

BVRA newsheet

from the Banstead Village Residents' Association

Vol. 33 / 3 - Autumn / Winter 2017 Banstead-BVRA@outlook.com www.Banstead-BVRA.org

BANSTEAD IN BLOOM by Marion Hayns



The gardens around the Community Hall were transformed by the hard work of the Horticultural Association and the ladies of the Banstead Flower Club, and so many of you got into the spirit by planting up your gardens and turning up to the mega litter pick we organised beforehand, thank you to all of you who took part.



Obviously we are intending to build on the lessons learnt for next year.

At the time of going to press I cannot give you the precise details from the judges of this, our first year of entering the South East in Bloom Competition.

Whilst we are in negotiation with the managing agents of that neglected area in front of Tesco, we understand that the judges have made allowances for this.

I can however tell you who won the Best Kept Front Garden Competition! Congratulations to Robert Endacott (see picture below) from Briarwood Court whose stunning container garden is one of Banstead's Best Kept Secrets! You will find it at the end of the footpath adjoining Lloyds Bank and as well as designing and maintaining this jewel in the middle of the village Robert, who has been wheel chair bound for the last 6 years takes responsibility for repairing the fencing to the footpath and keeping it regularly swept.

Do make a point of seeking him out, he is often to be found outside chatting to passers by and knows a thing or two about gardening!

Certificates of Merit were awarded to two of our road stewards, Alan Lansdown from Fiddicroft Ave and Patricia Payne from Glenfield Road and in addition to David Martin of Garratts Lane.

In order to raise funds for projects we wish to tackle next year, Banstead Rotary are putting on a quiz night on **Saturday 28th October** at the **Community Hall**. These are always great fun, please consider joining with us, you will be most welcome. Further details can be found on the back page.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR by Mike Sawyer

Summer - I hope that you were able to make the best of the good weather and found time to get away and enjoy yourselves.

We were pleased to see so many of you at our AGM in May and as you will see our committee has some new members (more would always be welcome, especially with community, technical or professional knowledge) and one departing member. Pressure of work has caused Sally Hull to step down from the committee and as our vice-chair. I and your committee thank Sally for all her hard work over many years and look forward to seeing her back again one day.

I have now stepped-up to the full chairman's role with Marion Hayns and Cliff Glanfield taking up the vice chair roles.

At the AGM, we were pleased that so many of you gave us your contact details so that we could extend our electronic communications.

If anyone wants to join this group, please email us (the address is on the front page) and we would be happy to add you onto our distribution list. Note that we will not disclose your email address outside of our Executive committee and you may ask to be removed from the list at any time.

We hope that you enjoy the new format for these newsheets, please do let us know if you have any comments or questions.

UPDATE ON ALL SAINTS' CHURCH REPAIRS AND THE 'SOS – SAVE OUR STEEPLE' APPEAL by Church Warden Susan Major

We are most grateful to all who have responded so generously to this appeal which at the time of writing has raised almost £80,000 of the target figure of £100,000.

The scaffolding is now down, new shingles shine palely on the Tower roof (they'll change colour as they weather), the Lady Chapel stonework has been stabilised, the tower buttresses have been repaired, roof drainage has been improved...the list could go on. But this set of repairs is done and Banstead's historic parish church is in better shape to face the future. A variety of events has been held, which provided enjoyment as well as funds, and still to come is an exciting musical evening at Banstead Prep's (formerly Greenacre) Sports Hall on **Sat 2nd Dec. 7-10pm** approx.

Entertainment will be provided by The Norwood Wind Ensemble, supported by the Banstead Show Choir and tickets priced at £12.50 adults and £7.50 children to include a glass of wine and a mince pie will be available from the beginning of October. Further details can be obtained from Peter Staddon on 01737 213150 or peter.staddon@thepumpco.uk

PLANNING MATTERS by John Hayns

The Planning Group, which comprises five members of the Executive Committee, continues to meet regularly to consider all the planning applications affecting our Ward including those relating to those trees which are subject to a Tree Preservation Order. Where appropriate, representations are made to the Borough Council.

