



THE VILLAGE VOICE



Lest We Forget

THE NEWSLETTER OF ONSLOW VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION - ISSUE THIRTY EIGHTH AUTUMN 2014

Do you know about the BUS survey?

You may not rely on buses but many do. Tomorrow you may too.

BUS SERVICES TO ONSLOW VILLAGE COULD BE UNDER THREAT

Surrey County Council have a review of local transport underway and the consultation period is running NOW until 14th January 2015.

You can complete a survey form at...

<https://www.surreysays.co.uk/e-i-directorate-programme-group/local-transport-review>

Paper copies are available at bus stations, libraries and council offices.

Here are some controversial comments to think about...

Public Transport could reduce traffic in congested areas (i.e. towns). From a strategic point of view SCC should be encouraging the use of existing Public Transport and introducing more - congestion charging and removing private vehicle town centre parking could achieve this.

Introducing Park and Ride schemes is well intentioned but unless the parking is controlled it gets abused by people using it as a free public car park.

To an extent, the Village has become a public parking area for those attending out of village activities.

Please let everyone know that they can take part in the survey.

The OVRA committee believe we should champion the retention of our public transport. Let us know if you agree or not - in person or through the website

For those who rely upon Public Transport, please let your views be known.

**AND PLEASE REMEMBER WHEN
DRIVING THROUGH THE VILLAGE - 20's PLENTY**

Our Autumn Saturday Night Social

The supper at the Village Hall on the 11th October was enjoyed by a full house of diners who were treated to an evening of music performed by the talented 'Apollo Jazz Collective'. The atmosphere grew, the music played, the food was served and the drinks almost ran dry - a situation saved by the initiative of our barman for the night.

The variety of musical styles and the quality of the musicianship from Apollo was appreciated by all who were there. The lights dimmed and the mood mellowed as the time for the dessert course approached. All too soon, it was time to thank all those who made the evening possible and say goodnight.

Our special thanks go to the 'girls in pink' who donate to charity from the proceeds of their work in the kitchen.



In this, the 30th year since the Village Hall was saved from demolition, and being aware that many residents think erroneously that OVRA has a role in the running of the Village Hall we asked the 'real' manager to tell us about the Hall and its management.....

OUR VILLAGE HALL

As Chairman of the Onslow Village Hall Management Committee, (and also the Hall Manager), I have been invited to say a few words about the hall for your general information.

Some of you will know the hall very well, having used it over the years for children's parties, club meetings or one of the many other uses it gets. Others may never have seen the inside of it, so I hope this will be of interest to you all.

The hall is a 'stand alone' registered charity that has no affiliation to any other organisations. The building is owned by Guildford Borough Council, and leased as a community hall to the Management Committee, which is made up of representatives from both local residents and hall users. We have to pay fairly substantial rent to GBC, pay many legal requirements like rates and insurance, various music licenses and of course all our utility bills and maintenance costs, which is why it has to be managed and run in a sound financial way.

Its' primary function, like most similar halls, is to provide availability in the area for a venue where groups & organisations can meet and do whatever it is they do. In our hall there is a phenomenal range of activities, from children's pre-school and dance lessons, adult dance clubs, various U3A classes for mature adults, an international travel club, some singing groups and a multitude of other interests for all age groups and genders.

We have 2 halls, the main hall regularly seating 150+ people, and Johns Hall being suitable for small meetings and parties, and events such as yoga and pilates classes. In the last two years Johns Hall has been completely refurbished and is self contained for up to around 30 people., the main hall has been upgraded to offer a state of the art HD projector with fully retractable screen and the kitchen has been supplied with dishwasher, instantaneous hot water boiler and filter coffee machine. The outside rear has been completely overhauled to give a nice area for the children's playgroup, as well as being pleasant for adult hirers to congregate in the summer evenings. The halls also offer a private car park for the use of its hirers only, but unfortunately as our hirers do get some verbal abuse from unauthorised parkers, from time to time, (and recent yellow lines have increased the incidence of 'commuter' parking), we have reluctantly introduced ticketed parking charges to any non hirers who park on our car parking area.

The Garden Club Report

...that it is having a good year, under the Chairmanship of Sandi Fox. We have been meeting on the third Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall. Our talks have ranged through a variety of subjects, from 'Secret Gardens of Hampshire' in April to 'Apples don't just grow on Trees' in September: with some interesting but sobering information about food production for the world's people, and problems of marketing fruit for supermarkets.

