



The Express



Newsletter

Copers Cope Area Residents' Association

NOVEMBER 2010

PUBLIC MEETING

7.30pm Wed 17th November 2010
Christ Church Hall, Fairfield Road,
Beckenham

Guest Speaker
Baroness
Floella Benjamin
of Beckenham



We hope you can join us for drinks and nibbles.
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| Roger Leach <i>Vice-Chairman</i> | rogerleach@btinternet.com |
| Louise Cooper <i>Express Production Editor</i> | louisefaycooper@yahoo.co.uk |
| Vacancy <i>Express News Editor</i> | vacancy |
| Chloe-Jane Ross <i>Membership & Advertising</i> | express@coperscope.org.uk |
| J Wynter <i>Treasurer</i> | treasurer@coperscope.org.uk |

COUNCILLORS COPERS COPE WARD

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Cllr Russell Mellor | russell.mellor@bromley.gov.uk | 020 8464 3333 |
| Cllr Michael Tickner | michael.tickner@bromley.gov.uk | 020 8313 4422 |
| Cllr Stephen Wells | stephen.wells@bromley.gov.uk | 020 8313 4422 |

Councillors can also be contacted by post: c/ o The Civic Centre, Bromley, BR1 3UH

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, BECKENHAM

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Robert Stewart MP | robertstewartmp@parliament.uk | 020 8650 1944 |
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LONDON ASSEMBLY MEMBER

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LOCAL POLICE OFFICE

Although the front desk of our local Police Office is no longer open to the general public, on certain days & times you still have a chance to have your say about local policing issues.



DROP IN SURGERY

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| Tuesday 16th November | 7pm-8pm | Citygate Church, Rectory Rd |
| Thursday 18 th November | 4pm-5pm | 68, Hackington Crescent |
| Thursday 16 th December | 4pm-5pm | 68, Hackington Crescent |
| Saturday 18 th December | 3pm-5pm | Albemarle Rd Police Office |

You can phone your local Police office for inquiries on 020 8721 2772
or by e-mail [Coperscope.SNT@ met.police.uk](mailto:Coperscope.SNT@met.police.uk)

If a crime is actually underway or someone is in immediate danger ring 999. For all non emergency matters, call the information centre any time day or night, on 0300 123 1212.

BLACKFRIARS STATION

Blackfriars Station will close to passengers between 20th November 2010 and 16th January 2011 for Engineering work.



This work forms part of the Thameslink program to include a new station at Blackfriars spanning the River Thames, better connections with the tube and a new entrance on the south bank.

Although trains will still run through the station, they will not stop at Blackfriars during this period but services to other stations will be unaffected.



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Bromley has introduced Town Centre Wardens. They will carry out two weekend, evening shifts in Beckenham and Bromley and a weekday shift in Beckenham, West Wickham, Bromley, Orpington or Penge, alternating each week.

The wardens are there as an additional presence in Town Centres. They are trained to issue fixed penalty notices for dropping litter, graffiti & fly posting. They have additional details of alcohol exclusion areas & will be advising anyone drinking in these areas that it is an alcohol exclusion zone. If this is ignored they will seek support from the local Safer Neighbourhood Team to enforce it.

Wardens have been asked to issue fixed penalty notices as a last resort, for example, if someone drops litter and refuses to pick it up.

DAVID BOWIE PLAQUE



The CCARA has reinstated the David Bowie plaque on the wall of the former Three Tuns pub, now Zizzi's restaurant in Beckenham High Street.

The plaque, recalling the international star's musical beginnings in Beckenham, had been removed to Bromley Museum when the building was redeveloped.



In the picture [left] of the reinstatement ceremony on 18th October are David Wood from Beckenham Civic Society, Julie North, Cliff Watkins and David Vevers from CCARA.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE



This year the CCARA will again be joining the parade and laying a wreath at the Annual Remembrance Day Service at the Beckenham War Memorial.

**This takes place at 10.50am on
Sunday 14th November.**

Anyone wishing to join in the Poppy Appeal, will you please call John Bennett 020 8402 5791.

