

BVRA newsheet

from the Banstead Village Residents' Association

Vol. 33 No. 2 - May 2017

Banstead-BVRA@outlook.com

www.Banstead-BVRA.org

BANSTEAD IN BLOOM by Marion Hayns



As many of you will know Banstead Village is entering the RHS Nationwide Community Gardening Competition "Britain in Bloom" for the first time this year.

The competition focuses on community action aimed at improving the local environment and particular areas of interest are conservation work, trees and wildflower meadows; war grave maintenance and the work of local schools in the community. Judging will take place around the second week in July and BVRA are responsible for organising a mega clean of the village which is now to take place on Saturday June 17th. This will allow us the opportunity to all meet up for coffee and cake after the litter pick during

which members of the Banstead in Bloom steering group will give a short presentation on the vision and proposals which we hope to see phased in over the next 3 years.

We think you will be encouraged to see that many of the areas of concern flagged up in our members survey a couple of years ago are beginning to be addressed and we hope that many of you will be inspired to join with us and get further involved with the ongoing projects.



We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at 9.30 am on the 17th June in the Car Park at the front of the Community Hall in Park Road. Gloves, bags and litter pickers will be provided. In addition Banstead Horticultural Society is offering a £30 prize for the best kept front garden. If you feel so inspired the theme for the planters and tubs to be placed throughout the High Street is purple, pink and white petunias and geraniums!



Notice of Annual General Meeting

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

70th Annual General Meeting to be held at:

The Priory School, Bolters Lane, Banstead on TUESDAY 23rd May, at 7:30 pm.

Please note that parking in the adjacent car park (between Priory School and the Library) is chargeable at all times and that we aim to conclude business by 9.30pm after which you are invited to join us for light refreshments and an informal chat. Please bring this invitation with you to the meeting See back page for agenda.

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHAIRS by Sally Hull and Mike Sawyer

We are delighted that the newssheet changes have been well received and that so many of you took the trouble to share your thoughts – thank you. More people are also using our website for up-to-date information and to email us.

It is pleasing that so many of you show your interest and support by attending the AGM. This year Simon Bland, Economic Prosperity Programme Manager, from Reigate & Banstead Borough Council will be talking about the support and initiatives provided by the Council for the Business Community along with Michelle Cass from the Banstead Business Guild who will update us on the Christmas Community Event. **Please note the new AGM venue and slightly earlier start to allow time for an informal chat afterwards over light refreshments.**

New/replacement road stewards and committee members are an on-going demand so if you can spare even a little time to make a positive contribution to

shaping your village please contact one of us. We have an active and keen committee, but there is even more to do, so would really welcome more new members. No special experience is required – enthusiasm is probably one of the most important qualities coupled with the ability to work as part of a team!

You will read elsewhere in the newssheet about the very important topics currently occupying our time and efforts such as the Cemetery Appeal as well as on-going projects; the Winkworth Woodland Community Project, Banstead in Bloom, the Village Centre, roads and pavements. If you have any comments, please do contact us.

Finally, we will once again have a stall at the May Queen Fayre (Saturday 29th April) and the Village Fair (Saturday 8th July) and would be delighted to meet you. Please do come and say hello.

TREASURER'S REPORT by David Gradidge

On page 7 in the newssheet are the estimated accounts for the year ended 31st March. I say estimated as I am writing this on 21st March and there are still subscriptions to claw in (our financial year ends on 31st March). The big change has been the increase in the sub from £2 to £3 voted at the last AGM. This looks like increasing revenue by about £1500 (more in a full year) and so goes some way to replenishing the bank balances.

Much of the expenditure is routine and much the same as last year. Printing a colour newssheet is only a little more expensive.

We have made a contribution to the cost of replacing the finger posts outside the library and on the corner of Garratts Lane. See the last copy of the April edition of The Banstead Beacon for more detail. We have also made a donation to the Banstead World War 1 Remembrance Project which researches the lives of all fallen in The Great War.

