



The Express



Newsletter

Copers Cope Area Residents' Association

MARCH 2012

OPEN MEETING & AGM

8.00pm Wed 21st March 2012

Beckenham Public Hall, Bromley Road, Beckenham

Guest Speaker

Phil Wragg, Governor of Belmarsh Prison

What goes on behind prison walls, how the service assists in preventing reoffending and how communities can become engaged to work towards a safe environment.

helping to CUT reoffending...

to help cut CRIME!

The Annual General Meeting of the Copers Cope Area Residents' Association will be held after the guest speaker.

We hope you can join us. Doors open at 7.45pm.

Founded in 1936 to protect and promote the local interests of residents of central and northern Beckenham

COPERS COPE AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Email: chairman@coperscope.org.uk
Telephone: 020 8650 6239
Website & Blog: www.coperscope.org.uk
Twitter: CCARA_beckenham

Colin Watts (Honorary President)
Nick Carter (Honorary Vice President)

David Vevers <i>Chairman</i>	chairman@coperscope.org.uk
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Vacancy
Louise Cooper <i>Express Newsletter</i>	louisefaycooper@yahoo.co.uk
Chloe-Jane Ross <i>Membership & Advertising</i>	express@coperscope.org.uk
Treasurer	Vacancy

COUNCILLORS COPERS COPE WARD

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

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

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, BECKENHAM

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

James Cleverley	James.Cleverly@london.gov.uk	020 7938 6571
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BECKENHAM HIGH STREET - REASON TO BE CHEERFUL? BY NICK CARTER

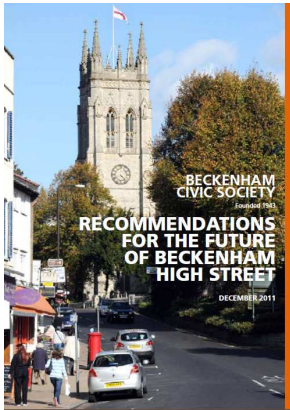
Like to see a cheerful economic statistic about Beckenham? According to the latest hand-count of shops in the Beckenham High Street area the vacancy rate is now only 5.5% compared with the 9.5% rate given in an official report to Bromley Council on Beckenham just a year ago.



The 9.5% rate is quoted in the absorbing new list of “Recommendations for the Future of Beckenham High Street” just published by Beckenham Civic Society. Their beautifully-produced 20-page booklet deserves a sympathetic reading from everyone who feels

the High Street is at the heart of our community life. If you would like a copy of the booklet please email us at chairman@coperscope.org.uk.

It says Beckenham’s vacancy rate was “one of the highest in the borough”, though still below a national rate of 14.5%, but does not specify whether this covered just Beckenham High Street area or the whole former borough, including Elmer’s End, Eden Park, Oakhill area, Clock House or Croydon Road.



In January this year, I counted the shop-type premises from Waitrose in the north to Barclays Bank in the south, including all those that continued side-by-side round the corners into Albemarle Road, Rectory Road, Bromley Road, Kelsey Park Avenue, Village Way and Croydon

Road, to compare with my last “High Street area” count in 1998/9.

I made it 217 ground floor shop-type premises now, of which only 12 were empty compared with 15 in April 1999, so perhaps we need not feel too downhearted about things just yet. Of course, one can argue about what constitutes a shop; and many people would exclude those

actually operating as estate agents, or solicitors, or accountants, or building contractors, while others would also argue that restaurants, cafes, pubs and clubs are not really “shops” either.

My count excluded offices as such, but included any ground floor frontage that was built as and could still be used as a shop. Of these, 37 are used as restaurants, cafes and takeaways and a further eight as pubs, clubs and bars. Next highest for non-retail were 21 used for estate agents and solicitors, and seven as banks and building societies.



That still left 144 premises in our High Street area used for retail goods and services such as supermarkets (5) and clothing (14 plus seven charity shops). One noticeable change since 1999 is the increase in shops devoted to hair and

beauty, up from eight to 19, including many new nail, manicure and beauty salons.

