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SHORTLANDS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER

Summer 2019

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New rail users group set to launch

Public transport users in Shortlands will be given the chance to have more say on public transport in the area through a new users' group being launched through the Shortlands Residents' Association in October.

The inaugural meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Thursday 17 October upstairs at the Shortlands Tavern on Station Road.

The group will aim to meet every six months and give local residents the opportunity to question and challenge providers like Thameslink, Southeastern and Transport for London, as well as offer their suggestions for improvements.

Local Bromley and Chislehurst MP Bob Neill is also due to address this first meeting about what he has been doing in Parliament for local commuters, as well as taking questions from the audience.

Make it a date in your diary.

AGM and new committee members

Around 75 people attended our AGM in April – the first we had held in the pleasant surroundings of Shortlands Golf Club. Our guest speaker was Col Bob Stewart, DSO, MP who gave an entertaining description of his life as our local Member of Parliament. Resolutions were passed to update the Association's rules and increase our subscriptions in line with other residents' associations as we try to stay relevant to changing needs.

Following our appeal at the AGM we are delighted to welcome some new faces to the committee. Robin Phipps, already an experienced liaison officer, has taken on the role of Membership Secretary vacated by the departure of Ann-Mare Jefferys. Bob French and Carla Lara-Vivanco also join us – we are hoping that Carla will be able to support the development of our new web site; and Tom Turrell is keen to set up local transport users group under the auspices of the SRA – see above. We are delighted to welcome them to our ranks and I am sure they will help the Association go from strength to strength.

Sad news

We learned recently of the deaths of John Guttridge and Tony Bailey. John had supported the SRA on the production of newsletters and developing our first web site. His wife, Sally, was a long standing committee member before stepping down as a result of ill health last year.

Tony Bailey was our Development Officer until moving to Bedford in 2013. He died as a result of a lung disease in early July. Our thoughts are with John's family, and Tony's wife Marilyn, who also helped at many of the SRA's events.

Planning news - and a “village” conservation area?

In the Village a second application has been made to demolish the buildings currently behind the hoarding. This was despite the fact that the full application to develop the site into a Sainsbury's Local, together with flats over the shop, was comprehensively rejected.

The problem lies in the "deemed permission" legislation which permits certain development without the need to make a planning application, including the demolition of buildings. So, even though the planned development has been rejected, the owner/developer can still proceed to demolish the buildings as long as they have satisfied the local planning authority as to the method of demolition and any proposed restoration of the site.

For that purpose the planning department must be notified. On the first such notification the application was refused on the grounds that insufficient information had been provided about the method of demolition and the effect on traffic movement. Now the second application has also been rejected despite the fact that it directly addressed the method and traffic issues. The grounds for the latest refusal are that *"insufficient information has been submitted to demonstrate that the demolition works will not have adverse impacts on and will not be liable to prejudice the free flow of traffic conditions of general safety along the adjacent highway"*.

This holds the position for the moment.

Very significantly Bromley Town Councillors have now taken up the issue together with Bromley Civic Society with a view to considering making a defined area in the village a conservation area. This will be a matter for public consultation. We know one resident has taken up the matter directly with English Heritage to consider possible listing of the buildings.

The situation is extremely unsatisfactory; we have a site right in the middle of the village which has been boarded up for far too long and a developer who has not appealed the refusal to permit the proposed development but has responded by proposing to demolish the buildings.

Although part of Copers Cope ward, it is worth mentioning a planning appeal which has just been

successful although contested by Bromley Council. This related to a commercial site in Lower Sydenham where there had been a planning application to erect a four to eight storey development containing 151 residential units. The application was originally rejected in part because this was on so called “metropolitan open land”. On appeal the inspector balanced the protection of this open land, which he regarded as being similar to green belt, against the requirement for new residential properties in Bromley.

This, apparently, can provide special reasons why the protection of such land might become secondary to the need to provide homes. That was the decision in this case. It appears that approximately one third of the land concerned will now become residential. It remains to be seen just how far this decision, particularly in respect of larger proposed developments, will affect future policy.

Finally, in another appeal, the proposal to extend trading hours in the development at The Chinese Garage has been successful - no doubt to the considerable concern of residents and local traders.

Become a Poppy Collection Volunteer

Beckenham Rotary are looking for volunteers to help collect money for the Royal British Legion (RBL) Poppy Day campaign this Autumn. The local Rotary has organized the Poppy Collection in the Beckenham area since 2014. Last year over £37,000 was raised.

