

## Bellerbys honoured at G Live naming ceremony by Angela Joule



On Friday 24th January 2014, a naming ceremony took place at G Live to honour the contribution of Bill and Doreen Bellerby to the arts in Guildford.

Few people in Onslow Village can be unaware of the name Bellerby. Bill and Doreen have been residents in the village for more than 36 years and in 2011, they celebrated 70 years of

G Live Director, Colin Hargreaves, welcomed Bill and Doreen, The Mayor of Guildford Councillor Diana Lockyer-Nibbs and approximately 100 invited guests to the naming ceremony. They were among those who had represented the many aspects of Bill and Doreen Bellerby's life, including a wide range of arts organisations as well as local politics. Colin explained that the new Bellerby Studio will be used for drama,

Cllr Powell followed by saying that with the prospect of the Bellerby Theatre being demolished and the redevelopment of the site, it was felt that there should be a permanent marking of the name Bellerby and its significance to the arts within the town. It was therefore decided to record this by naming the Bellerby Studio at G Live that will be used for a variety of functions.

In reply, Bill gave a humorous summary of their early lives together and the decision to make Guildford their home, with Bill's career in teaching and Doreen's in community activities. He went on to outline their lifelong interest and involvement in politics and their promotion of the arts, stressing how much they had enjoyed it all and hoped to continue to do so in the future.

Bill made reference to the great number of friendly and helpful people they had met through their work in Guildford.

Doreen followed Bill's speech in which she echoed much of his sentiments about their lives in Guildford. Not having had children, they were blessed in other ways with many good friends and opportunities to be involved in community issues and activities that had given them both great satisfaction.

Cllr Powell then invited Bill and Doreen to unveil the commemorative plaque and cut the cake made especially to mark the occasion. Doreen was then presented with a bouquet of flowers and the invited guests ended the ceremony with a toast to them both.

The naming of the Bellerby Studio at G Live recognises the remarkable achievements of two people who have devoted their lives to Guildford, and Guildford is all the richer for Bill and Doreen. The new studio will ensure that the name Bellerby will remain at the forefront of the arts in Guildford.

The plaque, now situated on the wall in the foyer outside the new Bellerby Studio, reads :

### *Bellerby Studio*

*Named in recognition of Honorary Freeman Bill and Doreen Bellerby for their considerable contribution to the arts and their tireless commitment to the community of Guildford.*

Onslow Village should be justly proud of these long-serving residents. At the respective ages of 96 and 94, for Bill and

of the many years' dedication and service to the entire Guildford community, OVRA commissioned a plaque to be erected in the Village Hall.

Both Bill and Doreen have served as mayors of Guildford and were both made Honorary Freemen of the Borough in 1995, an honour which has only been bestowed on 17 people in 150 years. In 1991 they were both awarded the MBE by the Queen and made honorary graduates of the University of Surrey. Truly an impressive array of honours.

Both were born in Wales and they married in 1941. Bill served in The Queen's Royal Regiment in Guildford during the war, following which, he and Doreen made their home in Guildford.

They have both been actively involved in politics all their lives and in 1959, Bill stood as Labour candidate against Richard Nugent in the General Election of 1959. His career as a teacher took him to a number of schools in the area, leading him to become headmaster at Knollmead School in Tolworth for 19 years.

Bill was a Guildford councillor for 42 years, and Doreen a councillor for 41 years and Surrey County councillor for 20 years. Doreen's political work involved a great deal of activity at national level.

I first became aware of Bill and Doreen when they became involved in the re-homing of The Herald Players. This local amateur theatre group had occupied several buildings, but each time had to vacate to make way for redevelopment. Then, in 1975, Guildford Borough Council offered a site which had been occupied by The Salvation Army on the corner of Leapale Lane and College Road.

Councillor Bill Bellerby, in his role as Chairman of the Arts and Recreation Committee, had always encouraged arts and drama within the Borough. As a result, it was proposed by Bill and Doreen that the Salvation Army building should become a theatre for amateur groups, as well as an arts venue for the whole town.

The council gave a donation of £6,000 to cover the cost of heating the new theatre. The Herald Players accepted the challenge and set about creating what was to become the Bellerby Theatre, which opened on 24th February 1978. I was fortunate enough to attend the opening night of John Mortimer's "A Voyage Around My Father" at which the actor Simon Williams, made a speech. In recent times the building has been used as rehearsal studios for Bellair's School of Dance and Drama.