BECKENHAM TOWN CENTRE WORKING GROUP

Report from meeting held on 09 Feb 2012

The Copers Cope Area Residents' Association attended the working group on Thursday evening. Our local Councillors, Bromley Council portfolio holders also attended the meeting from Traffic, Renewal & Recreation, Beckenham Town Centre Manager, the Beckenham Civic Society, Central Beckenham Residents' Association and West Beckenham Residents' Association.

Bromley Council decided to reconvene the Beckenham Town Centre Working Group after the Town Centre bid to secure funds from the Mayor of London's Outer London Fund was unsuccessful.

A further bid for funds may be put up by the Council later this year. The group highlighted the following improvements to Beckenham Town Centre to include in a further bid:

- Improvement of pedestrian experience at 'natural' crossing points (e.g. opposite Sainsbury's, and at corner with Village Way).
- Review the positioning and pavement width at bus stop points.
- Could Town Centre have street markets, possibly in front of Public Toilets?
- Prioritise Beckenham heritage. Repair our town clocks. Creation of a heritage trail.
- Removal of unnecessary street furniture, minimising/upgrading signage, cleaning up of forecourts & car parks.
- Reduction of HGV usage of High Street.
- Review and propose solutions for traffic flow problems (e.g. Beckenham Junction/Albermarle Road).
- Enhancement of War Memorial area and approach to High Street.

The Copers Cope Residents' Association is interested in your views, please comment on this blog or email us at chairman@coperscope.org.uk.

PLANNING UPDATE MARCH 2012

Since the last Newsletter in November 2011 the Association has continued to monitor proposed developments within the Ward. There have been two significant applications that have received quite a high profile in the media and within the community.

The Beckenham Kent County Cricket Ground, Worsley Bridge Road

Following many months of consultation between local residents and Leander Sports and Leisure Ltd (who own the site) on their proposals to improve facilities and ensure greater financial viability for the club, the outline application was validated in mid- 2011 seeking consent for three detached buildings for use as an indoor cricket training centre, a multifunction sport and leisure facility and health and fitness centre, a



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conference centre, a permanent stand for several thousand spectators, an all-weather floodlit pitch, on-site car parking and 48 low density two storey detached houses in a gated development towards Brackley Road.

Whilst most people, even those who agree to some development, would really prefer the grounds to remain as they are now, maybe local residents remembering abuse and dereliction of the site when vacated by the Lloyds Bank Sports Club in the early 1990s can also understand why the Kent club is seeking changes which they believe will assure its future in Beckenham. The CCARA Chairman wrote to Bromley Council's Chief Planner to confirm the range of comment received from Association members and other local residents. We were aware that this was an outline application and more detail would come with a subsequent application. However, we have been concerned to establish the height, bulk and general appearance of the commercial buildings to assess the impact on residents in Worsley Bridge Road and a few properties in Stumps Hill, Overbrae and Pool Close.

The application was considered by Bromley Council's Development Control Committee (DCC) on 17th November 2011. Following almost two hours of discussion proposals for approval and refusal were each defeated and it was decided that the case would be deferred without prejudice to any future consideration, for Members to give fuller consideration to all material documents in particular, the financial viability document.

Before the Committee met again however, namely on 22nd December 2011, Stuart Lamb, the Regional Facilities & Investment Manager (South East) for the FA lodged a formal objection to the scheme, stating additionally that the FA had concerns only for football and had no interest in cricket. The Chair of Palgrave Estate copied to the FA Chairman the letters from Palgrave and from the CCARA pointing out that, should consent be refused, not only football would disappear from the site but the grounds would be unavailable for all other forms of sport so Mr Lamb seemed to be expressing a rather blinkered view.

The application was returned to the DCC on 12th January 2012 and the most recent CCARA comments were included in the Executive Report to DCC Members. These included: The CCARA recognised a wide range of views both in favour and against; concerns that

representations by the two Ward Members who spoke at the November meeting were not reflective of views and opinions of the wider community; insufficient debate took place regarding the case for Very Special Circumstances to allow for full consideration either of their particular nature or their significance in taking a decision; would like to be sure that DC Members were aware of the state of dereliction, trespass and vandalism that followed the departure of Lloyds Bank Social Club from the site in the 1990s; concern that such deterioration might lead to a development application similar to that on the former Blue Circle Sports Ground on Bromley Common where consent was given on appeal for around 850 units in the Green Belt.

