



THE VILLAGE VOICE

Useful links - see page 4

Summer 2023 ISSUE No 73

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONSLOW VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

EGM TUESDAY 10th October 2023 at 7:30 pm

WE ARE SAD TO ANNOUNCE...

...that we are calling this EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of ONSLOW VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION because your current committee are unable to sustain the organisation's programme of events and services and have been unable to recruit more officers.

Leading up to this EGM, proposals will be drafted that will probably include the potential termination of the Association. These details will be circulated to members via email and in an Autumn edition of the Village Voice to be distributed to the whole Village. In addition we will publish them on the OVRA website and through other available communication routes.

It has been especially difficult for the committee, finding itself in this position, especially following OVRA's notable achievements of recent years which have included the Village Street Parties (for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee & the Coronation of Charles III) and the refurbishment of the Jubilee Garden. The garden was reopened by Lord Onslow in September 2021, belatedly marking the 2020 centenary of the village.

Your committee reached the decision to call an EGM after reflecting upon OVRA's possible responses to the changing nature of our society which has reduced the engagement of the villagers in community activities. These changes are possibly associated with social trends - such as the significant drop in the proportion of owner occupier & family households and the influence of social media upon our lives.

Since its creation in 1956, OVRA has championed village issues, compensating for the lack of Parish Council level administration enjoyed by more rural communities. Its membership has always been based upon households paying a nominal annual subscription. This membership base is the 'authority' on which OVRA exists. In recent years this representation has been decreasing, despite efforts to reverse this trend. However, it is not the loss of subscription income that has contributed to this situation.

It is not a financial issue that has to be addressed at the EGM but one of membership, in terms of the level of representation that OVRA can claim for the village, the ever diminishing proportion of the village served by OVRA's activities and the inability to find replacements for retiring committee members.

The possibility of OVRA closing could of course be avoided if others could offer some time and ideas to help re-energise OVRA for the benefit of the whole Village community. This might be your last chance! Don't miss it if you'd like to do something for your community. If you would like to help or want more information please call or WhatsApp Andy Halliday (07708 391656) or Alan Robins (07955 383048)

OVRA's 7th May 2023 Street Party

Once again OVRA excelled and provided the Village with a free party to celebrate together the King's Coronation weekend. The attractions included the superb music from our local Jazz Band, goodies from Georgie's, stalls and events aplenty and the best weather of the Bank Holiday.

Thanks go to all those who gave their time and energy in the months of planning and organising and on the day, not forgetting all the chores of the following period retuning borrowed equipment and storing away our own. Your committee are proud of this successful Village day. The day for some involved work, selling tickets for the raffle and organising the draw and we would share the impressive statistics of the PIMM's Tent sales but the only effect of these that now matters is the convivial atmosphere that was generated from all the hard labour of the team.

Let us hope OVRA can find the volunteers to continue so that we can enjoy such events in the future.



OVRA thanks.....

.....for their generous support

The graphic contains two logos. On the left is the 'Aspire' logo, featuring a colorful group of stylized human figures holding hands above the word 'Aspire' in a multi-colored font, with 'ASPIRE COMMUNITY GRANTS' written below. On the right is the 'Surrey Property Lawyers' logo, which consists of a stylized house icon in blue and red above the text 'SURREY PROPERTY LAWYERS' in white on a dark blue background.



Closure of Village Access from A3

A3 Guildford Air Quality – 12-month Filtration cube trial.

Starting in the middle of September, National Highways will be undertaking a 12-month trial of air filtration cubes. This is a UK first for highways and will take place on the corner of Wilderness Road. For safety reasons during the construction, for approximately 1 month, we will be closing Wilderness Road between the junction with the A3 and Queen Eleanors Road. Once construction is complete just the junction with the A3 will remain closed for a further 12 months. The equipment will then be removed at the end of this trial period. Further information at www.nationalhighways.co.uk/A3AQ

A wider team from National Highways is also doing some investigative work to better understand air quality issues along the A3 (from the junction with Manor Road to the Dennis Roundabout/Wooden Bridge junction).

The earliest days of Onslow Village's Bus Services

In the early 1920s construction began of a housing area of desirable residences on the hillsides to the north of the Farnham Road on the western outskirts of Guildford. Onslow Village was developed by a company, appropriately called Onslow Village Ltd. Every tenant was required to buy £1 shares in the company each year and initially strict rules were imposed on the occupiers. For example, it was forbidden to hang washing out to dry except on Mondays! Until 1923, the estate ended at the bottom of Bannisters Road – beyond that were still fields owned by Farmer Piniger of Wilderness Farm.

From 1 May 1922, Onslow Village was served by a new Aldershot & District service from the town centre, numbered 30, which preceded by a month their service 31 to Farnham, along the A31 Hog's Back road. Aldershot & District seems to have had Onslow Village to itself, until an application was made by another operator, at the height of the competitive era around Guildford. The proprietor of the Onslow Village Garage in Farnham Road rejoiced in the name of Lt. Col. Herbert Charles Harford Woronzoff Moffat, born in October 1880. As early as July 1907, Herbert had been made a Lieutenant in the fledgling Army Motor Reserve. In 1911 he was living at Ifield, near Crawley in Sussex, with his wife Irene, an eight-month-old daughter, a nurse and two female servants, so he was a man of means. There were further house moves, to Ripley and then Isleworth, but by 1925 the family were at 9 The Court, Guildford.