CCARA 75th ANNIVERSARY

Next year will not only see the 75th anniversary of the CCARA, but also the 70th anniversary of the worst night of the war for the residents of this area. In our next Newsletter, The Express, we will be publishing a short article about the 16th and 17th April 1941.

Please contact Roger Leach, via email or telephone if you have any memories of this time which we could include.

PUBLIC MEETING

The Copers Cope Area Residents Association is holding a public meeting for residents to discuss local issues. Baroness Floella Benjamin of Beckenham, a local girl who became the first peer to take "Beckenham" as part of her title will address the meeting at her first official engagement in Beckenham.

Lady Benjamin an actress, author, television presenter and politician, is best known as host of children's television show Play School. She has devoted her time to youngsters, and is a patron of children's charity Barnardo's, Chancellor of Exeter University and Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London. Lady Benjamin will speak of her early life in our town, her interesting career, local community and charitable work. The evening is set to be an enjoyable and informative occasion. We hope you can join us for drinks and nibbles. Numbers are limited. No reservation required.

**Wednesday 17th November 2010 at 7.30pm
in Christ Church Hall, Beckenham.**

TESCO STORE IN CROYDON ROAD



When Tesco opened their premises in Croydon Road in September this year, they applied for a license to sell alcohol from 6am -11pm, 7 days a week. The CCARA and a large number of local residents objected to these hours.

At the Bromley Licensing hearing on 10th September Tesco said they were applying to sell alcohol only from 8 am to 10 pm and would put a number of conditions into force if they were granted the licence.

Cllr Stephen Wells, Cllr Sarah Phillips (Clock House Ward), the CCARA rep and three local residents spoke and tried to get a further reduction on the licensing hours, particularly on a Sunday. After a two hour meeting, the licensing committee granted the alcohol license but restricted the hours for alcohol sales to 10 am to 10 pm seven days a week, and applied more than 20 other conditions.

Meanwhile, a couple of hundred yards away in the High Street, Beckenham Convenience Store has appealed against the rejection of its application (opposed by the CCARA) for a licence to sell alcohol 24 hours a day. The appeal will be heard by a Magistrates' Court at the end of November. By then their existing licence should have been reviewed. Some of you may have seen the notice in Beckenham, about the Licensing Act 2003 Section 51, regarding this.

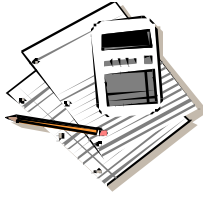
NSPCC FUNDRAISING EVENTS

For more details contact Janet Berlin on 020 8650 9377



Christmas Decorations, Wednesday 15 December, 10am -12pm (£20)
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DECISION LOOMS ON PUBLIC CONVENIENCE



A decision is imminent on the controversy over keeping Beckenham's public convenience operating, behind its little garden of flowers at the junction of the High Street and Kelsey Park Road.

The Council's Environment Portfolio Holder, Councillor Colin Smith, who is facing widespread revolt over the idea

of closing it to save money, will make his mind up after a debate at a Council scrutinising committee on 9th November.

The Council has already closed some conveniences elsewhere in the borough and continues trying, luckily without much success, to get some quite unsuitable commercial premises to allow the public to use their toilets free instead under the "Community Toilets" scheme.

The reluctance to fund proper public conveniences in Beckenham has quite a history. Many years ago we appeared to be on the verge of getting one at the cinema end of the High Street, but finished up with one cubicle at the Sainsbury's store, and that appears to be closed too often.

Last autumn the Council's Town Centres Review Group recommended consideration of a new public toilet near Beckenham Junction, a centre of the 'night economy'. There's since been silence on that.

The overwhelming view of Copers Cope residents, at our Annual General Meeting in March, was that the policy of closure is totally unacceptable for Beckenham, especially for elderly and disabled residents. Our neighbours in the Beckenham Civic Society and West Beckenham Residents' Association feel the same. The Civic Society challenged the £12,730 figure given as the official cost of cleaning our conveniences, noting the £2,250 quoted for similar facilities in Petts Wood. Other objections from all over the borough were voiced at the AGM of Bromley Residents' Federation.

