



Welcomes & Uplands Road Association

Committee Members' Contact Details



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Brian Clinton (Uplands Liaison)	020 8668 4700	batchwood@talktalk.net
Robin McCallum	020 8763 2738	robin@wanaka.nildram.co.uk

Councillor Steve O'Connell If you 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



IMPORTANT NOTICE RE WURA DATABASE AND WEB SITE

Keep up to date on the news by visiting WURA Website www.wura.org.uk

Following the last Newsletter a few residents supplied their e-mail addresses and phone numbers for our database. Many thanks to them.

It is assumed that those who have not specifically asked for hard copies of AGM minutes and other key documents will now access these on the WURA 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

If you have a short article you would like to contribute that might interest readers the Secretary would be delighted to have them for inclusion in future Newsletters.



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

Welcomes & Uplands Road Association

Newsletter

Winter 2008

Introduction by Chairman

Yet again we are staring into the abyss that is the Christmas period having hardly paid for last year's excesses! With the present upheavals in the financial world and the ongoing repercussions, this year will see many tighten their belts to ensure that a goodly repast is still available on 'the day'. Christmas comes but once a year so, let's forget the financial 'blues' and eat, drink and be merry!

There have been a few 'victories' with refusal of several planning applications and appeals which will be seen by objecting neighbours as a return to sanity. The most notable refusal was by the Secretary of State refusing two appeals on G-8 Welcomes although, from my experience with developers, this may only be a brief respite before another plan is submitted.

Hopefully the recent repairs to our roads are adequate and we do rely on residents to inform us of any site that needs urgent attention. As the winters are warmer than in the past and the frequency of serious frosts abates, there is less likelihood of surface damage- hopefully our roads will be swept and cleared of leaves in the near future although, as you read this, it may already have happened. The top of the road will be repaired including the gate posts when the contractors have stopped work on 157-159 Welcomes Road.

We campaigned for the road humps from the aerodrome to the Welcomes entrance in Hayes Lane to be retained but the Council had other ideas and will try more visual restrictions. I'm sceptical myself and just hope that a pedestrian or driver is not the victim of one of the many speedsters that abuse the speed limit in the area. Page 4 for further comment on speed humps.

For those who have raised the question of the safety of WURA funds in the current financial crisis, the Treasurer has moved a substantial amount to Lloyds Bank and thus reduced the exposure to Standard Life's banking arm.

Recently my wife and I, along with over 100 local residents, enjoyed a quiz evening in the Memorial Hall. The Hall is currently being refurbished by dedicated volunteers keen to maintain the venue as a



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Introduction by Chairman—cont'd

community centre and to retain it as a permanent memorial to those who gave their lives in two World Wars.

The land and building was bequeathed to the community by a local family in memory of their son. As we strove to answer the questions, in a wonderfully relaxed and friendly atmosphere, my eyes wandered over the interior of the hall and it was evident that much care and time that has been lavished on it. I, for one, would oppose its demolition and thus retain the epitaphs and the spirit which pervades the present building. Other fund-raising events for the Hall are envisaged and, should you attend any, be assured that you will be warmly welcomed and enjoy the community spirit that's so apparent.

A tip - Sutton and East Surrey Water are happy to install (free of charge) a water meter on any property and that can result in a substantial saving for most households (call 01737 773477).

I'm informed by the police (Kenley.snt@met.police.uk) that, although Kenley has suffered a 22% increase in crime compared with last year, they have had many successes in the area that have resulted in several arrests and, hopefully, their ongoing intelligence and diligence will enable them to maintain a relatively safe environment for all of us. Be assured that, should you need their assistance or advice, your call to the Neighbourhood Watch office (0208 649 03180) will be treated sympathetically. The Police strongly recommend that you do not leave valuables in view in your car or leave windows open in your house when you are out.

It only remains for me to thank the members of our somewhat depleted committee for their efforts and support during the past year and to wish you all a very happy Christmas and (let's hope!) a prosperous 2009.

