

# BVRA newsheet

FROM THE BANSTEAD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION – TAKING ACTION TO SUPPORT OUR VILLAGE

Vol. 38 / 2 - Spring / Summer 2022    Banstead-BVRA@outlook.com    www.Banstead-BVRA.org

## **SPRING ON BANSTEAD HEATH** by Lucy Shea (Conservators)

Spring is one of the best times of year to visit Banstead Heath. Trees are in blossom and bursting bud, the bird nesting season has commenced and landscapes are starting to turn a welcome shade of green. May is known for its peak birdsong as many of our summer migratory birds – Chiffchaffs, Whitethroats, Blackcaps - return to their breeding territories and pair up.

It is at this time of year that our wildlife is most sensitive to visitor disturbance and we kindly ask that our visitors keep their four-legged friends close by with their paws on the paths to ensure dogs don't disturb wildlife. There are various ground-nesting bird species found on Banstead Commons, which includes one of the UK's most iconic countryside songbirds – the Skylark. Skylarks nest in shallow hollows on the ground and typically need to rear two to three broods of young each year just to maintain populations!



The Conservators met with a representative from Surrey Amphibian and Reptile Group last month to discuss reptile monitoring on the Heath. Spring is the ideal time to carry out a visual survey to identify possible hibernacula sites (the shelter occupied by reptiles during winter months). Knowing where reptiles overwinter is important to help plan and assess future management tasks on the Heath. This year we will be placing additional monitoring tins, known as refugia, at various places over the Heath to establish where populations are and monitor them. In addition to monitoring reptiles, we are also working with Butterfly Conservation Trust to set up a new all species butterfly transect. A walking route will be established and training will be provided to the new volunteers. This will be an exciting addition to the existing two transects on Banstead Commons – Banstead Downs and Park Downs – we can't wait to find out how many different species are recorded and look forward to sharing results with you in the future.



At 760 acres, Banstead Heath is the largest of the four sites in our care and perhaps the most varied. The site boasts a mosaic of different habitats, traditional heath, grassland meadow and secondary woodland, which supports healthy invertebrate, reptile, mammalian and bird populations. The Heath is bursting with biodiversity at this time of year and we hope you enjoy your next visit. If you'd like further information, please email [bansteadcommons@aol.com](mailto:bansteadcommons@aol.com) or call 07919 251 512

(Skylark photo courtesy of Penel Malby.)

## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Executive Committee extends a warm invitation to all members of the Association to the

**74th Annual General Meeting to be held at:**

Banstead Community Hall, Park Road, Banstead (car parking is available)

at 7:30pm on **Monday 27th June 2022.**

Our guest speaker will be Stuart Sweetman from the newly formed Banstead History group to talk to us about 'Banstead 100 years ago' and the structure and aims of the new group.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR by David Talbot**

Welcome to our Spring / Summer edition of our newsheet. Life seems to be trying to get back to some sort of normality after two years of the Covid-19 virus. Let's hope that this improvement continues.

Thanks to all our contributors, especially Lucy Shea for the article (see front page), Vicki Hollands, Diana Beck and Marion Hayns for their articles on the centre pages

We continue to improve our village trees, but our focus at the moment is tidying-up the stumps left behind by SCC - please see article by Cliff Glanfield.

Please check out our website (address on front cover) and our newsheets - if you are not already a member of our organisation, please join us (subscription just £3.00 per year). If anyone is interested in joining our committee and helping us support our lovely village, please contact us - our email address is shown on the front page. We would love to hear from you.

**Just a quick reminder that our AGM is planned for Monday 27th June, please see the notice on the front page.**

## **VACANCIES – USE OF COMPANY LIMOUSINE AND YACHT by Sally Hull**

If the use of the limousine and yacht caught your attention, I'm afraid you're reading the wrong recruitment advert. But now we've got your attention, if you would like to contribute to your neighbourhood we'd love to know whether any of our vacancies could suit you. Distribution of the newsheets is dependent on a band of committed road stewards and we continue to welcome newcomers as there are always vacancies. We continue to seek road stewards to deliver newsheets three times a year and collect subs once a year where required, although many households now pay by standing order. If you would like to volunteer or know more, please contact us to see whether there is a vacancy in your road or nearby.

