

BVRA newsheet

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

Vol. 36 / 1 - Winter 2020

Banstead-BVRA@outlook.com

www.Banstead-BVRA.org

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY EVENT by Nadean Moses (BBG Event Organiser)



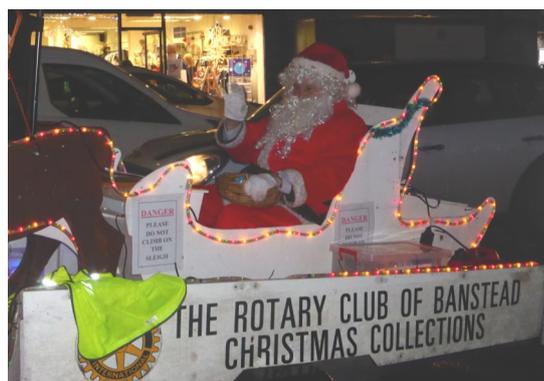
Thursday 28th November saw thousands of people flock to Banstead High Street for the annual Banstead Christmas Community Event. Visitors to the village found amazing shopping offers up and down the High Street from Shortlands Shoes, JT Snuggs Jewellers, Banstead Vintners, Art Of Living, Fluke, Cook Trading, Mr Snob, Charlie Brown, Specsavers and many, many more, plus tastings, prizes, goody bags and raffles, a tombola and a treasure hunt, starting at the Natural Way, so this is one event you did not want to miss! Yes, there was so much going on plus: great

chances to win a fantastic children's hamper at Edibles while Christ Church was busy with their Christmas quiz and free hot chocolate. With street entertainment from Copley Clark, guests from the Galactic Empire, and the tallest Juggler Jebb the Jester having the alterations made for his new trousers at Direct Dry Cleaning. Redhill Corps of Drums & Band played your favourite classics; we had the man himself - Father Christmas - flying in to see the new look Woolpack at 6:30pm and then making his way up the High Street greeting all the excited children and ending at Zizzi with helpers from the Rotary Club.

We were greeted to the Orchard by the Pilgrim Pantomime Company in fabulous costumes. There was the opportunity to enjoy the amazing singers, dancers and performers from West End Stage Stars, Woodmansterne Primary School Choir, Kiara Sings, Show Choir, Theo the Magician, Banjos, Elkie J. and Cada Star, all in the Orchard or on the High Street with the Mayoress of Reigate & Banstead. The Banstead Cricket Club had hot drinks to keep us warm, Bill the DJ to keep our feet tapping with the sound of 107.8 Radio Jackie, and dance with your favourite minion. Newly opened Shapes Day Nursery had you spinning around with the Tea Cup ride. Crafty Faces Face Painting put the sparkle back on our cheeks and Molly The Pet Detective Dog got lots of cuddles. Funds were raised for local charities with a great tombola at Trueloves, while All Saints Church Prayer Tree offered a tranquil spot amongst the festivities. Many of the local charity shops also stayed open especially for the evening. The event is getting bigger and better each year so a big thanks to everyone who got involved. Funds were donated by many of the local organisations and businesses including All Star Security, Banstead Village Residents Association, Winyard Associates, HSBC, Alexander House Financial Services, Ora Hair, Lancasters Estate Agent and many more helping The Banstead Business Guild to put the event together with particular assistance from myself, Sarah Winyard, Michelle Cass & Peter Harp.

Other Banstead businesses that took part in the event were: Banstead Arts Festival Society, Banstead Opticians, Banstead Physio & Therapies, Barrco Solicitors, Ciao Italia, Charlie Brown Hairdressing, CISL Ltd., Cuff & Gough Solicitors, LASU Payroll, Mike Head, Richard Saunders Estate Agents, The Best of Epsom & Ewell, The Personal Agent, and Waitrose.

If you would like to know what is happening next on Banstead High Street and want to get involved with future events, we would love to hear from you. Meetings of The Banstead Business Guild are on the second Tuesday of every two months (starting in January each year) at Café Italia at 5.30 pm-7.00pm.



WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR by David Talbot



Welcome to our winter newsheet. I hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas break, and I wish you all a, slightly belated, happy and prosperous New Year.

Well, things have been happening since my previous report. Firstly, the lake that we christened 'Lake Victoria' has disappeared..!! Huge thanks to Surrey County Council for resolving this long-running issue. The new arrangement seems to have coped well with the few downpours that we have experienced since the repair. And secondly, our new village sign that was the subject of the previous report. It still looks great even though it's been standing through some wet weather for several months now. We are also planning to refurbish the original village signs.

Our colleagues have been busy too. Firstly, Banstead Village in Bloom (BViB) won a gold award in the summer – well done to them and to everybody who helped them. Secondly, the Royal British Legion put on a great display of poppies along the high street and surrounding roads and a great parade in memory of those who fought in the war. And thirdly, Banstead Business Guild launched the Christmas Community Event which was a great success and not as cold as in previous years. Please see the report and some pictures on the front page.

We are very fortunate in this village to have so many groups putting on activities. These activities range from Musical Theatre (the recent Scrooge musical), Arts, Choir, Dance, Horticultural, History, Organ and Pantomime to mention just a few. We try to present all of these through the 'What's On' page on our website – please have a look (see our address on the front page).

We aim to represent the whole village, but of course, it's much easier if you are a member. For more details please check out our website (www.banstead-bvra.org) and our newsheet - if you are not already a member of our organisation please join us (subscription just £3.00 per year). Our email address is on the front page and we would love to hear from you.

REMEMBRANCE DAY by Mike Sawyer (Banstead RBL)

Another successful weekend - the parade, along the full length of the High Street again, was blessed with good weather and extremely well supported. We also had an evening service courtesy of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Tadworth, and a small service at 11 am on 11th November at the War Memorial.

The Poppy Appeal has raised at least £43,000 at the time of writing. As was only to be expected this is slightly less than last year, which was a very significant centenary. Nevertheless, the generosity of the people in our area is outstanding and has produced £180,000 over the last 4 years.

Sincere thanks must be given to the many volunteers who gave up their time, to the many shops and other establishments that helped, and to the stalwarts who put up the lamppost poppies. They included Brian Ransom, Cllr Humphries and members of the Banstead Business Guild, local residents and staff from Waitrose; and also to the Deputy Mayor and staff at Reigate Council.

We are totally dependent on volunteers and would welcome any help that may come from those reading this newsheet – please let me know if you wish to join us for the coming year! I must also give thanks to the Banstead May Queen committee who have nominated us as their charity for the coming year. We are working with them and other organisations to help make it a memorable event and look forward to seeing you there.



PLANNING MATTERS by Ben Martin and Melanie Ramsay

After a relatively quiet time in terms of applications dealt with by the Planning Subgroup (which is chaired by Catalina Vassallo-Bonner, the other members being Ben and Melanie), three larger planned developments have re-appeared: for the construction of a 68-bed care home on the former allotments next to Wellesford Close; the development of the former Priory School site to provide 44 retirement apartments; and the construction of a staff accommodation block in the grounds of Bolters Corner Rest Home.

The Wellesford Close care home application was first submitted in February 2019 but has since been amended on several occasions. In May, the planning officer requested a significant reduction in the number of bedrooms and footprint of the proposal. Amended plans were submitted in August with a reduction of only four bedrooms and a marginal reduction in footprint. The proposal has generated considerable opposition from local residents. Their view, and that of the Planning Group, is that the planned building is much too large and intrusive for the setting (adjacent to the Green Belt as well as



houses in Wellesford Close) and that such a development is inappropriate for the site. There are also concerns about the loss of a habitat for wild deer (see picture) and removal of a protected tree, as well as severe doubts about access and the provision of parking, both of which will have adverse consequences for nearby residents. Lastly, there is the question of whether Banstead actually needs another care home.

