



THE VILLAGE VOICE



THE NEWSLETTER OF ONSLOW VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION - ISSUE THIRTY NINE WINTER 2015



On Saturday 7th March at 7:30 pm

O.V.R.A. in conjunction with the
Performance Preparation Academy present Gerry Tebbutt's

"MAGIC AND MUSICALS"

a journey through the magical world of musical theatre.

For tickets to this show call 07788 537430, 01483 566353,
01483 571807, email ovraticketsales@gmail.com or
buy at Williams Newsagents in THE SQUARE

Tickets : £ 10 for OVRA Members
£ 12 for nonmembers

Wine and Soft Drinks
will be available

The **Performance Preparation Academy** is an independent theatre training centre under the leadership of Rachel Crouch. It has established itself as a leading force in just four years since it opened. It is based in its sparky new building, Regents House, on Walnut Tree Close which was opened by its patrons, Kerry Ellis and Bonnie Langford. PPA's three-year National Diploma in Musical Theatre is led by Gerry Tebbutt with instruction in singing, dancing, acting and musicianship which is known in house as 'quadruple threat' training. 'Magic and Musicals' will be performed by PPA third year students.

Look forward to a spectacular evening

OVRA AGM Tuesday 10th March

OVRA membership is open to all households in Onslow Village and to those with a connection and affinity to the Village. OVRA members are invited to the Annual General Meeting : to hear a review of the previous year's activities and performance, to show support for the Association, to advise the committee on its direction in the coming year and perhaps even volunteer services as a committee member*. A complimentary glass of wine (or soft drink) is on offer to all attendees. If you have enjoyed any of the Association's events and would like them to continue, please consider joining and assisting the committee.

The AGM will be followed by a presentation 'Help Us Help Them' by Sarajane Bartlett about the charity Mane Chance which was set up by Jenny Seagrove to rescue abandoned, abused and neglected horses and rehabilitate them.

*The committee is looking for members to help in all areas but particularly in the roles of Treasurer, Events organisation and Secretarial support. An amount of I.T. has crept into life these days and OVRA is not exempt, so those able to assist with these aspects please let us know. None of the posts are very demanding and they do not require huge investments of time. You will have the support of an active committee and dedicated OVRA members. To offer your time and skills please come along to the AGM or.....

call Steve for more information on 01483 566353.



Our
Congratulations
to...



Four of the Best

Our Tuesday talk on 10th March is being presented by 'Mane Chance' our local horse sanctuary charity in Compton. They received a £20,000 donation as part of **Giving Tuesday**. They received the money from **Animal Friends Insurance** (covering dogs, cats and horses) which has donated over £2 million to animal charities. Animal Friends Insurance won 'Pet Insurance Provider of the Year' at the 2014 Consumer Money Facts Awards. Giving Tuesday (for 2014 it was on December 2nd) is a campaign led by the **Charities Aid Foundation** which was launched in the United States in 2012 - and CAF were in the top 50 companies for customer service in the 2014 ranking. So our congratulations to all 4 organisations.

and...

Last June our talk was presented by the M.D. Of "**SAFEGUARD COACHES**" which was celebrating its first 90 years. This Guildford based family owned business then celebrated its success at the coach and bus industry's premier awards event after being named Small Bus Operator of the Year. This coveted accolade was presented at the routeONE Awards held in November in Birmingham. It is an award that recognises excellence and confirms that Safeguard Coaches is among the best in the country. After collecting the trophy from celebrities Tim Vine and Steph McGovern, Andrew Halliday, Managing Director said: "Being recognised as the best small bus operator nationally in this hard fought competition is a huge accolade and well deserved recognition for all our drivers, supervisors, engineers and managers in this our 90th year of operation. We are very proud of our success."

Transport Matters!

Of course it does but it can be a force for division and for unity.

First the unity. Public transport is crucial for many, bringing us together. The S.C.C. Bus Survey closed on 14th January so we await the results and any impact upon services affecting the Village. G.B.C. are consulting on a revision to the taxi and private hire policy and would like to hear your views before the 6th February.

Secondly the division. Traffic brings stress, conflict and worse. Where we can advise we do but on parking issues I'm afraid we can offer little help. On traffic flow we await any consequences from the extensive A3 study recently undertaken and will let you know what we find.

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

The Onslow Arboretum

Now and then we receive enquiries concerning the Arboretum. Without exception they are positive. We put up a sign last year giving information about the Mike Hawthorn memorial tree and I'm pleased to report that the sign and the tree have survived. So, we are now going to put up more signs concerning the history and creation of the Arboretum on the (empty) reverse side of the notice board.

Briefly, the history is that this one time farm field may have been in the centre of a larger Onslow Village if the 1920s plans had been fully implemented or it may have been covered in houses when Onslow Village Ltd. was wound up in 1984. However, following a campaign GBC adopted the field as an Arboretum.

The theme of this botanical garden is '80 Trees from Around the World' but a count some time ago recorded more than 250 trees. The storms in early 2014 felled a number of the larger trees which we hope will allow new trees to be planted and this would provide a greater 'age mix' of the trees in the collection.

**Recent Events at
OVRA**

The Weald and Downland Museum

At our 11th November talk John Walsh, a long standing volunteer at the Museum, arrived in period clothes which are not, he emphasised, a costume but appropriate dress of the time. He explained the work of the museum and how it has extended its collection of tools and artefacts to add to its many historic buildings. The Museum is justly proud of its Downland Gridshell, a very large modern 2 level building, an incredible and lightweight structure made of oak laths that was completed in 2002. This is one of a very small number of gridshell structures in Britain. Its design and method of construction are unique. A very high degree of carpentry skill went into its fabrication, emulating, but not imitating, the traditional framed buildings at the Museum. John's enjoyable and jovial presentation was also fascinating - it's not everyday you see four-bladed shears!

