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THE VILLAGE VOICE

ADDRESS STICKER

THE NEWSLETTER OF ONSLOW VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION – ISSUE TWENTY EIGHT MAY 2012

THE 'VILLAGE VOICE'

...is published every three months or so and is usually only delivered to OVRA members, but once a year, just after the AGM, it goes to all houses in the village.

The Association was originally set up in 1956 to represent residents' views on the Village Hall Management Committee, as it still does to this day, but its main aim now is to safeguard the amenities of Onslow Village and look after the welfare, interests and well-being of the residents.

The Association is run by a committee of unpaid volunteers, who meet regularly to discuss issues affecting residents, and organize social events. Why not come along to our next one? It's one of our regular Tuesday Talks and takes place on 8th May when Rev Christine Musser will talk about her experiences as a new parish priest during the making of a TV documentary in Boscastle.

If you would like to join the Association (and receive every issue of The Village Voice), annual membership is just £5 per household and you can join by filling in the form overleaf, in person at any of our social events, or by calling 01483 533762.

OVRA's Tuesday Talks

OVRA runs a programme of talks throughout the year, mainly on the second Tuesday of the month (see overleaf for our social calendar).

In March, following the OVRA AGM at Onslow Village Hall, those attending were entertained with an unusual musical evening. Hannah Greenfield (below), Lead Hand Bell Ringer at All Saints' Church in the village, spoke about the history of bell ringing, from church bells to hand bells.



ONSLow VILLAGE ARCHIVE DAY

Saturday 15th September in the Small Hall, Onslow Village Hall, The Square 11am-4pm
Do you have any photos or documents or even fascinating facts relating to Onslow Village that you'd be prepared to add to our archive?

We are planning to expand our collection of photos and documents and eventually create a searchable, digitized archive, so if you have any photos, plans, documents or even personal reminiscences of Onslow Village that you'd be prepared to share with us, please bring them along to our Archive Day. We would welcome anything that relates to village life, whether it's from 90 years ago or just last year and we will be able to scan documents there and then, so you won't have to let any of your precious items out of your sight. We will also be displaying the panels put together for OVRA's 50th anniversary, so if you missed it last time round or you have moved into the village in the last few years, do come along and get a flavour of the history of Onslow Village.

In the meantime, please make a note of the date in your diary and why not start looking through your photo albums for anything you think would make a good addition to our archive!

For further details please ring Marian on 07720 945430.



An original notice for the foundation stone laying ceremony; a press cutting showing the event itself; and a photo showing residents lobbying for the village hall to be retained for the community after Onslow Village Ltd was wound up in 1984.

Summary of OVRA's 55th AGM 13th March 2012

The Chairman's and Committee's Reports covered the range of events put on during 2011. In February, members had enjoyed the very successful annual party, with music from the JJ Vinten Band, and in October, the film show by the Circle 8 Film Group. There had also been eight talks in our regular second Tuesday of the month slot.

A notable success reported was the footpath at the west end of High View Road as it had been taken under the control of CBC and was now administered by Epsom and Ewell Council. No. 616



She delighted the audience by playing a selection of music from Saint Saens to West Side Story. She then invited the audience to participate by handing out individual bell plates – a form of “bell ringing for beginners”. There followed an amusing but highly enjoyable finale to the evening.



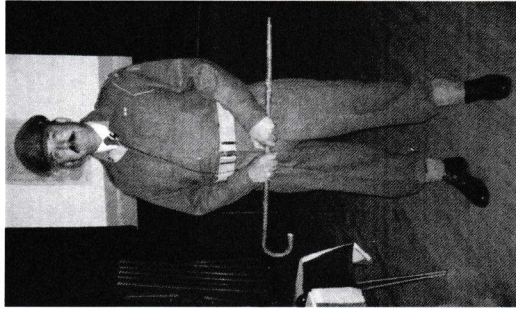
Our latest talk on 10th April, featured Henley Fort. Tim Richardson from Surrey County Council, who currently runs the History and Heritage programme at Henley Fort, gave a fascinating insight into the history and current use of this Victorian defence structure.

Dressed in the period military uniform of a Home Guard major (see *photo below*), and with highly informative illustrations, Tim explained that the fort was originally built in 1896 as one of a series of similar forts, protecting the natural gaps in The North Downs and stretching all the way to Chatham in Kent, which were designed to defend London against possible invasion by the French.

It was an impressive structure, with ammunition stores and its own water supply and there is little doubt it would have been a formidable obstacle to any advancing enemy. Fortunately there was no invasion and Henley Fort, along with the others in the defensive line, fell into disuse.

