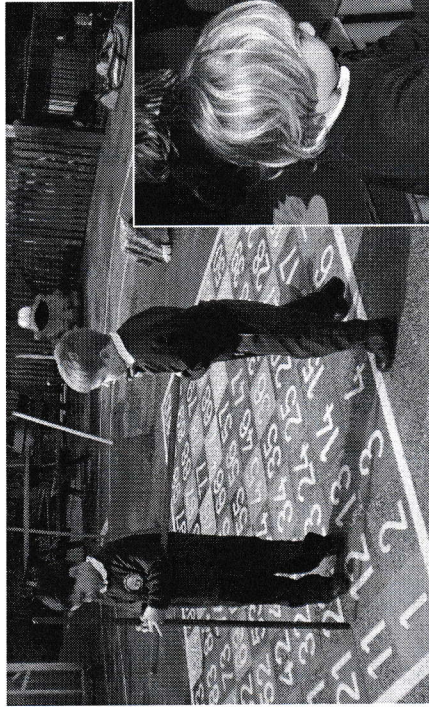


A New School for Onslow Village



One of the many benefits of living in Onslow Village is its close proximity to schools catering for all ages. This article by Angela Joule describes how Onslow Infant School came to be.

Following a decision by the education authorities to restructure the school systems, planning consent was granted in 1969 by Guildford Borough Council for a new infant school in Onslow Village.

There had been a small private school in Orchard Road for 5 to 7-year-olds. The Headmistress was Mrs Warpole. When the school eventually closed it was converted into a complex of flats, which it remains to this date.

There was also a state primary school located in Ludlow

whole school. All this had to be practised and encouraged, with the teacher in charge of prayers, hymns, songs and piano. The assembly was held in the hall in the middle of the building, this was also used for PE and dancing lessons, and sometimes a film show. Good hot school lunches were prepared 'on site' by a team of lovely 'dinner ladies' and the standard was extremely high. These meals were served and eaten in the hall. The teachers also enjoyed their lunches, eating at the teachers' table in front of the children (noise control and good manners on show). Most children did remain for lunches.

After registration first thing, the 3 Rs were taught all morning by the class teacher, apart from 30 minutes of "sounds" (phonics) when different ability groups moved classes for stimulation. Year 1 children had word tins. They

the children all dressed up. The highlight was when Father Christmas came with presents for the children.

The children were expected to wear uniform and have small satchels. They were encouraged to save and buy a National Savings stamps, which could be purchased for 21/2p. These would then be stuck into a savings book. At morning playtime the children were all given little half-pint bottles of milk.

One or two of the retired teachers still see some of their former charges, hear about their lives, careers and their own families. Indeed, grandchildren of the original intakes are now amongst the current children attending the school.

Both our sons attended what became Onslow First School and went on to Queen Eleanor's thereafter, with happy memories of their times in both schools. From the start the school gained a reputation for high educational and welfare standards which are maintained today with a strong and supportive PTA.

Heather Wright remained as head until her retirement in 1995 when Mrs Lyn Jennings became head, until she too retired in 2009. It speaks well of any school that has had only two head teachers in 37 years.

In September 2009, Mrs Kemp-Powell took over as the new head. I would like to thank Mrs Kemp-Powell for her kind co-operation and assistance with the photographs of the children at various activities and I wish Mrs Kemp-Powell and her staff every success for the future.

Researching for this article and the contributions towards it, what came across was how much love, care and time the teachers gave to the children in their charge.

My thanks also to Mrs Nita Morgan and Mrs Shirley Tait for their valuable help and contributions to some of the background, from a teacher's perspective.

A comment from the new Head Teacher Mrs Sarah Kemp-Powell:

"I feel very privileged to have become the Head Teacher at Onslow Infant School, a school that is so much part of the local community."

...banned the words and their part... together into the inst... books. The afternoons were filled with nature lessons, music and art, ending the day with story time.

Subjects were taught by way of different topics and it was not always easy to think of suitable work to go with the theme. All the teachers taught all ten subjects. Each child had to read every day which proved very difficult as there were no classroom assistants, only the occasional parent to help hear reading.

For the first Christmas Mrs Wright chose a theme for decorating the hall and the children loved that, especially decorating the Christmas scenes. There was a tea party and

...Road for 5 to 11-year-olds and when this closed it was absorbed into the Farnham Road hospital site. Another, called St. John's, was on the Farnham Road, and later Guildford Park Secondary School (later to become Queen Eleanor's), Park Barn School (later called King's Manor and now called King's College) was opened in approximately 1966-67 and the 11 to 16-year-olds transferred there from Guildford Park Secondary School. This in turn became Queen Eleanor's Junior School in approximately 1967. The then increase in the birth rate required a further school for 5 to 8-year-olds for which Onslow Infants School in Powell Close was built, opening in 1973, with Queen Eleanor's becoming a middle school.

