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ISSUE No 70  
Autumn 2022



# THE VILLAGE VOICE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONSLOW VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



HRH Queen Elizabeth II  
1926 - 2022

## The End of an Era.

## Her Memory will continue to inspire.

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### Welcome to our 70<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Village Voice

Dear Members and Residents Since the Village Voice last went to press, Onslow Village Residents' Association has had a comparatively large postbag with respect to local issues.

Firstly, on the reorganisation of the local GP practices (see article on Page 3) we have been made aware of a range of views and opinions. Please give some thought to what your top priorities are for our local primary healthcare going forward. NHS Surrey Heartlands ICB have rescheduled for Tuesday, 22nd November and all are welcome to this meeting.

Secondly the handover from Safeguard to Compass to provide our No 18 bus service to the Village in early September was not without problems. If you have further complaints please: use the County Council online complaint form or e-mail: [county.complaints@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:county.complaints@surreycc.gov.uk) or write to: Customer Relations Team, Surrey County Council, Dakota, 11 De Havilland Drive, Brooklands Industrial Park, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 0YP or telephone: 0345 609009 (9 to 5, Mon to Fri). Please note that back in December 2021, Arriva ceased their Guildford operations 'following a decline in passenger numbers and the operation being deemed unsustainable'. In short if we don't use it, we will lose it.

Rebecca Brown  
Chair Onslow Village Residents' Association

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### How High? How Many? OVRA's participation in local planning

Whether it is the height of proposed new developments or numbers of new homes, town planning is difficult. Is it also questionable who makes the decisions? Do you have a say through consultation or the ballot box? Or do you believe it is often in the gift of an official who doesn't even live near or know Guildford? Is anyone responsible for the whole picture, with each new development fitting into a grand plan for the area, its housing, utilities, transport and amenities?

Whatever your views, OVRA is on a mission to at least keep you informed on the major changes in prospect or up for consultation and along with many other local Residents Associations we are part of the Guildford Residents Associations (GRA) organisation - on-line at <https://www.guildfordresidents.co.uk/>. As example of ongoing work, the GRA are concerned that town developments are reaching new heights and without an upper limit, occupation density in the town is unbounded. Current examples include 10 storey blocks on the Mount and the 8 storey Solum scheme and now North Street at 14 storeys, Debenhams 8 storeys, and Guildford Park Road 10 storeys. For more details on this GRA work see page 5 below.

Details of the major town development can be found on the OVRA website under Local Government News.



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### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 - Street Party for the Coronation of King Charles III

If you or your organisation are interested in participating in an Onslow Village Street Party please let us know. Unfortunately, as it is on a bus route, closure of The Square to traffic can only be arranged on Sundays, the day after the Coronation..

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### OUR ARBORETUM IN AUTUMN

Kicking through the fallen leaves with the sun low in the sky but warm on your back... with sights like this .....



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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 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 22nd November 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. (See article on Page 3)



**December** Plans are being laid for some winter cheer with the Christmas display outside the Village Halls and for this years Advent Windows around the Village.

**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.**

Tuesday 11 April 2023 18:30 to 22:00

Tuesday 9 May 2023 18:30 to 22:00

Tuesday 13 June 2023 18:30 to 22:00

Tuesday 11 July 2023 18:30 to 22:00

Tuesday 12 September 2023 18:30 to 22:00

Saturday 14 October 2023 18:30 to 23:00

Tuesday 14 November 2023 18:30 to 22:00

Tuesday 9 January 2024 18:30 to 22:00

Saturday 17 February 2024 18:30 to 23:00

Tuesday 12 March 2024 18:30 to 22:00

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## AND ELSEWHERE

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**Saturday 12 November** **ONSLow VILLAGE WI** are holding our charity **CHRISTMAS MARKET** from 11am to 2pm in Onslow Village Hall. This will be a repeat of the events in 2019 and 2021 which proved so popular with our members, stallholders, and the Onslow Village Community not to mention our supported Charities.