The Spring and Summer Shows, held on club evenings in March and June took place in Johns Hall. Entries were judged while members were entertained by illustrated talks in the main hall. Both Shows drew entries of good quality, bringing gasps of surprise and pleasure as viewers were impressed by the perfume and bright colours of the flowers.

The Annual Show, held on the first Saturday in September, is the big event of the year. The hall was busy all day. From 8-30am members were staging their flowers, fruit, vegetables, jams, cakes, paintings and craft work. The judges applied themselves to evaluating the entries and awarding 1st, 2nd and 3rd place cards. Certificates and trophies were prepared for the presentations. Then the judges and committee sat down to lunch. Doors opened to the public at 3pm. Presentations were made by Mrs Christine Ward, chairman of local charity Equipment for Disabled Children, who spoke briefly about their work.

The coach outing in August was to Highclere Castle, the setting for Downton Abbey. Members spent the day picnicking and enjoying the house and grounds.

As Autumn creeps up on us, we still held some events. On 15th October Mrs J. Arm gave a demonstration of Autumn and Christmas flower arrangements. A similar meeting last year was greeted with a lot of enthusiasm, and by the end of the evening a long table was covered with members attractive creations. Also on that evening was the Pumpkin Weigh-in. The seeds distributed in the Spring produced lots of plump fruits to be compared.

One meeting remains this year. The A.G.M. in November will be followed by a social evening with mulled wine, mince pies and games or competitions. Anyone is welcome to come to our meetings, as a visitor (£2) or a member (£12). The first gathering in 2015 will be at 7-30 on 21st January in the Village Hall. Mr J Negus's talk is called 'Winter Wonderland'. Why not have an evening out, and see if you like us? Enquiries 577035 You could perhaps mention that the biggest pumpkin of the seven entries in the competition weighed 36 lbs!

**Recent Events at
OVRA**

The History of Charterhouse School

On 9th September at the Village Hall Catherine Smith the Charterhouse Archivist gave a presentation on the 400 years of history of Charterhouse School to over 50 residents keen to learn about this famous local establishment. The talk was of particular interest to some of the audience who had personal connections with the school and a number of their unique photographs have since been added to the schools archives. The talk was the first event to use the new projector and large screen recently installed at the Hall, which showed the excellent presentation pictures of the school's buildings, its past personalities and the changes that the school brought to the local area to their best effect. The audience thanked Catherine for a most enjoyable evening.

Our Questionnaire - Update

How should OVRA change to serve the Village as it evolves? This was what we hoped the survey of members views would indicate. On the broad issue of what kind of Association you want, it is clear from the returned questionnaires that the majority want OVRA to continue as a social organisation AND as a voice on local and borough issues. In addition, it seems that most of you agree the organisation is delivering the correct balance of services such as the Tuesday Talks, the Social Events and the Village Voice. We are aware that this survey process probably favours those that participate most actively and are therefore most content with running things 'as they are'.

Involving more and younger householders is a difficulty OVRA and other groups face. We asked your views on this and many suggest using social media which has been used in the past. We will look again.

Your proposals for other events and activities you would like to see and those that you suggest would appeal to younger members are being reviewed except where they encroach on activities run by existing groups in the area. Work has started based on some of these ideas. Thank You.

Not being a pressure group, we have members with varying views on proposed developments and the Local Plan. Members of the OVRA committee attend meetings and review published literature so that we can report on the consultation processes, highlight some of the issues and indicate areas that may be subject to significant numbers of new dwellings and hence, traffic. It would seem from your responses that this is what you want us to continue doing.

Our thanks to all of you who replied. We will continue to review your suggestions.

OVRA Products

We now have access to some quality archive images. This will enable the production of an updated "OUR Village" booklet that has been 'out of print' for a few years. We will also investigate the production of some Village postcards.

**Forthcoming
Events**

The OVRA Tuesday Talks at the Village Hall

11th November **The Weald and Downland Museum**
John Walsh, a long standing volunteer, will talk about the work of the museum and its many historic buildings.

13th January 2015 **24 Hour Trench Warfare** Andy Robertshaw is a military historian with a national reputation for bringing the past to life. In this, the 100th year since the start of the WWI, Andy will graphically describe the day to day life in the Trenches between major engagements and also explain the Trench system.