Overall I expect a surplus of around £1000. Final accounts will be presented at the AGM.

THE STATE OF OUR ROADS by David Gradidge

I have been reporting on the condition of the roads in our area since 2006, so I have a fair idea on how things have changed over the years. There are 84 overall of which 40 are cul-de-sacs. I do not include the many private roads. I missed last year so what has changed...? The idea is to nominate the top (bottom?) 10 and report these to Surrey CC.

This year I was struck by 2 things. The wonderful display of daffodils and other spring flowers that brighten up the world. The other is the menace of the parked cars that are clogging up more and more roads.

I am pleased to say that for the first time I was hard pressed to find 10 really bad roads. On the list as it has been every year bar none is Avenue Road. In 2006

I noted “very uneven, pot holes starting” so no change there.

The rest of the list –

Fairlawn Grove where for years there have been multiple pot holes and patching.

Wellesford Close where the first 100yds is truly awful. Shrubland Road. The entrance was noted as very poor in 2006 and it still is, but now the rest of the road is becoming pot holed.

Bad but not in the same league are Court Road, Thornfield Road, Gale Crescent and The Gables.

Lastly, I now add the first 100yds of Woodmansterne Lane from The Well. This stretch is becoming rapidly worse.

That makes 9, so I ask for nominations for the tenth.

PLANNING MATTERS by Mike Sawyer

1. Policy:

The next stage of consultation on the Development Management Plan (DMP) for Reigate and Banstead has recently been deferred to January/February next year, presumably for more discussion at the council. We have had one meeting with the Chairman of their planning committee and planning officers, specifically relating to the proposed planning/parking standards and their adverse impact on the Village centre, but will have to wait until late in the year to find out if our comments on the earlier consultation have led to any improvements.

There have also been government consultation papers on Housing Policy, and on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and we intend to comment on these together with NORA (the National Organisation of Residents' Associations) in so far as they could affect Banstead.

2. Local Issues of note:

Croydon Lane cemetery appeal - due to be heard at Reigate Town Hall on 19th, 20th, 21st, and 25th April. We, the Surrey CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England), and no doubt a number of other objectors, will have submitted evidence in support of, and to amplify the grounds for, the council's refusal by the time you read this newssheet. We will have to await the Planning Inspector's decision in due course (which is usually within about 3 months - dependent on the complexity of the case).

'SOS - Save Our Steeple' by Susan Major

At the heart of the village stands All Saints' Church, surrounded by its churchyard where so many Banstead people rest and its Orchard, scene of many celebratory events. From early May you will notice scaffolding round both the west and east ends of the church, and much of the south side. This is to enable some urgent repair and conservation work to Banstead's oldest building, by several hundred years. Yes, the building is safe to use at present, but we want it to remain safe in future too.

Our five-yearly specialist inspection revealed repairs were necessary to the gables and buttresses of the chancel, north chapel and nave gable on the east end, and to the Tower buttresses on the west end, and of course all must be done to conservation standards for a Grade 2* building. Skilled conservation work is needed for the tracery of the 15th century east window on the north chapel, too, and around 2000 curled and splitting cedar shingles on the steeple must be replaced if it is to remain wind and water-tight.

This last is what we're highlighting in the inevitable Appeal – for this work will cost more than £100,000. We're calling it 'SOS – Save Our Steeple', and we're grateful for all contributions. One fund-raiser we expect to be popular is the chance to 'Sign a Shingle' – your name on one of the new shingles for the steeple (£5 or £2 for under-18s).