After lengthy debate, when two of our three Ward Councillors spoke in favour of the application, the proposal received outline planning consent. It is now subject to direction by the Mayor of London. In this context the CCARA wrote to the Chief Planner to the Greater London Authority outlining why it thought that the scheme warranted a positive response. This letter was copied to James Cleverly, the London Assembly Member for Bexley and Bromley with the hope that he would be sympathetic to the arguments we had raised (though regretting that affordable housing was not to be provided) stressing that the scheme proposed jointly by the Kent County Cricket Club and Leander Holdings could create a great sporting legacy for the residents of Beckenham and that it would be unfortunate if our local community were now to be deprived of this opportunity. The CCARA awaits a decision in the near future.

Land r/o 86-94 High Street

On 30th March 2011 an application was lodged for an extension of time for implementation of consent granted on appeal in 2006 for a 1/2/3 storey block of 39 flats with 32 parking spaces. In May 2011 the developer held a public consultation exercise at the Beckenham Halls with a view to a revised application to reconfigure the site. It was suggested that by adding a fourth storey the required number of flats could be provided but it would be possible to create a more open aspect, retaining more trees and allowing more light to penetrate the site. In general there were comments that a revised layout might be more acceptable, though some residents of Church Avenue and The Drive considered that the fourth storey would be intrusive and overlook their rear gardens. A revised application was received by the Council on 1st July and this was based on the plans exhibited during the

consultation exercise but with limited revisions that could be accommodated as a result of views expressed by local residents and local businesses. Some residents took the view that no development should be permitted on the site but the CCARA's position was that, as there was an extant appeal consent, there was little doubt that development of some kind would take place and, in those circumstances, changes to create a more open appearance might be considered the lesser of two evils.

The application for extension of time for work to start on the original scheme was given permission at a Plans-Sub-Committee on 24th November 2011 but decision was deferred on the application for the revised development scheme submitted in July 2011. However, on 22nd December, the applicant registered an appeal against the Council's non-determination of the application and Members had to consider whether to contest the appeal.

The application was returned to a Plans Sub Committee on 19th January 2012 with the recommendation that the applicant be invited to withdraw the appeal, in which case permission would be granted subject to the prior completion of a legal agreement. However, before any discussion took place the Chair explained that, since the case was now subject to appeal, jurisdiction for decision-making had now passed to the Planning Inspectorate and the LBB no longer had the powers to determine whether or not this application should be permitted. The only decision that the Plans Committee could take during the meeting was whether or not the Council should contest the appeal and, should they decide to contest, this would have to be on the basis of their probable grounds for refusal had this been their decision whilst still within their jurisdiction. Urged by two of our Ward Councillors, the decision was taken to contest the appeal. The appeal date has not yet been published.

WHAT'S ON IN OUR LIBRARIES 2012

The Central Library in Bromley is holding the following exhibitions:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 7 - 21 March | West Wickham Operatic Society - Titanic the Musical |
| 21 March - 4 April | Bromley Arts Society - Spring Exhibition |
| 18 April - 2 May | Roger Taylor - My Africa photographs and exhibits of African wildlife |

16 - 30 May
30 May - 13 June
13 - 27 June
27 June - 11 July

Bromley Camera Club Annual Exhibition
Bromley Adult Education Students' Exhibition
Barbara Grainger - Paintings in a different media
Graham Davies - Paintings in oil, watercolour and mixed medium in our borough in recent years.

"BECKENHAM GEM"

ARDEC MENSWEAR SHOP, 218 HIGH STREET BECKENHAM



ARDEC celebrate their 87th Anniversary this year at the same location in the High Street, although it was formerly known as 4 Cedars Parade. What's more the business has remained in the same family since it began trading, with responsibility for the daily running of the business currently being in the hands of Roger Oakes, the grandson of its founder.

ARDEC prides itself on the level of its quality and service. Roger stated that when his grandfather started the business he offered high quality tailoring together with excellent service, coupling honesty and integrity and, 87 years on, he considers that they still offer the public the same high standards. In his grandfather's words: "Behind the price is the service and the firm that offers it."