With several retirements and a bereavement the committee is, as happens from time to time, a little thin on the ground and we need to address this to best serve the community. Changes that David Talbot has brought in as Chair have streamlined some operations, including meetings, to be more efficient. To take this a step further, we would especially like to welcome new committee members with specific areas of expertise and to gather input across a broader age range by encouraging younger residents and young families to become involved. Appreciating the difficulties of juggling family commitments, we encourage you to speak with us to see how this could work for you, for us, for the Village. Please contact me (on 07779 246343) for an initial chat or drop us an email at Banstead-BVRA@outlook.com

## **EVENTS – Meet the BVRA team at the MAY QUEEN FAIR & VILLAGE FAIR by Sally Hull**

We're delighted that, all being well, we can get back out to meet people in person at some local events, discussing what work BVRA has been carrying out on your behalf and what future priorities are or should be. By the time you read this, the Banstead May Queen Fair on 30<sup>th</sup> April will already have taken place. We hope to meet, or have met, a good number of you at our stand in the Orchard. If you missed this, there'll be another opportunity to meet BVRA committee members and volunteers at the Village Fair on Saturday 2nd July, also in the Orchard.

As you will read elsewhere, we are keen to include more direct involvement of families and younger committee members to truly represent Banstead's population and encourage anyone with an area of expertise that may be useful to BVRA to come along and meet us. If you wonder what is involved in being a volunteer or committee member, please come and have an obligation-free chat – you may be pleasantly surprised at how easily you can add value to your Village.



## **PLANNING MATTERS** by **Catalina Vassallo-Bonner**

We have heard that the appeal against the council refusal to allow the building of ten houses on the old market garden at Oak Tree Farm, Croydon Lane has been overturned and the developer can develop the site. There is still no news regarding the Wellesford Close site but as the developer is continually amending the application someone somewhere must be raising questions with regard to the application.

It is now possible to see the continuing building work on the old Priory site as the roof timbers are now coming into place and it won't be long before the tiles go on. I see from the McCarthy & Stone website that a brochure relating to the site and its flats is now available for anyone interested in the development.

The latest Planning Policy Newsletter has recently been issued by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council. It covers a number of matters relating to the Borough and among these is the information that the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government has morphed into the Department for Leveling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). I wonder if the new name will improve the ideas of the department.

Other than this there is little to report. We now have a new butcher in the High Street, joining our new fish shop, an increase in dentists but still no one seems to be able to discover what is happening on the Oscars site behind its very ugly green barriers.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE** by **Cliff Glanfield**



Surrey County Council Highways have actually been quite active recently with respect to road resurfacing around the village, with Salisbury Road (shown left) and Wellesford Close have both finally been done.

The new loading bay and assisted crossing outside Tesco (shown right) is also now complete, which does seem to stop illegal parking on the double yellow lines and improved road safety in this area.



The safety changes near to St. Anne's School are under way at the time of going to press and it is hoped will be completed by the time this newsletter is published. The new raised-platform roundabout (shown left) has been completed.

There are some ongoing concerns about the quality and durability of the road patching on Winkworth Road and there are still many footpaths though that need to be resurfaced, but our thanks to Surrey County Council for all these improvements.



### **The BVRA Newsheet is supported by;**

Richard Saunders and Company  
2 High Street Banstead SM7 2LJ  
SALES 01737 363333 LETTINGS 01737 370700

## **BANSTEAD FLOWER CLUB by Vicki Hollands - Banstead Flower Club**

On March 23rd Banstead Flower Club celebrated its 65th Anniversary. 54 members with special guest Chris Brown, Surrey Area Chairman, began the afternoon with a delicious two-course lunch and anniversary cake, generously donated by Signature at Banstead, which was expertly cooked and served by their staff members, Connor, Kerry and Stafford - a great team from Signature.

Our demonstrator for the afternoon was Gaenor Circus, a Sussex Area Demonstrator and Judge. Gaenor has many years of experience in flower arranging and demonstrating and is the winner of several awards at Area and National level as well as being a Chelsea Gold Medallist. Gaenor's demonstration for the afternoon was titled 'Through the Ages' which demonstrated how flower arrangements have changed over the years covering the Art Deco and Victorian eras among others. Gaenor provided us with an entertaining afternoon, with historical background on some of the arrangements she produced. At the end of the demonstration the stage was an array of colour and beautifully decorated with several placements, which were raffled off leaving some very happy members and guests with their arms full on the way home.



