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ISSUE No 61

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Summer 2020

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONSLOW VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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Welcome to this, our 61<sup>st</sup> and unusual edition of the Village Voice

## Chairperson's Report

I want to give you a report on how lockdown is affecting OVRA events and to ask for your ideas as to how best to proceed.

This has been a strange period for us all. As a nation we have had to radically change our normal behaviours to help cope with the threat of Corona Virus, and this has had a major impact on our social lives. For your Residents Association it has meant that we are in almost total shutdown for the time being. Our regular talks have been put on hold until further notice and our social events cannot be held until lockdown is rolled back sufficiently for them to be run again. This has meant that our planned celebrations for the Onslow Village Centennial could not take place. We will of course plan a bumper party to celebrate that as soon as it is safe to do so.

On the plus side we did make efforts to ensure that the whole of Onslow Village was covered by volunteers willing and able to support those in need as a result of lockdown and self isolation. This was done by pulling together the efforts of those who had already established local support and making sure that areas not covered had one or more volunteers ready to provide the necessary support. We also had a bank of volunteers on standby in case the situation got worse and ready to support any volunteers who got swamped. Thankfully the situation did not get so bad that these needed to be called upon. My thanks to all those generous souls currently helping their neighbours or who offered to support and who stand ready in the wings. The response was extraordinary and moving. If you are aware of anyone needing support, or need support yourself, please get in touch.

While things seem to be under control at present, and lockdown restrictions are being eased, it does not look likely that we will be able to return to normal activity soon. However we would like to do what we can. Sad to say we are bereft of ideas. ***If you have suggestions we would be glad to hear them***, and will use any workable suggestions we get to try to expand our range of activities as lockdown is rolled back.

We are also aware that we have taken subs for this year but not been able to deploy them to best effect. This has left us with a bit of a surplus. We can either use that money to make our Centennial Party even bigger and better when it comes or use any surplus to make a donation to staff at the Royal Surrey County Hospital. **We would be keen to hear your views on this** and will use these views to properly inform our decision. Without wishing to sway you in any way I spent some time at the hospital for a non Covid related matter (now resolved) and can say that in my opinion our NHS Heroes deserve all the support we can give them, so my vote is for the donation.

Please drop me a text on 07789 662887 or email me at [ray\\_gwgc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ray_gwgc@hotmail.co.uk) if you want to respond to any of the points made above. In the meantime I hope that you and yours are safe and well, and that we can all get back to normal as soon as circumstances permit.

Ray Briggs

Chair, Onslow Village Residents Association

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## This Edition - Distribution and Delivery

Due to the current circumstances the distribution of this edition will be via email to those members who have provided their email address to OVRA and by hand delivery of printed copies to the remaining members.

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On a COVID note  
Great things are done when men and mountains meet  
This is not done by jostling in the street

William Blake

**“How to Join ?”  
Please see page 4**

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY ONSLOW VILLAGE 1920 - 2020

On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1920 the Management Committee of Onslow Village Ltd. held its first meeting.

## Your Focus on the Future

Does anyone remember those days before the lockdown? Back then, amongst the ideas to commemorate our Centennial Year, a few of us thought that a 'Timeline' of the 100 years most important events that had affected the Village since 1920 would be an appropriate thing to create. It would be a chance to dust off the archive material some of us have and empty our lofts of this precious documentation. We even had a file from West Sussex containing records kept by Mr. Sreeves, who was the Manager of Onslow Village Ltd in the early days of development.

With some unusual forethought we contacted the Museum and the Surrey History Centre in Woking to ensure that we didn't have to put the boxes back in our lofts. All of this came to nought with the lockdown.

Our timeline started in 1154 with the creation of Guildford Park -The Royal deer park which was part of the Royal Forests of Windsor. A few major events later and we get to the Cornish Rebellion and the skirmish on 'Gill Down' which took place on Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup> 1497. There is a stone on The Mount commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this rebellious march on London. Close by in 1896, when Surrey was on the defensive again, Henley Fort was built as the most westerly of 17 'mobilization centres' for the London Defence Line. After World War One when The Countess of Onslow laid the Foundation stone for the village our timeline really started to fill out. You get the picture - or at least you would have if Covid hadn't interrupted our celebrations and our liaisons with the Museum.

