

# NEWS *on the Green*

The newsletter of the Green Street Green Village Society



ISSUE 10 - APRIL 2012

## From the Chairman

Luckily I had completed and sent most of the editorial material for the October edition on the day before I entered hospital for the third time last Autumn, this time for a major operation which kept me there for three weeks. So I am grateful to Ian and Jean for putting it all together, Alan for printing it and Bob and Meriel and Road Contacts for dishing it out. It was good to be

able to lie back and enjoy! I am glad to say I seem to be repaired and back to my old ways. Indeed, as part of my rehabilitatory walks I am exploring the more uphill parts of our patch and inspecting grit bins and potholes etc – not to mention the much improved Glentrammon Rec – with more to come. This issue – our tenth, doesn't time fly – is once again also the Notice of the Annual General Meeting, details elsewhere.

Tony Bradley

## A double diamond jubilee beckons

*It will not have escaped your notice that Her Majesty will celebrate her Diamond Jubilee this year with particular emphasis being put on a special Bank Holiday Weekend on the first weekend in June.*

A number of street parties are being planned for the Sunday of that weekend, for 'The Big Lunch'. Certainly one is already well into the planning stage.

Not to be outdone - and remembering that in 1952 the Green Street Green Association was established on the occasion of taking over responsibility for the Greenwood Community Centre rented to us for community use - the committee gave some thought to what should be done. This year is also OUR Diamond Jubilee, after all

### POP IN FOR A SPECIAL CELEBRATION

Our Saturday 'Pop-in' on the first Saturday of each month has now become well-established and popular. Happily, the June 'Pop-in' will fall on Saturday, 2 June within the Jubilee Bank Holiday but not clashing with any plans which may develop for the Big Sunday Lunch.

So we plan to have an informal celebration at the Greenwood Centre involving light lunch and afternoon teas between 1.00 and 4.00 pm, most likely with a celebratory and complimentary glass of Pimms!

Plans are still developing but the occasion will certainly take place, so put the date in your diary!

## QUIZ NIGHT - Saturday, 29th September 2012

7.00pm for a 7.30pm prompt 'kick-off'

AT THE GREENWOOD CENTRE, HIGH STREET, GREEN STREET GREEN

Tickets: £5; but bring nibbles & drinks

Contact: Jean Garelick 01689 850668

*All Proceeds towards the upkeep of the Greenwood Centre*

## NOTICE OF AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Association/Village Society will take place on Friday, 18 May 2012, at 7.30 pm at the Greenwood Centre.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of AGM held on 13 May 2011. [Copies of the Minutes will be available at the Meeting]
3. Matters arising.
4. Treasurers' Reports
  - Greenwood Centre
  - Village Society
5. Chairman's Report. This will be based on the Report contained in this Newsletter.
6. Election of Officers and Committee. [Anyone wishing to volunteer to serve on the Committee should contact the Secretary at least two weeks before the date of the Meeting.]
7. Any Other Business and Open Forum.

The Meeting will be followed by informal light refreshments.

Subscriptions for the Year 2012-2013 at £2 per household become due after the Meeting. They should be paid through Road Contacts who distribute this newsletter.

***We Cannot Collect Subscriptions At The Meeting Due To Pressure Of Other Business.***

# An update on the Greenwood Centre

*Apologies if some of this will be old news to assiduous readers of the Newsletter. However it is necessary to have an annual review of what went on last year, so here goes. I will be happy to expand on any item at the Meeting.*

**A**fter five years in the job Jean Garelick resigned as Secretary at the end of 2011 with our gratitude for all her good work. Happily she has agreed to remain on the Committee. We were very lucky to welcome Margot Rohan as a volunteer to replace her. Margot has now taken on Jean's place as a Trustee of the Centre. We are grateful again to solicitors Pumfrey and Lythaby for arranging the transfer of names at the Land Registry for a fee much less than would be normal. Nevertheless we do not wish to change Trustees too often as it costs!

The Centre continues to be well booked. We now have a regular Yoga group on Tuesdays replacing the Trefoil Guild which moved to a Wednesday. It is still popular for Children's parties at weekends and the other regular bookings remain. The Pre-School continues to be a lively and welcoming stimulus for its young clients.

## POSITIVE FUNDING

Our funding remains positive, helped again by the Christmas Raffle which raised over £800 thanks to the generosity of local traders and the efforts of Bob Mills and Road Contacts in dishing out the tickets and Dot Ryder who collected contributions. Four prizes were for £50 in meal vouchers at our local restaurants and pubs and many other prizes were very acceptable, including Jean Mortimer's regular Christmas Cake!

