



Canning & Clyde Road Residents Association

www.addiscombe.net

1 April 2008

Busy Bee Edition

Contact us:

Gordon Thompson

Treasurer
82 Clyde Road
Tel: 020 8656 4941
gordon.thompson@
addiscombe.net

Anne Bridge

Secretary
Flat 3
42 Canning Road
Tel: 020 8656 6707
anne.bridge@
addiscombe.net

Andor Prosbik

Acting Chairman
4 Park Court
Canning Road
Tel: 020 8654 8667

Rona Hunnisett

84a Clyde Road
Tel: 020 8406 3467
fluffyrona
@blueyonder.co.uk

Association

Website
www.addiscombe.
net

Police - Safer Neighbourhood Team

Tel: 020 8721 2473
and 07920 233886
Addiscombe.snt@
met..police.uk
Based behind big
Co-oper, Lower Ad-
discombe Road in
down town LA

Longer days are with us! We're looking forward to April and hoping that the sun will shine for all our forthcoming events.

Super Sunday Lunch! - Sunday 20 April - from 1.00 pm



Come along to our Super Sunday Lunch! Everyone is very welcome. Come on your own or with family and friends. Drop in from 1.00 pm at the Glamorgan, Cherry Orchard Road. Roast beef lunch with vegetarian option. Price £10 for adults and £4 for children. Drinks can be bought at the bar. We'll have the whole pub to ourselves and there is a garden at the back. With luck by then we'll have balmy spring weather. Come and relax and enjoy meeting new neighbours. So that we can tell Grant and Kathleen how many to expect, please could you let Anne know by Saturday 12 April if you will be coming along. It would be very helpful if you could

Edward Jobson Court's Bring & Buy / Coffee Morning - Saturday 12 April, 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Just a reminder that our residents in Edward Jobson Court (three doors down from the church in Canning Road) are holding one of their excellent Bring & Buy / Coffee mornings. Come along for a friendly welcome and great home baking.

Memorial for Steve (Collins)

As most of us know, Steve very sadly died in November. But his spirit lives on! Family, friends and local residents have expressed a desire for a visible memorial to Steve. We are hoping to plant a tree locally in his memory. We are open to suggestions. If permission is granted by the Council, they would be looking for something that is low maintenance and doesn't drop fruit on the pavement that might cause people to slip! Please let us have any ideas about what kind of tree might be a good memorial for Steve. If you would like to make a donation towards the tree, please give it to Gordon (contact details on left side of this page).

STOP PRESS !

We have just learned that our two roads now form part of the newly created East India Conservation Area. We will do a full feature on this in our next newsletter in May and explain what it means in practice. Congratulations to all involved in the process, in particular Norman Young of HOME Residents Association and our Councillors, especially Russell Jackson, who have driven this through. See page 4 for news on Elgin Road.

Coming soon ...

Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 13 May, 7.30 pm

This is a lively event with exchange of information and views. If there are any topics you'd particularly like to discuss or be informed about, please let Anne know. Afterwards we have a chance to socialise with various refreshments. More about this nearer the time.

Longest Day Barbecue – Sunday 22 June, 1.00 – 6.00 pm

More about this nearer the time.

Keeping your Car Safe –

Advice from our Neighbourhood Watch Team

Being a member of the Canning & Clyde Road Neighbourhood Watch is a signal to would-be thieves and miscreants that local people will not tolerate harm done to our neighbours. If you are not already a member and would like to join, please contact Andor (Canning Road) or Gordon (Clyde Road). Contact details on front page.

Parking

When at home, always park your car in your garage if at all possible. Vehicles are 40 times less likely to suffer from criminal damage or theft than if they are left on the street.

If you can't use a garage, make sure you leave your vehicle in a well-lit, open place in full view. If you have a driveway, use it. Security lights and closed circuit television can be a real deterrent.

