



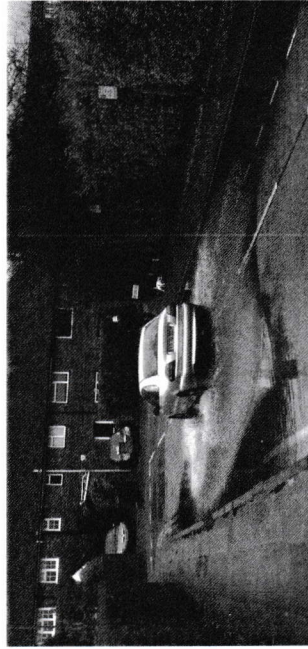
Don't forget to look at our website! [www.surreycommunity.info/ovra/](http://www.surreycommunity.info/ovra/)

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

THE NEWSLETTER OF ONSLOW VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION – ISSUE THIRTY FIVE JANUARY 2014

## A Happy New Year to all our members!

The New Year blew in in a fury, with Britain being battered by wind and rain. As owners of properties next to the River Wey count the cost of flood damage, in Onslow Village the worst effect seems to have been an excess of surface water in Queen Eleanor's Road (below).



### Who'd be a town planner?

No doubt the recent flooding will have given Guildford Borough Council (GBC) extra food for thought as they study the responses they've had from residents and businesses about the Local Plan. Not only is there growing pressure to find sites for thousands of new homes, there is also a need to ensure that they aren't in areas prone to flooding, or exacerbate the problems caused by surface water run-off.

A number of sites already earmarked for development in the borough were partly under water recently, including the long-awaited Slyfield Area Regeneration Project, which would include a thousand homes.

Another headache for the planners is the Flood Act of 2010 which was introduced to oblige builders to landscape developments so that water from roofs and driveways would seep in to open ground, rather than running in to (and sometimes overwhelming) the drainage system. There has

The Save Hogs Back campaign was started to oppose this development on the basis that it is in the Green Belt and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, although the University of Surrey maintains that the site in question isn't part of the Hog's Back at all.

Campaigners for the protection of Green Belt land stress the need to make use of brownfield sites before considering other options, so they may be encouraged that GBC extended the deadline for the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment until 10 January.

According to an article on *The Guildford Dragon's* website, under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) a planning authority, in this case GBC, must use the SHLAA to establish realistic assumptions about the availability, suitability and the likely economic viability of land to meet the identified need for housing over the period of our new Local Plan.

A council spokesperson is quoted as saying: "A number of new opportunities have emerged through the current call for sites and through our recent consultation on the Issues and Options for the new Local Plan.

*"We want to maximise the use of previously developed areas known as brownfield sites, down to and including those capable of accommodating one new home."*

There is some good news for the planners; GBC received £1.5 million under the New Homes Bonus scheme, which is awarded for overseeing an increase in the housing supply, including both development of new homes and bringing long-term-empty homes back in to use. GBC delivered 255 new homes, of which 22 were 'affordable'. The NHB grant will be put into the general fund, which supports affordable housing development, private sector housing and the planning service.

### What's been going on at OVRA? The Mount Cemetery

The speaker scheduled to give the talk in November was unfortunately unwell, so we were delighted that Roger Nicholas was able to take his place at short notice.

Roger, a very experienced Guildford guide, entertained more than 50 members of the Association with an illustrated talk on The Mount Cemetery.

With urban churchyards overflowing, the Burial Act of 1853 required town councils to purchase and maintain land for use as municipal cemeteries. The land on The Mount was bought from Dr James Steadman for £1,600 and opened in 1856.

Roger told his audience numerous stories of Guildford folk buried there, and it was fascinating to see how many of their businesses are still represented by successor firms in the town. Among people mentioned was Alexander Asher, the founder of the Surrey Advertiser!

Other characters mentioned were General Frank Maxwell, a Boer War VC, who eventually died doing something equally reckless in France in 1917, and Sir Michael Abbott, a typical 'nabob' of the East India Company, who retired to Guildford – he claimed (supposedly) descent from George Abbott.

The most famous, and most visited, grave though is that of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, better known as Lewis Carroll, the writer of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. He died during a visit to Guildford, despite having lived almost all his life in Oxford.