In the case of the Priory School development, the original application by McCarthy & Stone was turned down by Reigate & Banstead Planning Department in August because of the failure to retain the façade, which was seen as having architectural, artistic and historic value. The new application has a slightly revised front elevation but still does not preserve the original façade, so it remains to be seen whether the Planning Department will be any more sympathetic this time. The view of the BVRA Planning Group is that it would be good to see the site developed, that more retirement apartments are needed, and that the developers are to be credited for engaging with the community about their plans. However, there are concerns over whether they are trying to cram too many apartments into the available space and about the limited parking provision (which would have detrimental effects on nearby roads). An application based on 30-35 apartments, with more generous provision for parking and preserving at least the original part of the historical façade, would probably stand a better chance of success.

With regards to Bolters Corner Rest Home, this is the third time such an application has been made. The applicants argue that increasing care home provision is necessary, including the need for staff accommodation. On the other hand, there have been numerous extensions and additions to this building already, so the issue is whether a new accommodation block is just too much for what is already a very crowded site. Local residents who are interested in this and the other two developments can access the plans through the Council's planning website by following the new link on our website (please see the links on the Local Council tab) or directly <https://planning.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/online-applications/> and give their views.



The BVRA Newsheet is supported by;

Richard Saunders and Company

2 High Street Banstead SM7 2LJ

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BANSTEAD VILLAGE IN BLOOM – Gold Medallists! by Marion Hayns (BVIB)

As Crispin Blunt recalled in the autumn when he came to congratulate us and view some of the improvements achieved over the past 3 years, the difference between our now thriving, bustling High Street with its cafe culture, and its moribund appearance in 1997, when he first was elected MP for Reigate & Banstead, is inspirational. The transformation of that previously tired and worn out area in front of Tesco by local businessman and benefactor Ray Harwood of Centro, whom he thanked, attracted others to invest in us and now we are the envy of many!



In recognition of all our achievements and a demonstration of their faith in our ability to deliver, we were absolutely thrilled to be awarded £12,000 from the CIL Fund by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council in late November. This will enable us to finance improvements to the Lady Neville Park and Cafeteria, new planters in the High Street and various small gardening projects as a result of the bid we put together. In this we have been wonderfully supported by our local Councillor, Eddy Humphreys.

As a further boost to our High Street, we welcome the fine refurbishment of the previously very tired and shabby Woolpack Pub and should like to thank James Crouch of the Banstead History Research Group in supporting our appeal to Shepherd Neame, the new owners, to restore a facsimile of the original sign. This depicts the sacks of high quality wool which was produced by sheep on the Downs. This wool was said to be used as stuffing for the Woolsack, upon which the Lord Speaker sits in the House of Lords.

All the hard work continues and we hope you have noticed the team of litter picking volunteers headed up by Kerry who go out every Monday morning regardless of the weather, and who over the year – in addition to the hundreds of bags of detritus collected – have picked up hubcaps galore, discovered an old rotting car in undergrowth in Park Road and even more alarmingly a knuckle duster, an air rifle and a shotgun in roads adjacent to the prison. In addition the 'Friday team' are to be seen regularly out and about working in and around the High Street or Banstead Churchyard.

Come the spring, as you approach the eastern end of the High Street from Sutton Lane you will hopefully be met by a glorious carpet of almost 2,000 narcissi bulbs planted by so many willing volunteers on a damp day in late November. Over the years our hope is that these will spread and naturalise and become a lasting legacy and reminder of all that we can achieve if we continue to 'work together for the enhancement of our Village.'

Thank you to the 171 of you who supported our Quiz Night in October and, as well as enjoying a great evening, helped us to raise over £2,100. One of our most committed and generous supporters, Specsavers of Banstead donated the 6 bottles of Prosecco won by Paul Bonner of Garrard Road and his winning team, and both Specsavers and Waitrose have each presented us with a cheque for £1,000 which is going to be put towards the planting up of a sensory garden in the Lady Neville Park and further works.