The last we heard on the 'Community Toilets' scheme was that in Beckenham only the Odeon cinema, Costa Coffee, and Waitrose had

shown interest, thus failing to match the facilities at the public convenience. If you value having public conveniences in the town centre, tell the Portfolio Holder now by writing to Councillor Colin Smith, at Bromley Civic Centre, BR1 3 UH.

ROGUE TREE SURGEONS



A crackdown on rogue tree surgeons has been launched by Bromley Council's trading standards team. They have found a number of 'dodgy loppers', using several names and false addresses that now operate in the borough.

Investigations are under way and the team wants to hear from anyone who has been 'cold-called' by these traders, had a card put through their door or had work carried out by them. Please contact Bromley Council's rapid response team on 07903 852090.

Anyone approached by cold-calling traders should always ask for a written quote before agreeing to any work. By law, consumers have a seven-day cooling off period to think about it.

OLDEST GIRL GUIDES TO DIE AT 100?



Girlguiding

The 1st Beckenham Girl Guides group, the oldest in the world, celebrated its centenary this month amid fears that it may be closed in February.

The problem: they need a new leader, preferably friendly, caring, up-to-date and full of fun, according to the 12 members. Since the previous leader moved abroad last year the East Beckenham District Commissioner, Carol Dewar, has held the fort, but she cannot continue indefinitely as she is already committed to a Brownies group. If you would consider helping, contact her by email at: 1st.beckenham.guides@gmail.com.

Footnote: The oldest? Yes, it was started in 1910 by two local girls among a group who gatecrashed a Scouts rally at Crystal Palace in 1909 and asked Sir Robert Baden Powell for a similar movement for girls.

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BROMLEY COUNCIL TO CUT SPENDING

Bromley Councillors and senior officers will listen to Beckenham residents first on the issue of which services should suffer or be protected as spending is cut by 25% over the next four years. They are holding three "listening meetings", the first at Beckenham Public Hall at 7.30 p.m. till 9.30 pm on Wednesday 17th November.

Cuts in the present financial year have been less than £2 million, a fleabite compared with the result of the reductions in Government funding expected from the Spending Review. The exact loss to Bromley is not yet known, and it has not been decided where the axe should fall; social care, schools, housing, public safety, parks, libraries, town centres are all under its shadow. Compulsory redundancies have not been ruled out, but the Human Resources department will be exploring ways to avoid these.

All departments were required to produce a list of savings which totaled a quarter of their budgets for the 2011/12 financial year. These savings were discussed by top council staff in July and September.

Final decisions about where savings can be made will be taken from October 2010 until January 2011, before the council tax is set in February.

ELDERLY HOME CARE CONCERN



Elderly residents and their families are very concerned by council plans to change their home care services.

Staff have voted unanimously to protest against the plans which could see a number of part-time carers employed by Bromley council axed as it outsources all its domiciliary care to private companies.

This could affect the old, frail and vulnerable residents and their personal carers who they rely on for their everyday needs.

The final say on the changes will be made by councillors in November after a number of meetings.



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Please complete the standing order mandate below and send it to:
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15 Copperfields, 48 The Avenue, Beckenham, BR3 5ER.

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Please debit my/our Account No. Account title.

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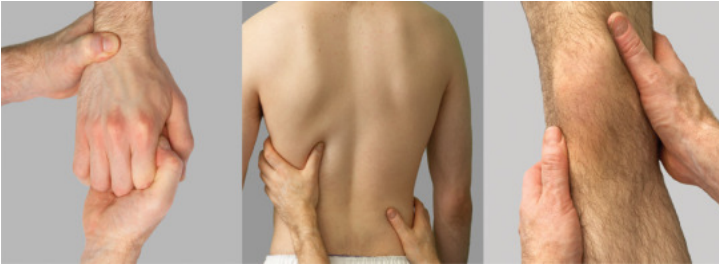
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