Roger kindly donated his fee to the Philippines emergency appeal, and a collection among attendees made a very tidy sum to send to this vital cause.

Anthony Jacques

been a four-year delay in implementing this policy because of objections from developers, although it now seems that a deal has been reached over who pays to maintain any new anti-flood landscape features.

Consultations about the Local Plan, and the University of Surrey's plans to build a 'Garden Neighbourhood' on Blackwell Farm, have raised fears about erosion of the Green Belt.

For up-to-date information on these and many other local issues, visit The Guildford Dragon: the online newspaper for Guildford, at [guildford-dragon.com](http://guildford-dragon.com).

The University of Surrey has published a 'vision document' for the proposed development: search the web for 'University of Surrey garden neighbourhood' or look for the November 2013 press releases at [www2.surrey.ac.uk/mediacentre/press/](http://www2.surrey.ac.uk/mediacentre/press/)

# An Evening of Magic and Disbelief!

**BOOK NOW for OVRA's Annual Party which will be held on Saturday 8th February at the Village Hall.**

Be prepared to be baffled and delighted by magician Tony Peach, who will be providing the entertainment. Ex Coldstream Guards and Surrey Police, Tony is a long-standing member of the Magic Circle and a founder member of the Surrey Society of Magicians and will entertain with an evening of spell-binding magic. He will perform "cabaret" tricks, tricks while on the move and then approach the tables with tricks to watch really carefully.

The evening will include a complimentary drink and a fish and chip supper; a licensed bar will be provided and there will be a raffle.

Any profits from the evening will be donated to Onslow Ward (oncology and haematology inpatient ward) at the Royal Surrey County Hospital.

**Tickets:** £15 for members and £17 for nonmembers. Call 01483 300360, complete the form overleaf, email [ovraticketsales@gmail.com](mailto:ovraticketsales@gmail.com) or buy from The Chelsea Flower Shop, 2b The Square.

**Buy your tickets now, before they all disappear!**



**If you haven't attended any of our Tuesday Talks or Saturday Socials, now you know what you've been missing! Don't forget that entry to the talks is free for OVRA members!**

*Here's what's coming up in the next few months...*

## Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 14th January

### Late Georgian Guildford

The speaker Roger Nicholas is a Guildford Town Guide. His talk will cover the period from the end of the Napoleonic Wars to the accession of Queen Victoria, including buildings of interest, life in the town and some of the personalities of the time.

Undoubtedly, this talk should add greatly to our knowledge of Guildford, showing us a side of our town of which few of us will be aware.

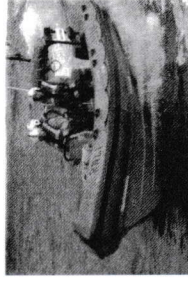
Saturday 8th February

### An Evening of Magic and Disbelief (see left)

Tuesday 11th March

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING + "It's Not All at Sea" - a talk about the RNLI

All members are encouraged to attend the AGM and let the committee know how they would like to be represented. Afterwards, Collin Brown, a volunteer Educational Presenter for the RNLI, will explain how the



modern RNLI continues to provide the world's finest marine rescue service entirely funded by voluntary subscription. With video clips and pictures, Collin assures us that we will get a greater understanding of RNLI operations, equipment and training reinforced with real-life stories.

Includes complimentary wine plus usual refreshments.

All events are held in The Village Hall in Wilderness Road, Onslow Village GU2 7QR. Tuesday Talks begin at 7.45pm with complimentary refreshments served from 7.15pm. Entry is FREE for OVRA members, nonmembers welcome at £3 each.

### If you have any comments, views or suggestions...

...including ideas for content for our website, please speak to a committee member at any of our events, write to The Village Voice c/o 17 Friars Gate, Guildford GU2 7PQ or email [ovra.news@ntlworld.com](mailto:ovra.news@ntlworld.com)

## A Tribute to Antony Francis

Antony died suddenly in early December aged 62 at his home in Aldershot, but many of you will have known him because he worked for so long for Williams Brothers, who own the newsgagents in The Square. This tribute is by Michael Williams.