More details from the Churchwardens, All Saints' Parish Office, Church Institute, High Street, Banstead SM7 2NG (churchwarden@bansteadallsaints.com)

Priory and Greenacre schools – we have met representatives of the new schools owners and hope to receive more details of their proposals by the time you read this. At present we believe the Priory site is being considered for sale (presumably for residential development) and the Greenacre school will become an infants/junior school in September, initially with a school roll of about 200 pupils. Although this figure is well below the current numbers (around 400), we have expressed our concern about the access, parking, pick-up and dropping-off arrangements for the changed age range – i.e. the younger children will be far less likely to come on foot or by bus. We await details of what is proposed to cope with this.

We also await the council's reaction to the possibility of the Priory site being "added" to the potential redevelopment in the Horseshoe as promoted in the DMP.

National Organisation of Residents' Associations (NORA)

We have for some time been affiliated to, and in a number of issues commented to, NORA on a number of (mainly planning) matters and have found them to be highly effective in dealing with central government. Our secretary, Catalina Vassallo-Bonner, (who is already chair of the Reigate and Banstead Organisation of Northern RAs) is to be congratulated on being elected to the NORA board.



WINKWORTH WOODLAND COMMUNITY PROJECT by Brian Ransom

February 4th. Spring was just beginning to show its arrival, snowdrops were out and primroses just flowering when Wham! A trench was dug across the front corner of the woodland plot and the mini-excavator used driven straight over the area full of flowers!

An emergency working party salvaged some of the plants that had survived and replanted them elsewhere but the damage was done (see picture below). We did understand the trench was to avoid disrupting the traffic even more than necessary but it was disappointing to see the combined efforts of our group destroyed along with many of the daffodils that were lost when four access pits were dug into the grass verge.

On appeal to KLT Ltd. Customer Liaison officer Jade Murray secured for us a donation of £150 compensation for the damage done and loss of the daffodils. This funding will be used, amongst other things, to buy a wildflower seed mix which will be sown along the Bolters Lane frontage and also onto the more open corner. Additional daffodils will be purchased in the autumn to replant the grass verge and bolster up the display of daffodils that survived the gas main works.



Primroses, again donated from St Mary's Church Caterham, along with other native woodland plants donated by WWCP group members have been planted across the site and we plan to start hardening the footpaths with woodchippings at the next work session on 10:00am on Saturday May 13th. Please feel free to come along and join us if you would like to help us enhance our village.

Thanks again to KLT for their generous offer of help to the group.

Contact us on brian.bvra@gmail.com

Facebook page:

Winkworth Woodland Community Project

WINKWORTH ROAD TRAFFIC CALMING by Brian Ransom

At Last! After 11 months the vehicle speed survey has taken place in the first week of March, just for the one week, which was all that SCC's Senior Traffic Engineer would agree to.

Councillor Ken Gulati funded one survey machine for BVRA and we will receive its data shortly. SCC's Senior Traffic Engineer will tell us the Mean Vehicle Speed and the total numbers of vehicles counted by the other three machines, but we rely on her goodwill and the decision of the police to release to us details of the highest speeds recorded and other data.

During my discussion with the Senior Traffic Engineer she re-emphasized the lack of funding available for Traffic Calming measures of even the most limited kind and confirmed that the proposal will be sent for review to the Police Road Management Group for comment and as already stated, they will then decide what data can be released to us, the public.

I believe that as the vehicle speed survey was funded by public money, our money, we the interested parties have the right to view all the data not just that which they think is relevant.

It seems Mean Vehicle Speed and funding will be the deciding factors when considering our proposal. I would argue that the sheer number of cars and recklessness of the drivers we encounter every day, EVEN if they are adhering to the speed limit should also be taken into account. By this I mean the swerving at speed into the entry points when drivers see traffic build-up in the main road, the ignoring of signs prohibiting access, and the lack of foresight that residents, both vehicle users and pedestrians, will need to use the access roads.

All these points and more were addressed by our proposal and should be considered, Mean Speed is not the be-all and end-all of the measures to be taken into account.

I look forward to seeing the full survey data and hearing the SCC Highway department's recommendation to the Joint Local Committee. I fear that it will not be good news for us unless, sadly, there is a serious accident in the near future.