The protection of the Green Belt abutting Croydon Lane and Woodmansterne Lane is a particular concern in the light of recent applications made. Some of the land is in Woodmansterne Ward and we liaise with Woodmansterne Residents Association as necessary.

A further consultation concerning the Development Management Plan (DMP) is scheduled for January and February 2018.

BANSTEAD SCHOOL REPORT by Janet Marder

We congratulate our local junior school on their outstanding success at the end of last term.....

Janet Marder, Banstead Community School's inspirational Head of Gardening writes;

What a great time we had at Wisley! We entered the schools small garden competition with this year's theme being The Famous Five. Planting in old suitcases drew a lot of interest and we were given a Gold Award plus an award for the Most Original Garden. Visitors to Wisley over the following week voted for their favourite garden and after votes were counted we won The People's Choice Award ... a hat trick for us!



REPORT IT! By David Gradidge

You can report an assortment of problems on the Surrey County Council web site. Here is a brief list ‘

Pot Holes, Pavements, Blocked Drains, Flooding, Street Lights, Vegetation, Broken Drains, Worn or Cracked Roads. The list goes on however the system is not without its pitfalls for the unwary. You need a degree of determination.

Here are some of my experiences.

The most useful one is reporting a pot hole, but they then need to know the size. Is it bigger or smaller than a golf ball, a tennis ball or a football? I suspect that unless it is football size it does not qualify as a pot hole. If you do report a pot hole, a map of your road comes up and you can see if it has been registered already

Pavements are another one of use, but again you have to navigate your way through the questions. Pavements

also includes footpaths, and today I reported the leaning sign on the public footpath at the junction with Bolters Lane near Court Rd. They need to know the size again – is the protrusion bigger or smaller than a 50p?

Street lights are another of my favourites. Here the reporting system leads you to a map of your road and the location of each post – very useful. I reported a tree obscuring a post in my road and this was attended to promptly. You may have better luck reporting your neighbour’s hedge blocking the pavement, that is assuming you do not get on with them. I reported a nearby road and this was dealt with very promptly.

In every case, a photo helps. Give it a go.

You can also report problems on the Reigate and Banstead web site or via the link from our own website. Nothing about leaf clearance, but you can report shrubs but not trees! Best of luck.

COMMUNITY CORNER by John Kemble

There is a real danger that many footpaths in Banstead will become impassable in the not too distant future, due to growth of vegetation. The Council no longer prioritise maintenance of any footpath unless it serves a school or shops. I should like to propose a working party of local residents meet up in the car park of Banstead Community Hall, Park Road on **Saturday October 14th at 10am**. We shall embark upon a few or more footpaths depending upon the size of the workforce that day. Please bring your own trimming equipment eg. shears, pruners, hedge trimmers etc. **NO CHAIN SAWS** since their use is not covered by BVRA public liability insurance.

Just turn up on the day or contact me at johnckemble@btinternet.com for further information

REPORT FROM 3RD BANSTEAD BROWNIES by Isobel & Sophie Newcombe

We all like to live in a clean and tidy environment but unfortunately that is not what we have here in Banstead.

We have done litter picks for Clean for the Queen, Banstead in Bloom and with 3rd Banstead Scout Group. There are some real litter bugs around Banstead. The most common things that we have found are cigarette butts, drinks bottles and cans and food wrappers. Some of the most unusual things we have found are fish tanks, toilets and even washing machines! [Editor’s note: Yes, we know this is fly-tipping really..!]

If people like us didn’t come round and pick up some of it up we would be waddling round in rubbish. It would smell and look HORRIBLE!



With grateful thanks to Richard Saunders & Co. Independent Estate agents
2, High St Banstead 01737 363533 for their support for this newsheet

WINKWORTH WOODLAND COMMUNITY PROJECT by Brian Ransom

This work has carried on throughout the summer, removing the nettles and brambles that encroach onto the footpath then leaving the low growing ground cover along these areas. It's a work in progress! We have also maintained the footpath within the plot by installing steps and hardening the surface with wood chippings, again work in progress. Planting of snowdrops and other woodland plants has taken place and we have just purchased a further 18kg of daffodils to plant this autumn.