*That Williams Brothers has lasted over 100 years and for four generations is because of our extended family of loyal staff.*

*Antony Francis was an outstanding member of that family, a wonderfully honest and good man, and so good to work with. Antony worked for my Dad Austin, then me, and now my sons Mark and Paul for over 45 years.*

*He supported Portsmouth and Aldershot. He was as loyal to us, as he was to Pompey after Harry Redknapp went. Yes, that loyal!*

*From school in 1967 young Antony Francis was recruited to help Horace Madgwick (ex-Queen Eleanor's Road) in our very busy North Street newsgagents. Horace knew all about the Francis family. He married one, Vera, who is still fit and living in Burpham.*

*Our people give their energy at the crack of dawn whatever the weather to the newspaper readers of Guildford.*

*Antony didn't mind the early starts and pitched in with his 'can do' attitude which has lasted all these years. He knew the habits of hundreds of our customers, and a comment from one sums him up perfectly 'Antony was an unseen but vital part of our lives'.*

*He rarely took a holiday, rarely made a mistake, or rarely complained, and it is so hard to accept he is not coming to work tomorrow.*

**Michael Williams**

# Safeguard Coaches' 90th Anniversary Open Day

Saturday 29 March 2014, 10am to 4pm

The event will be opened by the Mayor of Guildford. There will be no admission charge.

We expect to have:

- Family entertainment from live band to face painting, bouncy castle, tombola, lucky dip, bus washing etc
- BBQ and specially commissioned Safeguard Ale for consumption and sale
- Free heritage bus rides to/from the Bus Station, Cathedral and the new Onslow Park & Ride
- Buses and coaches, new and old, on display
- Launch of a new book celebrating the company's first 90 years, with the author on hand to sign books and more.....!

This is a 100% charity event and all proceeds will be donated 50% to GOSH and 50% to the British Heart Foundation.

We are situated at the junction of Ridgemount and Guildford Park Road, postcode GU2 7TH, behind Direct Pharmacy. There will be no parking on site.

As a local company – even institution – I hope many from Onslow Village will come and celebrate with us.

More information available from [www.intotown.co.uk](http://www.intotown.co.uk), [sales@safeguardcoaches.co.uk](mailto:sales@safeguardcoaches.co.uk) or 01483 561103 from late January 2014.



## 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:** 14th March for publication in early April.

### RSPB

The RSPB Guildford & District Local Group meets in Onslow Village Hall each month September–May each year generally on the 2nd Thursday (afternoon) and 4th Wednesday (evening).

#### Forthcoming meetings:

*Wednesday, 22 January starting at 7.45 pm*  
Natural History of the North Norfolk Coast – talk by enthusiastic ornithologist Jonathan Forgham.

*Thursday, 13 February starting at 2.15 pm*  
Local members Philip and Linda Koniotes will talk about Our Garden and its Wildlife.

*Wednesday, 26 February starting at 7.45 pm*  
Alan Davies and Ruth Miller tell us about The Biggest Twitch – a year-long world trip to try to beat the largest number of birds seen in a year.

*Thursday, 13 March starting at 2.15 pm*  
Mike Clarke, Chief Executive of the RSPB will update us with the latest developments and thinking at the RSPB.

*Wednesday, 26 March starting at 7.45 pm*  
Ace photographer Chris Ward will discuss the ever popular destination of Costa Rica.

Conversations started on [streetlife.com](http://streetlife.com) have helped unite lost pets with owners, expose doorstep scammers, save threatened public services and recall local history. The site is also encouraging real-world friendships, with neighbours sharing gardening equipment, IT advice and dentist recommendations, organising craft groups, street parties and book clubs.

[Streetlife.com](http://Streetlife.com) has just launched in Onslow Village, and everyone – residents, groups, local government representatives and businesses – is invited to share their knowledge, discuss the local issues they care about, and help build a stronger, better connected community.

Sign up at [www.streetlife.com](http://www.streetlife.com) with your postcode and email address

- You'll automatically be linked to the people and conversations where you live
- You can post messages, events, polls and pictures, and locals will be able to respond
- You can customise your account so you control how often you receive local updates

Get involved and join the conversation on [streetlife.com](http://streetlife.com).

**Vivace Chorus**

The Kruger Park – Birdwatchers' Paradise is the topic for local member Ludi Lochner's talk.

