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'OVRA Guildford' for e-voice.org.uk/ovra-guildford/



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

THE VILLAGE VOICE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONSLOW VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

A Message From Our New Chair

Living as we do in a world of epic problems such as global warming, disease, war and social injustice – it is all too easy to despair. There are solutions but as an individual they can seem impossible to apply requiring more money, faster technology advances and that all too often, evasive political collective will. How then to make a difference? One of the solutions it seems to me is to work together in our communities and affect positive change at a local level.

When a group of people work together they are much more powerful and can get much more done than individuals on their own. That is why I volunteered to be more active within OVRA and after a spell on the committee recently became Chair.

As the new Chair of OVRA what do I want to see? OVRA needs to be at the heart of the local community. I would like to see our members households, drawn as they are from all ages and backgrounds, work together for the benefit of all in the village. I would like the village to offer activities for everyone and be a place where all local organisations and groups whether sporting, voluntary, youth or business can come together.

My first task is to run a successful Street Party for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday, 5th June. It feels too long since the village last had an opportunity to celebrate and have some fun together and meet our neighbours.

PLATINUM JUBILEE STREET PARTY

ONSLOW VILLAGE SQUARE
SUNDAY 5 JUNE from 2 pm
Live Music by
The Marianne Windham Jazz Quintet

Limited chairs and tables, so BYO if possible

PIMMS Tent
Children's Games and Competitions
Raffle
Georgie's Café serving light snacks

OVRA WISHES TO THANK THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT FOR THIS EVENT

Surrey Property Lawyers
Williams Property Management

We have booked the Village Hall and with some generous sponsorship from Surrey Property Lawyers and J D Williams have booked the Marianne Windham Jazz Quintet so we have live music. We will close the road to traffic at the Square on Wilderness Road. It promises to be great fun – and a lot of work. I'm already recruiting volunteers to help make bunting, with setting up tables and chairs beforehand and clear them away afterwards and man stalls etc. If you and/or your local organisation would like to be involved please let me know. (A big thank you to those that have already come forward). In particular at the moment we are seeking someone with up to date first aid training – could you help us with this?

Continues on page two

Continued from Page One.....

Looking further ahead as a community we face all sorts of challenges – my second task is to make sure that we are represented and our views heard so that Onslow Village remains a great place to live, work and bring up a family. That includes having a voice with respect to the many changes being currently suggested with respect to our amenities; including our local Guildown Surgery on Wodeland Avenue, provision of toilets on the Recreation Ground and any changes to access to the village for example.

Finally I'd like OVRA to be one of the many community groups that tackle on a local scale some of the bigger issues that will face us in the coming months and years. What can we do to promote more biodiversity in the Village? Is there something we can collectively do to mitigate the effects of rising fuel prices next winter? What impact will the demand for electric car charging have on the village? I'm sure you will have some ideas and suggestions of your own please feel free to get in touch and discuss them with me.

Rebecca Brown,
OVRA Chair



OVRA's CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Presentations are held in the Village Main Hall (The Square GU2 7QR unless otherwise stated from 7:15 p.m with complimentary Tea / Coffee served prior to the start of the Talk at 7:45 p.m.

Tuesday 12th April SCAMS - Lets beat this together

Waverley Surrey police volunteer Jenny Thrower will help us understand some of the most prevalent scams on the internet, social media and telephone that we are exposed to and how best to deal with them. There is plenty of interest in this subject and Jenny says the post talk questions and discussion usually include some personal recent accounts of scam activity.

Sunday 17th April Easter Egg Hunt see details below

Tuesday 10th May Meet your Councillors

Following a short presentation from each of our Councillors they will answer questions posed by members of the audience. This follows the format of a similar event organised by OVRA in 2019 that proved most interesting and informative for the audience and the council representatives.

Sunday 5th June OVRA's Street Party for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee see panel Front page



and the Hall is booked for future Tuesday evenings events on.....

12th July, 13th September and 8th November (our mince pies and mulled wine evening)



Easter Egg Hunt

APRIL 17th 2022

10:00 – 12:00



Easter Egg Hunt for children aged 0-5 & 6-12 years.

Search for age appropriate tokens hidden in the Arboretum/Recreation Ground to exchange for chocolate eggs.

Cost £4.00 - Sales end 14th April - Paying now guarantees your child's place & egg in the completion. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and should register with OVRA volunteers stationed at the playground on arrival. This is the first time we have run this event & we're hoping it will be the first of many.

We are using 'Eventbrite' to book tickets on-line. Just search OVRA + Easter Egg hunt on their website.

We are not offering refunds so if you need to cancel (or we do because of awful weather) we will do our best to get your eggs to you.

Contact us through website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/ovra-guildford/contact/ovra/>

Our 'Jubilee Garden' Spring update

The OVRA Jubilee Garden project seems to have survived the winter intact. A small working party removed the branches and leaves that storm Dennis deposited all over the site last month. We had some wonderful lilac crocuses this spring - I think because the overhead canopy had been trimmed back.



To keep the site looking well maintained we plan to add a further layer of tree bark as a mulch to keep down the weeds and hopefully keep the plants damp in the coming weeks. Do let me know if I can add your name to our ad-hoc list of volunteers who now look after the site - we may need some help with watering too. Later in the summer we also plan to re-oil the benches. Let us know if you have any ideas for improvements.

Update on Guildowns Group / Woodbridge Hill Surgery Reorganisation.