Most of the 200plus hedgerow saplings we planted have thrived in the poor light and dry conditions. Hopefully they will continue to do so and provide a food source for wildlife in years to come. The wildflower corner thrived in late summer and with the compensation provided by the contractor who dug-up our previous plantings, we will sow further wildflower seed mixes next year, along with plants that reduce the strength of the grass. This will give the wildflowers a better chance to flourish.

We have saved Surrey County Council money by dealing with the many tree branches that were left overhanging the footpath, after rainstorms and high winds caused the branches to break. These were usually Elder trees carrying a heavy growth of Ivy and when bearing fruit, they cannot cope with the extra weight of wind and rain.

If you would like to join in and help us improve and keep this small corner of our village tidy you are most welcome. We meet at 10am on the 2nd Saturday and 3rd Tuesday of the month, please contact: brian.bvra@gmail.com

A NEW BANSTEAD VILLAGE SIGN PROPOSAL by Brian Ransom

The Winkworth Woodland Community Project has put forward a proposal for a new Banstead Village sign to be erected on the corner of Bolters Lane and Winkworth Road. Unlike the two village signs in Garratts Lane and Sutton Lane, this one would be a colourful, pictorial representation of our lovely village and its long history of farming, production of wool and lavender, and will include two of the iconic village buildings, All Saints Church and the Well.

The sign would be made from cast aluminium painted to an original artwork design by a small specialist sign maker based in Norfolk. Please go to their webpage www.villagesignpeople.com and select "Cast Aluminium signs" to view signs they have made for other villages.

This proposal has the support of BVRA and we are hoping that local businesses will provide sponsorship and that members of the public will also support the proposal with Crowdfunding, the details of which will be decided in the near future. The coloured artwork will be commissioned and displayed on BVRA website when it becomes available. If you would like to support this proposal or learn further details please contact brian.bvra@gmail.com



BUS ROUTE 166 – WEST CROYDON VIA BANSTEAD TO EPSOM by Gerald Bridge

The current five-year contract operated by Arriva London South Ltd ends on 30 August 2018. The current TFL 2018-2019 Tendering Programme includes route 166 with tender returns due 11 September 2017, contract award December 2017 with contract start 1 September 2018. The existing service is basically every 20 minutes but it is the hourly service to Epsom Hospital which leaves much to be desired, especially in view of parking inadequacies.

Arriva are not looking to improve but to reduce the service with the possibility of the introduction of double-decker buses, but this is dependent on demand. New contract details are awaited with interest.

STOP PRESS - The Post office is in the first stage of internal consultations on closing the Banstead Sorting Office and moving the service to Epsom.

HIGH STREET UPDATE by Cliff Glanfield

There is some progress with respect to the area in front of Tesco and QEF in that we have now established the ownership structure and have an ongoing dialogue with the managing agents. It is recognized that basic maintenance is needed. Sadly that might mean removal of the diseased ash tree near to the post box, but that could provide an opportunity to tidy up this end by removing the unsightly timber fencing, which is in a poor state of repair. It is hoped the bare area can be earthed up and re-seeded at the beginning of the growing season next year.

On the High Street, new cast iron bins are planned, but have not yet materialised. We note that Reigate and Banstead Council have, however, started to re-paint the cast iron bollards and other street furniture, which is to be welcomed.

Elsewhere, we have noticed the timber benches in the cricket ground are disintegrating and “desire line” gaps have appeared in the laid hedge to Avenue Road.

We are working towards a coordinated plan acceptable to all stakeholders, but it’s early days and the number of issues in scope keeps growing.

PROJECT HORIZON by David Gradidge

Project Horizon is the Surrey County Council road and pavement (including footpaths) maintenance programme. On their web site are details of the work scheduled for 2017/18 and also, if you look carefully, for the next 4 years. The latter carries a warning that no item on the list may be carried out.

For the current year, the outstanding projects are for the pavements in Court Rd and the south side of the High St. Both of these were marked up with white spray paint months ago. There is still time, but the paint is disappearing and in Court Rd the pavement will become covered in leaves.

