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You can join the Onslow Village community Facebook page here <https://www.facebook.com/groups/455804498174020/>

Winter 2020 / 2021

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONSLOW VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Welcome to this Winter edition of the Village Voice and we wish you a happier New Year

Sadly our Village Centennial Year was unique for all of the wrong reasons.

See our Chairman's Message and news about the AGM (over page)

## OVRA's Forthcoming Robust Lock-Down Distanced Events

In addition to the Village Voice and Website updates OVRA is very pleased to announce .....

### OVRA's on-line ZOOM Meetings

Following the success of our previous Zoom Talks OVRA have scheduled further on-line Zoom meetings given by guest speakers.

To receive a zoom link to the presentation please email Ray Briggs at [ray\\_gwgc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ray_gwgc@hotmail.co.uk).

The next presentations are.....

**Tuesday 9th March 2021** at 7.45pm

'The Gates of Guildford' presented by **Colin Rumary** who will be giving a presentation about the historic lanes and passages that link Guildford High Street to the outer streets.



**Tuesday 13th April 2021** at 7.45pm

'The Great Barn at Wanborough and it's Connection Through History' presented by **Stephen Callender** who will bring to life the history of The Barn from prehistoric man to the Romans, the Normans and and the Special Operations Executive during WWII. Wanborough has been inhabited for over 10,000 years. This talk will include an audio visual as well as showcasing the 630 year old barn – one of the oldest timber buildings in South East England - and will cover some of Wanborough's fascinating past.



We recognise and regret that some members do not have access to the facilities necessary to participate in these Zoom presentations. However, it is felt that the lesser of two evils is to hold the meetings despite this rather than have OVRA not meet at all.

## 'A Tale of Two Trees' and of '25 days of Windows' Our Advent Windows and the Village Christmas Trees

Once again our Village 'Living Advent Calendar' and the 'Tree in the Square' (picture on right) proved a great success. Thanks are due to Mike, Ray, Kim, Judith, Penny, the Village Hall and all those who helped and participated. You can view the Advent Windows and see the video of the twinkling Christmas Tree lights in the Advent Windows 2020 Photo Galley on the OVRA web page.

What other time of the year do you sit by a dead tree and eat sweets out of your socks?

Thanks also go to those who decorated the Tree in the Arboretum -(picture on left)



## OVRA Chairman's Message

Let me start by wishing you a belated Happy New Year. It is certainly not the start to the new year that any of us wanted. Hopefully we are looking at the light at the end of the tunnel and things will improve as the vaccination programme picks up momentum. In the meantime stay safe and if you need support please get in touch and we will try to put you in touch with local volunteers.

Last year was a challenge for OVRA. We couldn't hold the Onslow Village Centenary celebrations as we had hoped, or indeed any of our social functions. We did start to run some zoom talks in December and we have had two so far. The first was an interesting, timely and topical discussion of the Climate Crisis by Graham Brown. We hope to follow this up later in this year with a talk on practical and achievable actions we could all take to reduce our own carbon footprints. Our second talk in January was an entertaining delve into Conspiracy Theories given by Andy Thomas. If you want to be kept up to date on forthcoming talks, or have ideas on interesting topics and speakers we might approach, please get in touch. So if you have an interest you are just itching to tell others all about, don't be shy.

We put up a Christmas Tree on the Square again this year and we also extended the Advent Windows this year which I hope you all managed to see. Thanks to all those who contributed, and particularly to Judith Sands who organised it again this year. It certainly brightened things up over the Christmas period. Thanks also to those intrepid souls who put up amazing Christmas lights. OVRA did not organise this but I think a lot of people made a special effort this year. It was very much appreciated.

A further challenge this year will be the AGM. This is usually held in March but the committee has decided that in the interests of safety we will postpone this until restrictions are lifted. Accounts will be prepared and sent out to members in March but discussion and adoption of the accounts will have to wait until the AGM. The present committee has agreed to continue in post until that time. However there are places available on the committee so if you have some time and/or have ideas about things OVRA should be doing to benefit our community please get in touch. New ideas are always welcome.

Finally we need your help. We usually do a distribution to the whole of Onslow Village in January. In order to cut costs we have decided to send copies by email to members and hard copy only to those members without internet. This both saves money and is kinder to the planet. However we would like to reach as many people as possible. Please forward this to your friends in and around Onslow Village. And if you run a street whatsapp group or similar local networking group please get in touch. It would be helpful to have a network of people able to distribute electronic material to as many residents as possible.

Stay Safe.

Ray Briggs, OVRA Chair  
(ray\_gwgc@hotmail.co.uk)



### 112 Years but no more

It is sad to see. Williams Bros., Guildford's oldest newsagent, has finally had to close. From North Street in 1908 to The Square at the start of 2021 they have been with us. They will continue in their other guise - Williams Property Management. We wish them the best and thank them for all those years of service and their support of OVRA.