HIGH STREET UPDATE by **Cliff Glanfield**

We have several smaller working groups within the committee tasked to examine specific areas of concern, Highways and Transport, Planning and as you will see below one specifically concentrating on the Village Centre. If you are interested and would like to contribute to any one of these groups you would be made most welcome. Please come along to meet with us at the AGM in May or the Mega Clean in June to hear of all that is going on.

The High Street working group has met again, walked the High Street and taken photographs to compile a list of improvements that we would wish to see implemented to the High Street and surrounding area, as you will see from the report below. There is a general theme of lack of appropriate maintenance but particular areas of concern are:

- The open expanse of hard trodden earth between Tesco and Victoria Chemist (see picture below)
- Flower beds full of ivy and shrubs cut to form a hedge
- No tree care and lack of weeding to beds around trees
- Pavement trip hazards from previous patch repairs
- Blocked gutters and lack of street sweeping to some roads just off the High Street
- Street clutter – unnecessary signage and posts, many sign posts that are necessary in poor repair and a general lack of uniform design to street furniture.



We understand the Banstead in Bloom committee has some ideas on landscaping and planting and local councilors are proposing improvements to street furniture. We await further details of these in order to develop a coordinated plan, rank priorities and liaise with the various bodies to agree actions and responsibilities to ensure minimum duplication of effort.

TRADING STANDARDS SCAMS by **Catalina Vassallo-Bonner**

A Conference held at the Epsom Grandstand at the end of January aimed to inform professional bodies and local groups about the operation of various scams, victims and how to recognise and deal with the situation.

Older people mainly seem to be the victims of postal scams, they are identified when they respond to fake advertisements. Unusual quantities of mail, relatively high usage of cheques and shortage of money can be

indicators.

Scammers share details about their victims in a “scammers list” which results in increased mail volumes. Surrey Fire and Rescue now make “Safe and Well” visits to older people and assess health and well being as well as home safety, Surrey CC has a website branded “One Stop Surrey” where residents can request help in many areas and Trading Standards is trialling a nuisance call blocker in Mole Valley with some success.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TREES by **Marion Hayns**

With your help we are hoping to begin a Village wide Street Tree Initiative. No procedure or funding exists within Surrey to replace dead or dying trees and, as can be seen from the various areas in our village (examples of which include the once magnificent cherry trees fronting Cheyne Court, just off the High Street) many are now in a very parlous state.

Urban trees have real value, both environmentally and also aesthetically and, starting with our 3 year

programme for Banstead in Bloom we should like to compile a street tree profile identifying and prioritising areas of greatest need.

We can then set about raising the funding required for these projects, setting up online appeals, applying to our local councillors etc. If this is something that is of particular interest to you please consider joining one of our sub committees, we would really value your support.

COUNCILLORS CORNER by Ken Gulati

This edition in our Questions to our Councillors Corner comes from Ken Gulati, our local representative on Surrey County Council.

Why is Surrey County Council so short of money?

Basically it is because there has been a large increase in demand since 2010 whilst year on year the Rate Support Grant (money given from central government) has been cut so that in 2018/19 it will reach zero. In the following year Surrey is expected to pay the government £17 million!

Examples of the increased demands: the number of learning disability people who must be supported has increased by 36% to 3765; the number of children requiring school places has increased by 11% to 150,428; the

number of elderly supported has risen by 12% to 9,418 and this figure is expected to double within the next 18 years. The demand for children's services has increased, including that raised by the unexpected influx of unaccompanied asylum seeker children.

What has Surrey done about it?

Real efforts have been made to reduce expenditure. In each of the last 5 years savings of at least £60 million a year have been achieved in costs. Intensive lobbying of central government has culminated in the government taking on board the severity of the adult social care crisis. Last minute assurances about this meant that SCC was able to pull back from the proposed rise of 15% in council tax charges from this April.