The longer term plan includes Avenue Rd (never gets to the top of the list), Court Rd, Garratts Lane, Thornfield Rd part, and Brighton Rd between Garratts Lane and Lyme Regis Rd. Pavements include Kingsley Ave and Winkworth Rd and also the footpath from The High St to Sandersfield Gardens.

LATEST UPDATE ON EPSOM HOSPITAL SITE by Catalina Vassallo-Bonner

The public consultation with regard to the creation of a new acute hospital to be built on the old Sutton Hospital site whilst retaining Epsom and St. Helier Hospitals, ends at the end of September with the results due to be documented in November 2017. A business case is then to be prepared for publication and consultation in the summer of 2018 and a decision as to whether to continue and seek government funding made in spring 2019. If a convincing case is made it is expected that the following 5 years will be taken up with appeals, submission of planning designs, the securing of existing buildings with the new hospital opening by 2024.

However – we have been here before! There are very convincing arguments both for and against this proposal as you will have read in the press and indeed the local MPs disagree with each other as to the way forward. Please refer to our website for the latest developments including feedback from the Council sponsored meeting to be held at Banstead Community Hall on September 29th at 18.30hrs.

BANSTEAD LIVE AT HOME SCHEME by Tracey Baxter

Banstead Live at Home is a charity that offers services and support to help older people lead independent, active and fulfilled lives, whilst remaining in their own home. We aim to reduce social isolation, promote health and wellbeing while offering opportunities for companionship and support.

This is a new scheme. And we are establishing services and activities based on the requirements of the local community. Our programme of events include, friendship mornings, trips out, and exercise classes. We offer a volunteer befriending service. In the near future we will run lunch clubs, coffee mornings and shopping trips. We are actively seeking members to join us and volunteers to help with our activities.

If you are interested please call Tracey Baxter Scheme Manager on 07968 351211 or email Banstead.liveathome@mha.org.uk

COUNCILLORS CORNER

Lynne – I know that you are a qualified scientist and have worked for many years at the Royal Marsden Hospital in Sutton. Why did you feel called to enter the world of politics?

Both working in Cancer Research, and as a Local Councillor, my focus is on improving people's wellbeing. I am very privileged to have spent 20 years as a Scientist doing a job I loved. It was not a conscious decision to swap careers; I just found that once I got involved with politics I wanted to contribute more both Locally and Nationally.

Which of the many positions you have held over the last few years has given you the greatest satisfaction and why?

It is satisfying when you can achieve something, both for individuals, and for the community. Both as Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, my focus has been on finance, ensuring that we can maintain and improve services whilst keeping the Council Tax to a minimum. Last year we were recognised as the best Borough Council in the Country, of which I am very proud. In terms of personal satisfaction, when I was the Cabinet Member for the Environment on Surrey County Council I was able to use my scientific background to commission an 'Eco Park' to dispose of Surrey's waste using state-of-the-art technology. This infrastructure should last for at least 25 years and make both a financial and environmental difference to our residents.

In your opinion do the current financial constraints present greater opportunities for communities to come together and if so – what is possible?

It is essential that the community is involved in all projects the Council is undertaking – so that we know we are delivering what local people want. The tight financial situation provides an incentive for residents who feel strongly about something to get involved by contributing their time or money. Banstead in Bloom is a great example of the community coming together to achieve a big improvement to the look of the High Street.

Thank you Lynne and for all your help and support.

BANSTEAD REMEMBERS by James Crouch

Banstead and Burgh Heath are honouring the memories of more than 130 local men who fell in World War One. A commemoration ceremony is held at All Saints, Banstead, on the 100th anniversary of the death of each local man. Please come and remember the sacrifice that our local community made 100 years ago.

Timetable (dates in table on right):

- 7:30am: The churchyard flag is raised to half-mast
- 11:50am: A short service of remembrance is held
- Noon: A church bell is tolled 100 times
- 5:30pm: The churchyard flag is lowered

Sunday services are held at 10:50am, with the tolling at 11am

EDNA TOUZEL

It is with regret that we have to record the passing of one of our longest serving active members, and former road steward, Edna Touzel. Her local knowledge and efforts will be missed.

