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ISSUE No 69  
Summer 2022

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONSLOW VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## OVRA's Street Party



## Notes from the Chair



I hope you have enjoyed the photographs of our very successful Street Party for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – looking back through them there are many shared happy memories. We were really pleased that so many of you from the village were able to come on the day and that so many of you have said how much you enjoyed the jazz, bus, games & activities (not to mention the Pimms) we laid on. You also stressed how you valued the opportunity to chat and reconnect with friends and neighbours.

I think it is worth mentioning again how fortunate we were to have very generous sponsorship from businesses in The Square and an army of volunteers helping out and providing support. It is that kind of community spirit which makes an event such as this possible. We are truly grateful to all who contributed in this way. Also thanks to everyone who bought raffle prizes and tickets.

Looking ahead I'm really hoping that you would like another chance to socialise with other residents through sharing good experiences, happy memories, people, sport and art that have inspired you and your most amusing joke or anecdote over a relaxed and informal meal at a 'Bring and Share' on Saturday, 22nd October; as detailed on our calendar below.

You can imagine that running events for everyone of all ages, capabilities and interests perhaps not covered by special interest groups elsewhere is quite a challenge! We are always on the look out for fresh ideas and faces – at the moment we particularly seek volunteers to help with organising and setting up events and someone to help us make the most of social media and digital communications. Also we need some parents of school age children to maintain and grow our successful families' activities – currently the advent calendar windows at Christmas and the Easter Egg Hunt. We also need strong and keen gardeners to help upkeep the centenary garden.



Rebecca Brown,  
OVRA Chair

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## OVRA's CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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**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 13<sup>th</sup> September Special Meeting on GP Services in Guildford**

If Wodeland Avenue Surgery closes under plans to reorganise there will be no GP surgery west of the River Wey and South of the A3. At this meeting the Guildown and Woodbridge Hill GP Practices will bring us the latest news on the consultations and listen to the residents views on the proposals.

### **Saturday 22 October Bring and Share Evening note - 7:30 to 9:30 pm**

This is your chance to get to know other people in the village through sharing experiences, memories and inspirations over a bring and share dinner. If lock-down has left you struggling with suitable small talk we will provide a list of questions guaranteed to get the conversation started. We ask that you bring either a starter, a main or a pudding to be shared along with wine or other beverage. It is envisaged that tickets will go on sale from September through Eventbrite website, once we have ascertained accurate costs. Further details will follow on our Website, Notice Boards and on social media.

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November Harp and Holly** This will strike a chord with many of you as we will be welcoming back, by popular demand, Margaret Watson, who came last November and entertained us so magnificently playing a wide range of music on her harp. This time it will be a light hearted look at the harp; its history and repertoire – with some seasonal tunes. We will be serving the customary complimentary mulled wine and mince pies.



**Tuesday 10 January 2023 Hog's Back Brewery** Mel Rees will be giving a presentation on the history, the brewing process, current projects and the future of The Hogs Back Brewery, combined with light-hearted anecdotes from 20 years as a guide for the brewery. Mel will be providing four different beers to sample and there will be a raffle for gift packs of their beers. This promises to be a lively and entertaining evening.

**Saturday 18 February 2023 Spring Social** Details to follow on our Website, Notice Boards and on social media.

**Tuesday 14 March 2023 AGM** - Presentation to be announced

**Watch the OVRA Website for details of the 2023-24 season programme.**



## ← Challenges to our Village Life →

Why do you live in Onslow Village? I would guess the easy transport links by rail and road and the sought after schools enticed you, and the pleasant and scenic local environs, proximity to attractive shops and a strong local community kept you here.

How would you feel about it though if the traffic regularly snarled up on Madrid Road/The Chase and these exit points from the village were blocked as well as the Farnham Road? What if the local school was too full for your children so they had to travel on congested routes to the other side of Guildford? How will they complete the journey independently if the bus service doesn't continue? What if you need to take your other child/vulnerable family member to their GP appointment in Stoughton – a round trip which will take the greater part of your working day. Meanwhile your tooth aches and you really need the time to search for an NHS dentist nearby.