As well as offering a wide range of high quality 'ready to wear menswear' ARDEC continues to give added value with a tailored alteration service, shirt alteration and hat blocking/repair service. Roger sees a lot of uncertainties with regard to retail undertakings in Beckenham, particularly in the current economic climate, but is hopeful of a fourth generation family member, his daughter Charmian, being able to keep the family business alive in the High Street, thereby adding a fourth generation of traders.

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FOXGROVE SOCIAL CLUB - A HIDDEN TREASURE

By Mike Ellis



Did you know about a fantastic social club called the Foxgrove? Some of you may have but I would imagine most of you haven't. This hidden treasure in Beckenham is close to the first green of Beckenham Place Park Golf Course. If any of you play the great but

sometimes frustrating game of golf you may have seen the Foxgrove club as you're walking up the first fairway. The Foxgrove was originally the clubhouse for Beckenham Place Park Golf Course until the Mansion house became the 19th hole in 1934. The setting of this club is stunning and is there to be enjoyed by all.

The Foxgrove offer a wide range of events and activities. We have our own snooker, pool and table tennis tables. There is a calendar with events such as quiz nights, live entertainment, celebrations of patriotic days like Burn's Day, St Patrick's Day and St George's Day. We have a golf society which takes place at Beckenham Place Park Golf Course with food and refreshments afterwards. The race night is also a popular evening as long you win!! There are charity evenings, summer bbq's, fireworks night and Children's Christmas party complete with Santa!!

To join this club you can come in and sample the Foxgrove on 6 occasions before deciding if you would like to become a member. If you enjoy your time, membership for this hidden treasure is just £10 a year which is exceptional value. The club is run by the committee who give their own time to keep this fantastic social club running. Volunteers are very welcome to come along and lend a hand and be part of the Foxgrove experience. If you haven't been to the Foxgrove please come along and see it for yourself. Bring your family and friends and relax in the fantastic settings of Beckenham Place Park.

The Foxgrove Westgate Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 5DE

The Express – MARCH 2012

Upcoming events at the Foxgrove

MARCH

Saturday	17	St. Patrick's Day Golf Competition. Open all day.
Saturday	24	Casino Night

APRIL

Friday	20	Golf Tournament - Foxgrove Masters
Saturday	21	St. George's Day Golf Competition. Open all day
Friday	27	B.C.C.A. Quiz
Saturday	28	Music - The Bob Dylan Experience

SOUTHEND ROAD GETS TRAFFIC CALMING

As Beckenham residents know, Southend Road is a hotspot for traffic congestion during the day, speeding at night, near misses and accidents.



Residents will be pleased to know that Bromley Council have secured funding from Transport for London for the installation of traffic management measures. Anti-skid surfacing will be laid at the junctions with Foxgrove Road and Park Road. A mini roundabout and zebra crossing will be installed at the junction with Brackley Road.

Councillor Colin Smith said: "Although there could be changes to the final design of this scheme, the zebra crossing will assist school children and other pedestrians to cross at this very busy location."

The new anti skid surface will obviously assist drivers to stop more promptly when braking.

The installation of the mini roundabout and alterations at the junction will assist in lowering average traffic speed and thereby reduce accidents, contributing to the falling level of accidents we have witnessed Sunday 10th June 2pm - 4pm

CRIMES IN COPERS COPE WARD IN DECEMBER 2012



**METROPOLITAN
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Crime type	Crime count	Crime rate
Total notifiable offences	90	6.33
Residential burglary	19	1.34
Burglary other	1	0.07
Theft of motor vehicle	3	0.21
Theft from motor vehicle	11	0.77
Robbery business	1	0.07
Robbery personal	4	0.28
Violence against the person	18	1.27
Most serious violence	1	0.07
Anti-social behaviour	30	2.11

Last three months trend

Area	June	July	August
Copers Cope	106	109	90
Bromley	1816	1846	1889
MPS	68473	68928	62578

Nearby wards

Ward	Crime count	Crime rate
Bellingham	103	7.55
Bromley Town	267	18.42
Clock House	80	5.08
Copers Cope	90	6.33
Downham	118	8.25
Kelsey and Eden Park	104	7.05
Penge and Cator	121	7.25
Shortlands	27	2.90

Source: <http://www.met.police.uk/teams/bromley/coperscope/index.php>

EMAIL SCAM - POPULATION CENSUS MESSAGE

Police are aware that an email entitled 'Population Census: a message to everyone - act now' is being circulated, allegedly in the name of National Statistician, Jil Matheson. This email demands individuals provide further personal information, supposedly for the Census and threatens fines for non-compliance.