The changes we have seen in the past few months should give us pause for thought. How quickly our 'stable' society is disrupted and adjusted by events quite staggers the imagination. What will the Village be like one hundred years from now? We might think that little would be recognisable of today's Village in 2120 but I wonder whether that is really true. What do you think? Answers please to OVRA and we will see how diverse is the collection of ideas we receive.

If we get enough interesting views, we could seal these opinions and ideas and bury them in the Jubilee Garden?

As a guide, thinking back on the previous 100 years may be instructive. After all, during in this period the Village was built from scratch on what had been for centuries before productive farmland. Inspired after the Great War (the War to end all wars) as a rural idyll, a garden suburb with homes fit for heroes, it has endured and developed despite recessions and another World War.

A search for predictions of life in 22<sup>nd</sup> Century gives some clues. Front gardens may return to the Village as car ownership dies out and villagers 'hail' their intelligent green hydrogen personal transport pod to whisk them off to the (empty?) town centre. The journey to 'the countryside' may also require transport as the Surrey Hills become more densely populated. Life may become more locally and family home based. What of food supply, water, power; the pressures of changing demographics; the possibilities for medical advances and care; the future of culture and religion, the value of history and heritage. The list goes on, much like 'lockdown'.

Please endure through this current change of circumstances. We will pass through them to the new normal, but it will taint our lives for a number of years and we will remember these stressful months. Its healthy to dwell on what the future may bring. Regards. Look after yourselves and your neighbours and Stay Safe. Steve Mills



## ONSLOW VILLAGE COMMUNITY AED Do you know what to do ?



Our Village AED box is positioned alongside the Main Doors to the Village Hall with its external sensor light and level / ramp access to the car park and road.

We would like our local residents and Hall users to be familiar with the Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Safe use is aided by reassuring and easy to follow programmed audible instructions. Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is part of this procedure and a valuable potentially life-saving skill.

**Let's make Onslow Village heart health aware.**

REMEMBER - CALL 999 BEFORE USING THE AED

To report use of the AED, request training or if you have any queries to be answered .....

.....Please email: [onslowvillageaed@virginmedia.com](mailto:onslowvillageaed@virginmedia.com) or call: 01483 829707

Please Note : It is not possible to schedule training sessions during the COVID-19 restrictions.

## Wakey, Wakey but take your time.....

The Village, its organisations and businesses are reawakening. Williams paper shop has been able to 'soldier on' throughout the lockdown and we are grateful for their service. Some businesses have been active but not fully open. We can now see many more opening in their new social distancing way.

Georgie's Kitchen is busy and have their menu posted for viewing and ordering, both online/facebook and in the window. They're cutting again at Dee's and Budds are open. Surrey Property Lawyers at The Old Estate Office adjacent to the Village Hall have been open throughout but Pet Doctors Guildford have unfortunately had to officially close their Onslow Village office. Other groups are active again, such as OVLTC who are playing tennis again although they have new procedures to obey.

Wilderness Pre-School with over 30 years experience caring for our children aged between 2½ years to 5 years old reopened on the 8th June but are now closed, just for the School Hols though!

Many other businesses operate in the Village and we wish them well at this time.

The Village Halls, operating within the Government guidelines are now available for bookings. However, one off events are not being hosted at this time and the maximum attendance numbers allowed under the current restrictions mean that many groups and organisation such as OVRA ,who pre-Covid arrange regular events at the Halls, will not find it economically viable to re-start yet. We are really sorry.

Locally there are many things that are now possible if you abide by the guidelines, such a meal out, shopping at a wider range of venues and a visit to Watts Gallery, the RHS at Wisley or The National Trust to name a few. Public Transport is running - Safeguard's message is "please use our immaculately clean and daily disinfected buses driven by our dedicated and friendly drivers. We're here for you!"  
Enjoy the Summer.

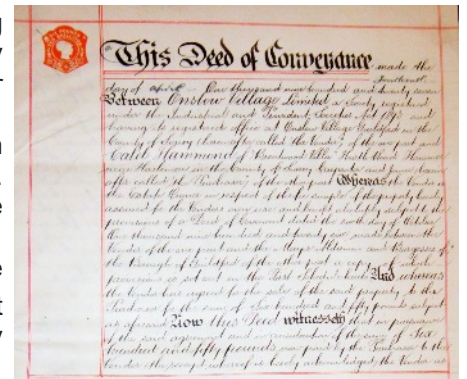
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## Those Title Deeds

An OVRA member emailed "I have been doing some tidying of paperwork during lockdown and have found the original papers for the conveyance of my house. They are dated from 1918 to the final point of sale in 1927. I thought that in this 100th year of Onslow Village you might be interested."

