

# SHORTLANDS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1934

## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2017

[www.shortlandsresidents.org.uk](http://www.shortlandsresidents.org.uk)

### Parking in Shortlands - Slow Progress

In November last year we undertook a widespread survey to ascertain the views of residents on the problems of parking in Shortlands. The results showed that a sizeable proportion felt that there was a considerable problem and wanted to see changes, writes Victoria Miller. We presented a detailed and considered report to The Council and Councillors in January of this year and a summary to those S.R.A. members able to attend our A.G.M in April. After months of email exchanges with, in particular, Councillor Colin Smith (who is the Portfolio Holder responsible for this area of Council activity) we have achieved a couple of successes.

First, the Council will be putting double yellow lines on a number of dangerous junctions and bad bends where irresponsible motorists park dangerously. Initially these will be in Church

Road, Shortlands Road, Mays Hill Road, Kingswood Road, Bromley Grove and Beckenham Grove. You may know of other places where double yellow lines would be helpful. Let us know and we will put these ideas to the Council.

Secondly, the Council will be trialing a system of marking out parking spaces and putting white lines across dropped curb entrances where residents may, at present, have difficulty moving on and off of their driveways because of commuter parking. Councillor Smith believes that this will have some positive impact on the street scene and, while we are not entirely convinced, we have agreed that, as it is quite inexpensive, it is worth an experiment.

These first two measures should take place in the summer months. We will be reviewing them in October/November and informing the Council of our findings. We are counting on you to act as our eyes and ears to let us know what is happening.

Thirdly, the Council will look into installing bus stop markings at the bus stops in Beckenham Grove and St Mary's Avenue, which will enable the buses to pull into the curb and lower the step allowing prams, wheelchairs, the elderly and the disabled to get on and off more easily. Support for these measures from the bus operating company would be helpful.



*This foreign trucked was parked on the bend in Mays Hill Road for two days in May.*

So far, however, we have not been able to persuade, the Council that there should be parking controls in some of the roads most affected by all day commuter parking such as Mays Hill Road, Park Hill Road, Beckenham Grove and Scott's Avenue. We find it difficult to understand why the roads near Shortlands station should have unrestricted parking, while other stations such as Bromley South and New Beckenham have properly thought out parking controls.

We have also, so far, not convinced the Council that *cul de sacs* such as Green Close and Iden Close need parking controls so that residents may access their own houses without driving on the pavement. We have also failed to secure more yellow lines in the lower part of Kingswood Road (near the school) where even buses can be seen reversing in order to negotiate the narrowed roadway.

We are, however, still hopeful that by continuing our dialogue, and working with the Council we will ultimate achieve a more satisfactory outcome for our residents.

### **New Anti-Litter Tsar for Bromley**

In their responses to our Parking and Litter Survey many Shortlands' residents expressed dissatisfaction with the amount of litter on our streets, the inadequacy of street litter-bins, and a perceived lack of enforcement of the current regulations.



Now Councillor Tim Stevens has been appointed to spearhead the Council's drive to improve its anti-litter services, including working on a programme of weekend cleaning of certain roads across the borough, especially where they are filled with parked commuter cars during the working week.

Watch this space...and let us know if you think litter collection and street cleaning are beginning to get better.

### **South Hill Wood Tour - Meeting Thomas Dewey**

The first ever guided tour of South Hill Wood on a fine Saturday afternoon in May proved a major success. Over 30 people joined us as we led them along the woodland paths, learning about the history, and trees, plants and local wildlife.

We also learnt a lot about Thomas Dewey,



undoubtedly one of Shortlands' most outstanding figures in our short history.

For it was Thomas Dewey, already a successful businessman with the world famous Prudential Assurance Co, who bought the land on which South Hill Wood stands in 1887, had a house built for himself and his family (still standing there to this day) and then had some more of the woodland transformed into gardens of exotic and ornamental plants, sunken and water gardens, specimen trees (like the still standing sequoia giganteum), stables, fountain and conservatory and music room (since demolished but on the site of the Tootswood Bowls and Tennis Club). Little still remains of many of these developments, as the woodland has gradually grown back to cover them up.

Meanwhile, as the gardens were being laid out, Dewey had become Bromley's first Charter Mayor and used his energies and money to improve local education, health services and

scouts and guides. His financial skills were rated so highly that he was seconded to the Cabinet War Office during World War I. He was knighted and later ennobled to become Baronet Dewey of South Hill Wood. It was said that, had he chosen to pursue a career in politics, he might even have become Chancellor of the Exchequer! He died in 1926.

## Development News

There is news of a substantial development, which while not in Shortlands, could have an effect on transport and parking. This is the proposed specialist school to be built on the site of the old DHSS building at the bottom of Bromley High Street. The school is known as a Science, Health and Well-being (SHAW) Futures Academy and would have the backing of a number of leaders in the scientific community including, for example, Kings College Hospital NHS Trust.

This would be developed as a multi-storey operation in the part of Bromley known as the Bromley Taller Buildings Zone. This is very much in the early stages but The S.R.A. will keep a watching brief.

We have, on occasion, had to consider complaints from members, not just about a proposed development but, about the colour that a property has been painted.

The problem is that what might appear aesthetically objectionable to one person might be entirely acceptable to another. In some cases planners will be required to approve the finishes to a development and that may have the effect of controlling colours. However, the general rule is that, outside of a conservation area, a householder may paint their house as they see fit.

## Keeping Gallery Visit - 14 October

There are still plenty of places available for S.R.A. members and others to join us on this year's guided tour of the Keeping Gallery in 16 Church Road, at 2.00 p.m. on Saturday 14 October.

Much of the best work of Charles Keeping, the world famous book illustrator, and of his wife

Renata, whose style was based especially on textures and fabrics, is on show at the Gallery. S.R.A. members and joiners receive a discount on the normal entry fee. If you would like to join us, please call Mike Ricketts on 0208 460 0395 or email [info@shortlandsresidents.org.uk](mailto:info@shortlandsresidents.org.uk)

## Autumn Open Meeting - Health and Social Care

**Thursday 19 October, 8.00 p.m.**

**St Mary's Church Hall**

The S.R.A. runs a series of occasional open meetings on topics of interest to the local community. Health and social care issues are much at the front of people's minds, not least because serious concerns about how we, as a country and as individuals, pay for the care of an ageing population.



Local Councillor David Jefferys will introduce the event. He chairs the local Health and Wellbeing Board and is a member of the Care Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee, focusing on the role of local authorities and how other organisations play their part. This will be followed by a "Question Time" style panel discussion with other interested local organisations such as HealthWatch and Bromley Mind. Further details will be publicised in our Autumn newsletter.

### **DO YOU WANT TO HELP YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?**

**The S.R.A. is looking for Road Liaison Officers.**

*Delivering four Newsletters a year, and collecting subscriptions is all that the job entails. Getting to know your neighbours is the reward.*

If you would like to help, please contact Ann-Marie Jefferys (0208 460 6030 or [annmarie.jefferys@btinternet.com](mailto:annmarie.jefferys@btinternet.com))

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