This email is a scam and a hoax. It has no connection whatsoever with the National Statistician, the 2011 Census or the Office for National Statistics.

It is believed the links in the email could download malware to any computer where the user clicks on the links. This could put your personal data, including financial information, at risk.

Anyone receiving this, or similar emails, should delete them, not open any links and certainly not provide any information.

BANK CARD SCAM WARNING

Bromley Police are reissuing their warning about a scam in which fraudsters are obtaining people's bank cards, after numerous attempts to perpetrate this scam across the borough in the last month.

The scam works by the victim initially receiving a phone call, or number of phone calls, from someone claiming to be from their bank or credit card supplier. The caller obtains personal details from the victim before advising them that they need a new card and telling them that a courier will visit them shortly to collect their old card. A person, dressed to look like a courier, then arrives at the door to take the card.

A spokesman for Bromley Police said: "Never-ever disclose your bank details to anyone cold calling, banks will never call you asking for personal or account information as they already have these details, and neither will the Police. If there is a problem with your card and it needs to be replaced the bank will write to you advising you to cut the card up. They will never arrange for it to be collected by a courier. You should never give out bank details or other personal information over the phone, whatever the reason behind the request".

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DANGEROUS ENERGY SAVING SCAM TARGETING ELDERLY



Trading Standards Institute (TSI) is urging consumers to be aware of rogue telephone cold callers offering energy saving devices after trading standards up and down the country reported hundreds of complaints.

Cold callers claim to be the consumers energy supplier or working in partnership with them, and offering a plug in device (costing around £99) which they say can save them 40 per cent off their energy bills. TSI have had a number of the items tested they failed to satisfy electrical safety standards, do not deliver any tangible energy savings and they pose a risk of fire and electrocution.

Often consumers do not realise that they have been duped until they receive the dodgy looking device with instructions in broken English and the accompanying invoice which names an unknown supplier and often gives an American address.

If consumers have responded to one of these cold calls they should report the matter to Action Fraud on www.actionfraud.org.uk 0300 123 2040 or Consumer Direct on 0845 404 0506. They should also contact their bank to stop their debit/ credit card. If a device has been received they should not use it and dispose of it carefully.

COPERS COPE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS DROP-IN

Why not go along and meet your local Safer Neighbourhoods Team at a drop-in surgery held at the Police Station on Albemarle Road, Beckenham BR3 5LN.

- Sat 24 March 2012, 15:00 PM to 16:00 PM
- Sat 26 May 2012, 15:00 PM to 16:00 PM
- Sat 07 July 2012, 15:00 PM to 16:00 PM

YOUR SAY

We asked in our last edition what issues you wanted your Association to champion. Thank you to those who sent in your suggestions. Here's a selection:

- Restoring Beckenham's identity and heritage.
- Single bin recycling in the borough.
- Securing some town centre regeneration funds for Beckenham.
- Creating a new Town Council for Beckenham.
- Review of top executive Council pay in review of service cuts.
- Keeping and supporting our libraries.

In 2012 the CCARA will be working in collaboration with other Beckenham community groups to get these issues tabled with our Councillors and the council portfolio managers. We will update you on our progress. If you are online please join our blog or twitter feed to keep up to date and comment.

LOCAL EVENTS

APRIL



Pre-School Open Morning Saturday 21st April
10.30am - 12.30pm, Church Halls, Lawn Road

Stay & Play, Meet staff and parents, Refreshments,
Vacancies for 2-4 year olds, email:
stpaulspreschool@hotmail.co.uk

MAY

MS Cake Break Saturday 5th May 2pm - 4pm

Refreshments & open garden in aid of the local Multiple Sclerosis branch. Plants also available for sale.
209 Worsley Bridge Road

JUNE

Open Gardens & Plant Sale in aid of St Christophers

Sunday 10th June 2pm - 4pm
207 and 209 Worsley Bridge Road

ST PAUL'S CHURCH, BRACKLEY ROAD

We are in the middle of our project to replace and renew lighting and wiring in the church. Contractors are currently on site and the new lighting is due to be finished by Easter. Bishop James is visiting Beckenham during May so we are planning a special service to celebrate completion of the project with him on Thursday 10th May at 7.30pm.