So Bill and Doreen, having seen the Bellerby Theatre being built and used, will now see its demise, as another piece of Guildford's history is lost to make way for a supermarket, car parking and housing.

Councillor Jennifer Powell opened with a speech in which she paid tribute to the Bellerbys' long list of work throughout their lives, not only on committees and within organisations in Guildford, but also when approached by others with difficulties, such as housing and other personal issues. The arts were always uppermost on their agenda. Cllr Powell explained that Bill was anxious that Guildford should have a more permanent amateur theatre base. He was instrumental in securing the site for The Electric Theatre which has become host to a wide variety of arts and entertainment, including music, book festivals, plays and talks; becoming a permanent feature of Guildford's thriving cultural life.



## Recent events at OVRA

March is the month when OVRA reviews the last year and elects its committee for the coming one. Some 64 members gathered for this year's AGM. Dennis Hurkett, as the 'old soldier' of the committee took the chair and paid tribute to Eric Lawrence, who had stood down as Chairman some two months previously. Steve Mills was elected as our new Chairman, and we all wish him the very best of luck.

After this formal business (pleasurably accompanied by a glass of wine), members heard a most informative and well-delivered talk from Colin Brown who is a regional ambassador and fundraiser for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. The talk's full title "It's Not All At Sea – the Work of the RNLI" gave us a clue that we were going to learn a bit about the inshore and estuary work of the organisation.

Backed by excellent video clips and slides, Colin took us through the history and mainstream work of the RNLI – 190 years' service with over 140,000 lives saved in that time; 425 lives saved last year and over 23,000 people assisted by lifeguards. He described the various boats in use, some of the offshore ones now quite old, and also the tiny 'glorified jet skis' used to rescue bathers from rocks, or wind surfers in distress. Much of the development and construction of modern boats (of whatever size, and the new large ones are genuinely 'all weather') is undertaken in their own workshops at RNLI HQ in Poole.

The costs come out at £2.8m per week, and they do not receive (nor do they want) any government funding. 95% of the staff are volunteers, which includes the vast majority of the 4,600 crew and the 3,000 shore volunteers, all of whom work together to ensure their proud '7 minutes to launch' average is maintained.

It was a splendid finale to the OVRA year though of course, like Janus, we look forward to a great series of meetings in 2014-15, as well as back to the fun of the past.

Speaking of which... We welcomed back Roger Nicholas on a wet and windy January evening to talk on Late Georgian Guildford. Assisted by slides of original etchings, Roger gave a well-researched talk on Guildford buildings and people in the 19th century up until around 1837. The town bridge was widened during this period for easier pedestrian use; the temperance movement set up a 'dry' hotel, the Connaught; and Mayor Elkins (three terms as Mayor in the 1820s) was the last man to have a political opponent lashed all the way up the High Street. Shortly after this, during Mayor Stedman's time,

*Continues overleaf*

the Municipal Governance Act brought in properly formed and elected councils instead of what had been known as the 'chosen' or 'approved men'.

We also learnt that Ernest Jones the jewellers was the site of the original post office for the town and that George IV ordered the widening of Quarry Street at the expense of 10 feet of St Mary's chancel. Many buildings changed use in this or later periods, including the Red Lion Hotel which had housed Samuel Pepys in Charles II's reign. It became a more ordinary tavern with the demise of coaching and eventually was taken over by Timothy White's, the chemists.

Not many people would have known of Guildford's 'gaol' on Castle Hill (built in 1820, but pulled down around 1850). Apparently the Governor one day used some of his inmates to dig a well in his garden, and they dug down to the caves (entrances still visible from Millbrook) and thence absconded!

#### **Anthony Jacques**

In April, Neville Lyons, a relation of the co-founder of the famous Lyons company, presented a talk entitled "The Joe Lyons Story – Food for Thought." Before the talk, the audience was treated to tea and cakes, the inspiration of Angela Joule, who set the scene for the talk in her 'Nippy' waitress's uniform, backed up by the other ladies in their lace 'pinnies'.

