

## We are OVRA (Onslow Village Residents Association)

As this edition of our newsletter is going to all households in Onslow Village, it was thought to be a good idea to remind members and nonmembers alike what OVRA is all about, and what it can and cannot do. The objects of the Association are splendidly all-embracing (as these things should be). To quote from the rules:

*“The objects of the Association shall be to safeguard the amenities of Onslow Village and to promote the welfare, interests and well-being of its residents.”*

Building on this we encourage all households in the village to take up membership (which is a very modest fiver a year). You’ll know if you’re in the village because you’ll get this newsletter. Those outside the boundaries have the option of associate membership.

- We hold regular talks on a wide variety of general interest topics, and usually a couple of parties each year, such as the one in February when we were entertained by Claire Phoenix and her band (pictured right). Members get **FREE** entry to the talks and reduced ticket prices for the social events.



- We have close relations with our local councillors, with other leading figures in the community and with the local retailers.
- We are not a political organisation, but we do have an interest in local politics, because that phrase

- We produce a **FREE** quarterly newsletter, The Village Voice which is delivered right to members’ doors. – so that is the way in which we promote the welfare and well-being of residents (see objects quoted left), and we want to do more of it.

On an ongoing basis:-

- We aim to be the conduit (or an extra conduit) to the borough council on any common issues affecting the village; be it parking, litter, pot holes, footpaths, rat runs, street lighting, planning, safer driving, road signage, bike lanes, new development and so on.
- We are already active within the newly formed Guildford Residents Associations Federation in discussions with council leaders over the North Street plan, Waitrose, the possible station development, Manor Park development, traffic problems, the see-saw argument of more retail space versus more affordable housing – in fact the whole gamut of the campaign to ensure the council adopts a more holistic approach to the town.
- We want to develop more into a forum for discussion, a sounding board for the community, and a voice for all residents on any local issues of common concern.
- That said, we do not desire or plan to become a quasi-parish council.
- We aim for a more even balance between our fun and serious sides!

**If you’d like more information about OVRA, please ring Sally on 01483 564160. To join, please complete the form overleaf or come to our next event: it’s**

## Forthcoming Events



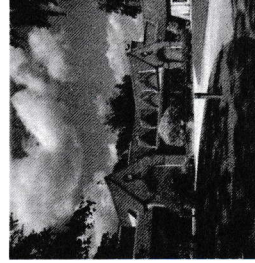
**Tue 9th Apr: Surrey Air Ambulance: A Charity that Saves Lives** Graeme Horne will talk about its history, what it provides, the types of call outs and the costs involved in running this vital service.



**Tue 14th May: Guildford’s Street Angels** Annie Cox will tell the story behind “Street Angels”; its beginnings, ethos, nightlife in Guildford and the role that Street Angels play.



**Tue 11th Jun: An Evening of Hog’s Back Beers** Mel Rees will talk about the history and development of the brewery and its products. There will be an opportunity to sample four different beers, as well as a raffle for some of the beers produced.

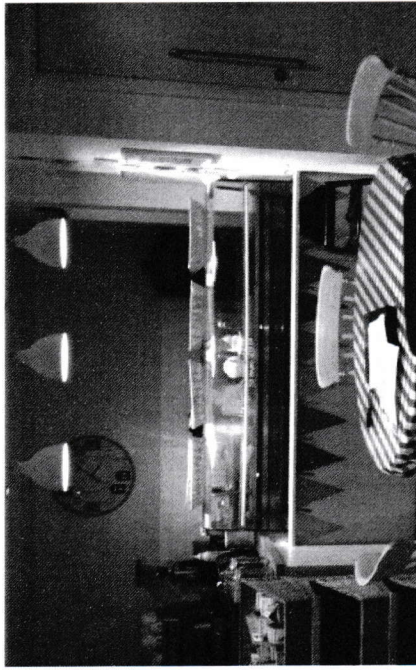


**Tue 9th Jul: Watts Gallery and its Exhibitions** Jennifer Roberts will describe the history of Watts and the Gallery, its restoration, Mary Watts and the Chapel, Limnerslease and its future.

All held in The Village Hall in Wilderness Road, Onslow Village GU2 7QR. Talks begin at 7.45pm with complimentary

...ways covers almost everything that local government does in a community.

## The welcome return of Molly's Teashop...



We are pleased to see that Molly's has reopened after a short break. The coffee shop has been taken over by Anthony and Sophie who live locally and whose children attend the local schools.