Memorial Hall

The plan to redevelop the Hall appears to have been dropped and it is assumed that it will be refurbished using the available reserves. Contact David Jones on 020 8660 6905 if you want to join the support group and help revive the hall.

Building Developments

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

6-8 Welcomes Road – Robin McCallum attended the appeal hearing on behalf of WURA and with additional support from our Councillors the appeal was refused.

Kenley House

A further planning application has been lodged which appears to involve the construction of a swimming pool, detached single storey swimming pool pavilion and tennis court in the rear garden.



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The Origins of Stained Glass

by Paul Hollis of www.cutglassco.co.uk

Sheet stained glass originates from the Romans who discovered that adding metallic powder to molten glass produced colours e.g. gold - cranberry, cobalt - blue. Design was simplistic and viewed more as a domestic luxury denoting status as opposed to artistic merit. Byzantine Arabs developed a method of using lead strips to join sheet glass together in panel form. Medieval and Gothic tastes demanded greater definition and



developed methods of painting on glass 'as a canvass', firing to fuse the paint to the glass. During the Renaissance period the original innate beauty of coloured glass was lost, the focus was to paint onto plain glass which adorned all fashionable and public buildings. The rise of Protestant tastes in the 17th century brought 'unnecessary decoration' to an abrupt halt.

Victorians revived emphasis on architectural and decorative excellence and in so doing returned to the origins of stained glass and formulated many more colours. Coloured glass design was cheaper than painting on glass and widely accessible.



Stained glass was exported to the U.S. where Louis Comfort Tiffany developed opalescent glasses and a new jointing technique using copper foil. This fine method of jointing allowed more detailed structures to be made such as the Tiffany Lamp.



The establishment of the railway network facilitated movement of wealthy London businessmen to the suburbs. Houses were built incorporating extravagant stained glass designs to broadcast occupant wealth and status. Designs reflected the artistic movements of the day.



These designs moved beyond front doors and windows and into interior design. Post WW2, the use of stained glass declined due to cost and material shortages.

Many original stained glass windows and doors were replaced as part of D.I.Y. in the 1960s. Today, double glazing is the norm and that which escaped the 1960's cull is being replaced with plain glass, stick-on lead designs and coloured film in place of coloured glass. Original or commissioned stained glass panels can be incorporated into double glazed units retaining the original beauty for posterity. Use of stained glass in interior design is enjoying a revival as discerning clients increasingly wish to add key focal points within the home whether it be windows, doors, internal doors, screens, wall hangings, sculpture, splash backs, mirrors....



Article continues in next issue with Contemporary Application of Stained Glass

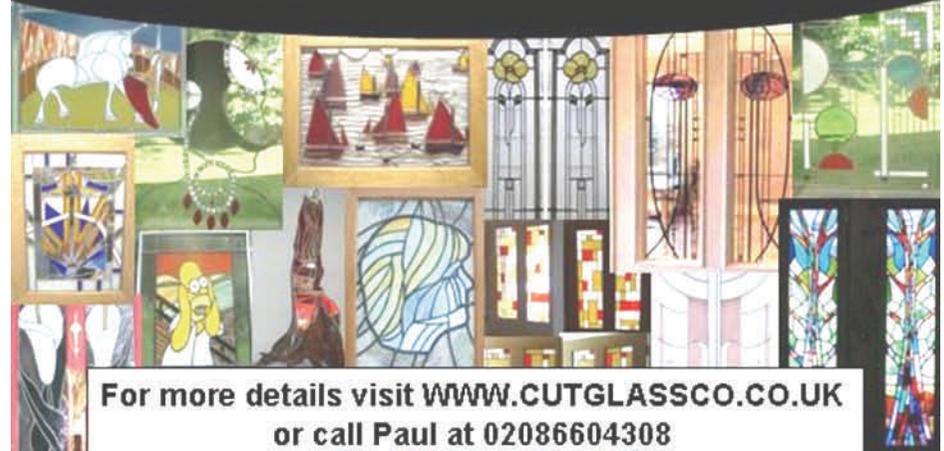
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- Encapsulation of existing or commissioned stained glass in double glazing replacement projects (window/door)
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- Glass/Wood sculpture for garden/conservatory
- Business logos/emblems, House names/numbers
- Contemporary treatment of church windows
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- Mirrors

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or call Paul at 02086604308

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.