Always avoid parking somewhere hidden from view and never leave anything valuable on

display.
Keys

As security systems become more complex, thieves are increasingly targeting keys as the easy way to steal cars. As many thieves are opportunist, you only need drop your guard for a moment, and they will strike.

Always keep your keys about your person when out and about. Leaving them on a table in a restaurant or in an open handbag on the floor creates a prime target.

Another form of car theft on the increase is where thieves hook car keys through a letterbox in order to steal the car. Also in the Croydon area there have been several reports of burglaries followed by the theft of the victim's car as thieves have realised that many people leave their keys in a visible and accessible place, such as on a hallway table or by a window.

Always make sure your keys are kept out of sight, such as in a cupboard or drawer. If you have a valuable car you may also want to invest in some kind of small built in safe for greater piece of



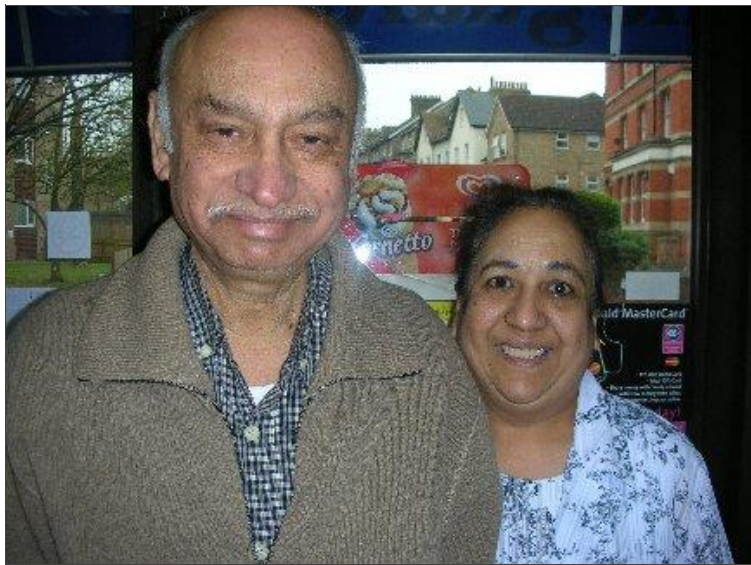
Safer Neighbourhood Team Advice Surgery

– Saturday 19 April, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

Our local Safer Neighbourhood Police Team will be at the Methodist Church in Lower Addiscombe Road. The officers on our team spend most of their time out on patrol in Addiscombe, meeting the community and identifying and dealing with those crimes and issues residents have told them cause most concern. Do drop in, either just to say hello or to let them know of any concerns or to ask for advice on anything.

Our Friendly Local Newsagents

Our roving reporter, *Lesley Kavanagh*, has been interviewing our much respected and valued newsagents, Mr and Mrs Acharya. Their shop opposite Canning Road is central to our parade of local shops and stocks not only newspapers and magazines but also very useful groceries, cards and stationery.



Dhanvant and Lata Acharya are at the heart of the Canning and Clyde Road community in more ways than one. Having managed our local post office for 19 years, they are still providing service to local residents in their stationery, confectionery and newsagents' shop, next to East India Way on the Lower Addiscombe Road.

The Acharyas came to Britain in 1973 with their two young children, having commenced married life in Kenya. Like so many East African Asians with British passports who had prospered under colonial rule, they saw their future here in the UK rather than in the new

African republic.

Dhanvant originally considered a job with the Ford motor company but a failure to produce his passport on the day of the interview led to a completely different turn of events. He went instead to work for Customs and Excise in central London.

By the 1980s, the Acharyas had acquired a shop on Purley Way, selling confectionery and tobacco products and after Dhanvant had done the necessary training, they were able to take over the sub post office next to the former Addiscombe Station where there was greater scope for business.

The last few years have been hard but they are determined to keep going, come what may. The closure of the post office side of the business has inevitably harmed trade and the proximity of Tesco has not been good for business either, although they agree that at least Tesco has attracted more potential customers to the Canning Road end of Addiscombe. They believe that better parking facilities and more small specialist shops would boost trade generally.

