

ABOUT OUR VILLAGE



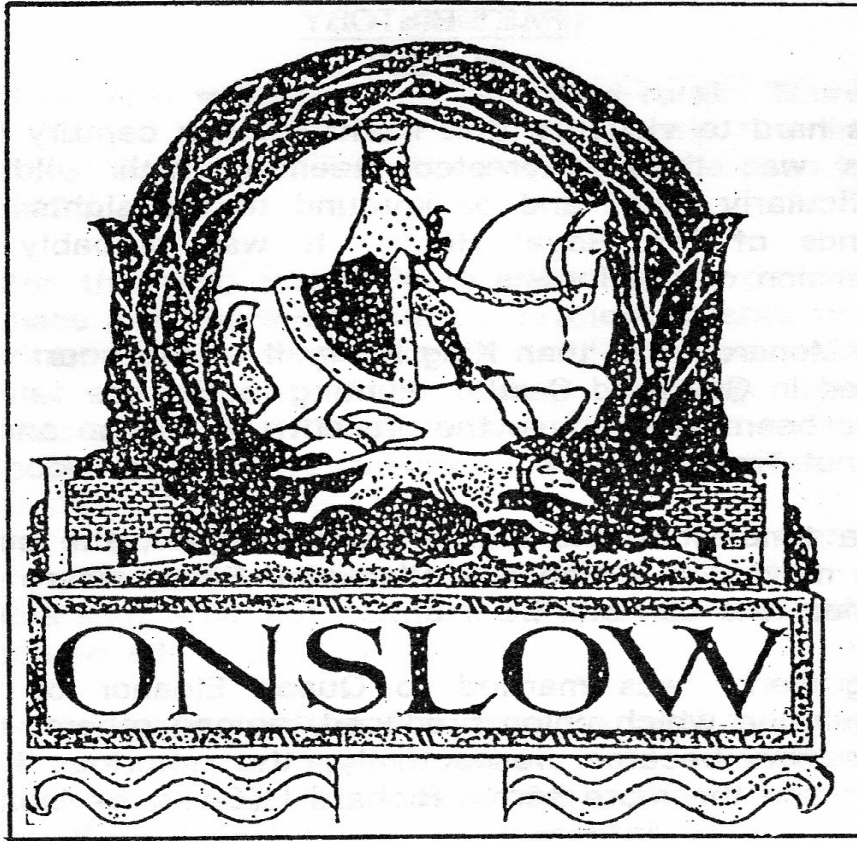
This is for those with an interest in
ON SLOW VILLAGE, GUILDFORD
the residents, potential residents or those
connected to the Village in other ways

Table of Contents

1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
2 PAST HISTORY IN BRIEF.....	2
3 BACKGROUND.....	3
4 GENERAL AMENITIES.....	4
5 OPEN SPACES.....	6
6 ONSLOW VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION.....	7
7 MAP.....	8
8 NOTES and REFERENCES.....	9



1 INTRODUCTION



The above is reproduced from a photocopy of the original village sign which, unfortunately, was stolen from its site at the Village Hall many years ago.

The sign is based on the history of the area and incorporates its development, by the representation of housing.

The Village Hall Management Committee, with the active support of the Residents' Association, commissioned a new sign, to the original design, but executed in beaten copper and pewter. It can be seen on the outer wall of the hall as the official symbol of the village. A photograph of it is included on the Title Page.

2 PAST HISTORY IN BRIEF

It is hard to visualize that in the twelfth century this area was thickly forested, teeming with wildlife, particularly deer, and background to the sights and sounds of the Royal Hunt. It was probably an extension. of the forests of Windsor.

The Monarch was then King Henry II whose court was based in Guildford Castle. Hunting lodges are said to have been sited above the present rail station and in Walnut Tree Close.

At a time when the Castle needed repair, the court was moved to a Manor at Blackwell Farm, where the foundations can still be seen.

King Henry was married to Queen Eleanor of the Aquitaine which union produced, among others, two sons who became, respectively, the notorious King John and the more heroic Richard I (Coeur de Lion).

There is no space for greater detail here, but more about Guildford's connection with this period of history can be found in its thriving museum.

Presumably the terrain became more mild over the years until in about 1700 the Royal lands were acquired by and absorbed into the extensive Manor of Onslow, to become the rural, pastoral landscape still seen in this part of the country.

Some vestige of our royal connections can be found in the road names in the Village and nearby areas, such as - Queen Eleanor's Road, Manor Way, Stag Hill, The Chase, Guildford Park, etc.

3 BACKGROUND

Before WWI this area was still quite rural. There was no village, just open farmland with cattle roaming the fields. The original farmhouse can still be seen behind The Square.

After the war, when there was a great demand for houses a scheme evolved to develop an area of land, mainly in the ownership of Lord Onslow, with the broad objective of providing housing for ex-servicemen. In 1921 a company was formed and the process of creating Onslow Village commenced.

Over a period, houses, bungalows and flats were built for rent and building plots sold - in the event ownership was not restricted to ex-servicemen, but open to all.

The company continued to operate until 1984/5 when it was wound up and all assets sold. Tenants were able to purchase their properties. There is no doubt that the company was instrumental in setting and enforcing many of the standards which exist today.

The village is situated between the A3 and A31 (Hog's Back) about one-and-a-quarter miles from Guildford town centre. It is an elevated position with background of the lower slopes of the North Downs, to which there is easy access, as to other good walking country.

The Square, with its parade of shops and village hall is the core of the village and is part of the designated conservation area.

A map is included showing the location of Onslow Village in relation to the main roads, the Cathedral, the railway station and the adjoining open countryside.

The Village is characterized by the beech hedges in many of its roads and curved feature e.g. arches feature somewhere on most of the houses.