Indeed, these Village title documents are interesting, many and varied. Our own "deeds" are not so grandly scripted as those I received with the email (see image). Ours are in the form of a HM Land Registry Charge Certificate - a much more mundane offering than those that exude age and require reverent handling.

However, ours proclaim that the title for the land the Village was to be built on was the subject of a grant from Charles I on payment of a 'Fee Farm Rent of £27.7.4½' (a rent of £27.37p in today's money, the Fee being a fief, a feudal landholding ) and eventually being the subject of a conveyance on the 1st January 1918 from the Earl of Onslow.



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## Amused and Not Amused

### Eating in the Fifties

Pasta had not been invented. It was macaroni or spaghetti.

Curry was a surname.

A take-away was a mathematical problem.

Pizza? Sounds like a leaning tower somewhere.

Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time.

All crisps were plain.

Oil was for lubricating. fat was for cooking.

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.

Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.

Chickens didn't have fingers in those days.

None of us had ever heard of yoghurt.

Healthy food consisted of anything edible.

Cooking outside was called camping.

Seaweed was not a recognised food.

'Kebab' was not even a word. never mind a food.

Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days. and was regarded as being white gold.

Prunes were medicinal.

Surprisingly muesli was readily available. It was called cattle feed.

Pineapples came in chunks in a tin: we had only ever seen a picture of a real one.

Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it they would have become a laughing stock.

The one thing that we never ever had on/at our table in the fifties ... was *elbows. hats and cell phones.*

### Those Railings and the Road Sign

The railings and the road sign at The Crossways, which have had a chequered history of late, have still not been replaced, having been demolished for a second time a year and half ago. However, there is now news on what has been happening to have the railings replaced but no news at all about the Road Sign!

One of our local councillors reported that the contract to remake the railings had been given to a company in Stoke on Trent. They were designed and manufactured specifically to replace the original railings and were due to be installed in January this year.

However, when it came to fixing them on site, the railings were found to be of the incorrect size and would not fit. They were sent away to be resized when the Corona Virus shutdown occurred and all such work has been on hold.

The result is that there is no firm news as to when they will be refitted. We will keep you informed of developments but if you hear before we do, please let us know.

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I eat my peas with honey  
I've done it all my life  
It makes the peas taste funny  
But it keeps them on the knife!

Anon





## Back Page Notes to Note

### Getting Creative.

Lockdown projects on the Rec...

We hope you saw the Chalk Path artworks and the head to tail 'paint a rock' snake.



Who'd 'ave thought it?

It is now legal to enter a bank in a mask and demand money!



### Village

### Heritage



There are three different card designs.

40p each or 3 for £1.

They are on sale at our events or they can be provided if you contact us.



### OUR REPRESENTATIVES

Angela Richardson, our M.P. for Guildford.

Your Onslow Ward Councillors are....

Councillor Jon Askew      Liberal Democrats  
 Councillor David Goodwin      Liberal Democrats  
 Councillor Will Salmon      Liberal Democrats  
 find them on the OVRA website

### New Neighbours?

If you know of anyone who has just moved into the Village, please let one of the committee know so we can give them a welcome letter and a copy of the VV.

## HOW TO JOIN - OVRA Membership Renewal for 2020

OVRA Membership renewal was due from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. Joining OVRA or renewing your membership is easy. Either complete the form from the website and send it with a cheque or cash to The Membership Secretary, c/o 9 Orchard Road or (after the lock-down) fill in a form and pay at Georgie's Cafe, or pay us directly when you attend one of our events. Membership is £10 per household. If you have an existing standing order please amend the payment amount to £10 as our subscriptions went up last year. New memberships last to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

You can join even if you live outside the Village.  
 Free entry to our Tuesday talks

Visit the website at..

[e-voice.org.uk/ovra-guildford/](http://e-voice.org.uk/ovra-guildford/)

or email [ovrasec@gmail.com](mailto:ovrasec@gmail.com)

or phone 01483 562106 or 01483 566353.

Only £10 per year for the whole household  
 Get your Village Voice

This newsletter is valuable and represents a significant investment by OVRA in time, effort and funding to produce and deliver. If you have read it please pass it on and....

**if this Newsletter has been passed on to you please make your home a member of OVRA.**

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 [esamgem@btinternet.com](mailto:esamgem@btinternet.com)

The COPY DATE for the Autumn edition is 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020.