road (even) | Mr Miller | 258 Court Road | 8488 0012 |
| Court Road (odd) | Mr Wyborn | 240 Court Road | 8857 1524 |
| Crossmead | Mr Wyborn | 240 Court Road | 8857 1524 |
| Downleys Close | Mr Hill | 53 Leysdown Road | 8857 3798 |
| Hartsmead Road | Mr Hill | 53 Leysdown Road | 8857 3798 |
| Leysdown Road | Mr Hill | 53 Leysdown Road | 8857 3798 |
| Sidcup Road (551- 655) | VACANT | | |