



2011 WURA WINTER NEWSLETTER

WWW.WURA.ORG.UK



A view from the 'Beeches' in Welcomes Road painted by Daisy Knupper. The house was demolished in the 1970s not long after this picture was painted. See article inside.



Encaustic clay tiles produced by the Maws Company in the 1800s. The coloured clay goes right through the tile so it stays the same as it wears down from use.

See article inside on former Kenley residents.

Message from the Chairman

In the last newsletter I wrote 'hopefully the oncoming winter will not be as severe as the previous year' - I won't tempt providence again with any further forecasts and just keep my fingers crossed!

The upkeep of the grit bins has been outsourced by the Council and it remains to be seen if the refilling system is better than last year. On page 2 there is some information on location of snow clearing equipment. If you can help by getting out there early and sweeping off the snow from the steep bits before compaction occurs, applying grit sparingly and only to the roads, this would be much appreciated.

The repairs done in Welcomes Road in 2010 seem to be holding up well but quotes for the proposed spray, seal and chip are very slow in forthcoming. It remains our intention to carry out this work in 2012 so we will persevere.

There have been spirited campaigns against the perceived over development of several properties but I think it is reasonable to point out that whilst it is the prerogative of all to lodge objections it is also acceptable to write in to support an application should you so wish. It is also very easy to comment on line if perhaps you support the proposal but feel there are some changes that might improve the development.

Once again thanks to the Committee for their unstinting support. We wish you and your loved ones a very happy Christmas and may 2012 be remembered not just for the Olympics but for an upturn in the world's economies!

From the Treasurer's desk

Not much news from me I'm afraid. We sent reminders in September to about 35 people who had not paid their road levy. We've just sent another 15 letters to those still in arrears.

The suggestion that people pay their levy direct into the WURA bank account via the internet seems to have been successful. Twenty nine residents used this method, although standing order used by nearly 100 residents, remains the most popular method.

Could those in arrears do the decent thing and pay up! Chasing levy arrears costs time and money as well as embarrassment all round when the Committee is obliged to enforce payment through the Courts.

From the Secretary's desk

The effort to collect more email addresses has reached the following situation

Uplands Road 31 of 44 houses 70%

Welcomes Road 72 of 122 houses 59%

Cumnor/Maryhill/Pine 7 of 12 houses 58%

Benthall Gardens 5 of 14 houses 36%

Kearnton Close 4 of 22 houses 18%

Clearly there are plenty more of you who could give me their email addresses which would make communication with you much easier and cheaper. So come on and see if we can get those percentages nearer 90%. Email me at weluplandsroads@aol.com with your house number.

I wrote to the Council last June and also contacted Steve O'Connell about the curtailed leaf collection and it is clear that there will be no changes in the service this year but in view of the level of complaints a review will take place and hopefully the garden waste collection cycle will be extended in 2012 to cover leaf collection.

REMINDER Snow clearance equipment location

In addition to the Council bins WURA own and pay to fill 4 large grit bins-3 sited in Welcomes outside numbers 92, 70 & 38 plus 1 outside No. 9 Uplands Also a number of brooms and snow shovels have been distributed to Nos 2,3,6,8 and 9 Uplands plus some at No 72 Welcomes Road courtesy of Peter Dixon. And 1 set at 31 Welcomes.

There are a further 3 sets of clearing equipment stored at No.31 Uplands with Brian Clinton.

FOXES AND LITTERING OUR ROADS

There is a view that the number of foxes in the area is reaching epidemic proportions and a cull is needed. What do you think? For more information go to www.thefoxwebsite.org which suggests a national fox density of .21 per sq km. We have spotted 6 different animals in quite a small area suggesting 75 foxes per sq km!

The foxes are not to blame for a lot of the litter being chucked on our roads including cans, food wrappings and cigarette packets. Would some waste bins help to stop this? Email your views to us!

Another remarkable Victorian Kenley resident George Maw of 'Benthall' Welcomes Road

George was born 1832 in Aldermanbury, City of London. His father was a partner in a firm of instrument makers and had made his fortune by inventing the glass bottle used to feed babies. The family moved to Hastings in 1839. George planned to become a farmer so attended the Agricultural College in Cirencester but in 1850 joined his brother in establishing a tile factory in Ironbridge Shropshire making Encaustic Tiles.

Encaustic tiles are ceramic tiles in which the pattern or figure on the surface is not a product of the glaze but of different colours of clay. They are usually of two colours but a tile may be composed of as many as six. The pattern is inlaid into the body of the tile, so that the design remains as the tile is worn down.

The brothers leased a 16th Century house called Benthall Hall at Brosley that overlooked the Ironbridge factory. George, his wife and 9 children lived there until he retired to Kenley in 1886. His brother Arthur purchased 'Severn House' where the family were to live until 1907.

The tile factory was a great success. At the height of the tile boom the Company was producing over 20 million tiles and items a year in 9,000 different designs and supplying countries all over the world. Prestigious orders came to the Maws Company as a result of the lavishly printed catalogues which showed the entire range of their products, the majority of which were available in different colours to order. An accomplished botanist he made regular trips abroad gathering new plants for his fine garden. His taxonomic labelling of plants inspired him to patent clay tile labels or markers which are still in use today. In 1867 the Company reproduced the celebrated transparent turquoise blue of the ancient Chinese enamels.

From his many travels abroad George began to specialise in collecting crocuses and over 10 years formed an almost complete living collection of the 67 species recognised by him. His 'Monograph of the genus Crocus' remained the dominant work for nearly a century.

In 1886 due to ill health George retired to Kenley and purchased a recently built house in Welcomes Road called 'Rangmore' situated the opposite side to a lane leading to 'Elmhurst'. This lane became Zig Zag Road in 1907. He changed the name of the house to 'Benthall'. George was a great friend of Sir Joseph Hooker and also exchanged correspondence with Charles Darwin. The Maw family lived in 'Benthall' until 1920. The new owner John Morison vacated the property in WW2. In the late 1940's the house named changed to 'Beeches' and the last known occupant was Daisy Knupper, a keen artist, who painted a view from the house which is reproduced on page 1. The house was demolished in the 1970's. If you have a photograph of 'Benthall' or the 'Beeches', John Carr, who kindly contributed this article, would very much like to see it.



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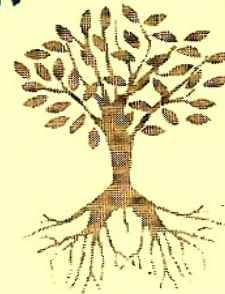
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VISIT OUR WEB SITE: www.wura.org.uk:

REGULAR NEWS FLASHES appear on the web site so please visit it from time to time.

WURA RESIDENTS DATA BASE: Please email your phone number and email address if you have not given it to us to weluplandsroads@aol.com. This helps us to keep you informed of developments and road works via group emails. In spite of all our efforts some residents were unaware of the date of the last AGM. Please check the web site in April/May next year to see the date of the 2012 AGM.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS: If you cannot access these on the web site please leave your name and address with the Secretary at 12 Zig Zag Road Kenley CR8 5EL and he will make sure you get hard copies delivered to your house.

NEW RESIDENTS: A welcome pack will be supplied. Ask the Secretary for one if you have not got one.

CHANGES OF HOUSE OWNERSHIP AND ROAD LEVY: If you are selling or have just moved in please remember to advise the Secretary at weluplandsroads@aol.com or phone **020 8668 7293**