Stalls will include Gifts and Crafts, Art Works and Ceramics by local artists, Cards and Calendars, Christmas Decorations and Wreaths, Hand Crafted Jewellery, Natural Beauty Products, Tombola for adults and children, Raffle, Cakes, and Hot Snacks and Refreshments.

Entry will be £1, Children under 16 free.



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### History... or as Alan Bennett put it..... "Just one thing after another"

Since 1956 OVRA has been collecting our Village history and even creating part of this chronicle to a significant extent with its activities. Some of us who have served on the OVRA committee have accumulated volumes of material which are undoubtedly of importance to the preservation of Onslow Village history. This autumn the Surrey History Centre in Woking is taking some of this material previously stored in our cupboards, lofts and garages to add to its collection.

In addition to these physical remnants of our rich historical fabric, in the last few decades OVRAs activities have produced a digital archive. The most interesting elements of this are available to view on-line via our Website. An example is the collection of back copies of The Village Voice.

There is also the 'must read' "Story of Onslow Village" that was scanned for our website with the kind permission of its author, Helen Chapman Davies, when copies of the original printed version sold out.

Finally, I'm always pleasantly surprised at the interest shown in our 6 large folding Heritage Boards whenever we display them. These were created to celebrate OVRA's 50th year.

Images of these boards are also available for viewing on-line on our website.



## Cancellation Notice - Strictly Come Dancing wins contest with Bring & Share

The allure of fake tans, glitter and sequins wins! I'm sorry to announce that we at OVRA can't compete with the entertainment this show offers and are unfortunately cancelling the 'Bring and Share' social event on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

Putting on social events calls for a great deal of time, effort and expense (we have to pay for the use of the Village Hall). Volunteers come up with what we hope are attractive events and market them as widely as possible. In this instance the appeal is obviously lacking - please do let me know your thoughts on why this is. I think also that at OVRA we have been concentrating our efforts on the NHS reorganisation and other local planning developments and changes, perhaps to the event's detriment. It is apparent that we need an enthusiastic co-ordinator for social events. I do appreciate that is far too open ended commitment for many so would consider welcoming a volunteer to just take on the organisation of a single event - such as the February Social for example.

Meanwhile I look forward to seeing you instead at the forthcoming 'Harp & Holly' event on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> November. Mince pies and mulled wine as well as the popular Harpist: Margaret Watson.

Rebecca Brown

email : rebecca.brown@tmmt.co.uk

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## Open Meeting on Proposed Local GP Surgery Reorganisation

On the 13th September OVRA held an open meeting to discuss the upcoming changes to the Guildown and Woodbridge Hill GP Practices. Another 'Open Meeting' will be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022.

As I am sure you are all now aware issues with space and the inefficiency of present sites is causing these practices to consider changing the way they work which will necessitate moving from some or all of their current surgeries. This meeting was originally designed to allow the Surrey Heartland Integrated Care Board to present on the reasons for the change, to describe some of the options being considered, and to allow residents to ask questions about the proposals before the options are finalised and sent for a more formal consultation in the new year.

Unfortunately restrictions around the mourning period for Her Majesty the Queen meant that they could not attend. OVRA decided that as the change to the programme was last minute we would hold the meeting, do our best to explain the proposals which have been discussed to date, and give local residents as much information as possible about where the process is and how residents might make their views known to Surrey Heartlands if they so wished.

Ray Briggs (an OVRA Committee member) has been involved with the Stakeholder Reference Group for this project for some time, in concert with other residents representatives, local councillors, and other interested parties. This body is designed to help Surrey Heartlands identify groups they should be engaging with and to give advice on how best to engage. Rebecca Brown, our Committee Chair, asked Ray to give attendees a brief overview of what is known at this point in time. As not much is currently available in the public domain Ray gave an overview of what is being proposed based on the information available on the Surrey Heartlands website. Slides from that overview are available on our website at 'Community / Useful Links'.

The main points from the presentation were as follows:

- The Practices are under pressure and the current sites are not suitable for the current work load and for changing requirements for GP practices.
- Change is therefore inevitable and is like to involve relocation of presents sites to one or two major locations in Guildford North of the A3.
- Those are likely to be near the Hive in Park Barn and on the site of the Jarvis Centre in Stoughton Road.
- The change is likely to benefit many residents by provision of a more comprehensive service.
- However it may come with some down sides, and in particular the Wodelands Surgery is at significant risk.

