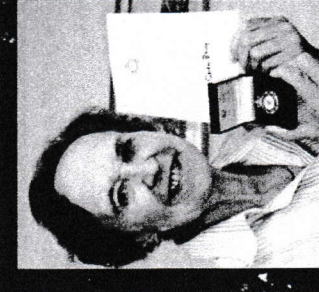


THE VILLAGE VOICE

100 120 50 70

THE NEWSLETTER OF ONSLOW VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION - ISSUE EIGHTEEN OCTOBER 2009

A healthy, happy job in the Women's Land Army



Land girls at work. Inset: Margaret Ann with her brother, the author.

Seventy years ago, with the outbreak of war becoming ever more likely, the government needed to increase the amount of food being grown in Britain, which would free up ships for troop movements and reduce the risk of attacks on convoys. To achieve this, more labour was needed on farms and so, in June 1939, the Women's Land Army was set up.

"The mixture was much later fed to the cattle, by which time it had become so foul-smelling that a strong stomach was needed to handle it."

"At the end of the war and shortly before I left the WLA, several of us were invited to take part in the first post-war Empire Day festival at the Royal Albert Hall at which

Have you been missing out?

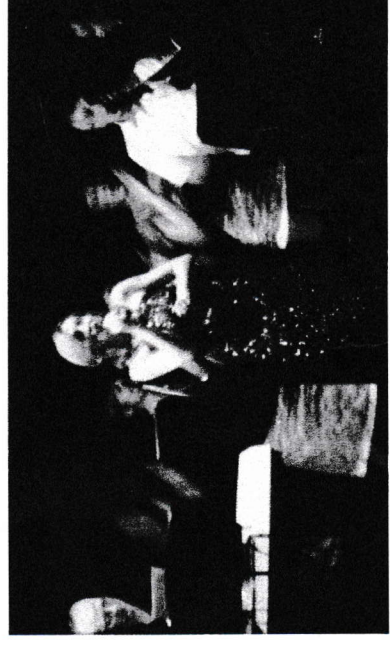
OVRAs committee members have worked hard this year to bring you two very enjoyable social events plus a programme of talks on a wide variety of subjects.

In January, we held the annual party with entertainment provided by professional magician Simon Alexander, who went from table to table amazing the diners with his close-up magic and ended the evening with a stage performance.



Just last month, the hall was packed for an evening of superb music from singer Claire Phoenix, accompanied by a duo playing keyboards and bass guitar. At one point, the band was joined on stage by a group from the audience who didn't take much persuading to go up there and provide backing vocals for a couple of numbers!

Judging by the comments and letters we received after both events, they were a great success.



Our talks have covered subjects such as Sir William More of Loseley, whose letters and papers provide a fascinating insight into the life of a Tudor gentleman; David Rosa gave a talk about Childford

when Onslow Village resident Margaret Armi joined in 1943, her hopes of a romantic, rural life tending sheep in Wales or working on the rich pastures of Devon were soon dashed!

"With an old school friend, I was drafted to work on a mobile unit of the WLA, within daily travelling distance of our Surrey homes.

"We were quite a motley group, clad in our green pullovers and corduroy breeks or dungarees. The size of the group depended on the size of the farm or smallholding and also the task in hand.

"In spring and summer we were engaged to plant or to hoe, or to 'thistle-dodge' a field of young corn. This consisted of walking along the rows with a sharp wedge-shaped blade on the end of a long stick and cutting off the young thistles before they became too big to choke the crop.

"Haymaking was less popular and harvesting less so. The latter involved the stooking of the sheaves – six or eight in a wigwam shape to dry. "Old stockings were worn on the arms to prevent nasty scratches. We would later return with the threshing machine.

"For two consecutive winters we worked as members of a threshing team run by a genial and kindly local contractor by the name of Jack. His 'baby' was his gleaming but fearsome steam traction engine.

"There was a tremendous team spirit in our team. We prided ourselves on a job well done and Jack was equally proud, not only of his engine, but also his all-female gang. "The best he'd had", he used to say with pride.

"This work was physical – extremely heavy and dirty. The most unpopular task was the endless removal of chaff from under the threshing machine. The whole thing was a mass of whirring belts and shuddering timbers, with a voracious appetite for the sheaves of corn being fed into it non-stop.

"Winter was also the time for hedging and ditching. I have memories of wonderful bonfires on frosty mornings, over which we toasted our cheese and dried egg sandwiches for lunch.

