



## Welcomes & Uplands Road Association

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### IMPORTANT NOTICE



Very few residents have supplied their e-mail addresses and phone numbers for our database in spite of pleas in the past two Newsletters. The AGM minutes and other key documents can now be accessed on line at the WURA web site which ought to obviate the need to deliver them in hard copy to your doors. The Committee would like to optimise the use of the web site especially now we have an efficient Web master in Andy Spencer Jones. The last set of AGM minutes and the flier we sent round to your houses consumed 660 sheets of paper and involved 1100 sides of printing.

Unless the Secretary receives the contact form below asking for hard copies to be delivered it will be assumed that you are able to access [www.wura.org.uk](http://www.wura.org.uk) and will read/download AGM, Agendas and Minutes from the site. Notice of AGM and EGM dates will posted to the web site.

For those not using e-mail or who wish to continue to receive official WURA documents in hard copy please fill in the form below and return it to Richard Russell at:

12 Zig Zag Road, Kenley CR8 5EL



### Your Contact Details

Name .....

Address .....

Email Address ..... Tel No .....

Please continue to deliver hard copies of official WURA documents including notice of AGMs and EGMs to my/our house



**WURA**

[www.wura.org.uk](http://www.wura.org.uk)

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## Welcomes & Uplands Road Association

# Newsletter

Summer 2008

### Introduction by Chairman

As I compose this introduction, the weather is a typical English summer's day-very wet and windy-but trust it will have improved by the time you receive this newsletter.

On that theme, major concerns were voiced at the AGM concerning excessive rainwater that on occasions floods down Welcomes from near the last bend making pedestrians' life a misery. Any remedy would be extremely expensive and the services and advice of a civil engineer would be useful- any ideas?

You will have read in the minutes that WURA contributed £200 to the Kenley Funday on 6<sup>th</sup> July which, despite the awful weather, was a resounding success for kids and adults alike.

Developers continue to be the bane of our lives with major work still in progress at the top of Welcomes that, hopefully, will be completed soon when the developers will be required to make good damage to the road surface and entrance onto Hayes Lane.

Minor repairs to the road surfaces will be carried out soon.

If you are moving and your solicitor encounters problems with rights of way, we may be able to help.

Finally, you will have read of or even suffered problems involving youngsters in the vicinity of St. Winifred's- please report any incidents to a committee member. Also you should phone Allison Bolton, Tenancy Management Officer on 01689 791237 of the Kelsey Housing Association if you believe the culprits live in St Winifred's. Allison has mailed all residents at St Winifred's reminding parents that they are responsible for the proper behaviour of their children.

Enjoy the rest of the 'summer' and thank you for your continuing support.

### Councillor Steve O'Connell

If residents have a problem concerning Kenley which you would like to discuss with him, his mobile phone number is 07760 310686. Clearly if it is a routine matter that can be reported and dealt with through the Croydon Council web site (assuming you have access to the internet) you should take that route before using Cllr O'Connell's mobile.

Steve's e-mail address is  
steve.o'connell@croydon.gov.uk.

### Woodland area

The new owners have been contacted about cleaning the frontage of the woods and we hope something will be done shortly to cut back overhanging vegetation.

### Road Sweeping

We have been in touch with Croydon Council about sweeping and drain clearance more than once and still await a response.

### Cable TV

It would seem unlikely from their continued silence that Virgin Media will supply cable to our roads in the foreseeable future.

### Welcomes & Uplands Road Repairs

Marshalls have been authorised to carry out £2700 worth of repairs to the roads. Repainting of white lines and speed hump warnings will be carried out after the repairs have been completed. This work will not include the road at the top of Welcomes pending the final departure of the contractors.

### Coming Events

#### Beer festival

R.A.F.A Kenley and Caterham 661 Branch 2008 are organising the first ever BEER FESTIVAL at Kenley Airfield. This is to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the RAF and is a fund raising event to raise money towards the restoration and refurbishment of one of the last surviving buildings at the historic former RAF Kenley Battle of Britain airfield from 1917.



This fantastic event is taking place on Friday 5th, Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th of September and as well as a great selection of beers, many from small local independent breweries, there will be a range of ciders and a selection of hot and cold food available at all times.