Funding is needed for regular maintenance. The valuable Big Lottery grant of £4,557 paid for the much-needed rewiring of our fuseboards and lighting to which we added new lights in the main hall. Rewiring led to redecorating



*If you see anyone dumping materials on the forecourt of the Greenwood Centre please advise one of the committee.*

in the kitchen and entrance hall and has been followed by upgrading of the power circuits in the kitchen and back stage areas. We have bought a new sound system available for our larger meetings once we have learnt how to use it! As usual Barrie and Stan have been fixing this and that. The flooring in the hall is due to have work done to reseal the joints. The next step will probably be to lay new flooring in the kitchen and entrance hall.

## NUISANCE AND DAMAGE

This is wear and tear. Regrettably we have recently suffered some preventable nuisance and damage. Over the last year we have acquired some new neighbours with littering habits and have had to remove items dumped

on our forecourt, a mattress, a table, a TV set and quite a lot of domestic rubbish. I was on their track before my illness and if it goes on they will be found out! We are also having to be stricter with Centre hirers to ask for items to be put away and rules to be observed properly for the common good. Mysterious damage is not acceptable. Confession is good for the soul!

We have finally got Thames Water to accept our confession that we have not been paying for

water for many years.

This goes back to Eric Norman's days. When Anne Edwards found no trace of water bills he said he had failed to make any impression on them. Since 2006 I have tried several times. We did not want to be landed with a huge bill from the past. Last year they declared an amnesty so we tried again. On 27 March a meter was at last fitted.

**Tony Bradley**  
Chairman

## Au revoir to an old friend

*Many Members will have had cause to be grateful for the good offices of Alan Stedman, Bromley Council's 'Man in Green Street Green'.*

**H**is actual job title remained a bit of a mystery but his function was to look after our streets, pavements, litter clearance etc.

If there was a problem Alan would deal with it or knew a

person who could. It was in the process of trying to get rid of an accumulation of litter at the bottom of Glentrammon Road – which has now gone – that I learned he was to retire on 29 February.

I took care to express our thanks and good wishes for the future. There is to be a reorganisation of the way things are done in the future, not yet quite sorted out .

# An update on the Village Society

*Bob Mills reports elsewhere on Membership and active liaison with Road Contacts, Police and Snow Friends which is all essential to a thriving community. Meriel reports on the great progress made with Glentrammon Recreation Ground*

We had a very enjoyable collaboration with the 'Rec' Friends at last year's HospisCare Summer Fete when the Treasure Hunt game at the stall raised a surprisingly helpful amount of money for their funds. This year's fete is on 9th June and we are planning to join them again in the Gazebo. Meanwhile we have used some Village Society funds to add another park bench to the Recreation Ground.

Our meeting in October 2010 with Councillors and Officers about parking in the High Street area seems at last to be bearing fruit with some plans now available for preliminary discussion before circulation. A consultation around 2000 led to such indeterminate results that nothing was done. It will be a disaster if this happens again. Hopefully when the consultation occurs residents will respond positively so some improvements can be agreed.

## STRAIGHT TALKING

I was involved in some straight talking correspondence when the closure of the High Street toilets was mooted and received assurances that nothing would be done without acceptable alternative arrangements. The toilets are still open and fulfilling their essential function and I am not asking any questions!

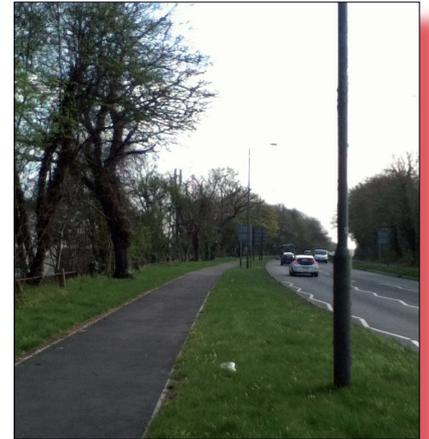
Brittenden Parade remains an eyesore with no-one accepting responsibility for a legal no man's land. A collapsing manhole cover has been the subject of extensive agitation by us and Councillor Grainger and at last has received some attention – sadly less than competent since it has partly subsided already. The parking area occasionally receives leftovers from roadworks which do not help. Some of



the Government's much lauded grant to improve High Streets would not go amiss.

The trees on the A21, long a cause of concern, have at last received some treatment so that the undergrowth has been tidied up, ivy cut to kill it and dangerously overhanging branches removed from the

gardens of Lynne Close. Lynne Close has also had its trees pruned following approaches by residents to Councillor Grainger at last year's AGM. We hope for some shrub planting to diminish exposure to by-pass traffic but that is for Transport for London to decide.



## POPULAR POP-IN

The Saturday 'Pop-in' is proving to be a great success on the first Saturday in the month and recent meetings have seen a house full! Esther, Chris, Jean and their helpers are to be congratulated. Extending it to a Christmas Party was a great success and hopefully the Diamond Jubilee bash on 2 June will be equally enjoyable.

Not only do we have a new Secretary but she brought a Website with her, which is now well established and used for Society secretarial administration as well, with all Committee members now accessible on line. Why not have a look on [www.gsgvillagesociety.weebly.com](http://www.gsgvillagesociety.weebly.com).