They do, however, have very loyal customers, especially among the elderly and those who have known them for many years. What the Acharyas provide is friendly, old-fashioned service and this is very much appreciated. Every year, the residents of Edward Jobson Court in Canning Road invite them to their Christmas party in appreciation of their services to the community.

In their spacious flat over the shop, they have enjoyed many years in Addiscombe. Lata would hate to move away as she feels so much at home here. She and her husband find the locals very friendly and supportive and have a good relationship with their fellow traders. Although they have a few worries about declining standards of behaviour, they have been very pleased to see a more obvious police presence on the streets and still feel that Addiscombe is basically a good place to live. They both feel thoroughly integrated into the community and have embraced British life while keeping up many of their traditions and beliefs.

Dhanvant and Lata have been married nearly 40 years and it is obvious to all who know them that they make a very good team. The secret of their successful partnership? 'Give and take', says Dhanvant and they both twinkle!

Cherry Orchard Road



This is a proposed huge development at the top of Cherry Orchard Road starting at East Croydon Station and stretching down to opposite Oval Road. It also includes the patch of land on the opposite side between Oval Road and the meat factory. It consists of four high rise towers, the tallest being around 50 storeys. These would contain a mixture of one and two bedroom flats, shops and offices. The architect is Ken Shuttleworth of Gherkin fame. It's the sort of architecture you either love or hate.

Be that as it may, we have expressed certain reservations. The Council are looking at high rise developments to help it meet the affordable homes building policies and targets set by the Mayor of London and central Government. We feel high rise developments could lead to social isolation and the problems caused by 1960s high blocks. We believe that very tall buildings lead to wind tunnels and loss of light, hardly environmentally friendly if people are having to put on lights for large parts of the day. We have also expressed concerns about the ability of the local transport system and GP surgeries to cope with so many extra people in the immediate area. This development will be on top of the East Croydon Gateway; whichever of the two proposed Gateway schemes ends up being built, it will mean a significant increase in residents. We also pointed out that the Porter & Sorter is a real South London pub and that to demolish it would destroy part of our heritage.

Talking to local residents we think people would prefer a more human scale development with less concrete and more greenery. We would like to see some good leisure facilities on the site, for example a public swimming pool, indoor bowling, creche etc.

The Addiscombe District Plan

Addiscombe is one of the areas piloting a scheme that the Council say is designed to give local residents a say in what should be Council priorities for their area. The Council have employed an agency to carry out this work. Themes have included: children and young people; economy and district centres; health and social care; environment and housing. A number of our residents contributed views to this and some of us went along to a presentation of possible priorities based on our expressed views.

In some areas the agency staff had taken in our opinions. In others they had not fully understood the significance of what is important to local residents. For example we do not feel that 'street art' is a significant way of preserving our heritage; it is old, often perfectly good, buildings that give a sense of place, permanency, identity and community.

We noted that in three instances, where the Council said they had been unaware of residents' concerns, these were matters over which they have been contacted in the past on more than one occasion: lack of safe pedestrian crossing outside Tesco on Lower Addiscombe Road; lack of children's play equipment in Addiscombe Railway Park; fear of loss of sense of unique area with a rich history. Our Councillors have assured us that we now have them to speak for us and ensure our views are properly heard.

Elgin Road

We are delighted that the Planning Inspectorate has backed Croydon Council's rejection of a planning application to knock down two large Victorian family homes in Elgin Road and replace them with small flats. Developers see more profit in building small flats. Our neighbouring residents association, HOME, fought this hard with the support of us, Morland Park Residents Association and our Councillors. These are examples of houses that could be converted to two family sized maisonettes rather than decrease further the number of family homes in our area.

Since writing this, we have learnt of the creation of the East India Conservation Area which will give much greater protection to our historic homes and the general character of our area. The area covers Canning, Clyde, Elgin, Havelock, Outram