The Committee and members of Banstead Flower club would like to extend their thanks and appreciation to Signature at Banstead for their generous support of the club and helping to make our 65th Anniversary a day to remember. Banstead's Flower Show entitled 'Floral Gems' in conjunction with Banstead Village in Bloom on Saturday 11th June will be held in Banstead Community Hall from 1pm-5pm, admission £2.

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month at Banstead Community Hall, Park Road, Banstead SM7 3AJ. Doors open at 1.15 for 2.00pm. Visitors (£8) and Members (£48 p.a.) are always welcome. If you would like further details please email us at [bansteadflowerclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bansteadflowerclub@hotmail.co.uk) or contact Vicki Hollands on 07845 250308

## **BANSTEAD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY by Diana Beck (BHS)**

**Then** We began as the Fur and Feather Association, which held annual shows of poultry, pigeons, rabbits, cats, fruit and vegetables at the riding school in Nork Park. On the 12th October 1931 the Reverend Cannon Skene chaired an inaugural meeting of the proposed Banstead Gardeners' Guild in the tea pavilion of the Victoria Public House (now Zizzi's). The name adopted was Banstead Horticultural Society with the aim of promoting horticulture in Banstead by means of lectures, discussions, exhibitions and exchange of plants and advice. We still hold this aim and the same activities today as well as developing strong ties in the community, through contributing to various projects among which are the successful Banstead Village in Bloom, awarded Gold in 2019, an annual Rotary crocus planting with local schools and the Best Front Garden Competition.

### **Invitation to Open Day with BHS and Friends: Celebrating 90 years**

**21<sup>st</sup> May 2022 11-4pm at the Community Hall, Park Road, Banstead SM7 3AJ**



**Now** During lockdown, gardening has showcased its importance to well-being by enabling us to interact with and enjoy the natural living world, resulting in a healthier more peaceful lifestyle. So, we could not resist the chance to get together for a proper celebration in a better year, where we and at least 15 of our community friends will squeeze into the Hall to share our love of gardening, nature, the arts and horticulture with you. It's free to enter and we are planning all sorts to inspire and interest you: a flowery foyer, mini flower show, little stalls, refreshments, plants, advice, live background music and a

raffle with really super prizes. For more info visit [www.bansteadhorticulturalsociety.com](http://www.bansteadhorticulturalsociety.com)

## **TREE STUMPS** by Cliff Glanfield



Readers may be aware that with dead and dying trees on Highways land Surrey County Council's policy is to cut them down to a stump about 1m high and then leave them as there is still, apparently no budget to grind out the stumps.

BVRA has therefore been doing this, when funds permit.



Pictures from Buff Avenue (left) and Park Road (right).



We ground out four more stumps in December 2021 and plan to do another eleven in May.



## **SOME PROGRESS TO REPORT – AT LAST!!** by Marion Hayns (BViB)

You may recall that in my last article I referred to one of Banstead's hidden secrets - which was the Banstead Neville Bowls Club. Since then, extensive pruning has been carried out around the perimeter fencing which has resulted in the club now being visible to all and the whole area around the tennis courts enhanced. In late April, RBBC are commencing the re-laying of the pathways through the park to render them safer, and a spur is to be added alongside the Bowls Club in Chucks Meadow to enable members to access the rear gate and to open up Chucks Meadow for the use of all. The area of grass there is to be included in the regular mowing schedule of the Council which, over time, will flatten the dangerous and uneven surface which has arisen due to neglect. Additional benches are to be positioned around this area and also fronting onto and at the rear of the cricket ground thus enabling visitors to sit and enjoy the beauty that is at the heart of our village.

By the time you receive this article, I am daring to hope that work will have begun on the complete upgrade to the children's play park. Regular readers will know of the two and a half year campaign waged by BViB to encourage RBBC to bring forward the proposed timing of the date for these works which we were told would not be before 2026. Due to the overwhelming support we received when we attempted to secure funding from the SCC Communities Fund for an all purpose climbing frame, RBBC has now stepped in and are to fund all the work themselves.