Anthony also owns Riverside Fish Bar that has been in his family since 1967 and is located in Bellfields, and some residents may remember their second shop that was located on the Madrid Road parade but sadly closed 12 years ago following the passing of Anthony's grandfather.

Anthony and Sophie have employed Lee, whom many of us are very fond of, to continue with the supervision of the shop. They are retaining many of those established favourite dishes as well as introducing cooked breakfasts that have proved very popular on these cold mornings as well as some traditional British fare. They provide take away sandwiches, hot drinks and cakes which are a welcome facility for staff working in the shopping parade.

So please continue to support this local enterprise as it is a wonderful addition to the village, and a great place to relax with family and friends over a hot or cold drink and freshly cooked meal served by people who have become our friends.

Dennis Hurkett

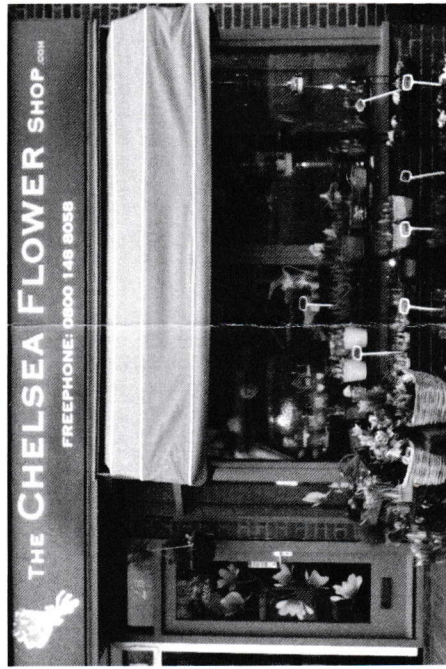
only £5 to join up your whole household. Or just come along as a visitor for £3 each. See you there!

## ...and a belated welcome to The Chelsea Flower Shop

Since opening the doors of their new Guildford store in The Square last November, the owners of The Chelsea Flower Shop have been amazed and delighted with the fantastic response, not only from local customers in Onslow Village, but also from those all around Guildford and right across Surrey.

Owner Marion Downer has a background in interior design and her eye for design can be seen not only in the store's décor but also in the stylish array of gifts on offer alongside the beautiful flowers.

Marion said "Thank you to all our new customers for helping to make our Guildford store a great success and a special thank you to those in Onslow Village and Guildford; it's been a real pleasure to have been of service to you. The local enthusiasm and support has been truly amazing and a number of local customers have even told their relatives about us. In one case, they travelled up to 30 miles to visit the shop and buy flowers from us."



OVRA is keen to support the shops in The Square, so if you own or run one of them and you have any news our readers would be interested to hear, please contact The Village Voice c/o 17 Friars Gate GU2 7PQ or email [ovra.news@ntlworld.com](mailto:ovra.news@ntlworld.com)

OVRA members, nonmembers welcome at £3 each. Information is correct at date of printing, but may be subject to change - please look out for future publicity.

## RECENT TUESDAY TALKS

### Surrey Search & Rescue Team

Our speaker was Warren van der Merwe who, accompanied by two other members of the team and his dog Zazu, gave us a very detailed description of the life of a volunteer and the training programme for themselves and the dogs. They train regularly with or without their dogs giving many days of their time and are on call 24 hours a day to respond across Surrey and surrounding areas.

I was amazed to hear they do not receive any funding or expenses and rely entirely on donations from the public and fund raising. The evening was very well attended and many members did give donations.

Siegmund Homar

### The Mid Hants Railway (the 'Watercress Line')

Derek Seaton gave a comprehensive talk on this local preserved steam railway which runs from Alresford to Alton. Part of the national network from 1865-1973, it got its name from the local produce which by dint of the railway could be in London hotels and restaurants on the day of picking.

Registered as a charity, under the listing of 'heritage railway', it has grown over 40 years from a small group of men who liked playing with trains, to a company with a tiny paid staff, but nearly 500 volunteers.

The costs involved are vast, hence the railway is always thinking of ways of bringing families (children especially) back for further days out on the line. Thomas the Tank Engine is almost always there, except when he goes on holiday (quite profitably sometimes) to other railways. For adults looking for a different evening out, the Watercress Belle provides a full silver service dinner on selected Saturday evenings in the summer.