The fallen:

October

11th - Edward Lawrence
21st - Theo Tapp
22nd - George Butler
26th - Alfred Pidgeon
27th - John Gateland
30th - Sidney Reygate

December

22nd - Leslie Mitchell
22nd - Donald Lewis
29th - Edward Lee

January

9th - Jack Bailey
14th - Willie Layzell

February

2nd - Henry Lowe Penson

ROADS STEWARDS by David Gradidge

As always I am looking out for volunteer road stewards. There is only one road with vacancies as of today, but new ones can arise at any moment. Winkworth Road on the south side. Here, there are 80 or so properties so it needs to be divided up into at least 2 parts to make it manageable. If you are interested or know anyone who might be, please contact me on 01737 353981 or email dgradidge@waitrose.com

WINKWORTH TRAFFIC CALMING PROPOSAL UPDATE by Brian Ransom

Surrey County Council Highways department have refused to proceed with any form of traffic calming scheme for the Winkworth Road access roads for the foreseeable future. They have come to this decision despite our scheme being supported by the police roads manager. They have cited the pressures of finding extra budget funding for social care for older adults, vulnerable children and disabled people as the prime reason. However, they have now reversed their decision to withhold the data from the Automatic Traffic Counter and below is some of the data from that survey (full details on our website).

The vehicle movements of the 136 households who live along Winkworth Road would be a small fraction of the 3819 vehicles recorded and shows that the roads are being heavily misused. I shall be contacting all the households in the access roads in the near future to inform them of Surrey County Council's decision and to plan a way forward to resolve this long running problem. Concerned access road residents can contact me via brian.bvra@gmail.com for further information.

THE A217 CROSSING by David Gradidge

Background. This is a plan for a crossing on the A217 between a footpath leading off The Horseshoe (past the ambulance station) and Burgh Wood. This followed a petition by, in the main, residents of Nork for a safer crossing for school children. It was approved by the local Council and was initially going to be a Pelican crossing (pedestrian controlled by traffic lights). It was subsequently amended to a Toucan crossing (for cyclists) and scheduled for construction during the school holidays just past. Well, it didn't happen. It seems that the contractor (Murphy) had pointed out some significant omissions from the specification and the fact that Surrey now wanted the job done in 6 weeks and not the original 12 weeks. These changes had caused a cost increase of £60,000 from the original estimate of £239,000. Accordingly the contract was cancelled and it then seemed that nothing would happen until 2018. Surrey County Councillor Colin Kemp was not happy with the cancellation and raised serious concerns. The latest in this saga dated 1st September is that they still hope to go ahead this Autumn. Updates will appear on the web site.

AGE CONCERN, BANSTEAD

by Sally Pulsford

This is a small, local, volunteer led charity, which prides itself on helping to support older people to live happier and more fulfilled lives in their later years, when bereavement or disablement can cause life to become more difficult. Our office is in the Banstead Day Centre and is open Mon – Fri between 10am and 3pm. We offer many services the newest of which is a **Community Allotment for the Elderly** which is based in the grounds of Greenacre Care Home in the Horseshoe and is open Tuesdays 10.30 to 12.30 and Thursdays 2.30 to 4.30. This is an ideal opportunity for older people to join us for a spot of light gardening and a chat, to look around and enjoy a cuppa.

To find out more please come along to our **Ageing Well Day** on Friday 6th Oct 12.30 to 3.30 to be held at St Mark's Church, Great Tattenhams, KT 18 5RD where there will be free admission, free lunch, Service Provider Stalls and presentations from Age Concern Banstead on "Making the most of your later years" and Surrey Police will be talking about "Fraud Awareness" Sally Pulsford, Managing Trustee, Age Concern Banstead 01737 352156