4 GENERAL AMENITIES

VILLAGE HALL, THE SQUARE

Highly valued as the venue for local and many visiting groups, providing choice of a variety of activities and interests. A list of groups using the Hall is included in the references.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH and CHURCH HALL, VICARAGE GATE (a short way from the village centre). The Church offers a wide range of services and activities and the Church Magazine lists many locally based groups using its Hall.

LOCAL SHOPS and BUSINESSES The parade of shops at The Square is an important asset in maintaining "VILLAGE" status. Residents are asked to support the traders who are giving valuable service to the community. These are ;

Williams Newsagents, Molly's Coffee Shop, D.S Budd & Son for Radios and TVs, The Chelsea Flower Shop, D's Hair Creations, Onslow Veterinary Surgery and Lyons and Company for Property Transactions, Probate, Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney.

CAR PARKING Spaces are available outside the shops. The Village Hall car park is not open to the public and is only for those with business at the Halls.

CHURCHES

All Saints' C of E - Vicarage Gate. See above

Other denominations in town area.

The Guildford Cathedral of the Holy Spirit is situated on Stag Hill some mile distant as is the University of Surrey.

SCHOOLS

Onslow County First - Powell Close.

Queen Eleanor's C of E Junior - Queen Eleanor's Road.

Other schools private and state within the general town area.

PLAY SCHOOLS etc.

Church Hall - Vicarage Gate. (Montessori)

Village Hall - The Square. Wilderness Pre-School

Mothers and Toddlers Group - Church Hall. Youth Club - Church Hall.

Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Cubs, etc. also catered for.

GARDEN CLUB Very popular Club. It is affiliated to the R.H.S. and Surrey Horticultural Society. Meetings are held monthly with several seasonal shows each year. Outings to "stately homes" and gardens are arranged from time to time.

TENNIS CLUB Situated in the recreation ground. Four hard courts, floodlighting, pavilion. There is a junior section. Limited parking available.

ONSLOW VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION See separate section for details.

TELEPHONE BOX This red original is still in the village due to those in the past who have acted to protect and retain it.

5 OPEN SPACES

RECREATION GROUND Sports; children's play area; scout hut; pavilion; toilets. The ground is well maintained; a most pleasant walking and sitting area. It can be hired through the Borough Council for suitable events, such as summer fetes.

The adjoining field has been officially designated as the ...

ONslow ARBORETUM This contains over 200 trees from around the world and a wild flower area – a picture in the spring. A pdf document listing the trees is available via the OVRA website: <http://www.surreycommunity.info/ovra>

John Michael Hawthorn. The Arboretum is also the memorial site for Mike Hawthorn (10 April 1929 – 22 January 1959), the racing driver who died in a road accident on the adjacent stretch of the A3 [Guildford](#) by-pass.

JUBILEE GARDENS A small grassed area just beyond the shops, with trees, flower beds and seating. This was created by public subscription to commemorate H.M. Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee, in 1977.

TRANSPORT

BUSES Hourly to Guildford taking a circular route through the village. Connections to surrounding areas, London and the coast from the bus station.

RAIL Station on edge of town centre, approx. one mile. Fast service London and Portsmouth. Through service Reading and Gatwick Airport.

6 ONSLOW VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Association, OVRA, was formed in 1956, to serve owner/occupiers, tenants being represented by the company. In due course all residents were included. As in many similar organisations, its purpose is to serve the particular and general interests of its Members. The main focus is on the protection and preservation of local amenities. This role became, and remains, of more importance following the demise of the Company.

The Association aims to be the official 'voice' of the whole village to which local and central Government bodies refer.

Meetings are held monthly in Village Hall from September to July, with 2 big events (parties) in October and February. A report is made and a variety of entertainments arranged. 'Notices of Meetings' are delivered to members, but visitors are always welcome. OVRA produces a quarterly 'Village Voice' newsletter.

There is a voluntary committee of local people, elected each year in March at the AGM. These are for the most part long term residents whose experience and interests are of great value ; HOWEVER, new committee members are always very welcome as they often bring fresh ideas to Village issues.

You are warmly welcomed to this friendly village community. Perhaps you will think about joining the Residents' Association? The cost is derisory modest and covers the whole household for a year. Details of this and much more can be found on the Website : <http://www.surreycommunity.info/ovra>



8 NOTES and REFERENCES

Details of many of most of the Groups and Facilities mentioned in this document are available through the links on the OVRA website : <http://www.surreycommunity.info/ovra> and the All Saints' monthly Church Magazine - website : <http://www.allsaintschurchgfd.org.uk/parishmagazine>

The Village Hall is used for events as varied as the run of a show staged by the Pranksters and as a Polling Station for the village. In addition to its use for individual hirings, organizations and groups using the Village Hall recently include..... Applecore, Arts and Crafts Movement, Bosniaid, Friends of Guildford House, Guildford Evening Decorative and Fine Arts Society (GEDFAS), Guildford Baptist Church (Lunchbox), Guildford Deaf Club, Guildford Harmony Ladies Barbershop Club, Guildford Holiday Fun, Guildford Opera Company, Guildford Scottish Dance Club, Guildford Scrappers, Guildford Shakespeare Company, High View Chinese Medical Centre, Holly's School of Dance, Lighter Life, NHS New Thoughts, Onslow Boys Football Club, Garden Club, Onslow Village Residence association (OVRA), P H Community Theatre, Pranksters, RSPB, Signature Singers, St Nicholas School PSA, Stamp Club, Surrey CC, Surrey Horticultural Federation, SYCC NW Integrated Services, Tango Connection, Tennis Club, The Sanctuary Church, Tiller – School of Navigation & Seamanship, Guildford Travel Club, U3A Guildford Area, Vigil German Shepherd Dog Rescue, Wilderness – Day Care, and Yoga Class.