"On other occasions we made silage using a high concrete cylindrical tower. Two people stood inside while a mechanical blower poured down machine-cut cabbage and maize on to them. Another person outside pumped in molasses or black treacle using a stirrup pump. The gooey mass had to be repeatedly trodden down.

members of all the armed forces were represented.

"At the rehearsal, our contingent of land girls was due to march in to the sound of our regimental tune *Sussex By The Sea*. I was looking forward to this, but towards the end of the rehearsal the producer signalled to me to stand aside.

"I was deeply disappointed thinking that my height of 5ft 10in was to debar me. I was then informed that the finale was to be a colourful tableau, with costumed actors and RADA students taking part. Three of these were to represent Scotland, Ireland and Wales in their national costumes. It had suddenly been decided that a land girl should represent England, instead of one of the armed forces.

"I found myself mounting a very small and flimsy stand in the darkened arena, facing the royal box, while holding an enormous Union Jack flag.

"As the dazzling floodlights came on, picking out each of us, my concentrated gaze was on the illuminated royal box in which sat Princess Elizabeth. I was trying desperately to stop my legs from shaking!

"The princess then addressed us saying how much she was looking forward to visiting the Commonwealth in peacetime. For myself, I know that never before or since have I felt so proud to have been one of her subjects."

Margaret Armi

We're always keen to receive articles about people or events connected to Onslow Village. If you have a story to tell, please email us at ovra.news@ntlworld.com or ring 07726 952466.

OVRA Dates For Your Diary

Tues 10th Nov Country Life in the Early 20th Century
Tim Winter will give a talk about what life in the country was like many years ago, illustrated with postcards from his collection.

Tues 12th Jan Clandon Park and the Onslow Family
This talk will be given by June Davey.

Sat 6th Feb Annual Party
Look out for details and ticket prices in the Village Voice or on posters.

Tues 9th Mar AGM + speaker
Details to be confirmed.

Talks take place at Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Road. Complimentary refreshments are served from 7.15pm and the talks start at 7.45pm.

Entry is free for OVRA members and £3 for non-members.



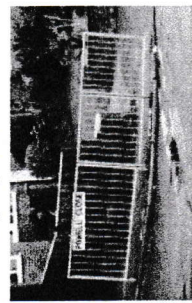
during the Second World War based on contemporaneous photos and papers that he's collected; the work of Wildlife Aid; and the importance of fungi and why it's known as The Third Kingdom.

The last Tuesday Talk of the year takes place on 10th November and then we take a break until after Christmas, rather than compete with all the other events that tend to occur in December.

Your membership entitles everyone in your household to free entry to the talks and reduced entry to the social evenings, so do make the most of it and come along to join us: you'll be very welcome. And if you have any suggestions for talks and events, please let us know: we'd be delighted to receive them.

The committee has also been active in issues affecting the community: getting a replacement for the notice board at The Crossways (see below); helping to facilitate a meeting with the Borough

Council so that residents could raise concerns about parking problems; pursuing Surrey County Council about getting footpaths cleared; chasing up Guildford Borough Council to repair the benches in the Jubilee Garden and clear up the traffic islands; and representing residents' views regarding the pedestrian barriers at the entrance to Powell Close.



New blood wanted!!

Joe Pais, who is Acting Chairman on OVRAs committee will be standing down at the next AGM, so we are looking for a volunteer to step into his shoes. This is not an onerous role, because the successful candidate will have the backing and support of an active committee; we simply need someone to act as the figurehead for the Association and also steer committee meetings through the agenda.

We also have vacancies for ordinary committee members. If you are interested in either of these posts, please ring Lesley on 01483 533762 for more information.

New Notice Board

OVRA was fortunate in obtaining the help of Cllrs Tony Phillips and David Goodwin to arrange for a new notice board to replace the old and almost unusable one at The Crossways. The notice board is now much used and as one side is protected from the elements, can hold long-term notices and advertisements. Contact details are shown on the board if you wish to take advantage of this facility.

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

If you would like to tell Onslow Village residents about your group's forthcoming events, or issues that might interest them, please email ovra.news@ntlworld.com or ring 07726 952466. Next copy date: 15th December.

Guildford Evening Decorative & Fine Arts Society at Onslow Village Hall

Wednesday 11 November 2009 **We Three Kings** with Peter Medhurst. We welcome the return of this popular singer and pianist to present music, art, poetry and legends inspired by the Magi.

Wednesday 9 December 2009 **The Fine Art of Crime** Speaker: Malcolm Kenwood. Using fascinating actual case studies, the former specialist police detective examines the trail and repatriation of stolen art.