In 1970 the retirement bungalows were built in Powell Close on land which had been part of Wilderness Farm, where ponies were grazed. The remaining parcel of land was set aside for the construction of the new infant school. At the time fears were expressed that there would be insufficient space for a playground, parking and other amenities. The new building was single storey suitable for infants, together with a caretaker's bungalow. Nevertheless, the school opened in 1973, with the first intake transferring from Queen Eleanor's, including our eldest son. His first memory of the new school was that he was the first child to go through the doors and was so excited he did a somersault and was promptly reprimanded by the new head Mrs Heather Wright.

Several infant teaching staff transferred from Queen Eleanor's, Mrs Morgan, Mrs Allnut, Miss Hardy amongst them, with Mrs Platt who was part-time, others were new. The teachers were thrilled at the prospect of moving into a brand new school, but at the same time after the school opened the fears of the teaching staff were realised with the noise in the playground from the A3 and its inadequate size as originally designed, for the numbers of children attending. In later years many improvements to the playground facilities were carried out.

The open-plan classrooms were noisy and the flat roof leaked, but following the opening the teething problems relating to the unusual construction, design and layout were quickly addressed. In later years extra buildings were added to the classrooms.

As usual some children were shy and timid and had to be encouraged to develop confidence, while others were noisy, boisterous and even naughty and had to be strictly guided. Discipline was fairly strict with big classes and any bad behaviour meant sitting outside the Headmistress's room. Good behaviour was rewarded with 'smiley face' stickers. Weekly assemblies rehearsed by a class, meant drawing work was on show and writing was read out loud to the

It is very interesting to read about the history of the school through the eyes of parents and teachers and whilst some things have changed over the years, others have not. Our school lunches are still prepared on site and the standard of catering is extremely high!

As we look to the future, we are excited about developing our outdoor learning environment and are currently making fruit and vegetable beds to enable us to grow our own produce. In two years' time, we shall be celebrating the school's 40th birthday and will be planning some exciting events and activities that we hope to share with the local community."

COMING SOON! TO A VILLAGE HALL NEAR YOU!

September's Tuesday Talk is entitled **A Victorian Ad-venture:** Kenneth Matthews will take us on a fascinating journey back to the Victorian era, when the explosion in the availability of consumer goods gave rise to the creative communications industry.
Tuesday 14th September

October: the OVRA Quiz is back! Test your little grey cells under quizmaster Mike Joule. Come along as a team of no more than six or just turn up and we'll help you to make up a team on the night. **Tickets are on sale now: see booking form overleaf.** Includes a fish & chip supper. There will also be a raffle and licensed bar. *Saturday 9th October*

In **November** Sheila Davidson will tell us **How our Christmas Traditions Developed**, then in **January**, John Rodgers will describe how The Salvation Army reunites families through **The Work of the Family Tracing Service.**

February: it's Party Time!

Enjoy a buffet supper and listen (or dance, if you feel so inclined!) to the music of

The JJ Vinten Band. The band present the best of music from Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Harry Connick Jr, Jamie Cullum and Michael Bubl , with superb vocals and playing by musicians internationally acknowledged as being foremost in recreating the Great American Jazz Age. See them at www.jjvinten.co.uk/ and look out for more details about the party in our next issue.



Tuesday Talks: Refreshments from 7.15pm, talks begin at 7.45pm. Members free, non-members  3. Saturday Socials begin at 7.30pm. Entry by ticket only. Call 07866 076709 for further information.

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 07866 076709.

Next copy date: 11th September for publication end September/early October.

RECYCLING NEWS

What happens to our food waste?

A group of Community Recyclers went to see the plant that recycles our food waste. The site is in Bedfordshire and uses an Anaerobic Digester. We visited two of only four sites in the UK that use the process, which is much faster than the conventional method. The country needs 100 of these plants and it is hoped that one will shortly be built in Surrey: once a day a lorry travels from Surrey to the site carrying all your waste food where it is mixed with pig slurry, the waste from abattoirs, farms, food factories and the retail trade.

The process reduces mass, eliminates odour and pathogens are destroyed by pasteurisation. The end products are Biogas (for vehicle use), electricity – some of which is fed back into the grid but which also runs all the machinery on site – and Bio fertilizer. The fertilizer is used on site as part of the needs of the very large arable farm that is part of the plant. If there were no attached arable land the waste could be centrifuged and the resulting mass marketed as garden compost and soil improver. The waste water although rich in nitrogen etc can be fed back into the water supply.

The process is carbon neutral and the plant has no need for external utilities except for drinking water: all its other needs are catered for on site. If all of Surrey participated a plant could supply 2 MW of electricity.

Beware that one of the main contaminants is kitchen cutlery!

Loving your Leftovers

Which brings us neatly onto the waste food we generate. Unfortunately the food we throw away is not just bones and vegetable peelings. The organisation WRAP has estimated that we throw away a third of the food we buy, most of it perfectly edible, costing an average household £50 a month.