Neville's presentation, with archival photographs, started from 1887 when Joseph Lyons, a born entrepreneur but with no previous experience in the catering industry, co-founded "J Lyons & Co Ltd" with Montague Gluckstein of Salmon & Gluckstein (a tobacco company). Returning on the train from an exhibition in Liverpool, they documented their agreement (on a single sheet of paper) to set up a company to improve the indifferent catering at national exhibition halls of the late



Neville Lyons flanked by OVRA's own 'Nippy' waitresses

Victorian age. Thus started the business that then expanded into the nationwide chain of teashops (Guildford had a teashop in the High Street), the London Corner Houses and four hotels. The Corner Houses could accommodate up to 4,000 customers and had a large number of staff to ensure the efficient service Lyons were known for. The 'Nippy' waitresses were introduced in 1926 with their distinctive maid-like uniforms and Lyons continued to cater for events, including Royal garden parties, which in those days could have as many as 15,000 guests attending.

Joe lived until 1917, but Lyons continued to grow and develop. The company did everything 'in-house' and were thus great innovators. In WWII, owing to their renowned management skills, the company were engaged to run the Royal Ordnance Factory at Elstow and in 1951 they formed a computing company to address their huge inventory and payroll tasks. Thus the Lyons Electronic Office computer 'LEO I' became the world's first office computer and in 1961 the 'LEO III', a solid-state computer, was being produced and sold to leading companies and organizations.

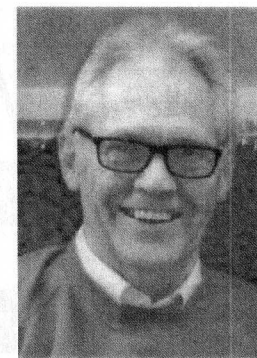
With the advent of 'fast food' in the 1950s, Lyons opened the UK 'Wimpy Bars' – another national high street success. In 1978 Lyons was acquired by Allied Breweries and became part of Allied Lyons. The teashops, with their distinctive gold lettering, lasted until 1981, but Lyons is not forgotten, as its distinctive trade name is still used on some products that can be purchased today.

The first remark made to me after Neville's talk was "Fascinating. I've never been here before, but I'll certainly be coming to the talks from now on." You can't beat that for an accolade, can you?

#### **Steve Mills**

**Free entry to our Tuesday Talks is one of the benefits of OVRA membership. Another is that you will receive The Village Voice every three months, delivered to your door! To join OVRA for just £5 per household per annum, visit our website [www.surreycommunity.info/ovra/join-the-association/](http://www.surreycommunity.info/ovra/join-the-association/), email [ovramembsec@btinternet.com](mailto:ovramembsec@btinternet.com), phone 01483 562657 or visit The Chelsea Flower Shop in The Square.**

Following our Evening of Magic and Disbelief in February, we are very pleased to report that we donated the profit of £550 to the Onslow Ward at the Royal Surrey County Hospital. Onslow is the oncology ward and cares for patients being treated for cancer. All care and treatment is paid for by the trust, but each ward has a charitable fund with which 'extras' can be purchased to make life more comfortable for both patients and their visitors.



### **Michael David Budd**

**6 Nov 1937 – 28 Jan 2014**

His wide circle of family, friends, acquaintances and business colleagues were all saddened by the very sudden and unexpected death of Mike Budd.

The family home was in Manor Way and his father, Dan Budd operated an electrical repair business from there, going on to lease workshops in Guildford

Park Road and a shop in Woodbridge Road, selling TVs, radios and other electrical goods.

Mike went to Sandfield School and when he left, was called up for National Service, which he very much enjoyed.

He was a keen sportsman, being involved in athletics at both school and county level. He also enjoyed badminton and squash, and played cricket for Send. He was extremely competitive in all sports and always strived to do his best.

After National Service, Mike joined his father to learn the business, with Dan running the sales and Mike the repairs.

When Mike married Jill, they went to live in Woking, returning to Onslow Village in 1970, with their children, Sharon and Andy.

When Dan Budd became ill, an opportunity to buy one of the shops in Onslow Village came up, so Mike decided to move the businesses there, and in 1976 Mike opened the current TV sales and repair shop in The Square.

Over the years, other shops have come and gone in The Square, but the survival and success of D S Budd and Son is in no small part due to Mike's steady hand on the tiller.

In 1985, Libby Angell joined Mike to run the reception and front of shop.