The Committee look forward to welcoming you to the Hall. Refreshments are available at all the above from 7.15pm and talks start at 8pm. New members and visitors are welcome. Visitors' entrance fee: £5.00. Contact Membership Secretary: Angela Logan 01483 532223

RECYCLING NEWS

Recycling Works

Our refuse collections change as of this month. There will still be assisted collections for the elderly and/or disabled; you will need to contact GBC on 01483 449999 if you are not already receiving help.

Most of us will now have the same normal collection day of Tuesday with different changes for Christmas and Bank Holidays.

Wheellie bins should stop the mess left by foxes and magpies ransacking the black sacks and increase the recycling rate for the Borough. I am especially pleased to have the food waste collection, which I am sure, will make all our lives easier.

Car sharing

Have you thought about car sharing for those shopping trips a bit further away? If you like to shop occasionally in Waitrose in Godalming or Secretts could we share the driving and petrol costs by starting an informal car-sharing club? I usually go on a Tuesday morning but can adapt to

fit in with others. If you are interested let me know and we can discuss how it could work.

For further information on any of the above please contact Lesley on 01483 533762.

Vivace Chorus

The story has been told that, at the Schwarzenberg Palace in Vienna, on 30th April 1798, there was an unusual silence as the opening recitative of Haydn's "Creation" began. Then, as the orchestra moved through the first choral piece and reached the sudden explosion of sound at the phrase "and there was light", the entire audience rose to its feet and applauded.

Come and help us to recreate the effect at Guildford Cathedral this year!

THE CREATION
HAYDN
The Brandenburg Simfonia
Conductor: Jeremy Backhouse

Vivace
Chorus

Saturday
14th Nov 2009
7.30pm Guildford Cathedral

Tickets £n - £22
from Tourist Information
01483 444334
Registered Charity No 104927

www.vivacechorus.org

POWELL CLOSE PEDESTRIAN BARRIERS - UPDATE

In April a meeting took place to discuss the problems caused by the pedestrian safety barriers erected at the entrance to Powell Close.

Two people attending the meeting asked to have the barriers removed as they had been installed at the request of Onslow First School, but without consultation with local residents. Concerns were also raised by elderly wheelchair users because of the difficulty in getting past the barriers and the lack of dropped kerbs. This meant that they had to move out onto the roadway.

It was also pointed out that the barriers did not comply with SCC Highways' own standards.

In reply, SCC stated that funds were not available to rectify the work and that most of the parents using the school approved of the barriers; as a result they would remain. However, SCC Highways agreed to investigate the possibility of putting in dropped kerbs and to paint the railings to soften the visual impact.

The painting has now been carried out, but no further improvements have been made to date.

At the same meeting, it was requested that something be done about the growing proliferation of street furniture at this junction and as a result it was agreed the bus shelter should be removed as it served no useful purpose where it was and was rarely used. Following the statutory consultation period (and a false start when it was found that an electrical supply needed to be removed), the bus shelter has now gone.

In case of snow

Following the snows of last winter and the closure of Onslow First School because parents could not negotiate the slope into Powell Close, residents in Windsor Close made a request for a salt box in to be placed in Powell Close. It looks as if this will materialise in time for this winter. The suggested position is on the pavement adjacent to the Wilderness Court garage blocks within easy access of the school.

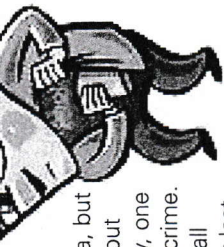
If the salt bin on your street is empty, or you'd like one installed for the next time it snows, you can contact Surrey County Council's Highways Department on 0300 200 1003 or online at www.surreycc.gov.uk/ and click on "Roads and transport" on the left of the screen. This is also the place to report potholes and other highway problems.



Watch out - there's

From Seasonsto Daisy's

'In the Pink' with Success



a thief about!

We are fortunate to live in a low-crime area, but the opportunist thief is always on the lookout for easy pickings, so beware! Just recently, one of our members was the victim of such a crime. She had been in and out of the back door all day and had omitted to lock it when she at last stopped for a cup of tea. She left the room for just a few minutes, but by the time she returned, her bag had gone. So, please take sensible precautions, especially now the dark evenings have arrived, but as they say, don't have nightmares.

OVRA on Facebook & Twitter

Don't forget you can follow us on Facebook and Twitter and receive updates about all our events and news affecting Onslow Village. Just search for "Onslow Village Residents' Association" on Facebook, and on Twitter, find us at http://twitter.com/OVRA_ (Don't miss off the underscore or you'll be wondering why all the posts are in Russian!).