In conclusion, may we say how delighted we are with our two new bus shelters in the High Street. Following repeated complaints from BViB, the Council took on board our comments upon their shabbiness and the danger they potentially posed, and found the funding for them to be replaced with smart new wooden ones in keeping with the street scene. Together with the wonderful work carried out by the faithful team of Friday volunteers, I hope you will agree that we now have one of the most smart and vibrant High Streets in the Borough!



## **BANSTEAD RAILWAY STATION by Gerald Bridge (retired member)**

Further to my previous report, I am pleased to report an acceptable and pleasing finish has been applied to the single storey building frontage.

However, the work on the embankment has been deferred again because the risk is much lower than other sites which have been given preference. I have had a lengthy chat with my contact at the Office for Rail and Road (ORR). I expressed my concern at this further delay and asked to be kept informed of any developments, a request to which he readily agreed. He advised that Network Rail will keep monitoring the condition of the embankment. It really is turning into a marathon.



## **DEFIBRILLATORS by Marion Hayns (BViB)**

Possibly useful information - the Village has two defibrillators now at either end of the High Street – one at Marks & Spencer and the second at the Community Hall.

## **TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE by Sally Hull**

The sad passing of David Gradidge has left a large hole (no pun intended) in coverage of these ever topical subjects. You will see elsewhere in the newsheet that Cliff Glanfield reports on some recent highway resurfacing and repairs and Gerald Bridge updates about the ongoing work at Banstead Station. Going forward while other members of the committee aim to get to grips with the details of local transport, Project Horizon, other highways, pavement and infrastructure matters that David covered for so many years, please bear with us or better still give us your input. If you have experience or expertise to offer please get in touch.

## **BVRA SUBSCRIPTIONS by David Talbot**

Many thanks to all our members who are increasingly paying the annual subscriptions via bank standing orders. This helps our road stewards.

If you are planning to set up a standing order please ensure that:

- The payments are set to repeat on a yearly basis.
- The reference is completed with your address (abbreviated where necessary) - really important, so we know the address for which you are paying.

Our bank details are as follows: Sort Code: **30-98-90**, Account Number: **16716560**

Account Name: **Banstead Village Residents Association**

Our subscription amount is: **£3.00** Our preferred payment date is **1<sup>st</sup> July**

## **ROAD STEWARDS by David Talbot**

Huge thanks to our army of road stewards who deliver our newsheets and collect our subscriptions.

Vacancies come up from time to time are we are now looking for road stewards to cover the following roads:

- Banstead Road, Barn Field, Chatsworth Park, Chipstead Road, Flint Close
- Holly Lane West, Pound Road and The Oval,

If you would like to take part, or know anyone who might be interested, please contact us at the email address on the front cover.

## **FINANCES by David Talbot**

Our year end accounts close on 31st March. The draft accounts below will be subject to revision over the next few weeks as these are finalised.

I've tried to present the accounts in a more simple summarised way and I've included the past two years for comparison. A finalised and more detailed version will be available at the AGM.



Highlights:

- Subscriptions and donations. Slightly lower than previous years, although we are still trying to manage this situation following the sad loss of our treasurer, David Gradidge, who managed this area so well in the past years. Some subscriptions are still to be collected.
- Running costs. Our main expenditure is for our newssheet. Additionally we have web costs, room costs, stationery costs and sundry costs.
- Donations. Back to previous levels. Our main donation is, as in previous years, to Banstead Business Guild to support the Village Christmas lighting. Additionally, we sponsor Banstead Village in Bloom and support the Banstead Royal British Legion and the Banstead May Queen.
- Projects. Our main cost this year has been stump grinding. Additionally, we are members of the Business Guild and the Campaign to Protect Rural England. Earlier in the year we spent some money maintaining our wheelbarrow by the library, although BViB have kindly agreed to look after this for us.
- Special funds - We have funds for tree replacement and village sign refurbishment - with thanks to Luke Bennett for an allocation from his members allowance for the sign refurbishment.

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Income (subscriptions and donations)	4,295	4,787	4,586
Running costs	-1,273	-2,033	-1,500
Donations	-1,600	-2,600	-1,709
Projects	-1,703	-2,000	-1,050
Balance (added to / taken from reserves)	-281	-1,846	327

### **USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS**

#### **BVRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Chairman** - David Talbot

**Treasurer** - David Talbot

**Secretary** - Martin Matt

**Planning** - Catalina Vassallo-Bonner

**Data Records Manager** - Cliff Glanfield

**Membership Records** - Mel Ramsay

Supported by: Ben Martin, Brian Ransom, Richard Heath and Sally Hull.