However, it survived to see active service again as the headquarters of the Surrey Home Guard during World War II. Tim revealed that following a radio broadcast calling for male volunteers aged 17 to 65 years, over 1,000 men attended Guildford Police Station to offer their services.

After a fascinating career in the RAF, the police service and most notably, as a member of Margaret Thatcher's personal protection team, Tim took a less hectic, but highly rewarding path in education and training at Henley Fort, which now serves as an Outdoor Education Centre providing unique opportunities for young people to 'learn-by-doing'. Under Tim's guidance the youngsters are invited to participate in "Home Front 1940".



The experiences of the young people at Henley Fort were shown in a series of very amusing slides as they wrestled with stirrup pumps and oversized “tin hats”. This outdoor experience gives a practical insight into the lives of those who lived during the second World War and in particular illustrates the duties of both the Home Guard and Air Raid Wardens as well as life in the Anderson Air Raid Shelters.



THE FINAL CURTAIN COMES DOWN ON ONSLOW VILLAGE THEATRE GROUP

If you are one of the many people in Onslow Village who have enjoyed the plays and pantomimes staged by the Curtain Raisers, you will no doubt be sorry to learn that the club is folding after 44 years, owing to a lack of manpower. During that time, the amateur theatrical group has put on more than 90 productions; an impressive record for a small, self-funded organisation. For the past few years, however, it has been running on a shoestring in terms of committee members and people to manage it, and it finally reached the stage of being impossible to continue unless more people came forward to help. An Extraordinary General Meeting was called in January to explain this to the members, but at the AGM on 1st March they voted by a clear majority in favour of closure.

The group was formed in 1968 when Alex Kerr, a resident of Abbot's Close and a former member of the Cambridge Footlights, persuaded a number of friends to become involved in a production staged in Queen Eleanor's School to raise funds to purchase curtains for the school stage – hence the name *Curtain Raisers*.

Alex Kerr's philosophy that “People can always do more than they think they can,” was an inspiration to many, and often whole families became involved. Some found themselves on stage for the very first time; children in particular, were given every encouragement to step out and display their talent. For some it started a lifelong interest in things theatrical and, in some families, three generations have been involved to date. A young Ben Elton made his stage debut with the Curtain Raisers in “A Dead Secret” in 1971. (He blossomed so well, he was almost pulled from the stage in the 1972 “Music Hall” for overstaying his time in the spotlight!) The rest, as they say, is history.

The club's committee and members are very sad that they have had to end its run, but they would like to make it clear that they really had no alternative.

Most of these activities were under the wise leadership of Joe Pais who died suddenly on 31st December. He joined the Committee in 2002 and between 2007 and his death he was variously Chairman and Acting Chairman. The Association flourished under his leadership and he worked tirelessly for it, indeed the day before he died, he was collecting raffle prizes for the next social evening. He undertook numerous charitable and other works and will be sorely missed

The Treasurer presented the accounts which were accepted by the meeting. Lesley Goode announced that members could now opt to pay for their subscription by bank transfer, using online or telephone banking (*see over*).

Memberships: there had been a small fall in membership, owing to a great deal of movement in and out of the village, but it was hoped that new members would be recruited in the coming year. The committee recommended that the subscription remain at £5 per household per annum.

The committee proposed two households for **Life Memberships:** Heather Godfrey has been a member of OVRA for many years and was a committee member from 1992 to 2002. She has been involved with the people of Africa and has had a showing of their art in Williams the Newsagent's window. She is still collecting used stamps for charity, which is mentioned in Recycling News overleaf.

Bill and Doreen Bellerby, who are Honorary Freemen of the Borough of Guildford and have lived in Onslow Village for many years, were also given life membership in recognition of their long and dedicated service, and also in celebration of their Platinum Wedding in June 2011.

Election of Officers & Committee Members: Eric Lawrence was elected as Chairman; the Secretary Sally Sparham and Treasurer Lesley Goode were only in their second year of a three-year term so were not up for re-election; and Maurice Bland, Angela Joule and Elizabeth Woodfield were willing to stand again as ordinary committee members. After many years on the committee between them, Eléonore Kouyoumjian, David Mowat, Theresa Ratcliffe and Marian de Kretser stood down, there were therefore six vacancies. Fortunately the call for volunteers had had a good response and the following were proposed and elected: John Empringham, Dennis Hurkett, Anthony Jacques, Wendy Hughes, Sigmund Homar and Sue Hawkins.

Finally, in **Any Other Business** the question was raised about whether OVRA would be organising a Diamond Jubilee event, and although Joe Pais had spoken to the vicar of All Saints' about the possibility of a joint event, there was some confusion about the outcome, so Eric resolved to clarify it (*see over*).