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

BVRA COMMITTEE

Mike Sawyer – Chairman & Planning

email: bansteadvillage.bvra@virginmedia.com

Cliff Glanfield – Vice - Chairman & High Street Management

email: cliffglanfield@yahoo.co.uk

Marion Hayns – Vice - Chairman & Publicity & Internal affairs

email: marionh.bafs@hotmail.co.uk

David Gradidge – Treasurer & Transport & Infrastructure

email: dgradidge@waitrose.com

Catalina Vassallo-Bonner – Secretary

email: c.vassallo-bonner@gmail.com

Group email: Banstead-BVRA@outlook.com

LOCAL COUNCILLORS:

Ken Gulati – Surrey County Councillor

email: ken.gulati@surreycc.gov.uk

Lynne Hack - Borough Councillor

email: Clr.Hack@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Eddy Humphreys – Borough Councillor

email: Clr.Humphreys@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Sam Walsh – Borough Councillor

email: Clr.Walsh@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Crispin Blunt, M.P. Westminster Office: 0207 219 2254

email: crispinblunt@parliament.uk

Constituency Office: 01737 222756 Skinner House,
38-40 Bell Street, Reigate RH2 7BA

FUTURE EVENTS

BANSTEAD ARTS FESTIVAL SOCIETY - Autumn/Winter Concerts 2017-2018

Saturday 21st October 2017 - DINARA KLINTON - a multi-award winner will play works by Bach, Beethoven, Liszt and Chopin.

Saturday 18th November 2017 - EBLANA STRING TRIO - this dynamic young chamber ensemble will play works by Beethoven and Moeran plus Mozart's magnificent E flat Divertimento.

All events will be at 7:30 pm at the Community Hall, Banstead. Tickets: £12 and school pupils FREE, four weeks before the event from Banstead Library and online at www.bansteadarts.co.uk or at the door as available. Telephone reservations: 01737 350288



CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY EVENT

by Michelle Cass

The Banstead Business Guild (BBG) have organised a Christmas Community Event on **Thursday 30th November between 5 & 8pm**. There will be plenty for the whole family including a flying visit from Father Christmas on his sleigh. Many of the shops will have special 'on the night only' offers and will have in store activities, there will be street entertainment, special guests and fun activities for the children so please make a note of this date now and come along to support us. Up to date details can be found on our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/BansteadChristmasCommunityEvent or to find out more about the BBG visit our website www.bansteadbusinessguild.co.uk

POPPY APPEAL - 2017

This year's poppy appeal will be from 28 October until 11 November.

Last year the Banstead area raised over £42,000! We would like to try and equal – or better - that this year, with your help. Anyone who is willing to give up 90 minutes to collect at either Waitrose or Asda, could they please contact Allan Parsons on 01737 211082 or 07939 724644. At Asda our shifts start at 8.30 am until 6.30 pm Monday to Saturday (10am until 4pm Sunday); at Waitrose, 9 am until 7 pm Monday to Saturday (10am until 4pm Sunday). Any help would be greatly appreciated.

BANSTEAD CHRISTMAS LIGHTS APPEAL by Michelle Cass

The Christmas Lights in Banstead High Street are in need of replacement as they are over 10 years old. Some businesses and local organisations in and around the High Street pay yearly for the lights to be maintained but extra money is needed to replace them. The Council are not responsible for the lights and are unable to fund them. We are asking all local business owners, retailers and local residents for help to light up Banstead during the festive period. To donate; either use our just giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/michelle-cass-2> or give at either **JT Snuggs**, 50 High Street Banstead or **The Natural Way**, 10 High Street, Banstead.

Thanks very much for your support.

OTHER EVENTS

October

- 6th - Ageing Well day 12:30 to 3:30 - St Mark's Church, Great Tattenhams
- 10th - Banstead Horticultural Society lecture 'Winter in the Garden' 8pm Junior School, The Horseshoe
- 14th - Footpath Clearance - meet at the Community Hall @10am.
- 20th - Horticultural Society Coffee Morning 10-12 'The Gardens of Banstead' URC, Woodmansterne Lane
- 25th - Cinema: Camelot—Church Institute
- 26th to 28th - Annual Exhibition - Banstead Arts Group - outside Banstead library

Please see our website for the latest information.