### 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**

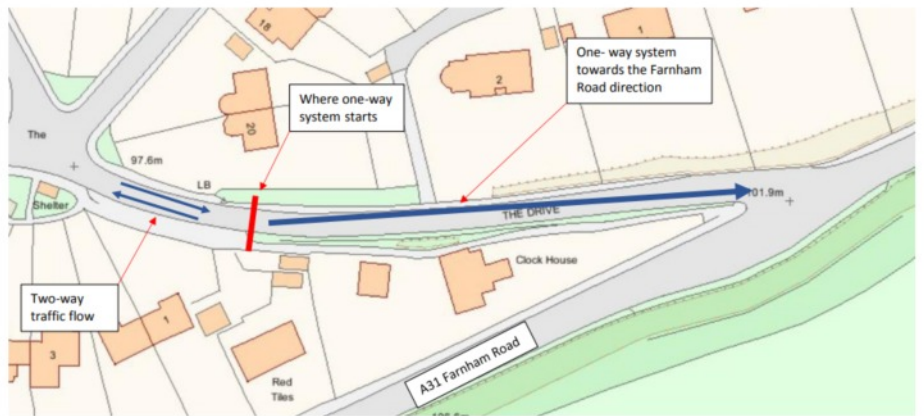
To report use of the AED, request training or if you have any queries to be answered .....

.....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.

## Proposed Road Change for 'The Drive'

Proposed traffic flow directions in The Drive, Onslow Village



A proposal to make The Drive one way from the Clockhouse entrance up to the Farnham Road was considered at a site meeting on Tuesday 20 October between county councillors, borough councillors and SCC officers.

The plan shows the proposed direction of traffic flows in The Drive.

See the OVRA website for our Councillors contact details.

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## Local Government - on the move into Surrey

Surrey County Council (SCC) is scheduled to hold their first full council meeting at their new Reigate headquarters in the former Canon building at Cockshot Hill, Woodhatch on the 16th March.

This is not the only movement though, as the Surrey County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner Election are still on course for.....

**Election Day - Thursday 6th May 2021.**

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## The 2021 National Census - 21st March 2021 for us and March 2022 in Scotland

Ten years ago the cost of the census were of sufficient concern that successive Governments questioned the value of such future decennial exercises. In these circumstances, governments set up new committees. The result was 'Beyond 2021' being the UK Statistics Authority project to assess the situation. The recommended process relies upon 60–65% of household returns being completed on-line. Far from being derailed by the projected costs or the Covid-19 situation the census is to go ahead as it should provide insights into the impact of the pandemic. The first such impact of the current emergency is that Scotland has had to delay its census by a year due to the pandemic.

The latest statement from the Office for National Statistics reads "The census will shed light on the needs of different groups and communities, and the inequalities people are experiencing, ensuring the big decisions facing the country following the pandemic and EU exit are based on the best information possible."

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## Our Village Halls - an update

Operating for almost a year in an ever changing regime of social distancing and closure rules, the Village Halls have continued to provide services to the community. Most significantly, the Wilderness Pre-School has managed to function despite the funding issues Karen and her team have to negotiate. The Halls have been quiet when usually they are so busy each week with events organised by a cornucopia of groups and organisations. Very few groups have been able to hold viable meetings, mainly due to the limits on the size of gatherings, even in those rare periods when their activities were allowed. Like OVRA with its Zoom meetings, some of the other groups have been able to make use of virtual facilities to maintain their momentum and cohesion. Of course the running costs of the Halls are much the same whether they are used or not!

ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) are concerned with the countries 10,000+ village halls, most of which date back to the 1920s. They have been offering Halls their interpretation of the Government rules and guidance which has been most helpful. To celebrate the contribution the Halls make to rural communities they held a Village Halls Week in late January and launched their virtual 'Domesday Book' to record the work the Halls are doing in 2021. Their hope is that this record will help make the case for sustained funding and support for village halls which will be especially important as the country recovers from the coronavirus pandemic. (Search on-line: ACRE Domesday - it is quite an impressive read)



1984 - Save Our Hall campaign

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Why do 'fat chance' and 'slim chance' mean the same thing?

## Back Page Notes to Note



### Village Heritage Postcards



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.

### Village quotes

"A village is a hive of glass, where nothing unobserved can pass."  
Charles Spurgeon  
and one that has new poignancy with every new lockdown...

"The notion of the world as a village is becoming a reality."  
James Wolfensohn

## HOW TO JOIN - OVRA Membership Renewal for 2021

OVRA Membership renewal is due from 1<sup>st</sup> April each year. Joining OVRA or renewing your membership is easy.

Many fees are usually collected at the AGM, held in March annually, or at subsequent events. This has necessarily been different this year as events have had to be cancelled or have taken place in a different format. Consequently many memberships are lapsed. OVRA took the decision to continue to include lapsed membership on the mailing list for Village Voice for 2020.

The OVRA committee have decided not to print and issue 2021 membership cards at the present time so membership will be confirmed by email - please make sure we have the correct email contact for your household.

If you would like to renew your membership for 2021 and continue to support OVRA, this may be done by either completing the form accessed from the website and send it with a cheque or cash to The Membership Secretary, c/o 9 Orchard Road or (lock-down allowing) 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 ensure that the payment amount is £10. New memberships last to 31<sup>st</sup> March each year. setting up a Standing Order through your bank using the form on the website or by completing the form at Georgie's Café and leaving it there for collection along with the subscription. Thank you. For any questions regarding individual membership please contact judesands@gmail.com

You can join even if you  
live outside the Village.  
Free entry to our  
Tuesday talks  
(Zoom or Hall)

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

Printed newsletters are 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 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)



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

The COPY DATE for the Spring edition is 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021.