The 24 Hour Trench

On the 13th January Andy Robertshaw, who is a military historian with a national reputation for bringing the past to life, explained what WW I trench life was really like and why it differs from the current and generally accepted view. As an example, old soldiers remember it in colour while our images are in Black and White. Andy told us of the experience he gained from building a replica of a specific part of a WWI trench and then observing a squad of serving soldiers with WW I period kit and supplies living in it for 24 hours and operating under the trench orders of the original occupants. The practical insights gained from this experiment are now used on WW I archeological digs. Andy's illustrated talk was a perfect balance of interest and elucidation.

OVRA Products



Note : We still intend to publish an updated "OUR Village" booklet that has been 'out of print' for a few years.

AN INVITATION TO INVESTIGATE

The GBC 'new' LOCAL PLAN is being re-evaluated and pending the General Election on 7th May it is unlikely that there will be a further major announcement until then. It seems that attention is currently focused on the 'CIL' - the Community Infrastructure Levy which introduces charges on developments to fund infrastructure improvements to mitigate the worst affects on the area of new developments. Find out all about it at <https://getinvolved.guildford.gov.uk/> However, one of the salient themes of a number of the largest proposed developments is the use (or misuse depending on your view) of greenbelt and the impact upon sites of outstanding natural beauty. So to prepare for the time when we are again asked for our comments we can familiarize ourselves with what is currently in the proposed development sites. Maps are fascinating to pore over and walking we are told is good for us ; so if you want to improve your knowledge of our local area get busy.

and to whet your appetite....

ONSLow VILLAGE and the whole surrounding area lies in the south-west corner of the former mediaeval Royal Park of Guildford, founded by Henry II (1154-89) and which remained in Royal ownership until 1624. The park was significant in its size and importance conveyed through royal ownership, with the presence of the Royal Manor House on the site of the present Manor Farm, pinpointing this site as the centre of a wider historical and cultural landscape.

The Sites and Monuments Record SMR 1657 refers to a Mediaeval moated site of Guildford Park Manor, Manor Farm (recently renamed by the University as Manor Park so we will forget it was a farm) . This is a Scheduled Ancient Monument - Number 12763. It is the site of 12th to 17th century Royal Mansion and Hunting Lodge. No visible traces of the Royal Hunting Lodge and Manor House exist, but the moat survives as a water-filled feature on the north and east and as a dry ditch on the south and west sides. The site contained the remains of a building dating from the 13th to 16th century. It was designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument in 1990 and therefore both the monument and its setting are subject to protection.

The boundary of the Royal Park followed the south westernmost boundary of the site. Traditionally enclosed by a ditch and a bank topped by a pale fence, this is still a fairly significant landscape feature formed by a row of vegetation and as a boundary of a demonstrably pre-1600 estate, it is protected under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. It should further be noted that the pale fence boundary of the park can be seen on historical mapping to enclose Manor Copse. The boundary of the park leads further northwards and is still represented as a coherent feature within the present day landscape as the boundary between Strawberry Grove and the Surrey Research Park, following the line of footpath Number 446 north to form the boundary between Park Barn and the countryside to the west.

Please let us know how you get on with your investigations.

**Forthcoming
Events**

Saturday 7th March **Magic and Musicals show** - see front page

and the OVRA Tuesday Talks at the Village Hall

10th March 2015 **AGM followed by 'Help Us Help Them'**
Sarajane Bartlett will describe the work and ethos behind the charity Mane Chance set up 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?

12h May 2015 **The Mary Rose**
This talk will reveal the story behind the exciting, new £27 million Mary Rose Museum which opened its doors to visitors in 2013 and demonstrates innovation and imagination in the presentation of the Ship's Hull and its associated objects.

Further talks include 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.

and other OVRA Social Events

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

Saturday 10th October **Evening Social** - watch out for details

**Community
Notice Board**

Garden Club Report.

The Club sends all readers best wishes for a Good Gardening Year!
The final meeting of 2014 was the A G M and social evening. We were pleased to hear from the Treasurer that, due to fund-raising activities, the annual subscription would not have to be raised, and would stay at £12.

We have an interesting and varied programme, with illustrated talks throughout 2015 connected with plants, gardens, wild life and landscape. The Coach outing in June will be to Borde Hill Gardens, Sussex.

You are welcome to join us! Enquiries 01483 577035

Repair Café.

Guildford Borough Council is launching its **first** Repair Café. What do you do with a bike when the wheel runs out of true? Or with trousers the wrong length? Throw it away? No way! You can repair it at the.....

Repair Café Saturday 14 February from 10 am – 1pm Park Barn Community Centre. Various experts will be available: diy-ers, seamstresses and bike doctors, to help you make all possible repairs free of charge.

Should Onslow Village have the second Repair Café? Let us know your thoughts.

Queen Eleanor's School will hold its **Summer Fayre** on Saturday 20th June.

Their major build project is underway and the construction of the 4 new classrooms has begun. This is scheduled to finish in August.

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 link is on the OVRA website and they advertise their events on the notice boards.

Onslow Village Womens Institute ...meet on the first Wednesday evening of the month in the Village Hall. Following their recent first AGM we wish them every success in their second year - 2015 being the Centenary of the W.I. Federation.

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. The membership year starts in April but you join at any time. Visit the website at www.surreycommunity.info/ovra/join-the-association/, email ovramembsec@btinternet.com, phone 01483 562657 or 01483 571807.

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

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 Spring edition is 2nd April.