Group email: Banstead-BVRA@outlook.com

### **LOCAL COUNCILLORS**

**Luke Bennett** – Surrey County Councillor  
email: luke.bennett@surreycc.gov.uk

**Nadean Moses** - Borough Councillor  
email: Cllr.Moses@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

**Eddy Humphreys** – Borough Councillor  
email: Cllr.Humphreys@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

**Sam Walsh** – Borough Councillor  
email: Cllr.Walsh@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

### **MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

**Crispin Blunt, M.P.**

Westminster Office: 0207 219 2254

email: crispinbluntmp@parliament.uk  
Constituency Office: 01737 222756 Skinner House,  
38-40 Bell Street, Reigate RH2 7BA

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

**Monday 27th June at 7:30 pm - BVRA AGM at the Community Hall - see notice on front page.**

### **Agenda.**

1. Welcome by chairman, David Talbot.
2. Minutes of the 73rd AGM - summary distributed to members at the meeting.
3. Address from our guest speaker, Mt Stuart Sweetman, following which he would be happy to answer questions from the floor.
4. Report by the chairman.
5. Presentation of the accounts for the year – summary printed on page 7 of this newsheet.
6. Election of Officers, Secretary, Treasurer and Independent Examiner.
7. Welcome to our local Councillors, followed by Open Forum debate.
8. Any other business.

## **OTHER EVENTS**

**Holly Lane Allotments** - Can you spare a few hours weekly...? Princess Alice Hospice are looking for volunteers to help maintain their allotment. For more information please call 01372 461856 or email [volunteering@pah.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@pah.org.uk)

**Weekly Quiz** - every Thursday at 11:00 AM at the Banstead Centre in the Horseshoe.

**Book Club** - every second Tuesday at 11:00 AM at Banstead Centre in the Horseshoe.

**May Fayre** - Saturday 30th April - The Orchard, High Street.

**Banstead History Research Group** - 5th May at 7:30 PM 'Banstead in the News'.

**Rotary Club** - 8th May - Sponsored Charity Walk - North Downs and 21st May - Quiz Night

**Chipstead Arts Society** - 13th May at 7:30PM - Matthew Wilson 'A History of Art'.

**Banstead Horticultural Society** are holding a series of events: Celebration of 90th Anniversary (Saturday 21st May), early Summer show (2:00 PM on Saturday 18th June), Summer Show (2:00 PM on Saturday 23rd July), Autumn Show (2:00 PM on Saturday 10th September).

**Curzon Country Cinema** - 23rd May at various times - West Side Story

**Banstead Flower Club** are holding a series of events: Vanessa Wellock 'Fall Back, Spring Forward' (Wednesday 25th May), 'Stylish Floral Summer' (2:00 PM on Wednesday 22nd June), Angela Turner 'Flower Paper and Scissors' (Wednesday 27th July) and Graham King 'Mad about Flowers' (24th August).

**Banstead Arts Festival - 30th April to 14th May.** After a gap of two years, the Banstead Arts Festival returns in 2022. As in previous years there is a varied programme of high-quality music and contributions by local organisations ensuring something for everyone to enjoy. The Young Musicians' Showcase on the opening Saturday 30th April presenting the emerging talents of performers up to 18; followed on 7th May by Papagena presenting vocal works spanning from the 12th to 20th century; and the final concert on 14th May with the Maxwell Quartet performing works by Haydn, Rouken and Mendelssohn, the latter in collaboration with four Yehudi Menuhin School students. The popular Lunchtime Concerts in All Saints church on 3rd and 10th May, will this year feature the Echea Quartet with works by Bartok and Schubert and the Delphine Trio with works by Brahms, Kenneth Leighton, and Robert Muczynski. For details and Box Office information please see [www.bansteadarts.co.uk](http://www.bansteadarts.co.uk)

**Wednesday to Saturday 25th to 28th May - BANOS - 'Kinky Boots' - Epsom Playhouse**

**Banstead Commons Conservators** are holding four guided walks across Banstead Heath (10:00 AM on Thursday 16th June and Friday 15th July), Park Downs (10:00 AM on Saturday 9th July) and Banstead Downs (2:00 PM on Thursday 1st September).