Kenley Airfield

The Friends of Kenley Airfield Group continues to liaise with the MOD on the fence issue including pushing for pedestrian access in front of the hangar area so it is possible to walk a full circuit of the airfield. The MOD is likely to lodge a further planning application to fence off the active area.

Hayes Lane Speed Humps

A poll of the adjoining houses revealed a small majority in favour of not replacing the speed humps. The Council has just painted some turn in arrows at the top of Welcomes Road where Hayes Lane narrows and where, in the absence of a pavement, pedestrians are at particular risk. This measure seems unlikely to reduce the risk to pedestrians and drivers and the Committee will consider a response to the Council at their next meeting.

Neighbourhood Watch News

There is a police surgery on the 1st Friday of every month at the Kenley Memorial Hall from 10.30am to 11.30am where you can come along and meet some of the team. It is hoped Watch Coordinators will come down and share any information they think relevant. Please e-mail the team regarding any Neighbourhood Watch issues or questions you may have on Kenley.snt@met.police.uk

Cindy Erskine—Volunteer Kenley Safer Neighbourhood Team

WE URGENTLY NEED 2 NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NO ONE AT ALL CAME FORWARD AFTER OUR LAST PLEA

THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY 26TH JANUARY 2009



VENUE: NO 63 WELCOMES ROAD AT 8 PM

WHY NOT COME ALONG AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF?



THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU THERE

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME ALONG RING THE SECRETARY ON 8668 7293 OR

E-MAIL weluplandsroads@aol.com SO WE KNOW HOW MANY OF YOU TO EXPECT!!!

Haunted Valley?

Some residents say ghosts exist other are notable disbelievers.



Some longer standing residents may be aware of the tales related the “Grey Lady” who was reputed to appear in the Welcomes Road & Uplands Road and wider Kenley area.

She is said to originate from the 1780s after a chapel along Hayes Lane burned down. She has been spotted at the intersection of Hayes Lane & Firs Road. It is alleged Welcomes Road is one of her haunts. One motorised resident returning from work claimed to see her on his driveway. He got out to ask her to move and she melted into the hedge. Another man walking up the road claimed an apparition appeared indistinct and surrounded by a blue aura with the smell of a sweet perfume. The “shape” floated ahead of him until it disappeared at the junction of Uplands Road. Has any one seen her along here?

May be the ghost moves indoors? One resident noted that he and his wife did not feel alone at times as their cats behaved as if strangers were present. Another story was of an attractive house along Welcomes that was offered for sale one summer and wife of the prospective purchasers noted an intense coldness and wanted to leave. However she considered this irrational and they proceeded to purchase the house. After moving into their new home a series on unexplained breakages occurred. In the study a dark red stain appeared overnight and resisted several attempts at removal and even re-wallpapering.

Kenley House is currently being renovated and is reputed to have been visited by the “Grey Lady”. But in earlier renovations in 1981 an old well was found and the rumour was that an eighteenth century stable lad had been flung down it for misbehaving and haunted the house ever since. We note planning permission was recently granted to sink a swimming pool into the grounds and trust that they do not disturb the “ghostly residents”.

Now some of you no doubt will take these tales with a pinch of salt. But in the last year the author has met a resident who earnestly claimed to have seen the Grey Lady. It was one early morning at the top of Welcomes Road when beginning his perambulations to the railway station. She took flight up the road and disappeared around the corner into Hayes Lane. He claimed he was dead cold sober on the said morning.

I am a regular walker along the road in summer & winter, dark & dank evenings, mostly sober but have never borne witness to her. Have any other residents any tales of unusual meetings? The Treasurer wishes to pursue them for unpaid road levies.

If you wish to read further see:

“Around Haunted Croydon” by Frances D Stewart, ISBN 0 9515066 0 9