

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter – November 2008
www.ogres.org.uk

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

OGRES CAROL SINGING
THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER at 7.00PM

Starting from 36 Marchmont Road

Welcome to all the new residents in the OGRES area. We hope you settle into your new homes and enjoy the community environment that is Onslow Garden's Residents Association!

Carol Singing Charity Fundraiser

This year's carol singing will be held on Thursday 18 December commencing at 7.00pm. Start gathering from 6.45 at 36 Marchmont Road. Refreshments provided at the end of the route.

All singers, non-singers and musicians are welcome to join this annual charity event. All money raised will be given to a local charity - Diamond Riding Centre, based in Carshalton. The charity provides therapeutic and recreational riding and carriage driving for children and adults with mental and physical disabilities.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday 18 December!

Community Groups News

OGRES representatives attend various Sutton Council meetings on behalf of you, the resident. These meetings are open to the public if you wish to attend and all the dates are published on the Sutton Council website. Links to the council site are also available via the OGRES website.

Safer Neighbourhood Team

If you have concerns about day-to-day crime and disorder issues, please contact a member of the

local team either by phone on 020 8721 2730 or via email: wallingtonsouth.snt@met.police.uk. In an emergency call '999'.

For more information about the Safer Neighbourhoods Team visit their website: www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods

OGRES Website: www.ogres.org.uk

If you have any suggestions for material that could be included on the website please contact either David Duncan (david@wsigotwebsolutions.com), or Lisette Scott (lissettegraham@hotmail.com).

OGRES AGM

The AGM was held in Wallington Public Hall and we had interesting sessions from Sgt Peter LeShirley from the Wallington South Safer Neighbourhood Team as well as from Tom Chance from Sutton's Bio Regional Development group. Tom Brake, our local Member of Parliament, also attended the meeting.

Peter Le-Shirley, the head of our Safer Neighbourhood Team, explained to the meeting the objectives of his group, and what they have achieved recently. The current priorities set by the Ward Panel were to tackle anti-social behaviour in the High Street and Beddington Garden areas, drug use in Stafford Road, and Graffiti in specific sites. He reported success in these areas, despite being an officer short.

In response to request from residents he has changed to shift pattern of his team to make them

more available on Friday and Saturday evenings, and until later at night. He encouraged residents with problems with criminal or antisocial behaviour to contact him. There was a general discussion on various topics and he was asked about noisy motor scooters in the area. Peter replied that they were no longer allowed to chase motor scooters, but if one could take down their numbers, he could find their addresses and talk to their parents.

Tom Chance, who is Community Engagement Manager for Sutton's BioRegional Development Group, gave a talk on One Planet Living. He spoke of the need to decrease our natural resources usage in the interests of our purses and of the planet, and detailed many ways in which we could easily do so. (A summary of Tom's address included in this newsletter.) These ideas are presented in a 'Green Guide to Hackbridge', which is available on the OGRES website.

Smartwater

As part of making safer, Police have been giving away an anti-theft liquid called SmartWater to help people protect their personal possessions -- and buildings too. As well as being an excellent way for residents to protect a wide range of valuables like jewellery, TVs, i-pods, bicycles and power tools, it is also being used to protect buildings from lead thieves.

SmartWater is a transparent liquid applied by brush, which provides a unique DNA type coding. It enables police to identify ownership of recovered items that have been applied with SmartWater. Many domestic properties, business premises, churches and schools across the borough are now protected with SmartWater.

*Basically, SMARTWATER provides Police with a liquid DNA. *

The solution is painted onto household items and leaves a forensic fingerprint encoded with the owner's details, which is virtually impossible to remove.

By displaying the SmartWater warning labels you will let criminals know that your property is protected.

A Summary of Tom Chance's address

Tom spoke of two of the most common concerns currently facing residents:

- rise in energy bills;
- footprint on planet.

A measure of an ecological footprint is to look at all the land that is useful in an area and divide by the number of the population. Worldwide it is 1.6 hectares per person. In Sutton it is approximately 5.7 hectares. This is not sustainable over the whole country. At present we are using more than is replenishable.

Tom is involved in developing an action plan to show what council, groups of residents and individuals can do help. One of the first things is better heating and insulation.

Tom hopes for community engagement, and offers talks and workshops on this issue.

Did you know?

Free loft insulation is available for the over-70s and those on benefits.

Things an individual can do:

- Draft exclusion - ask at DIY store;
- Put tin foil behind radiators, or proper radiator panels (DIY store);
- Lining curtains - and closing them at night;
- Double glazing, or there is a special film available from DIY stores which can cover panes of glass;
- Wash at 30 degrees, rather than 40 degrees;
- Use clothes line rather than tumble drier;
- Don't boil more water in kettle than you require;
- Check energy efficiency ratings of appliances;
- Don't use the standby button of your appliances; and
- Compost garden waste - free bins are available via Sutton Council.

Additional hints and tips included:

- Free Cycle is an e-mail list of things people want to get rid of - to be collected for free;
- Look at London Transport Website for action on CO2 emissions;
- Use car clubs;
- Grow your own food;
- Eat food produced locally;
- Eat vegetarian meals - to do so one day a week is equivalent to buying local produce;
- Waste less food.