Our regular Sunday Services:

8am, 10:30am, 6:30pm weekly & 4pm on the 3rd Sunday each month.

Mothering Sunday

All Age Service - Mother's Day

Posies

Sunday 18th March 10:30am

Childrens Craft Monday 2nd April

Following the success of this at Christmas another session is planned.

Easter Flowers, Church Trail, Refreshments

2pm - 4pm Saturday 7th April

Services for Healing & Wholeness

29th April & 29th July 6.30pm

Men's Social Group

Food and wine, speakers.

Contact Brian 020 8650 7492

Fundraising Concert

Saturday 31st March 7pm

Men's Choir & Concert Choir

Retiring Collection

Easter Week

Palm Sunday 1st April 10.30

Procession with Palm Crosses

Compline 9pm Mon - Wed

Maundy Thursday 7pm

Meal with Bible readings & Communion

Good Friday 6th April

10am Children's Service

11am Churches Together Walk of Witness in High Street

Noon-2pm Church open for

prayer followed by

"An Hour at the Cross"

Reflective Service

Easter Sunday 8th April

8am Communion

10:30am All Age Communion

Alpha Course starting in May ~ All Welcome

Exploring Christianity - Supper, Video & Discussion

Please contact St Paul's Administrator

administrator@stpaulbeckenham.org.uk 020 8650 0501

Jubilee Tea Party - Saturday 2nd June

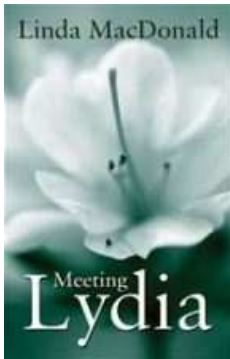
Join us for a 1950's-style afternoon tea to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee

Keep an eye on the notice boards and web site for further details

www.stpaulbeckenham.org.uk

www.the4oclock.co.uk

**NOVEL SET IN BECKENHAM
'MEETING LYDIA' BY LINDA MACDONALD**



Author, Linda MacDonald, is a part time teacher of Psychology at a Sixth Form College, living in Beckenham. Her first novel is partly set in Beckenham.

Novel Description: 'Now 46, when Marianne finds her charming husband in the kitchen talking to the glamorous Charmaine, her childhood insecurities resurface and their once-happy marriage begins to slide. Teenage daughter Holly persuades her to join Friends Reunited, which results in both fearful and nostalgic memories of prep school as Marianne wonders what has become of the bullies and of Edward Harvey. Frantic to repair her marriage, yet rendered snappy and temperamental by her plummeting hormones, her attempts towards reconciliation fail. The answer to all her problems could lie in finding Edward again...But what would happen if she found what she seeks?'



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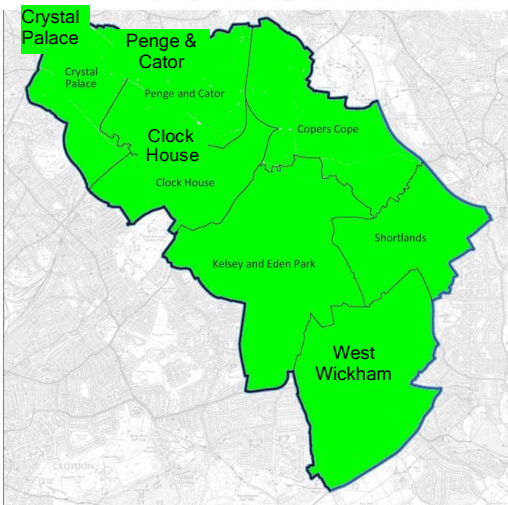
BECKENHAMS HISTORY AND FUTURE

By Cliff Watkins

Before the June 2010 Parliamentary boundary changes, some people moving into parts of West Beckenham were confused as many roads had either an SE 20 postcode (instantly thought of by outsiders as Penge) or SE 26 postcode (as Sydenham).