The important things to remember are to plan your shopping. Make a list, check the fridge and cupboards before you go, don't shop when hungry and read the best before and use by dates. The "sell by" and "display

Village Hall Makeover

Following the many internal improvements to the Hall over the last few years, the Onslow Village Hall Management Committee decided that the outside of the Hall required a facelift as well.

A local landscape contractor, Ben Gattford of Urban & Rural Landscapes (07876 682146), was asked to provide ideas and costs.

On both counts, the Committee were pleased to accept his proposals and the finished result is now there for all to see. There are more than 20 new bushes and trees on display, together with improved pathways and security fencing and gates at both ends of the Hall.

The OVHM Committee are delighted with the final result and hope that everyone in the local community will be similarly impressed!

Mick Gall – Chairman



Arboretum Update

Following concerns about the removal of fencing around the Arboretum, one of our members has been in contact with Guildford Borough Council to find out what is being planned.

Adam Owen manages the Arboretum on behalf of the Council and he explained that when the wire fencing was installed 15 years ago, it was needed to protect the young trees from rabbits. It has since fallen into disrepair, but as the trees are now well-established, there's no longer any need for it, so it has been removed. The recent works have also served to restore the original boundaries where they

difficult for the world to feed itself. There are groups in Guildford who are looking to the future and thinking of ways we can take advantage of the land we have to grow more food for ourselves and create a more sustainable way of living. Transition Guildford has taken these ideas on board; do you want to know more about what they are doing?

A Date for your Diary

The next Chipping Morning for the GBC chipper will be in the Village Hall car park on Saturday 13 November from 10.00 to 11.30am. Look out for posters.

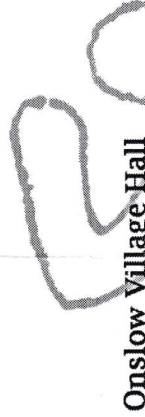
For further information on any of the above please contact Lesley on 01483 533762

Guildford Evening Decorative & Fine Arts Society at Onslow Village Hall

Our new programme of lectures will begin again in September, on the second Wednesday of each month.

Wednesday 8 September: **Art and the English Bible** The speaker is Professor Michael Wheeler. In 2011 the nation will celebrate the 400th anniversary of the most important and influential book in the English language – the King James Bible, or "Authorised Version".

The Committee look forward to welcoming you to the Hall. Refreshments from 7.15 pm and talks start at 8 pm. New members and visitors welcome. Visitors' entrance fee: £5. Contact Membership Secretary Angela Logan on 01483 833485 or by email on guildford.eveningdfas@ntlworld.com



Onslow Village Hall

until" dates can be ignored: these are for the shop for display purposes. The "best before" dates are for advice only, except in the case of eggs, and will tell you when a product is likely to drop in quality. The "use by" dates are important and are to be found on perishable food such as ready meals, dairy and cooked meats: these must be adhered to (to avoid food poisoning) but the food can be frozen up to the end of the "use by" day.

There are many ideas for using up left over food on the following websites: www.lovefoodhatewaste.com and www.wrap.org.uk.

As you can see from the previous article your food waste travels to Bedfordshire at the moment so the advice from WRAP is that it is better to compost uncooked food waste, and use a green cone for all cooked food waste, at your home.

Dwindling Resources

Whether climate change is man-made or not, we are still going to see problems in the future as oil, for example, becomes more difficult to extract and it becomes more

BOOKING FORM FOR THE OVRA QUIZ ON SATURDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2010

I would like to book tickets for the following OVRA Members:

- Name: Address:
- Name: Address:
- Name: Address:
- Name: Address:

(Continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

Number of tickets required for Members (list names above): @ £10 each £.....

Number of tickets required for Non-members: @ £12 each £.....

Total payment enclosed: £.....

Return the completed form and payment to Onslow Village Residents' Association, c/o Joe Pais, 9 Farm Walk, Guildford GU2 7QW by **4th October at the latest**. NB: Tickets will be delivered to the first person on the list. If you have not received your tickets by 7th October, please contact g Marian on 07866 076709.

The post and rail fence at the Manor Way entrance is a boundary fence and will remain, and as the rabbit fencing alongside the A3 is still in reasonable condition, there are no plans to remove it for the foreseeable future.

The gap by the gate onto Manor Way was left in error following a repair: this will be remedied in due course.

Improvements planned for the rest of the year include: raising the level of the path where it floods; replacement of benches; new interpretation to replace the old damaged signs; and the removal of the old rabbit fence behind Manor Way and the management of vegetation to create a thicker hedge.

Mr Owen went on to say that the rabbit fencing was never intended to stop children and dogs from straying out of the Arboretum and that it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that children understand the hazards of roads and for owners to keep their dogs under close control.

VILLAGE VOICE 21 REPLY SLIP

Name:

Address:

Telephone No:

E-mail address:

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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 any social event; send it to OVRA Secretary, 68 High View Road, Guildford GU2 7RU; or email your comments to ovra.news@ntlworld.com.