In 1987, Andy told his father that he wanted to join the business when his own career in diving ended, something that made Mike very proud. Andy said that these were his best memories of Mike when, for nearly 30 years, Mike guided and pushed him in the right direction in readiness, he supposed, for a time such as this.

Mike was always ready for a chat and his friendly and helpful manner with customers and friends alike ensured that he became a firm village favourite. This was borne out at his funeral service when the crematorium chapel was packed to overflowing. Several moving and amusing tributes were paid to Mike by friends and family, and what came through in all of them was Mike's roguish sense of humour and his ability to pull people's legs.

# 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). **Next copy date:** 14th June for publication in early July.

## Vivace Chorus

Would Village Voice Readers like a night to remember at the Royal Albert Hall? Vivace Chorus's next concert will be a grand affair with 400 singers and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and four splendid soloists singing **Verdi's Requiem** – one of the great masterpieces of classical music and one of the best-loved works in the choral repertoire. We are organising coaches to take you to the concert from Guildford with a return fare of only £12. Contact [tickets@vivacechorus.org](mailto:tickets@vivacechorus.org) for further details.

The concert is at 7.30pm on Sunday 18th May and tickets are £8 - £44 from [www.royalalberthall.com](http://www.royalalberthall.com) or 020 7589 8212.

## Guildford Choral Society

**David Fanshawe's "African Sanctus"**  
and **Ariel Ramirez' "Missa Criolla"**

**Venue:** Guildford Cathedral

**Date:** Saturday 21st June 2014

**Time:** 7.30pm

Guildford Choral Society ([www.guildfordchoral.org](http://www.guildfordchoral.org))

**Conductor and Music Director:** Jonathan Willcocks

**Tickets:** £20 Front Nave, £15 Mid Nave, £10 Rear Nave, £17 West Gallery. Concessions: £10 on all seats except Front Nave. Concessions are available for children, students, disabled and ES40. Available from: [boxoffice@guildfordchoral.org](mailto:boxoffice@guildfordchoral.org) or directly from Derek Lake on 01494 675571. Also from the Electric Theatre box office, phone number: 01483 444789.

## Onslow Village Garden Club

We started the year with illustrated talks about gardens in warmer climes. The sunny scenes and exotic produce were a tonic in the dull damp weather we were experiencing. Then, in March, it was time for members to show what they could grow and display in the Spring Show. This was set up and judged in Johns Hall. The classes were mainly for Spring flowers : daffodils and other bulbs, primulas, pansies and hellebores, as well as pot-plants and floral art. The little hall looked and smelt wonderful!

Our annual Table Top Sale takes place on the morning of 10th May, in Onslow Village Hall. The Club mans stalls for plants, books, cakes, bric-a-brac and refreshments. Other people display and sell a variety of wares. If you would like to hire a table, please phone Mrs. Anne Bradbeer (563421)

At our meeting on 21st May, with summer upon us, we focus our attention on our national flower. (Appropriately, Mr. Rose

will be our Speaker!). His talk covers cultivation in all its aspects, and should guide us in keeping our plants healthy and productive.

June is another busy month, with Mr. Stewart's talk on 'The Secret Life of the Mole', and the Summer Show. Until recently it was called the Rose Show, but now on the benches you will see sweet peas, delphiniums, herbs, gooseberries, lettuces, pot-plants and flower arrangements. If you come to the May meeting as a visitor (£2) and decide to join (£12 p.a.), you could still enter fruit and vegetables from your garden in the June Show; or, alternatively inspect and admire other members' produce!

The Garden Club meets in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of each month, except August and December, and offers an interesting and varied programme. We have Spring and Autumn Shows in March and June, and our Annual Show on the first Saturday in September.

For details phone 577035.

## OV Lawn Tennis Club

**Fresh start at Onslow Village Lawn Tennis Club?**

Spring has sprung! It just might be time to dust off that racquet and think about a glorious summer of tennis.

Whether you are a complete beginner, a bit rusty or in the prime of your tennis life we may have something for you. The club, which has a well-established junior coaching section, now runs an academy for new and improving players. Organised club evenings and weekend afternoons are, of course, available for the more accomplished/competitive souls. If, perhaps, you like the idea of playing a few hours tennis before collecting the children from school we do that too! The club has vacancies at all levels including team players – we have teams in several local leagues.