A big annoyance for many older residents of Penge and Beckenham today, is the repeated reference to the Crystal Palace having been built in Sydenham. The map below shows clearly that grounds of what is today called Crystal Palace Park to where Paxton's Palace of the People was transferred in 1854 was 70% in Penge and 30% in Beckenham.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION - Initial Proposal for a new Beckenham Parliamentary Constituency with an Electorate Of 73, 517



Beckenham and Penge have been closely linked since the early 1900s. Until 1910, Penge's main shopping area was in Beckenham Road where residents would travel to Beckenham to the library, swimming baths and to see the international tennis at the pre-Wimbledon tournament in Foxgrove Road.

Beckenham folk went to Penge for its three department stores, choice of cinemas and to be educated: the

Beckenham Boys County School (now Langley Park School for Boys) was in Penge. Many Beckenham boys won scholarships which entitled them to education in public schools in surrounding areas like Dulwich College or St Dunstan's College in Lewisham.

In the north of Lewisham is Deptford named after a 'deep ford' across the river Ravensbourne where it meets the Thames. Most of Lewisham's waterways are fed from the rivers of Bromley, including the Beck and the Chaffinch, so important in the childhood of Carey Blyton and his aunt, Enid Blyton whose father was born in Deptford.

Henry VIII established the royal dockyard in Deptford in 1512. The yard built and refitted the ships of famous seafarers like Captain Cook, Captain Kidd and Sir Francis Drake. Queen Elizabeth 1 knighted Drake aboard the Golden Hind on completion of his voyage round the world in 1581.

Admiral Sir Peirce Brett of the Clock House, Beckenham, gave Lieutenant Cook the orders for his first circumnavigation of the globe in 1768. As a Lieutenant, Brett had sailed round the world in Anson's voyage 1740 to 44.

Other famous seamen associated with the Beckenham neighbourhood were Shackleton, who lived in Sydenham, and Fitzroy who moved to Crystal Palace after navigating Darwin's Beagle. In his years at Down House, Downe, the first of Darwin's 9,000 letters to the UK and abroad were routed through the Albemarle Road Post Office in Beckenham. To avoid the long delays due to his incoming post being sent to Northern Ireland, Darwin changed his letter headings to read Down House, Beckenham, Kent so his colleagues knew where he was.

After WW2, Joseph Procter opened a music shop in Bromley High Street and in 1967 he formed the Lewisham Concert Band which found fame on BBC radio during the 70's and 80's. Now it is under the musical direction of Leslie Lake (formerly bass trombonist with ENO). Les attended the Beckenham County School, cycling both ways from Bromley South. He conducted the superlative playing by the band in the Fanfare for Beckenham grand charity concert in St George's Parish Church, on March 26th. The concert raised over £900 for charity half of which went to the St Christopher's Hospice which was opened in Beckenham in the area with a SE26 postal address.

I am proud to have lived in my town since 1965. Since I retired in 1998, I have advocated that Beckenham's heritage and its community groups offer the best of everything. Recently, I have mellowed my views and increasingly I realise that Beckenham is not an island and that its future is interwoven with its neighbours.



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-  **prime time** – Exercise classes designed especially for the over 60's to achieve a healthier lifestyle in a relaxed social environment. Mondays 9.30am-10.30am and Thursdays 10am-11.30am £3 per session
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Bromley Council have made recommendations for more budget cuts. At the time of writing the new draft budget is due to go before the Council for approval. The Council plans to save £13.5 million. There will be likely cuts in support for children with special educational needs, support for disabled, funding for the Citizens Advice Bureau, street cleaning, tree maintenance and street lamp repainting.

The Council also plans make savings through outsourcing, sharing running of the Libraries with Bexley Council and by reducing staff and senior management costs.

There is some good news for the borough's "Friends" groups, Carers Bromley, Bromley Youth Music Trust and support for young people with mental health. The Council do not recommend any cuts in these areas go ahead.

However, the Council has approved £64K to prepare a detailed business plan to develop a heritage centre at Biggin Hill. Whilst a heritage centre at Biggin Hill is worthwhile during these times of austerity would these funds be better spent in providing front line services to our residents?

Full details on the proposal can be found on Bromley Councils website (www.bromley.gov.uk).