Further information is available on their website:

[www.watercressline.co.uk](http://www.watercressline.co.uk)

Anthony Jacques

## Letter to the Editor

I refer to the article in the Village Voice about the road traffic accidents occurring in Queen Eleanor's Road. Clearly the concrete road surface needs dealing with since these surfaces are notoriously poor.

One hopes that the police are taking some action against these drivers. For instance has Sergeant Davis done his best to make sure that someone has gone to court for the accident on 12th November? After all it is the driver that causes the accident and if enough of them were prosecuted with the appropriate publicity that in itself would have an effect. The police do let us down when it comes to prosecuting this type of incident.

A 20mph speed limit would clearly be appropriate during school times but could not be justified at 3am in the morning for instance. The ideal situation would be a flexible 20mph limit with illuminated signs that



could be enforced by the police only when the signs are flashing at appropriate times of day. This would leave the road with the normal 30mph limit during other periods. If that were possible and the surface improved things might improve. It might be that Traffic Regulations do not allow for this, but it would be ideal.

It is quite possible that the accident that occurred on 7th December could have been contributed to by the parents themselves whose parking leaves a

lot to be desired and is quite selfish. I know that the Headmaster is not impressed but some parents just do not seem to care. I am sure that many of those parents could walk their children to school.

G Richings  
Elmside

Mr Richings also sent a copy of an article from a motoring supplement, suggesting that although speed humps do slow down traffic, drivers then tend to use excessive acceleration in between and the resulting vibrations, from HGVs and buses in particular, have been blamed for causing cracks to appear in walls. Speed tables are also known to cause damage to the inner walls of car tyres. It seems there is no simple solution to this problem, but it is only by sheer luck that no one has been seriously injured as a result of the incidents so far. Action is clearly required before the luck runs out.

## 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](mailto:ovra.news@ntlworld.com) or send to The Village Voice c/o 17 Friars Gate, Guildford GU2 7PQ.

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

### Onslow Village Garden Club

We are now well into 2013, and gardens have sprung into life.

Our first two speakers of the year conveyed their enthusiasm for their subjects of "Butterflies and Moths" and "Flower Shows can be fun." Some of the good tips for presenting flowers to advantage were used in the March Show, which was mainly for bulbs.

Opportunities to compete with pot plants and flower arrangements present themselves at all our shows.

The Garden Club's next meeting on 17th April, will be held as usual at the Village Hall at 7.30pm. The subject is "Bees in your Garden", while the one on May 15th sounds ever-more intriguing

### Vivace Chorus: The Best of British

On Saturday 25th May we're singing ever popular Chilcott and Rutter, as well as a piece by Guildford's own Will Todd whose music was played at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee service, and a piece by Military Wives' favourite, Paul Mealor, which was sung at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. We will be joined by the excellent Farnham Youth Choir and with the wonderful Brandenburg Sinfonia and a free pre-concert talk at 6.30pm, be sure not to miss this concert.

**Saturday 25th May 7.30 pm**

**Guildford Cathedral**

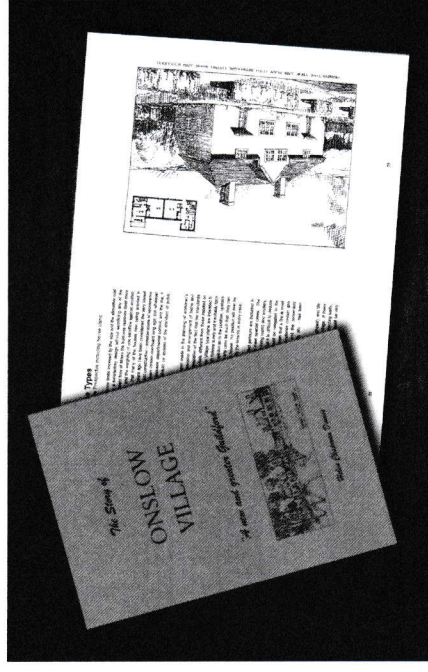
6.30 pm free pre-concert talk

Vivace Chorus

Farnham Youth Choir

## ON SALE NOW: THE STORY OF ONSLOW VILLAGE

by Helen Chapman Davies



We have taken delivery of a new supply of these booklets, which describe the fascinating history of the village and what preceded it. To purchase, please send a cheque for £2 per copy to OVRA c/o 17 Friars Gate, Guildford GU2 7PQ; include your name and address and

The Brandenburg Sinfonia  
John Rutter: *Mass of the Children*  
Bob Chilcott: *Requiem*  
Paul Mealor: *Ubi caritas at amor*  
Will Todd: *Angel Song II*

**Tickets:** £12-£24 from Tourist Information G 444334 or purchase on our website: [vivacechorus.org](http://vivacechorus.org)

### LOCAL CHARITIES LOOKING FOR YOUR HELP

#### Oakleaf

Oakleaf is the only mental health charity in Surrey working as a social enterprise to provide vocational training for those suffering from mental health issues.