As you may know the Guildowns Group and Woodbridge Hill surgeries are looking to re-site themselves to enable them to provide a better service to their patients. The St Catherine's Village Association, (SCVA) Onslow Village Residents' Association (OVRA) and the Guildford Society have all sent representatives to the Surrey Heartland Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) This group is set up to decide how best to communicate the plans being developed for this reorganisation to local residents. There is a document on the CCG website (<https://www.surreyheartlandscg.nhs.uk/get-involved/primary-care/health-and-primary-care-in-guildford>) which describes the plan to date. Following a feasibility study conducted in 2019 the proposed options are as follows



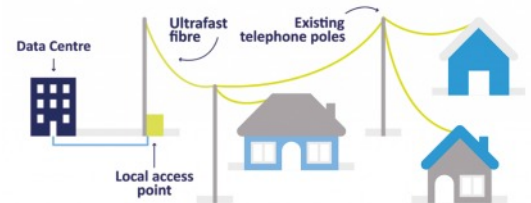
1. One site at Park Barn
2. One site at the Jarvis Centre
3. Two sites, at Park Barn and the Jarvis Centre
4. Three sites, at Park Barn, the Jarvis Centre and retaining the existing Wodeland Avenue Surgery

SCVA, OVRA and the Guildford Society have serious concerns over the way this is being handled. While we agree that the surgeries under consideration have a real need to be improved, the proposals for improvement as yet do not take account of the overall GP need for the whole of the Guildford area. As a result of those comments CCG is organising a review of this which it is calling Plan B. Sadly this is being done in parallel with the Guildown Group and Woodbridge Hill Plan rather than ahead of it, which seems to us a rather futile effort. We are also deeply concerned that if Wodeland Avenue is closed there will be no GP site south of the A3 and west of the River Wey. This is a huge area and many residents will be seriously disadvantaged by this. Ease of access to GP services was highest priority raised in CCG's initial engagement with patients and as you are aware Guildford's transport issues would make journeys to new surgeries in North Guildford difficult. As a result of our objections the CCG is looking at including satellite centres around the Guildown Group and Woodbridge Hill catchment area but we have no details as yet on where these might be sited or what level of facility they will offer. We have tried to suggest other sites to CCG such as the new major housing development at the Guildford Park Car Park, Buryfields (previous St Nicolas Surgery) and the Farnham Road Hospital but these are all considered unsuitable.

SCVA, OVRA and the Guildford Society will continue to be engaged with this issue and push for a better solution for affected residents and would be keen to hear your views on this important issue.

Fibre To The Premises (FTTP)

Some members raised concerns about the proposed fibre to the premises network which Netomnia is proposing to build. The main concerns were about telegraph poles being put up in the area. I had a chat mid March with Anna Jensen from Netomnia to discuss what is planned. She has told me that while their plans are not finalised they were looking at 6 or 7 poles in our area, but that all but one is on hold, meaning that at present they only feel that one pole will be needed. They have completed a virtual survey and things may change



when they site survey the existing underground ducting but she did not anticipate that poles would be needed. While that was far from a guarantee it was encouraging. She also mentioned that some clearance of ducting may be required but it did not appear that this would be very disruptive, and digging would only be required in extreme cases.

While 'You Fibre' are their broadband partner they anticipate that other providers will come on board, ensuring there is competition. She also pointed out that Open Reach will stop supporting existing copper wire broadband provision in 2025. I am not sure if that means it will be switched off or be allowed to continue but not be maintained. I am sure we all value our broadband connection and competition for faster broadband in this area is, I think, generally a good thing.

If you want to talk to Netomnia about this they can be contacted at build@netomnia.com. Feel free to come back to me at ray_gwgc@hotmail.co.uk. We hope to have an SCC Officer at our Meet the Councillors meeting on the 10th May who is handling this from a Council perspective. If there is anyone out there with expertise in this area who can help us monitor this I would be grateful to hear from you.

Guildford Borough Council's Shaping Guildford's Future

Into its 4th month this GBC consultation concerning the town centre is still active. To help inform the development of the masterplan GBC have been holding events including online webinars, face-to-face workshops and digital campaigns giving you every opportunity to ask any questions that you may have.

For details visit <https://shapingguildford.co.uk>

.....and as for the A3 ? - Tunnel or No Tunnel





Back Page Notes to Note

LETS HEAR IT FOR....

OVRA applaud all who contribute to the Village amenities. Here are a couple of examples in The Square that have been facilitated in part by the Village Hall Management Committee but are projects by members of our OV WI and Karen at Wilderness Preschool. The Book Nook is very popular, the defib less so thank goodness ! What's your Village project ?



See Village Voice Winter 2017



See Village Voice Autumn 2019



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
Angela Goodwin	Surrey County Councillor for Guildford South West division.

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.

Neighbourhood Problem

If you want to report a problem and follow it up until it is resolved you might start with...

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/do-it-online/report-it-online> or <https://www.guildford.gov.uk/report> and other such local authority reporting facilities.

Village Heritage Postcards



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.

HOW TO JOIN - OVRA Membership Renewal for 2022

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

Many fees are usually collected at the annual AGM, normally held in March, or at subsequent events. If you would like to renew your membership for 2022 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 31 Hedgeway or 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. 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/

or email judesands@gmail.com

or phone 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 your hard copy 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



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

The COPY DATE for the Summer edition is 2nd August 2022.