In regard to the cuts the Leader of Bromley Council Stephen Carr said: "Listening to your priorities at our Tough Choices meetings and your further responses helped inform what has been an exceptionally difficult budget to set. Reductions in government funding mean we have to save more than £30 million over three years in addition to £22 million last year. Yes, we are forced to make substantial savings. But contrary to popular belief we have protected crucial areas of service, many of which recognise the value you place on the environment we enjoy in Bromley.

“Building a Better Bromley remains our guiding principle. We are determined to continue to meet the ever increasing demands for services, many to support our most vulnerable residents. We will continue to invest in our borough’s local economy to deliver improvements for all and potential new jobs for local people. We will protect what makes our borough a place where people choose to live and work.”

BROMLEY TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION FUNDING

Bromley Town Centre has been awarded £2 million by the Mayor’s Outer London Fund. The leader of Bromley Council,



Councillor Stephen Carr said "This is very welcome news for Bromley town centre and we will invest this money wisely to support our ongoing work and best position our town. This year is already proving to be critical with a number of exciting projects underway that will ultimately drive

forward our long term vision to Build a Better Bromley and the competitiveness of our town. We were disappointed that we were not successful in other town centres but we will continue to work closely with businesses across the borough to support them in these challenging times".

The funds will be used to improvement the Bromley High Street and for promotional event (which will include a festival of sport and an arts event).

Funding for Beckenham and Penge town centres was not allocated. However the Council has reconvened the Beckenham Town Centre Working Party to examine improvement for our town centre. The CCARA is part of the working party and continue to represent and report to residents on this issue.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BECKENHAM METHODIST CHURCH



This year, Beckenham Methodist Church (situated in Bromley Road) is celebrating the 125th anniversary of the opening of the premises in 1887. The Bevington Hall was opened first in March 1887 and, in September 1887, the church was opened.

Today the hall is used by uniformed organisations covering a wide age range and includes Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides and Brownies. Use by community groups ranges from Twins club and Music for little people to the South London Singers and Beckenham Quilters.

On Sundays, services start at 10.30am and we are grateful to those early Christians whose vision made this Wesleyan church a reality. As part of our celebration of the 125 years we have planned a number of events, to which you are very welcome, and they include:

- Friday 13th March, at 3pm: a service to mark the opening of the Bevington hall. The Reverend, The Lord Leslie Griffiths will be the preacher
- Saturday 17th March, at 7pm: a 'GANG SHOW' featuring members of our uniformed organisations
- Sunday 18th March, at 10.30am: a MOTHERING SUNDAY service will be held at 10.30am

Other events include: Saturday, May 26, a walk with 'Mr.Wesley' followed by tea and a rally; a Flower Festival on the 7th and 8th July and, during the weekend of 28-30th September, a number of special guests will help us celebrate the opening of the church on the 28th September 1887. Further details can be found on our website or you may call Joan Thompson.

Web: www.beckenhammethodistchurch.co.uk

Phone; 0843 2899812

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE CCARA COMMITTEE?

During the AGM on 21st March 2012 members will be voting in new officers and committee members to run the Association.

The committee posts for officers are :

- Chairman
- Secretary
- Vice-Chairman
- Treasurer

The current Chairman and Secretary will be stepping down and we thank them for all their hard work whilst undertaking these roles. The posts of Vice-Chairman and Treasurer are currently vacant. There are also several posts for ordinary members (i.e. that don't carry specific titles).

Nomination for any of the above posts, which may be made by any two CCARA members with the consent of the nominee, must be received by **Monday 12 March 2012**. We always welcome new committee members and ask that you complete the nomination form below which should be returned to: **Myra Heffernan, Brook Cottage, Blakeney Road, Beckenham, BR3 1HA.**

NOMINATION FORM FOR CCARA 2012/2013 COMMITTEE

I wish to nominate.....
for the position ofor committee member of CCARA
Proposer's name

Address:

E-mail address:

Seconder's name.....

Address:

E-mail address:.....

Consent signature of nominee:..... Date.....

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We prefer you to pay by standing order by completing the form on the following page. Or by cheque made payable to Copers Cope Area Resident's Association (please include your address on the reverse.)

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For more information on Affiliate membership please contact Chloe Ross 07956 325 610.

WHAT DO YOU WANT YOUR ASSOCIATION TO REPRESENT?



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