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 07720 945430. **Next copy date:** 11th June for publication end June/early July.

RECYCLING NEWS

More plastic? Fantastic!

As of 23 April, we are able to put more items in our green bins. The additional items for collection are:

- Plastic tubs, pots and trays including ice cream, yoghurt and margarine containers
- Carrier bags
- Tetra-pack foil-lined drinks cartons
- Straws and bottle caps (all plastic and metal)
- Clean and dry aluminium foil
- Paper cups and paperback books

I have asked GBC questions, which I hope will provide some additional information:

Q. How will the collectors determine whether a plastic bag is full of clothes or full of plastic bags?

A. Our staff are asked to judge that by putting a toe on the bag; they learn to feel the sound and 'give' of the bag. Then picking it up can generally confirm its contents.

Q. Should bottle tops (plastic and metal) be loose in the green bin?

A. Tetra-pack foil lined drinks containers and plastic bottles take up less space in the green box and when transporting when they are squashed, then putting the lids on stops them springing back into shape. Other caps and tops can be put in loose.

Q. Should tetra-packs be crushed if possible?

A. As above.

Q. Where will the recycling be sent; if it is to an MRF (Materials Recovery Facilities) does that mean no sorting needs to be done at the kerbside?

A. The recycling will go to an MRF, however glass will continue to be sorted at the kerbside and removed.

Recycle your used stamps

Cut out used stamps (UK and World) leaving 1 inch around if possible. Do not tear them.

Please drop them at 7 Hedgeway. They will be given to USPG (United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel) who will sell them on. They raised about £1,000 in 2011. Thank you.

Guildford Evening Decorative & Fine Arts Society at Onslow Village Hall

May is our **GEDFAS 30th Anniversary Lecture** which is only open to GEDFAS members and invited guests.

Our final lecture is on the 13th of June 2012. The lecture is on Lucian Freud "Paintings to astonish, disturb, seduce and convince" by Frank Woodgate, lecturer, who is a guide at Tate and Dulwich Galleries. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8 o'clock start. Venue: Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Road, Guildford GU2 7QR, visitors' fee: £10

For membership contact Lyn Blatchford on 07817 135189

Vivace Chorus

Jubilee Celebration

OVRA members are invited to join the Big Lunch in Vicarage Gate on Sunday 3rd June at 12.30pm. Take a chair and lunch.

Changes in The Square

Since our last issue, "Molly's Teashop" in The Square has opened and word has it that it is has become a popular place to meet for a cuppa and a chat, and serves a delicious range of sandwiches and cakes.

Sadly, while "Molly's" flourishes, we have lost a shop a couple of doors away. "Daisy's", which sold nearly-new clothes and toys, and carried on where "Seasons" left off, has closed. So far we haven't heard of what is likely to take its place, but if and when we do, we will publish details.

OVRA SOCIAL CALENDAR

All events take place in the Village Hall: complimentary refreshments are served from 7.15pm, talks begin at 7.45pm. Entry is FREE for OVRA members, non-members are welcome at £3 each.

Tue 8th May: Filming and Floods Experiences as a new parish priest during the making of a TV documentary in Boscastle; the floods and the aftermath.

Speaker: Reverend Christine Musser.

Tue 12th Jun: The Life of a Lady Bailiff One of the very few female bailiffs in the country recounts her experiences. Speaker: Jean Haynes.

Tue 10th Jul: My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen The life of an international toastmaster. Speaker: Tony Forward.

Tue 11th Sep: Why Invent?? A Lifetime of Invention A talk by the inventor of the wind-up radio. Speaker: Trevor Baylis.

Sat 13th Oct: Eyes Down for a Bingo Evening! Look out for details and ticket prices.

Tue 13th Nov: Beyond Candleford Green What happened to Flora Thomson, the author of 'Lark Rise to Candleford' after she left Candleford Green. Speaker: John Owen Smith.

2013

Tue 8th Jan: Surrey Search and Rescue Dogs
Speaker: Warren van der Merwe.

Sat 9th Feb: Annual Party Look out for details and ticket prices.

Tue 12th Mar: AGM + Talk: The Watercress Line
Speaker: Derek Seaton.

Information is correct at date of printing, but may be subject to change - please look out for future publicity or ring 07720 945430 to check.

Want to join us?

Onslow Village Garden Club

We will be holding our 7th Annual **TABLE TOP SALE** in Onslow Village Hall on Saturday 12th May 2012 from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

- Plants - Cakes - Books - Cards - Jewellery - Jigsaws**
- Raffle - Refreshments - Competition and much more**

Further details or to book a table please 'phone Anne Bradbeer on 01483 563421

DO COME ALONG!