We are a relatively small club set in a beautiful spot right in the heart of the village. Obviously we are committed to playing tennis and we want to share that commitment with everyone. Incidentally, we play all year round on our all-weather tennis courts. Even in winter, when the light is poor? Yes! We play under floodlights.

We love to see new faces, so please do come and talk to us whenever you are passing.

Please see our website for more details: [www.onslowtennisclub.co.uk/](http://www.onslowtennisclub.co.uk/) Or why not phone our chairman Don Hunt (01483 835144) or our membership secretary Gavin Everson (01483 571042).

Mike was married to Jill for over 50 years and with their children Sharon and Andy, lived in Down Lane Compton since 1981 where Mike could also follow his other passion – gardening.

Sadly, Jill passed away on 30th January 2013 after five years of ill health. During that period Mike devoted a great deal of time to caring for her. It was therefore all the more poignant that just as Mike was in the process of picking up the threads of his life with his family, his grandson Matthew, gardening and even circuit training with Andy, tragedy struck. Within the space of two weeks, from being a fit and happier man, he was gone.

Mike will be greatly missed in Onslow Village, Compton and Guildford and by all his family and many friends. But most of all by his son.

*Angela Joule*

## Nita Morgan

**15 Feb 1926 – 2 Apr 2014**

Very sadly, we report the death of Nita Morgan, who died suddenly following a short illness.

Nita is survived by her husband Andy, daughters Isabelle and Jane, and their four grandchildren.

Nita and Andy lived in Onslow Village for more than 60 years, Nita was a teacher at Onslow Infants School when it first opened and continued to work there until she retired and both were always actively involved in the community life of the village. She will be greatly missed by all her many friends.

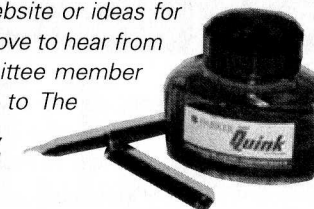
The funeral service was held at All Saints' Church on Monday 14th April.

A fuller obituary and tribute to Nita will be in the next issue of The Village Voice.

*Angela Joule*

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

...including content for our website or ideas for future articles and talks, we'd love to hear from you. Please speak to a committee member at any of our events, write to The Village Voice, c/o 2 The Drive, Guildford GU2 7QF or email [ovra.news@ntlworld.com](mailto:ovra.news@ntlworld.com).



**A message from the  
Residents' Committee  
Chairman,**



**Please enjoy reading your copy of the  
'VILLAGE VOICE'**

**This issue is delivered to every  
household in the Village. We hope you  
will want to assist us in keeping**

**ONslow VILLAGE**

**a special community living in our green  
and pleasant surroundings. This  
'Conservation Area' needs active support  
to remain 'special' with all the pressures  
placed upon it by external demands.**

**Support YOUR special Village by joining in.**

**A membership application is on the reverse side of  
this message and for a small membership fee you  
get the Village Voice delivered to you and your  
WHOLE HOUSEHOLD can attend talks at the Village  
Hall at no extra cost...**

**BUT even more importantly, you will be lending  
your voice to issues that affect....**

**YOUR SPECIAL GARDEN VILLAGE.**

**Please return the form with the fee to  
The Chelsea Flower Shop or to 22 Manor Way.**

**Thank You.**

# Forthcoming Events



Tuesday 13 May **A POLICEMAN'S LOT ....  
CAN BE QUITE AN  
INTERESTING ONE!**

The speaker will be Neil Sadler. Neil will talk about his many, often humorous, experiences during 30 years service as Police Officer, which included the Grand Hotel Brighton bombing in 1984 – and much more.



Tuesday 10 June **Safeguard Coaches  
of Guildford –  
The First 90 Years**

Andrew Halliday, the Managing Director of Safeguard Coaches will talk about the continuing success of the company since 1924. Andrew will also tell how he became involved in the public transport business.

## 5th July Picnic - Residents on the Rec.

### ONSLow VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Annual Membership April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> £5 per household

Name(s).....

House..... Road.....

Postcode..... Tel..... Date.....

Email.....

Renewal  New Membership  (tick one)

Paid by : Cash  Cheque  (tick one)

I might be able to (tick any activities you might help at):

Help at Events  Help Deliver Leaflets

Serve on the Committee

Card Sent

Rules Sent

Registered