Further news and pictures of all our future projects can be found on our Facebook Page www.facebook.com/Bansteadvillageinbloom or on our website: bvib.co.uk and please do remember we are all volunteers and entirely self-funding and would gladly welcome any help or suggestions for further projects. We look forward to hearing from you! Marion Hayns marionh.bafs@hotmail.co.uk

Photographs courtesy of Jane Alexander Photography.

BANSTEAD'S OWN MUSICAL THEATRE SOCIETY by John Daniels (BANOS)

BANOS Musical Theatre Society (formerly Banstead & Nork Operatic Society) has long been close to the beating heart of Banstead and Nork and its cultural activities.

The society has come a long way since the Autumn of 1928 when a party of singers from Nork decided to form an Operatic Society. A local resident, Alderman AJ Hurley JP kindly allowed the society to use his old barn in Warren Road for rehearsals and the making of scenery. The society started out in the Banstead Institute and then moved to Bourne Hall, Ewell. It was the first amateur society to perform there with its production of 'Die Fledermaus'. However, when the Epsom Playhouse was built the society transferred there in 1984 with the show 'Oklahoma'. Since then the society has performed major shows at a range of venues, but we have also kept true to our Banstead roots. A range of successful shows at the Banstead Community Hall has included Music Hall, Gilbert and Sullivan, pantomime and reviews and in November 2019 a stunning production of the musical '**Scrooge**'. It is not easy to keep live (amateur) theatre going in the community and we are grateful for the support of the Borough of Reigate and Banstead Arts Council. BANOS Musical Theatre is proud of its roots in the Banstead and Nork area. Especially when it promotes its shows in the Banstead May Queen Procession, rehearses at Aberdour School and Nork, and performs at the Banstead Community Hall. Halls like the Banstead Institute and the Community Hall are generally solidly booked 52 weeks a year, so BANOS appreciate the support of Banstead Community Association as the only amateur society still to perform on the Banstead Community Hall stage. BANOS Musical Theatre puts a lot of effort in publicising its shows in the Banstead area and is grateful for the support it gets. It looks forward to that support continuing as it looks to the future – with '**Guys and Dolls**' scheduled for performance at the **Epsom Playhouse in 2020 (from Wednesday 3rd June until Saturday 6th June - with a matinee that day)**. So put a note in your diary! If you would like to perform in it do see banos.co.uk or contact the Membership Secretary on 020 8393 1955.



INFRASTRUCTURE by David Gradidge

THE event is, of course, the demise of 'Lake Victoria'. So there was no need to mount a petition, and our flotilla of yellow plastic ducks will have to find another home. Thanks must go to Councillor Ken Gulati who by some magic persuaded those that prioritise these things to change the priority from medium to the top of the list. The area has had a severe test in recent weeks without a puddle.

On other matters, we still await repairs to the High Street pavements. It is still on the Project Horizon list for 2019/20. One of the things that we want to focus on for 2020 is the replacement and tidying-up of our tree stock. When trees become dangerous, Surrey County Council organise their removal and for safety reasons leave behind a visible stump - we have at least 30 in our village. We aim to get some of these removed and some replacement trees planted although requests will need to be in place by March so that trees can be ordered and planted in November.

OLD VILLAGE SIGN REFURBISHMENT by Brian Ransom

We are aiming to refurbish the old village signs and appeal to anyone with some temporary scaffolding, the slot together type, to lend it to us for a short time. Please see our email address on the front page.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (CIL) by David Talbot

Many thanks to all those of you who sent in ideas for projects. As you will notice from the BVIB report on the previous page, some of this money is to be spent on improvements to the Lady Neville park and cafeteria. There is still money for further projects so please keep the ideas coming - please see our email address on the front page.

BANSTEAD RAILWAY STATION by Gerald Bridge (co-opted retired member)

In the autumn issue of the newsheet, I stated work was still needed to be done to the embankment and made reference to the £30,000 from the GTR Passenger Budget Fund allocated to provide tangible benefits at the station.