Onslow Village Pop-up Shop

The first Onslow Pop-Up Shop was held on the 29th of March 2012 in Onslow Village Hall. It was a great chance for many people to sell their unwanted quality goods, such as clothes, toys, books etc and to get together for a cup of tea! The sad closing of "Daisy's" was when my mum and her close friend Corinne came up with the idea, it took some time to come up with a name for it!

There are lots of people without whose generosity, this whole fun get-together wouldn't have happened, such as those who kindly donated: cakes, raffle prizes and their own time to help. Without them we wouldn't have been able to raise just under £175. WOW! The charity we have given the funds to is Meg who fosters children in Zimbabwe.

By Amy Heaphy (aged 11)

Jo says that she's thinking of running another pop-up shop, possibly in September/October - look out for details.

Traffic islands

Our headline in the last issue of *The Village Voice* referring to the clearance of the traffic islands in Curling Vale, apparently caused some consternation, in case it was a sign that all the shrubs were to be removed and the islands grassed over.

To set the record straight, as far as OVRA is aware there are no plans to do anything at all to these areas (one at the junction with Thornbank, the other at the junction with Friars Gate) but the committee would like to talk to Guildford Borough Council about how they might be renovated, especially with a view to improving sight lines to make it safer for vehicles turning out of the junctions.

A straw poll of residents who live near the islands showed that the preference is for the shrubs to be retained as

7.30 pm Guildford Cathedral
6.30 pm Pre-concert talk
 Tourist Information 01483 444334
 Michael Taylor 07958 519 743
 or purchase on our website
www.chorus.org
 Registered Charity No. 204537

Tickets £11-£22 from Tourist Information 01483 444334

Home-Start Guildford

Sometimes it's tough being a parent. Your help could make all the difference.

Home-Start Guildford is a family support charity covering the whole of the borough of Guildford. We provide home-visiting volunteers to support families who are struggling to cope, with at least one child under five. Examples of difficulties might be: post natal depression, illness/disability (of parent or child), multiple births, family breakdown, and financial worries.

We believe that parents are key in creating a secure and happy environment for their children. They may need emotional or practical support to give their children the best possible start in life. That's where we come in - and you could too!

- can you spare a few hours each week to help a family with young children?
- are you interested in learning new skills on our friendly, free, volunteer training course?

Our next volunteer course starts in Sept 2012, and we are recruiting now! INTERESTED? Please call Liz on 01483 511181, or email office@hsguildford.org.uk for more info.

Parents supporting other parents - a simple idea that really works.

www.hsguildford.org.uk Registered Charity 1054644

long as regular maintenance can be arranged, but this is where the stumbling block lies. In 2004 GBC provided a planting scheme, along with plants and materials, and OVRA members assisted with the planting, but the committee couldn't commit to providing long-term maintenance. In the early days, GBC arranged for mulches to be applied and have occasionally sent a team to reduce the plants in height, but these areas could really do with some proper horticultural attention to make them look as originally intended.

A committee member will be contacting GBC and any progress will be reported in future issues of *The Village Voice*.

Our thanks, by the way, to Bernard Parke for the information that the silver birch tree on the Thornbank triangle was planted at the time of the Queen's Silver Jubilee by the late Hon Alderman Pamela Harding.



To join OVRA, simply fill in the form below. You can also use it if you haven't yet renewed your membership which expired on 31 March. Please mark the envelope: **OVRA Membership**.

Alternatively, come along to one of our talks or social events and join there. **Go on, give us a try!**

NEW! We can now accept membership subscriptions by bank transfer: please contact Lesley by email or telephone to receive details of the bank account numbers and a unique identifier. Phone 01483 533762 or email ovrasec@gmail.com



OVRA on Facebook and Twitter

Facebook: search for "Onslow Village Residents Association"

Twitter: find us at <http://twitter.com/OVRA>

VILLAGE VOICE 28 REPLY SLIP

Name:

Address:

Telephone no:

Email address:

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

Membership (runs from 1 April '12 - 31 March '13)

I would like to join/renew my membership and enclose £5 per household. (Please make cheques payable to OVRA).

Comments/views/suggestions:

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Please hand this form in at any OVRA social event, send it to the OVRA Membership Secretary, 68 High View Road, Guildford GU2 7RU or one of the addresses listed below, or email your comments to ovra.news@ntlworld.com.

- 22 Manor Way
- 17 The Crossways
- 2 West Meads
- 57 Curling Vale
- 68 High View Road
- 21 Hedgeway
- 41 Hedgeway
- 17 Windsor Close