VILLAGE VOICE 18 REPLY SLIP

Name:
 Address:
 Telephone No:.....
 E-mail address:

You can unsubscribe at any time and we will not pass your details to any third party.

Comments/views/suggestions:

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Please hand this form in at a social event, send it to OVRA Secretary, 68 High View Road, Guildford GU2 7RU or email your comments to ovra.news@ntlworld.com.

Most regular visitors to our Onslow Village shops will know that Seasons closed this summer and has been replaced by Daisy's.

Seasons began over twelve years ago when three friends from St Saviour's Church, who all lived in Onslow Village (Pat, Ann and Rosi), decided to re-open the shop that had already had a brief life as a newly-new shop. We opened as Seasons in February 1997, and with the help of our friend Sue, we gradually established good relationships within the community, at the same time building up our small business. We had many local customers as well as regulars who came from further afield. Our aim was always to serve God by offering a friendly face and peaceful place alongside all the good clothes and other items. God answered many prayers in that place, in answer to both our customers' and our own needs. It was good!

We were all sad when Rosi and then Pat retired and moved to Dorset and Devon respectively. Their presence and friendship were missed by all but they are both happy and well settled in the West Country. Jo and then Marilyn joined the staff and were a great help (also my daughter Susie from time to time).

Over a year ago, I decided that I needed to move on from running Seasons to give more time to other things. It was impossible to find someone to carry it on as a going concern, especially in the current difficult financial situation, so we sadly closed at the end of May. We loved being there and serving all our customers and thank them all.

As we were closing, Claire Howlett came forward wanting the premises for her own business selling children's nearly-new clothes, toys and nursery items. Happily, she also decided to continue selling ladies' clothes too, and opened as Daisy's on August 1st. We welcome her in Onslow Village and wish her all the very best for her business – do support her!

Ann Feast

In Memoriam

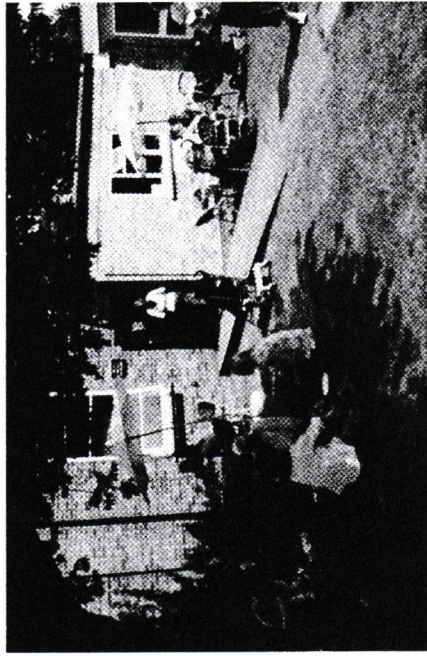
Since our last issue, we have received news that two long-standing Onslow Village residents have died.

Sidney Holland, generally known as Holly, has died aged 92 having lived in the village for many years, and

Richard Stephens, who served on OVRA's committee at one time and will be remembered for his keen interest in environmental issues.

We would like to offer our sincere condolences to their families.

If you were passing Onslow Village Hall on the afternoon of Thursday 23 July this year, you could not have failed to notice the crowd of visitors sitting at garden tables under brightly coloured parasols, as well as the splash of colour from many pink balloons.



This was a strawberry tea organised by "In The Pink" on behalf of Breast Cancer Care. It was scheduled to be held in the Small Hall, but so popular was it and on such a fantastic summer's day that visitors spilled out on to the grass to make it into a real summer afternoon social event.

"In The Pink" – Anna, Ailis and Jemma, ably assisted by their mums – served teas, soft drinks and an amazing array of home-made cakes, mostly baked by the girls along with additional donations baked by other supporters of the event. In addition, the tombola table was packed with prizes, which, with the teas and cakes, raised a fantastic £378 in just a couple of hours.



The three teenage girls set up "In the Pink" earlier this year and have already gained several bookings helping prepare and clear up at a number of local functions. They donate a percentage of their earnings to Cancer Research and in particular to breast cancer charities. If you are planning a function, why not contact "In The Pink" to help you with all the setting up and clearing away afterwards. You can contact them through Sheila Zazzera on 01483 579731 or Clare Parsons on 01483 852392.

OVRA congratulates the girls on their enterprise and wishes them every success for the future.