Following the geological assessment the current position is that due to the extent of the works required to future proof the stability of the chalk cutting, Network Rail have put their proposals through a separate *Government for Railway Investment Project* protocol. This is a detailed project management process for major works which will be undertaken by Network Rail's Geotechnical department. This will require detailed assessments, design and construction analysis in accordance with their relevant standards and Health and Safety legislation. By its very nature, this will take some time to complete and schedule. It is planned to undertake the works during 20/21 work year.

Regarding the matter of the £30,000 from the GTR Passenger Budget Fund to provide tangible benefits at the station the decision of the review body is expected early in the new year in respect of the submission made in July by the association.

PAVEMENTS by David Talbot

Please be aware that the best way to report any pavement issues is directly to the local council. Please see the new link on the Local Council tab on our website. Alternatively, please go directly to:
<https://www9.surreycc.gov.uk/HighwayIssue/Whatistheissue.aspx?&code=PAV>

TADWORTH TERRACYCLE by Catherine Banks (Founder Tadworth Terracycle)

I set up Tadworth Terracycle, a single-use plastic recycling scheme in the local area, this removes certain types of plastic from landfill that cannot be recycled with Reigate & Banstead refuse collections. The plastic is shredded in the UK and sold for repurposing into long term plastic items, so it's not only saved from landfill but also recycled in the UK for which points are received and redeemed to donate money to charities. The main charity beneficiaries are currently The Alzheimer Society, RSPCA & Canine Partners. Most importantly, the whole local scheme is run on a voluntary basis. Terracycle offers a range of free programmes that are funded by conscientious companies to help you collect and recycle your hard-to-recycle waste. There is also a Facebook page called 'Tadworth & Local Area Recycling Page' so please like and follow this.

All this work is done on a voluntary basis, I receive no monetary gain myself, however, I do receive points, which can be turned into a donation for my nominated charities. I also provide feedback on the amount we have kept out of landfill and the amount raised so far.

Facebook provides much of the information required to allow anyone to recycle acceptable waste. Albums provide the schemes, how to sort, package, where and when a drop off can be made, they also provide photos of acceptable and unacceptable waste for each scheme to guide you. There are very specific rules to this recycling, so please refer to these albums and if in query, please post an enquiry or send me a private message. If you do not have Facebook, please email me at Tadworthterracycle@gmail.com and I can give you access to my Google drive where all the necessary information can be found. Alternatively, visit www.terracycle.com. Below are some small images, to give you an idea of what can be recycled, but contributors must refer to the full details to ensure that Tadworth Terracycle do not receive incorrect items. Some of these schemes allow you to recycle all brands, others are selective.



WHAT A LOAD OF BLOOMIN' RUBBISH! By Kerry Garner (BViB)

I have been litter picking my local streets for more than 30 years. When I joined Banstead Village in Bloom I thought this would be a great opportunity to try and set up a litter picking group in Banstead. Nadean Moses was the first to join me in October 2018 quickly followed by two of BViB's keenest pickers, Sally and Wendy. On New Years Eve 2018, I arranged a litter pick along Winkworth Road and was delighted that 6 people turned up, they collected around 25 bags of litter and pulled many fly tipped items from the hedgerow and that was the start of our weekly litter picking group. From then on Dave Chiverton from Reigate and Banstead Council has supplied us with litter pickers and purple community bags and collects them once filled.



Each week we target an area that is badly littered. The council then collect the bags after our picks. Holly Lane took over 40 man hours to clear, we worked along Sutton and Croydon Lane. The A217 and the woodland running alongside it, Nork shops and Banstead Station. We now have 14 Monday morning volunteers and another 14 who pick under the 'Adopt a Road' scheme. Local residents sign up to look after a road or area and we supply them with bags, pickers and vests. Some pick every week others less often but all of their joint work is proving to make Banstead a very litter free area.