Last but not ....! Jean is no longer Secretary but still Quiz Mistress supreme and the advert included herewith is an invitation to participate in her next one. Book now or miss a treat!

**Tony Bradley  
Chairman**

## Progress at the Larches

*This time last year we noted planning permission being granted for a new Care Home to be built by CareUK on the site of the former caravan sales business.*

It has taken a long time but those with eyes to see will have seen massive works now proceeding.

A most impressive crane appeared a few days ago but disappeared before it could be recorded for this issue.

The site is very well fenced but a sneaky look shows there is a lot to be done yet.

An artist's impression on the fence gives an idea of things to come. But, a queue may be a little premature as yet.



# Membership Report - April 2012

*Having lost two Road Contacts, in Lower and Middle Worlds End Lane, membership is down to 563 from last year's high of 654.*

I was delighted that two residents of Glentrammon Avenue answered my appeal in October's Newsletter after our Road Contact left.

I am also pleased that another Road Contact has moved to Middle Worlds End Lane and been replaced in her old area.

Unfortunately we still need a Contact for Lower Worlds End Lane [13-71 and 12-44] and another for Highfield Avenue.

Surely there must be someone in these roads who could spend a little time delivering the Newsletter twice a year and collecting the annual subscription. Please contact me [851954] if you might be able to help.

Last Summer I attended a Snow Conference at Bromley Civic Centre where I became a 'Snow Friend'. The Snow Friend is given several snow shovels and bags of salt to share with their neighbours when snow arrives. This worked well in Beech Road and our little road was cleared quickly. If you are interested please contact Aaron Rumsey at Bromley Council [0208 464 3333]

As the Village Society's representative on the Safer Neighbourhood Committee I am pleased to report that ours is one of the safest areas to live in in the Bromley Council area in regards to crime. However I do suggest that you have a lock on your garden shed as thieves do target them.

The Police are altering schedules to allow for more presence in our village. We have a new Sergeant, Tim Hall, in charge and I, as the new Chairman of the ward Committee, will be working very closely with him.

It is intended to train PCSOs to use a speed gun and one of the first targets will be our High Street. We can all help keep speed down in our area by taking care always to abide by the speed limit ourselves

**Bob Mills**  
**Membership Secretary**

## News in brief

### SUMMER FAIR IS BACK

Harris HospisCare will once again be hosting its Summer Fair and Car Show on the Green, on June 9th.

This year the family fun day will welcome Bromley Football Club, bringing their soccer skills school to the event; singer Danny Fisher; karate and dance displays, as well as a Dog Show and Competition run by Crofton Oak Dog Training Club.

Last year over 1,000 attended the event, raising a record £8,500. Harris Hospiscare hopes a similar number will come and support them again.

Harris HospisCare Fundraiser Simon Pitts said: "We have a variety of stalls; a BBQ; a beer and Pimms tent, plus a host of new attractions for children of all ages. Anyone wishing to have a pitch or display a vehicle at the show can contact me on 01689 825755."

### FLOWER FESTIVAL

As part of the 75th anniversary celebrations of St Mary's Church, a flower festival will be held on June 23 - 24, in conjunction with a display of documents relating to the history of the church.

Refreshments will be available in the hall throughout the festival and on the first day a fête will also be held in the church grounds.

The church craft group is making willow sculptures for inclusion in the church. Each flower arrangement will feature an idea based on the theme 'Where the river flows everything will live'. (Ezekiel 47 v 9.)

More than 20 arrangers from local flower clubs, including the Green Street Green floral art club, will take part. Details from Claire Stammer at: office@stmarysgsg.co.uk



## Great news for Glentrammon Rec

*In late February the Friends Group received the good news that it had been successful in its bid for a £50,000 Lottery grant to update the children's playground*

The Council is match-funding this so all the planned equipment chosen by local children can be installed.

Work will commence at the end of April and, hopefully, will be completed by the end of June. The playground will be officially opened on 14 July.

Stephen Ernolt, the Friends Chairman and the Secretary, Linda Sokolof, together with Officers from Bromley's Green Spaces Team, have worked tirelessly to achieve this outcome.

The Village Society's Committee has supported them from the inception at a presentation at our AGM in May 2010 and is delighted with the news.

Residents also supported the scheme during the consultation process.. For further information please see the accompanying Newsletter from the Friends Group.

**Meriel Mills**



### VILLAGE SOCIETY COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Chairman: Tony Bradley - 815461  
Vice-chairman: Barrie Newman - 859359  
Treasurer (Greenwood Centre): Alan Garelick - 850668  
Treasurer (Village Society): Colin Warner - 856397  
Membership Secretary: Bob Mills - 851954  
Bookings secretary: Dot Ryder - 854947  
Secretary: Margot Rohan - 600985