We are looking for a new trustee to join the charity who has previous marketing experience and knowledge surrounding social media. If you are interested please contact Clive Stone on 01483 303649

[www.oakleaf-enterprise.org](http://www.oakleaf-enterprise.org)

#### Care for Guildford

Care for Guildford offers help, mostly for the elderly, with such things as transport, shopping or small jobs in the house.

If you know someone we could help, do spread the word and if you think you could give a little time please call us Monday to Friday 9am-1pm or 2-4pm on 01483 566 635.

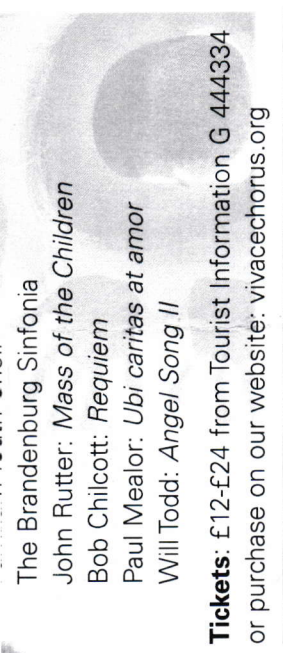
[www.careforguildford.org.uk](http://www.careforguildford.org.uk)

#### Home-Start Guildford

Home-Start Guildford is a family support charity covering the whole of the borough of Guildford, and we are looking for new volunteers.

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? Please call Liz on 01483 511181 or email [office@hsguildford.org.uk](mailto:office@hsguildford.org.uk) for more info.

[www.hsguildford.org.uk](http://www.hsguildford.org.uk)

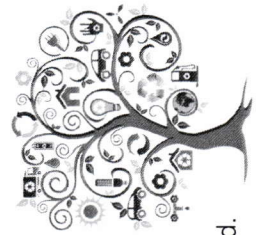


### Recycling News

Do you still have boxes that held Easter eggs lying around? Last year, a report into their packaging concluded that overall, the egg itself took up just 38% of the box; a figure which had not changed from the previous year.

Luxury eggs from some major producers continued to use plastic packaging that most local authorities don't recycle, leaving consumers confused as to what should be binned or recycled. However, Nestlé became the first major confectioner to make its full Easter range 100% recyclable. The best one can do as a concerned consumer is to shop carefully and not be beguiled by loads of packaging into thinking the product is any better.

And on the subject of chocolate, it has its own pitfalls such as the overuse of pesticides, use of trafficked, child or slave labour. In Ghana and the Ivory Coast, which supply 75% of the world's cocoa market, there is extreme poverty and some very dubious work practices, so try to choose ethical chocolate that uses cocoa independently certified to have been harvested without the use of forced, child or trafficked labour. Certification such as Fairtrade or Rainforest Alliance Certified guarantee these and a fairer deal for farmers as they independently certify that the goods and services were



produced without exploitation of humans, animals or the natural environment. Fairtrade agrees to pay farmers a fair price for their crops. Organic will also ensure that pesticides have not been used.

### If you have anything for the OVRA Archive, or you have any comments, views and suggestions...

...please speak to a committee member at any of the events (they're the ones wearing name badges!), write to The Village Voice c/o 17 Friars Gate, Guildford GU2 7PQ or email [ovra.news@ntlworld.com](mailto:ovra.news@ntlworld.com)



### OVRA on Facebook and Twitter

**Facebook:** search for "Onslow Village Residents Association"  
**Twitter:** find us at [http://twitter.com/OVRA\\_](http://twitter.com/OVRA_)

### VILLAGE VOICE 32 REPLY SLIP

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

### Membership (runs from 1 April '13 – 31 March '14)

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

Please hand this form in at any OVRA social event or send it to the OVRA Membership Secretary at 22 Manor Way, Guildford GU2 7RN.