In April 1925 Moffat wrote to the Town Clerk asking for permission to start his own daily service from Onslow Village to Guildford town centre as soon as possible. The timetable included an earlier journey than A&D's, to benefit London-bound commuters who had to catch an early train and saving them a lengthy walk. However, this facility disappeared after less than a month when Moffat introduced a revised timetable. Although Moffat mentioned in his original application that there had been a delay due to the Easter holidays in taking delivery of the 'new bus', evidence suggests that it was acquired second hand from J.R.Fox & Sons at Woking, being a fourteen-seat Ford Model T originally built in 1921 for H. Tanner of Camberley and registered PB 8665. Moffat's timetable easily allowed it to be serviced by one bus, which had considerable downtime within its schedule. He had noticed that no bus service served York Road in Guildford, which, in Moffat's words, had a 'distinctly working-class district' on its north side and he proposed in December 1925 to offer the residents a link to the town centre for 1d. Thus, the Onslow Village-Guildford service was extended via North Street and Chertsey Street to York Road on weekdays, terminating in Rice & Harper's yard on the corner of London Road, probably from around New Year 1926. By May 1926, Moffat is recorded as having a second bus, registered PE 9196.

Moffat scaled back on some of his more grandiose ambitions of routes to Epsom and East Molesey and in November 1926 applied for a more realistic extension beyond York Road (needing two buses, which he had) so as to run a loop via London Road, Boxgrove Road, Epsom Road, Merrow, Merrow Common, Burpham and London Road. For much of the day, two buses per hour would be provided between Onslow Village and York Road, thence one per hour would run the Merrow loop (not dissimilar to today's Route 18!) in a clockwise fashion and one anti-clockwise. This appears to have been granted.

By this time, A&D seem to have felt the need to deal with Moffat's competition to their Onslow Village service 30. In January 1927, they offered him £300 for the goodwill of his service, which seems to have been accepted. A&D took over (running from Onslow Village to 'Ripley Road') from 19 February 1927; this was achieved by an extension of service 30 from Guildford town centre to Burpham via London Road Station. It ceased to operate beyond London Road Station from 11 April 1928 and shortened to Onslow Village – Town Centre from 1 April 1936. From 6 October 1952 the route was extended from Bannisters Road to East Meads and remained in that form until the end of August 1980.

However, Moffat seems to have retained at least one vehicle as any Private Hire activities were not included. Ford PB 8665 is recorded as passing to T. Hankin of Alresford, Hants in July 1927. As for Onslow Village, that was served solely by A&D until April 1929 when Safeguard, owned by the Newman family, extended their Guildford Park service into the estate via Elmside and Hedgeway.

I hope this article has brought back some memories!

Laurie James, former Surrey County Council Local Bus Manager
Submitted by Andy Halliday, Treasurer, OVRA and MD, Safeguard Coaches

CENTENARY GARDEN UPDATE

It is now almost 2 years since the major garden refurbishment. It has survived two winters and a very hot dry summer in 2022 and an extremely hot and dry June this year.

Recently we managed to get a small team of committee members together and carry out the much needed maintenance. In torrential rain we got the job done. - weeded, dead plants removed, area pressure washed, grass surrounds strimmed, new woodchip laid and the plants watered (although nature had done most of that for us!). In all it took a couple of hours to give the whole garden a fresh look which will see it through, hopefully, until the winter. Shrubs that had not survived will need replacing in the autumn and a number of new shrubs are also needed to fill some empty spaces.



Our grateful thanks go to Quest Podiatry management in The Square for kindly allowing us the use of their electricity and water supplies. Also, the donation of six bags of wood chippings from Compton Nurseries. Again, our grateful thanks to them.

Going forward, **if you would like to be part of our volunteer gardeners to help keep this important village amenity alive and well**, please contact me at md.joule@btopenworld.com.

Angela Joule

On the subject of Local Administration

Arguably OVRA's greatest success occurred in 1984 with its campaign to SAVE OUR VILLAGE HALL*. This is also an excellent example of the need for such local representation as OVRA and the Village had to oppose its own formal Local Authority, Guildford Borough Council, over the sale of the Halls. In such circumstances our Onslow Village councillors views are diluted by their membership of the much larger council, and the will of the village potentially disregarded. Villages such as Normandy have much greater control through their Parish Councils which administer aspects of spending, planning and many local activities.

OVRA, along with other Residents' Associations and local Parish Councils in the area are members of the Guildford Residents Association (GRA), an umbrella body championing local issues.

* As a result of this success, although they are still owned by GBC, our Village Halls are now administered by a Management Committee of local volunteers and representatives of the regular hall users

You might need to know this....

OUR REPRESENTATIVES

Angela Richardson, our M.P. for Guildford.

Your Onslow Ward Councillors are....

Councillor Angela Goodwin Liberal Democrats
Councillor James Jones Liberal Democrats
Councillor Steven Lee Liberal Democrats

Angela Goodwin is also the Surrey County Councillor for Guildford South West division.

Find them on the OVRA website

Search OVRA Guildford for our website on <https://e-voice.org.uk/ovra-guildford/>



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.

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!