I hate being pessimistic and overly negative but all of the above scenarios are distinct possibilities at the moment, due to short term thinking and lack of a coherent vision for Guildford. There are a number of housing development projects nearby which will together directly impact on traffic, parking, and local schools. Separately the Guildown and Woodbridge Hill GP practices are looking at options which include closing the only GP practice our side of the A3 and the river (see enclosed flyer with respect to meeting on Tuesday, 13th September). The bus service could be under threat and I believe NHS dentist services already are non-existent.

What can we all do? If you feel strongly about this I would firstly urge you to make your views known in the various public consultations underway. We will try to keep you updated via our website. (We'd like to do more on other social media but this needs someone to take on this role for us).

OVRA itself has a rather wide remit to work to promote the amenities of the area and enhance the quality of life for all village residents, whether members or not. We will flag these concerns to the authorities via the public consultations but are somewhat constrained by lack of manpower and resource from launching full scale campaigns.

Finally, join in with others committed to campaigning for better outcomes for Onslow Village and Guildford. Please get in touch via the website and we will put you in touch with some other like-minded residents.



### Jubilee and Centenary Garden Update

It doesn't seem possible that it will be a year ago in September since the garden refurbishment was completed and we had the official opening ceremony performed by Lord and Lady Onslow with the Deputy Mayor in attendance together with the subsequent reception in the Village Hall.

Our main concern thereafter was how the plants would survive through the winter and beyond, especially with the extreme heat we experienced in July. At the planning stage we were careful to choose plants which tolerate shade as well as dry conditions. We were also determined not to let it befall the same fate as the original Jubilee Garden which eventually fell into terminal decline.

As there is no access to water on site, we have to say a huge thank you to a very generous neighbour who has very kindly continued to give us access to water and with the use of OVRA members' hoses linked together, has enabled the garden to have a good soaking several times. This has been an enormous help and together some of the OVRA committee and volunteers who have also transported water in a variety of containers, we have managed to keep all the original plants alive and thriving.

In addition, these volunteers have regularly weeded, swept and washed the benches to keep the garden as fresh as the day it opened. so, our grateful thanks to everyone concerned. The next test will be through the coming winter and spring to ensure that everything manages to survive again.

Looking back at the photos we took of the area before the project started it really has been quite a transformation and it is rewarding to see it being used and enjoyed as a restful place to sit and hopefully relax. I am very proud of what, with a small group of people, we have been able to achieve.

Angela Joule



Please water the plants if you can

## Our Congratulations to the Onslow Village Lawn Tennis Club from OVRA

**OVLTC** is celebrating its Centenary this year and we wish them well in all their celebrations.



The OVLTC websites shows their events...

<https://www.facebook.com/OnslowTennisClub>

and/or

[clubspark.lta.org.uk/onslowvillagelawntennisclub](http://clubspark.lta.org.uk/onslowvillagelawntennisclub)

or email [onslowtennis@outlook.com](mailto:onslowtennis@outlook.com)



**STOP PRESS**

**BREAKING NEWS**

### ROUTE 18 BUS SERVICE

Safeguard has recently learnt that it has lost the contract to operate local bus route Route 18, purely on grounds of price which is hugely disappointing given the efforts Safeguard has made to run a friendly, reliable and well publicised service which is being used by more people than previously. The new operator has not yet been named. Safeguard's last day running Route 18 will be Saturday 27 August 2022 and the new operator will start running from the start of the following week. OVRA will provide members with more information as soon as it becomes available so make sure you are subscribed to the OVRA if you want to know! Any comments or questions on this matter should be directed to [passenger.transport@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:passenger.transport@surreycc.gov.uk).

How much for a new chimney? Nothing, its on the house!

## ON A BRIGHTER NOTE



If a word is mis-spelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?



### All Saints' Church

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September

Autumn Fayre



#### 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.

#### Stay Safe 'in the know'

Did you know that Surrey Police run a community messaging scheme where you can sign up to get messages about what's happening in Surrey? I didn't but I do now. The link is [www.intheknow.community](http://www.intheknow.community)

Speedcam Anywhere uses video from your phone to calculate the speed of a vehicle as well as its location. It generates a link which can be uploaded to police dashcam websites or used to campaign for traffic calming measures.

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

#### 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.



### HOW TO JOIN - OVRA Membership Renewal for 2022

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 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 21 Bannisters Road 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 [ovraguildford@outlook.com](mailto:ovraguildford@outlook.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 [ovraguildford@outlook.com](mailto:ovraguildford@outlook.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 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)