Since starting, we have filled over 1,000 purple bags with litter. We have found mattresses, chairs, suitcases, guns, knuckle dusters, tins of paint, nappies, tyres, prosthetic limbs, clothes, hundreds of capsules of nitrous oxide, a motorbike, a car, several bikes, hazardous cans of waste, and even a kitchen sink! If you would like to be part of keeping Banstead clear of litter, please give me a call on 01737 362140 or email kerry.garner@outlook.com

ROAD STEWARDS by David Gradidge

Vacancies for road stewards occur all the time and over the years we normally find a new volunteer. Occasionally it can be a bit of a problem. I am looking for a willing volunteer (or perhaps 2) to take on part of Commonfield Road. We have over 40 members here so it is quite important. Please contact me if you, or anyone you know, would like to be part of our team. You meet some very nice people.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

BVRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

David Talbot - Chairman

David Gradidge – Treasurer, Transport and Infrastructure

email: dgradidge@waitrose.com

Catalina Vassallo-Bonner – Secretary & Planning

Cliff Glanfield - Data Records Manager

Barbara Birch, Ben Martin, Brian Ransom, Melanie Ramsay and Richard Heath.

Group email: Banstead-BVRA@outlook.com

LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Ken Gulati – Surrey County Councillor

email: ken.gulati@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

BANSTEAD ARTS FESTIVAL by Jeff Young (BAFS)

SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY - PLEYEL ENSEMBLE - works by Haydn, Schumann and Schubert

SATURDAY 21ST MARCH - Trio Con Brio - works by Sørensen, Beethoven and Shostakovich.

All events will start at 7:30PM in the Community Hall, Banstead. Tickets will be on sale online, at Banstead Library and at the door if still available. Please see website www.bansteadarts.co.uk for details.

A SELECTION OF OTHER EVENTS by David Talbot

WEDNESDAY 22TH JANUARY at 2:00 PM - Flower Club - AGM - Community Hall

WEDNESDAY 22TH TO SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY - ALADDIN PANTOMIME - Church Institute

WEDNESDAY 29th January at 2:00 PM - Banstead Tea Dance - Community Hall

TUESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY - Banstead Flower Club - Glorious Gardenalia - Community Hall

WEDNESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY - BHS - Coffee Morning - United Reform Church

THURSDAY 20TH FEBRUARY - U3A - Wilf Lower talk - Community Hall

SATURDAY 29TH FEBRUARY at 7:30 PM - St Celilia Chorus - Quiz Night - Junior School

TUESDAY 17TH MARCH at various times - Cinema - 'Judy' - Church Institute

WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY at 8:00 PM - Banwood Dance - Live Music - St Ann's Church Hall

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL at 2:00PM - Horticultural Club - Spring Show - Community Hall

Please see our website (address on front cover) for further details and other events.

BANSTEAD MAY FAYRE - 2ND MAY by Melanie French (Banstead May Fayre President)



The Banstead May Fayre started in 1985 as a small village fayre. Now opened by the Mayor of Reigate and Banstead, it has grown since then into a large parade along the High Street, a display of singing and dancing from local schools and groups, a village fete with stalls, games, raffles and food vendors, and an annual fund raiser for a different chosen charity each year. There is also the crowning of the May Queen. It is the biggest annual community event in Banstead, and generally attracts thousands of people from our village. The footfall is about 5,000 people.

The May Fayre group is a non-profit making organisation run entirely by volunteers, and its purpose is to raise money for nominated charities, as well as put on an enjoyable day for our community. Last year we raised £8,500 for The Breck Foundation. In total we have raised £170,000 for charity. In 2020, it will be our 35th Anniversary. This is truly a community event with many shops, businesses and local groups being involved in the day in a variety of different ways.

The 2020 May Fayre

The chosen charity for 2020 is the Royal British Legion. We will have Marching Bands, Historic Vehicles including a Tank, and a Lancaster Bomber (in The Orchard of All Saints Church). We hope to have have Cadets, Chelsea Pensioners, and 'En-Actors (who dress up in period costume). We also hope to have all 35 May Queens together in the Parade The May Queen for 2020 is Sonia Patel and she will recite a poem that has been written by the Royal British Legion.