Ray asked all residents to consider whether in their view the benefits of any proposal outweighed the potential down sides. He pointed out that OVRA recognises there will be a wide range of opinions and that it would be inappropriate for OVRA to take any position on this matter. However OVRA does feel that it is important that as many people as possible are aware of the proposals and have an opportunity to comment if they wish.

A wide ranging discussion followed where many residents expressed concern about the potential closure of Wodelands, concern that these changes are not taking into account the population expansion we expect to see in Guildford, and that the plans will have a huge impact on other GP practices in the area. Many were surprised that a more holistic review of the needs for primary care provision was not being considered.

OVRA made a commitment to keep residents aware of developments as far as possible, and to make sure that residents were aware of the mechanisms for consultation as they come on line. With a view to this OVRA has already arranged for representatives of Surrey Heartlands and Guildown and Woodbridge Hill practices to talk to residents on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.30 in the Onslow Village Hall.

Please help us get the message out. OVRA does not have the resources to do another village wide mail-shot ahead of the 22<sup>nd</sup> November Open Meeting. Can you help us spread the word? If you have a printer please take 10 copies of this article and post it through every other neighbours house with a note asking them to do the same. If you haven't got a printer please email to your local friends asking them to spread the word.



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

## You might like to know this...

If all the worlds a stage, where is the audience sitting?

### Re-Running Water - we ran a similar item to this in the V. V. last year ! Regarding our current and on-going hose pipe ban, our water shortages and our water distribution problems.

It is easy to assume that Britain has more water than it knows what to do with, but we have less available water per person than most other European countries. In fact, even back in 2004 South East England has less water available per person than the Sudan or Syria.

Reducing the amount of water we use in the home helps safeguard wildlife in rivers and wetlands, while at the same time reducing the energy required to treat and pump water. And as the population increases, it becomes increasingly important to build a defence against future drought years.

#### 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

#### ROUTE 18 BUS SERVICE

SCC has instructed Compass Travel, the new operator of our number 18 bus, to accept the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme bus passes on journeys from 9am. Free travel with the ENCTS, which is also known as the Surrey Free Bus Pass, is only normally valid on the pass between 9.30am and 11pm from Monday to Friday, and at any time on weekends and public holidays.

You can track your Compass Travel bus with their 'myTrip' app

#### 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.

#### 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.



<http://www.20splenty.org/>

and please watch out for those potholes!

### 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)

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.

You can join even if you live outside the Village.

Free entry to our Tuesday talks (Zoom or Hall)

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](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 Winter edition is 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2023.

**THIS IS THE GRA -  
'GUILDFORD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATIONS'  
SUMMARY OF THEIR WORK RELATING  
TO HEIGHT LIMITS ON DEVELOPMENTS  
IN GUILDFORD**

Buildings to  
be proud of-  
Guildford  
needs a  
building  
heights  
policy

- GRA members are raising funds to commission a report on why and how height limits should be set. We have an opportunity to influence a Local Plan inspector, a new government and Councillors pre-election
- Members are alarmed at the number of applications proposing overly tall, bulky buildings – North Street 14 storeys, Debenhams 8 storeys, Guildford Park Road 10 storeys. The effects of the 10 storey blocks on the Mount and the 8 storey Solum scheme (an exception granted when we had no Local Plan) are already clear.
- Developers of sites should have a clear set of criteria. Otherwise heights will continue to ratchet up as developers negotiate for ever greater densities. Six storeys should be an exception in Guildford.
- It is a myth that tall town centre buildings protect Green Belt. High rise development given permission now will **increase** pressure for greenfield sites in the next Plan. A bigger town will be treated as needing even more sites for homes.
- The rise and fall of our distinctive downland setting should be reflected in the form of built development. Views into and out of the town have a value. Character underpins our economic success. It would be such a mistake to obliterate views, cram tall buildings along narrow streets and obscure the river valley with great slabs of development. In Guildford we see our mistakes!