On top of all this there will be a display of historic WW2 military vehicles by the Invicta Military Vehicle Preservation Society. An aerobatic display by 2<sup>nd</sup> World War aircraft is a distinct possibility and we await further news from the organisers at the time of going to Press.

A great day out and all profits going to a well deserved cause.

Full details can be found at  
[www.kenleybeerfestival.co.uk](http://www.kenleybeerfestival.co.uk).

#### Battle of Britain Memorial Flight

This is to take place on August 17<sup>th</sup> 2008 time to be advised.



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### Changes of house ownership and road levy

If you are selling or have just moved in please remember to advise the Secretary. His contact details are at the back of this newsletter.

#### If you are new to the area Welcome!

Your name, address, phone number and e-mail address would be very much appreciated and will only be used by WURA.

### Building Developments

157-157a Welcomes Road – The second property we understand has just been sold.

159 Welcomes Road – Work continues on the 2 houses on this plot

8-10 Welcomes Road – Appeals on 6-8 have been lodged against the decision of the Secretary of State's Inspectorate Division to dismiss both applications. The appeals will be heard together in the next few weeks. WURA will monitor developments and a member of the Committee will endeavour to attend the hearing.

We have no further information on the dispute over a Leylandii on plot 10.

### Kenley House



We understand that building progress on this site has been going well and there have been no reports of heavy trucks using Welcomes or Uplands Roads to access the area.

### Kenley Airfield

As far as we understand the MOD have withdrawn their application to fence the active part of the airfield off although we understand a revised application is likely to be lodged. Some members of the public still stray onto the active area of the airfield which will not help the case for leaving the active area unfenced.

### Message from the support group for retaining existing Memorial Hall

At the Kenley Memorial Hall AGM held on 24th June 2008 proposals were put forward for demolishing the hall, building 2 x houses and 6 flats with a new hall at the side and rear of the site. No other proposal was put forward by the Trustees i.e refurbishing the existing hall.

The Trustees agreed at a further meeting with a small group of hall supporters that work could be done on the gardens and general maintenance. The time scale for this work is 'by September'. We do not have long but a positive start has been made. We should be grateful for any volunteers and/or your verbal support for keeping our existing Memorial Hall.

An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held in the autumn when a vote will be taken on Option 1 (to demolish and rebuild with accommodation) and Option 2 (retain existing building with on going maintenance and refurbishment).

If you want to support this group in any way please contact David Jones on telephone no. 020 8660 6905

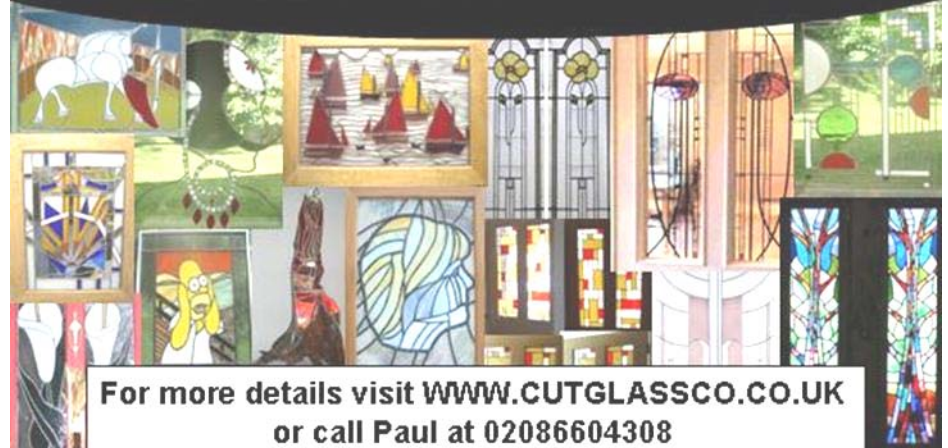
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## History of Kenley Memorial Hall

John Carr our local historian has come up with some interesting background on Kenley Memorial Hall. WURA are most grateful for John's continuing contributions to the Newsletter.