Collection tins and poppies are distributed to over 200 premises, but the main collections are done at supermarkets, local stations like Shortlands, and in Beckenham High Street. The fundraising takes place between 26 October and 11 November. Individual slots are usually for two hours, but shorter periods can be arranged.

If you would like to help, or find out more, please contact Bill Fairhall at bill@curiousferret.com or phone on 0208 460 6718.



Waste collection day changes will help improve the service

Changes to waste recycling and collection days intended to deliver greater efficiency and reliability of the service will go ahead this autumn.

The changes to collection days follows the news earlier in the year that Bromley Council is moving towards sending virtually zero waste to landfill. Although Bromley has one of the highest recycling rates in London, it is still looking to improve its current performance. The enhanced service underlines Bromley's reputation as being one of London's leading recycling boroughs, with Bromley being only one of a handful of London Boroughs to offer such an extensive recycling collection service.

The council, wants to work with residents and Veolia, its waste services contractor, to recycle as much possible and will be doing their utmost to make sure this transition goes smoothly and will be contacting residents nearer the time to confirm how the changes will affect us. The changes include, alongside a change in collection days, giving residents the ability to recycle batteries, small electrical items and textiles, including clothing, as part of their door to door recycling services.

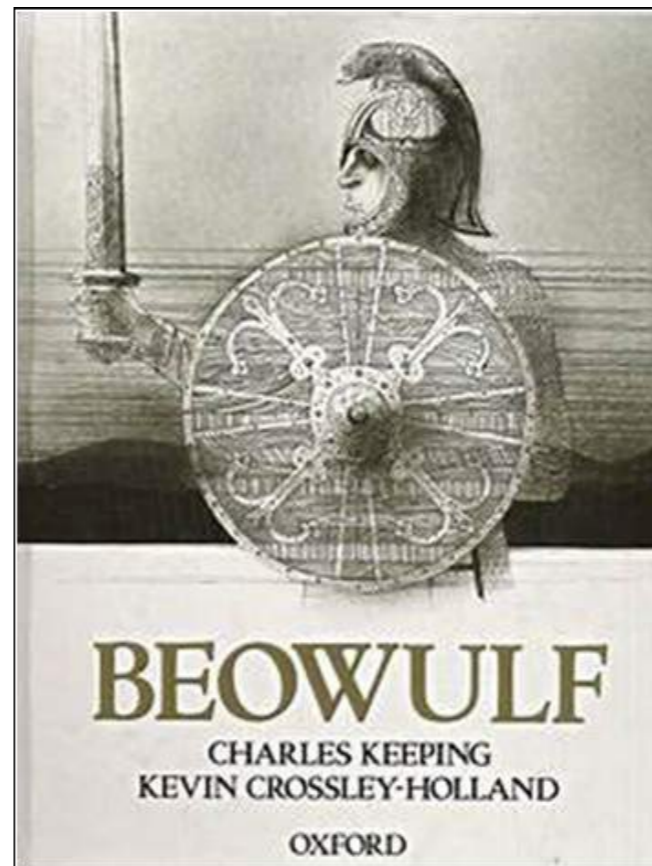
The changes are due to be implemented in September.



Double yellow lines update

Many thanks to those who came up with fresh ideas for sites for double yellow lines and traffic islands arising from our appeal in the Winter 2019 edition.

To keep you posted, all these proposals are being fed into the considerations on improvements to our area being organised by the Liveable Neighbourhoods programme project team, funded by London's Mayor through Transport for London. We shall be involved in detailed council engagement and consultations over the next few years on all the ideas the project team put



Keeping Gallery tour – 19 October

As trailed in our last issue, we are organizing a guided tour of the Keeping Gallery at 16 Church Road at 2pm on Saturday 19 October to have a chance to see the works of famous local artists Charles and Renate Keeping. Charles was internationally renowned in the mid-C20 for his illustrations in editions of famous books ranging from Beowulf to Black Beauty and the Gallery has the finest collection of his original works anywhere in the world.

Renate specialized in her own texture and fabric-based style of art. A whole room in the Gallery is given over to her most striking work, a sort of 'Bayeux Tapestry' collage of her and Charles' lives both before and after they moved to Shortlands in the 1960s.

There will be a discounted entry charge for those who would like to join us. If you would like to come along, please contact Mike Ricketts on 0208 460 0395.