10th March 2015 **AGM followed by 'Help Us Help Them'**
Fiona Clements will describe the work and ethos behind the charity Mane Chance setup by Jenny Seagrove to rescue abandoned, abused and neglected horses and rehabilitate them

14th April 2015 **The Restoration of an Historic Wall at Guildford Castle**
The intricate process of restoring a Grade II listed wall of the Royal Castle and Palace will be described by Chris Shaw who is a Chartered Civil and Structural Engineer. How do you restore a leaning bowed wall that cannot be demolished?

Further talks include The Mary Rose, Guildford's town crier and beadle David Peters, Concorde, the Cider Co-operative and Winston Churchill's Toyshop. Keep your eye on the events calendar on 'our' website.

The OVRA Social Events

7th March 2015 **'George Gershwin Review' by members of the Performance Preparation Academy at the Village Hall**

4th July 2015 **'Picnic on the Rec.'** We will order better weather for 2015!

OVRA Membership

The whole household joins for just £5 per annum.

Free entry to our Tuesday talks is one of the benefits of OVRA membership. Others include quarterly delivery to you of your Village Voice, support to the OVRA website, organised events and representation on local issues. If you haven't joined or renewed membership this year you can visit the website at www.surreycommunity.info/ovra/join-the-association/, email ovramembsec@btinternet.com, phone 01483 562657 or 0 1483 571807.

or join at **The Wilderness Coffee Shop and Cafe** in The Square.

GBC NEW LOCAL PLAN IS A NATIONAL COMMITMENT

Key points are :

**652 per year
(EVERY YEAR)**

The GBC target for new dwellings to 2031

2031

The year the planned period ends

19,500

residents and stakeholders comments submitted to GBC in the consultation period.

The Latest Statement

extracted from

GBC - Key feedback themes from Draft Local Plan consultation.

"There will then be further work - largely around infrastructure - that together with the other applied constraints, will allow the Council to arrive at a housing number. We will continue to use every mechanism to get this number to the lowest sustainable point possible to pass the Inspectorate's examination. We will also take into account recent statements from the Secretary of State and Department for Communities and Local Government. The Planning Inspectorate has now been given a clear indication and stronger 'steer' not to allow development that will harm the Green Belt."

The result - latest

A new local plan for Guildford will not be submitted to the planning inspector for approval until next year

OVRA Comment

It did seem strange that in this joined up Government environment that we have current infrastructure funding problems (bus surveys, potholes and traffic congestion issues) alongside a New GBC Local Plan based on creating large numbers of new dwellings requiring extra services and infrastructure for these new residents. Perhaps, a re-think is in progress but it may take some time as the General Election will soon be looming large.

OVRA is affiliated to the Guildford Residents Association (GRA)

**Community
Notice Board**

Complaints? We can help spread the word but....

from time to time OVRA are asked if we can do something about the potholes/flooding/weeds in the road/litter/Grit Bins etc. The answer, basically, is no, for the following reason. You may be surprised to know that OVRA counts as just one voice in the Village. The only way that a complaint is likely to be taken seriously is if **everybody** complains. So... just keep complaining. If it's more effort to deal with the complaints than to deal with the problem, something might just get done. However, if you do complain, it might help to let us know. We can pass the word around that there is a problem and other people might join in. There are useful links on our website. including Streetlife.com and fixmystreet.com. If you don't have internet access ask a neighbour or contact an OVRA committee member.

Guildford Evening Decorative and Fine Arts Society ...is a friendly, lively and welcoming group, who come together 10 times a year on the second Wednesday of the month primarily for illustrated lectures on the decorative and fine arts. Their aim is to promote the knowledge, appreciation and care of the arts through these lectures. GEDFAS has been meeting at OVH for more than 30 years. They have lot of members from outside OV and would like more village members. Their link is on the OVRA website and they advertise their events on the notice boards.

'Guildford Choral Society' Congratulations on your 175th Anniversary

Sat, 20th Dec 7:30pm Handel's Messiah with the Hanover Band at Guildford Cathedral tickets at 01494 675571

Guildford Cathedral Saturday 15th November 2014 at 7.30pm & Free pre-concert talk at 6.30pm **Vivace Chorus** presents the Mass in B minor by J S Bach. see vivacechorus.org

Guildford County School Christmas Fair on Friday 5 December 6 - 8:30pm is going to be the biggest and best yet. There are dozens of ways to win seriously good prizes, craft and gift stalls, Food and licensed bar. Everyone is welcome, entrance 50p.

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 70F or email esamgem@btinternet.com



The COPY DATE for the Winter edition is 2nd January