

SRA Shortlands Residents' Association **NEWSLETTER**

Spring 2025
www.shortlandsra.org.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 16th APRIL 2025 – 8pm, St Mary's Hall

With this Newsletter you will also be receiving your invitation notice to our SRA AGM, which includes details of the agenda, annual reports from our President and Chair, as well as other information about the Association. This year's guest speaker will be Councillor Will Rowlands, who is going to talk about the Council's strategy and some key priorities for the Environment, including parking, parks and clean streets. We shall also hear reports on SRA's finances from our Treasurer Peter Berry and on local planning and development issues from Danny Miller.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. It's your great chance to raise issues which concern you most with your local Councillors, your MP Liam Conlon (who hopes to join us) and Bromley's Mayor David Jefferys. If you want to put down a question in advance for the Q&A session at the end, please email info@shortlandsra.org.uk or call 0208 460 0395.

DANNY MILLER WINS WILKINSON CUP

Danny has been awarded this cup as a member of a Bromley residents' association who has made a significant contribution to planning issues. This includes supporting local residents with objections and commenting on behalf of the association in respect of larger projects, often in Bromley Town.

A WALK THROUGH SHORTLANDS' HISTORY – 19 JULY

Shortlands has a lot more history and a claim to fame than you would think. Pop stars, internationally famous children's writers, Romantic poets, even Oliver Cromwell (or at least his head) have stayed here or passed through Shortlands over the centuries. Come and join us for our annual guided walk to learn more about our history from the Iron Age to the present day.

We start off at 2.30pm on Saturday 19 July from Shortlands Station Ticket Hall and for a leisurely hour or so Mike Ricketts will lead you through the many phases of our history, picking out sites of special historic interest, and finishing off over tea and cakes in a (hopefully) sunny but well shaded back garden.

If you would like to join us on the walk, please call Mike on 0208 460 0395 or email him via info@shortlandsra.org.uk



Danny Miller, our soon to retire Development Officer, receives the Wilkinson Cup from Bromley Mayor David Jefferys.



DEVELOPMENT

River Ravensbourne Restoration Proposal

Thames 21, the organisation which managed the Glassmill Pond improvements, has consulted on possible changes to the River at Queensmead Recreation Ground.

A site meeting was held on 23 January to consider possible options. The idea is to consider a part 're-wilding' of the River by removing part of the concrete wall. Residents, together with AFC Shortlands, have expressed concern about the risk of flooding to the playing fields to the detriment of the large number of users and to local homes.

Details of the proposals are now on the Thames 21 website. The concept is to re-naturalise 245m of what they call the 'heavily modified river' by removing artificial modifications - the concrete walls.

There are 4 suggested options: do nothing, improve what is already there by introducing soil and plants, re-profile the left bank to include such features as log piles and ponds and, lastly, channel realignment.. This is the option which will include removal of part of the concrete walls and creating a new channel planted on its banks.

The next public consultation event is due to be held this Spring.

Supplementary Planning Document

On a number of occasions we have raised the need for a supplemental planning document to clarify obligations on people developing their properties in the Shortlands Valley Conservation Area. This was because the normal planning rules, in particular with regard to permitted development, may not apply in a conservation area.

We have now been consulted on a draft of this essential document which comes in the form of a Conservation Area Appraisal. This was emailed to our members. The document is a combination of an analysis of the buildings in Shortlands, similar to what was carried out before the introduction of the conservation area and guidance regarding such matters as demolition and replacing doors and windows.

We considered how this was approached in other areas before making our own submission on behalf of the SRA. In the main we suggested some additional detail and examples of good and bad practice.

When finally agreed this should be of substantial help.

Parking around Harris Academy Primary School

We have been contacted by members regarding the congestion around the school in particular when children are collected in the afternoon. Cars are parked on grass verges and on double yellow lines.

We have involved councillors in looking to find ways of managing this problem and our chairman, Mike Ricketts is in touch with the Head Teacher. Extending Controlled Parking Zones and wooden posts will be considered.

1 Westmoreland Road

In Bromley Town there is a new proposal for a building at the foot of the High Street on the old DSS site. This would be directly opposite the new Civic Centre.

This application is for one tall building, part 13, part 19 storeys. There will be some offices, but mostly for 'buy-to-rent' space for 107 flats, including 11 at what are called 'London Living Rents'.

A second building would be 6 storeys and provide homes for older people and a third building of three storeys for offices and a public café.

There will be no parking spaces save for a few for Blue Badge Holders.

As a committee we decided to take a neutral position and we submitted 'for and against' ideas.

SOUTH HILL WOOD WALK - 26 APRIL

Places are still available if you want to join us on our guided walk through South Hill Wood and its history and wildlife. It starts at 3pm on Saturday 26 April from the 2, Tootswood Road Bowls Club, and if you would like to come along, please email info@shortlandsra.org.uk or call 02084600395

SRA ACCOUNTS 2024

Our annual accounts for 2024 will be published on our website in advance of our 16th April AGM. These accounts show that the Association received a record £3,324 in subscriptions and donations last year.

Other income included interest from our building society account and revenue from selling advertising space on the back page of our quarterly Newsletters.

Main spending was on printing and stationery, our website, the hire of rooms for meetings, a

new sound system for our open meetings, and community-focussed initiatives, like support for new Christmas Lights for Shortlands Village.

Our Treasurer, Peter Berry, will be on hand at the AGM to answer any questions about the accounts.

MEMBERSHIP

Excellent news for our Liaison Officers and their recruitment drive of households in Shortlands. 2024 saw SRA household membership standing at well over 500 (up from 400 in 2020), giving us at least 850 individual members. But there is still along way to go before we have every resident on board!

We have already made a superb start this year and need your help to increase our membership further, which will not only provide more funds to meet the causes we support, but give us additional weight when challenging the Council on your behalf.

Many of our Liaison Officers met in January to discuss different ways to canvass for new members, and those who attended found it very useful. Please let us know if you would like to join this invaluable group and help with delivering Newsletters and collecting subscriptions. It's always a good way to get to know residents in your neighbourhood.

Our Membership Secretary Robert French can be contacted at membership@shortlandsra.org.uk

LANGLEY PARK ROTARY

Langley Park Rotary is part of the Rotarian movement which supports an extensive group of very worthwhile charities, large and small, local, national and international. It seeks to move quickly to offer aid to the victims of natural and man-made disasters and works via long term programmes to eradicate deadly diseases and conditions across the globe.

The movement also seeks to promote understanding and peace around the world.

Langley Park Rotary is part of an organisation of more than 34,000 Rotary Clubs worldwide.

Why not join and really make a difference, achieving something by aiding others. It can also be great fun. Learn more at www.rotary-langleypark.org or contact us at info@rotary-langleypark.org

DEE GETS MAYOR'S AWARD

'Dee', Denise Janes from Shortlands Station ticket-office has received a Mayor of Bromley Award to mark all the charity work she has done during her 16 years in Shortlands. Over that time she has raised over £550,000 for national charities ranging from Alzheimers to Help for Heroes, from the NSPCC to Bromley Mind. This money has also helped local individuals in need like an autistic boy, and four students made homeless by last year's fire in the Village.

She retires from southeastern later this year and will be a very hard act to follow.



Dee receives her award from Mayor David Jefferys

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