

**SRA** Shortlands Residents' Association  
**NEWSLETTER**

Spring 2026  
[www.shortlandsra.org.uk](http://www.shortlandsra.org.uk)

**SRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Monday 13 April 2026 – St Mary's Hall**

With this Newsletter you will be receiving your invitation notice to our AGM, including the agenda, annual reports from our President, Chair and Treasurer, and other information about the Association.

This year's guest speaker will be Rob Vale, Bromley Council's Head of Safer Communities, including trading standards, who will talk about some of the most frequent scams in our area and how to beat them.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. It's one of your best chances to raise issues which most concern you (not just scams) with our local Councillors. If you want to put down a question in advance, for the Q&A session at the end, please email [info@shortlandsra.org.uk](mailto:info@shortlandsra.org.uk)

**LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTION  
HUSTINGS – 29 APRIL**

The London Council Elections are taking place on 7 May and the SRA and RVR are jointly organising a Hustings for the main candidates standing in Shortlands and Park Langley Ward.

The Hustings are to be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 29 April at Shortlands Golf Club in Ravensbourne Avenue.

The occasion will be a great opportunity for voters across our Ward to listen to a candidate from each of the main parties standing, as they set out their local priorities and policies, and then question them about these and other local issues of concern. As local residents it's an ideal chance to meet your local candidates face to face and judge who would best serve the Shortlands community.

**SOUTH HILL WOOD WALK  
9 MAY**

There are still places left if you would like to join us on our walk through the history, flora and fauna of South Hill Wood at 3pm on Saturday 9 May. If you want to come along, please email [in-fo@shortlandsra.org.uk](mailto:info@shortlandsra.org.uk) or call Mike Ricketts on 0208 460 0395.

**A WALK THROUGH SHORTLANDS'  
HISTORY – 27 JUNE**

Newcomers to Shortlands and even some who have lived here for years may not realise that we have quite a history, and a fair few famous faces have either settled here or dropped in over the last 300 years – from a Romantic poet like Percy Shelley to children's authors like Enid Blyton and Richmal Crompton, from composers like Tony Hatch to legends like Judy Garland.

Come and join us to learn more in our next guided walk through the history from the Iron Age to the present day.

We start at 2.30pm on **Saturday 27 June** from Shortlands Station Ticket-hall and for the next hour or so Mike Ricketts will lead you through the many phases of our history, pointing out sites of historic interest, finishing off for 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 4600395 or email [in-fo@shortlandsra.org.uk](mailto:info@shortlandsra.org.uk)



## DEVELOPMENT

### Restoration Proposal for Ravensbourne River

Thames21 put forward a proposal to restore a 0.2-kilometre stretch of the heavily modified and culverted Ravensbourne River running through Queensmead Recreation Ground. The project aimed to naturalise a re-meandered river corridor to improve biodiversity, strengthen local flood resilience, and create a more ecologically rich landscape.

However, the proposal prompted mixed reactions within the community. Some residents questioned the need to re-route the river, expressing concerns about whether the benefits justified altering its current alignment, with grave anxiety about increased risks of flooding. Others raised practical issues about the state of the park itself, noting that heavy footfall, particularly during wet months, has already turned parts of the grounds into what some describe as a “mud pit.” At the same time, some residents and community groups welcomed the initiative, seeing it as an opportunity to revitalise Queensmead Rec, enhance local biodiversity, and create a more appealing green space for families and wildlife alike.

After detailed consideration, local councillors submitted their views to Councillor Will Rowlands, the Council’s Cabinet Member for Environment, asking for the restoration works not to proceed. He has now agreed with their arguments and refused permission for the project to go ahead.

### Kingswood Road Rail Footbridge Lighting

Efforts to improve safety at the rail footbridge at the bottom of Kingswood Road continue, as local groups work to advance a long-discussed lighting proposal. The Council has agreed in principle to fund the installation of a new light, recognising that the footbridge is heavily used by residents and can feel unsafe during darker hours. However, progress has been slower than hoped, particularly due to Network Rail, and the project now requires agreement from local allotment associations.

Once the two organisations are satisfied with the proposal prepared by Council officers, we hope the project can finally move forward. Improved lighting has long been requested by residents who feel that even a single, well-positioned light would significantly increase visibility and provide reassurance for those

using the path, particularly during winter.

The SRA, alongside local councillors, continues to advocate strongly for the scheme. Both have pledged to keep pushing until the lighting project is formally approved and delivered, arguing that enhanced safety should be a priority for this key pedestrian route.

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### FAREWELL ‘OUR DEE’

Dee Janes, who has worked in the ticket-hall at Shortlands Station for over 16 years, has just retired. Over that time she raised over £500,000 for national and local charities, ranging from Alzheimers and Help for Heroes, and from our Foal Farm to Bromley Mind.

With her fundraising shows in the Station carpark and displays in the ticket-hall, Dee made the Station a real focus for our community. She will be much missed. We wish her the best for her retirement in Staffordshire. Just before she retired SRA and RVR raised almost £800 for her as a farewell present.



### SRA ACCOUNTS 2025

Our Annual Accounts for 2025, to be published on our website in advance of our AGM, will show that the Association received a record £3,574 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, and a series of Community Grants of £200 to local schools and St Mary’s Church for varied items of equipment.

Our Treasurer Peter Berry will be on hand at the AGM to present and answer any questions about the Accounts.



A band of dedicated litter-pickers led by Councillor Gemma Turrell cleared Shortlands Village and nearby roads of litter in late February.

### MEMBERSHIP

We have had a very good 2025 ending with 509 households as members and £3,559 income from subscriptions, which has enabled us to support several community projects.

Our Liaison Officers have worked hard, encouraging new and existing members to pay their subscriptions whilst delivering our newsletters. Recruitment for 2026 has got off to a good start, and, whilst we have signed up one new LO, we would still appreciate the assistance of at least three more to cover Bromley Road and Durham Road and several small roads where membership needs to be developed. Please let your Membership Secretary know if you feel there is anyone we should approach. LOs tell us that a bonus of volunteering is to enable them to get to know their neighbours, who often become their friends. Being a LO is definitely a rewarding way of helping to support your local community.

**Rob French**

### OPEN DAYS FOR NEW BOWLERS SOUTH HILL BOWLING CLUB

If you have ever thought about trying your hand at bowls, come along to South Hill Bowling Club on 2 or 9 May between 10am and 11.30am. We are one of the most popular bowls clubs in Bromley with over 100 members (men and women), and very local, with our green being off Tootswood Road on the edge of South Hill Wood.

Visit our website at  
<https://southhillwoodbowlingclub.co.uk>  
for more information

Or call Mark Dempsey on 07504 090441.

#### Bank Details for SRA subscription

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