Membership of the group is open to all RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) members, and visitors are welcome at any meeting (£3.00 at the door).

All information on our activities: [rspb.org.uk/groups/guildford](http://rspb.org.uk/groups/guildford)  
 email: [gadcom2010@gmail.com](mailto:gadcom2010@gmail.com), tel: 01372 467074.

### Streetlife.com

A new local community website for Onslow Village! Streetlife.com, the local social network, has a simple aim: to help people make the most of where they live by connecting with their neighbours.

The website provides a free and easy place to share local news, views, recommendations and resources, enabling people with busy routines or reduced mobility to keep in touch with their community.

**Sing** Bernstein's Chichester Psalms and Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb with the Vivace Chorus.

Registration is at 10am for 10.30am start. All you need is a love of singing and choral music and £20 – drinks, homemade soup, a ploughman's lunch and music hire are all included. Tel: 01428 727401 or go to [vivacechorus.org](http://vivacechorus.org) for more details and to download an application form.

## BOOKING FORM FOR ONSLOW VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL PARTY ON SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2014

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

- Name(s): ..... Address: .....
- Name(s): ..... Address: .....
- Name(s): ..... Address: .....
- Name(s): ..... Address: .....
- Name(s): ..... Address: .....

(Continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

Number of tickets required for Members (list names above): ..... @ £15 each      £.....  
 Number of tickets required for Nonmembers: ..... @ £17 each      £.....

**Total payment enclosed:** £.....

Return the completed form and payment to OVRA, c/o 2 West Meads, Guildford GU2 7SS by **1st February**.

*NB: Tickets will be delivered to the first person on the list.*

If you have any queries about your tickets, please ring 01483 300360.

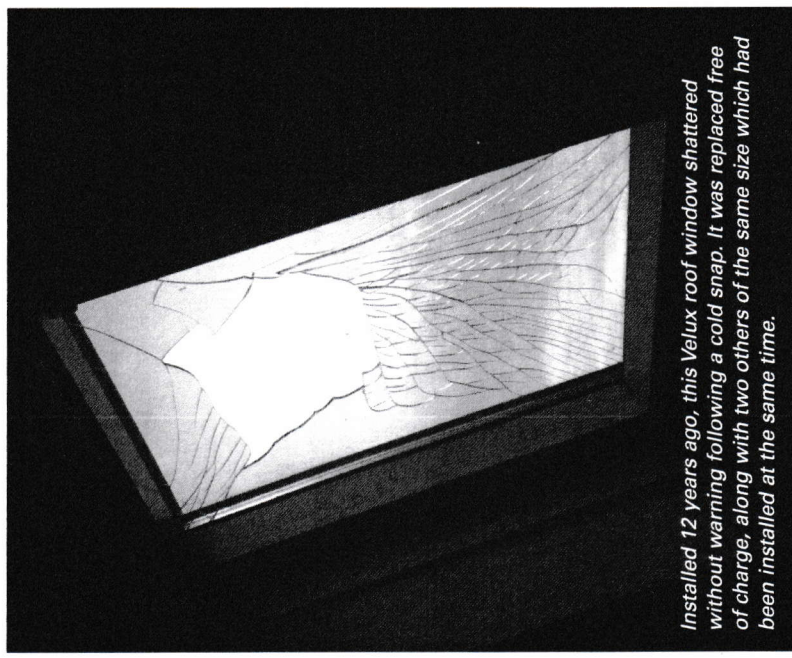
## Smashing!

If you have any Velux windows measuring 39cm wide or less, be advised that Velux has issued a product warning following a spate of incidents where the inner pane has shattered without warning. The Velux website gives the following information:

### Risk of spontaneous glass breakage

We have registered a level of spontaneous glass breakage in a specific type of small pane produced and sold between 1997 and 2003. Under specific conditions, generally experienced in the winter, there is a minor risk that the inner glass may break spontaneously, with the possibility of glass fragments falling. We take the quality of our products seriously and have decided to issue a product warning to inform our customers.

For more information, visit <http://www.velux-pw.co.uk/>. This will show you how to identify the code for your window and how to check whether it is one of those that are affected.



Installed 12 years ago, this Velux roof window shattered without warning following a cold snap. It was replaced free of charge, along with two others of the same size which had been installed at the same time.