On August 2<sup>nd</sup> 1914 German troops marched through Luxembourg and towards Belgium. The following day Sir Edward Grey, then Foreign Secretary, who for many months had been working to preserve peace in Europe, addressed Parliament and informed them that Germany and Russia had declared war on each other. Two days later Prime Minister Asquith told the nation we were at war. Field Marshall Earl Kitchener was appointed Minister of



War and Parliament sanctioned an increase of 500,000 men into regular army service. Thus the famous poster: That night people in Croydon heard a military train slowly making its way from London towards Brighton and the south coast, stopping at every bridge, crossing, signal box and tunnel dropping guards drawn from the City of London Volunteers. These sentries were also in position at water reservoirs, gas and electricity works and many other vulnerable places.

Stories of spies were mooted, so all wireless systems in private hands were dismantled. While through the streets volunteers of the Croydon National Reserve were selecting and commandeering horses and vehicles from firms which were considered able to spare them. Over 1 million horses were used during the war.

Walls of the town were plastered with the words 'TO THE RECRUITING STATION' with huge arrows pointing the way. 'The Queens', part of the Royal West Surrey Regiment, was swamped with volunteers, many young boys adding a year or more to meet the minimum age, while men in their late 40s persuaded recruiting officers they were 'just 30'.

If selected, men signed the oath of military allegiance, were given one day's pay and were enlisted. Such was the rush that khaki kit was in short supply and some were kitted out with temporary black clothing.

Most people were keen 'to do their bit'. Rifle clubs were thrown open for practice, women took the place of men in business, on the railway and trams. The Council placed vacant land at the disposal of local people to use as allotments. Many factories were employed in the manufacture of bombs, shells and detonators, while voluntary groups made shirts or knitted socks.

Scouts played an active role as messenger. Two groups from Croydon were dispatched in the course of the month to patrol the Kent coastline for 45 miles.

Groups formed to send food and clothes to the front, or parcels to our POWs, such unity of purpose continued throughout the war. Fighting men knew their families were being

looked after and support for them was total.

When peace was declared on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918, amid victory celebrations people's thoughts turned to the brave who would never return. Croydon sent 25,000 people to fight and these 2500 gave their lives, whilst 10,000 returned wounded. A total of 500 military honours were awarded.

In towns and villages throughout the land people were united in wanting to show asking gratitude to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in this war to end all wars.

In Kenley 21 men were lost and the community wanted a lasting memorial people would never forget.

Sir Charles Langbridge Morgan of 'Woodhurst' Welcomes Road, a retired Colonel, Royal Engineers, had lost his eldest son, Lieutenant William Watkins Morgan of the RNVR at Gallipoli in July 1915.

A plot of land was purchased by Sir Charles to build a hall as a memorial to all the men of Kenley who served and died for their country in the Great War. People gave generously and over £3000 was collected. The foundation stone was laid on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1921 by Mrs Carleton F Tufnell of Wattendon Manor who, in 1914 had lost her son in action. The building was officially opened on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1922.

The land and building were to be held in Trust and used in perpetuity by the people of Kenley with a plaque in memory of Sir Charles' son and another recording the names of those who died. The Trust was to be administered by the vicar of All Saints Church, together with 2 church wardens and 2 committee members to be elected yearly at the annual general meeting.

The Memorial occupies a prominent position facing Godstone Road and continues to be a valued asset to the community. With its continued use since its completion in the early 1920, it needs constant maintenance, most of which is done by a mixture of committee members and volunteers, all of whom give their services free. Only the part time caretaker receives payment. This and all running costs are funded through hiring fees.

In 1973/5 the hall received a major renovation. Organised by Frank Tasker, at that time living in Uplands Road, and with the help of many willing volunteers, it was restored to its former glory and reopened by Group Captain Douglas Bader on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1975.

Over the past few years the Hall has suffered continuous vandalism, broken windows, drain and toilet pipes smashed, roof broken into, the ladies toilet trashed, notice board, handrails kicked down, and most recently lead stolen from the roof.

This has resulted in constant expensive bills and increases insurance premiums, looking at the hall today as this picture shows, it must be due for another major community assisted makeover before it is too late.