As our local councillor, is there any financial help available that you personally can allocate?

Each SCC member has annual funds available (currently £12,000 but likely to be reduced to £5,000 this year) which can be given to help fund one off, non political local projects. I have been able to help towards: replacing dead trees in Salisbury Road; a traffic survey of the Winkworth Road Rat Runs; heating repairs and a dry goods store at Scout Ridge; equipping the Guide Hall; Banstead Country Fair; and a number of environmental improvement schemes.

Thank you Ken, we are very grateful for all the effort you make on our behalf.

BANSTEAD REMEMBERS by James Crouch

More than 120 local men fell in World War One. Banstead Five Churches, Banstead District Royal British Legion, Banstead District Scouts and Banstead History Research Group are honouring their memories. 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.

- 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

CITIZENS ADVICE by Tina Douglas

For over 20 years Citizens Advice, now located in the Horseshoe, has served our community. Anyone who lives or works in Banstead may contact us for free confidential advice about most of life's difficulties. Our clients can need help with, for example; debt, benefits, employment, consumer and relationship issues. In addition to offering advice we can help clients fill in forms and write letters. Our advisers are given extensive, on-going training and can often work with other specialist organisations and charities when needed to provide our clients with a more complete service.

If you think we can help you or your family, please visit a drop-in session on Tuesday and Friday 10am-2pm. Appointments are on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday or ring Adviceline on 03444 111444 or visit our public information website on www.citizensadvice.org.uk

The fallen:

May

4th William Gudgion
8th Laurence Mansfield
23rd Dr Robert Vaughan

June

19th Harry Harden
21st Reginald Sturt

July

31st William Wallis

Aug

3rd George Blunt
10th Victor Bown
19th Jack Taylor

Sept

22nd Albert Waters
26th Charles Couchman
26th Alfred Langford

Newssheet sponsored by:



ESTIMATED ACCOUNTS

by David Gradidge



| INCOME | 2016/17 | 2015/16 |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|
| Subscriptions & Donations | 5434 | 3936 |

| EXPENDITURE | 2016/17 | 2015/16 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Production of Newsheets | 1594 | 1509 |
| Less contribution from Saunders | -150 | |
| BVRA Survey | | 1319 |
| Trees in teh High Street | | 882 |
| Winkworth Road Traffic report | | 840 |
| Clean for the Queen | 94 | |
| Subscriptions | 111 | 66 |
| Printing, postage and stationery | 214 | 92 |
| Hire of rooms | 367 | 356 |
| website | 65 | 63 |
| sundry expenses | 161 | 185 |
| Village lights | 1188 | 1161 |
| less donation from Cuff & Gough | | -500 |
| Donations | | |
| ~ Finger posts | 400 | |
| ~ May Fayre | 40 | 40 |
| ~ Royal British Legion | 70 | 70 |
| ~ WW1 Remembrance project | 250 | |
| Excess of Income over expenditure | 1030 | -2147 |
| | 5434 | 3936 |

ROADS STEWARDS

by David Gradidge

There are 5 vacancies at the moment, so I am looking for volunteers in –

- The Oval – 24 members
- Thornfield Rd & Chalk Pit Rd – 27 members (could split into 2)
- And lastly for Winkworth Road on the south side. There are 2 vacancies here and we have more than 50 members.

If you are interested or know anyone who might be, please contact me on 01737 353981 or email dgradidge@waitrose.com

LATE NEWS and UPDATES

BOLTERS LANE - GAS WORKS

Road now open, but may need to be closed later to enable works to be completed.

Ron Phillips

It is with sadness and great regret that we have to report that Ron passed away at the end of March.

Ron and Maureen were members of the business community in Banstead, later in Woodmansterne, for many years, and Ron joined our executive committee as the business representative in 2003.

Among his many other interests and commitments he was also the chairman of the successful Banstead branch of the Royal British Legion for the last 3 years.

He will be missed by many, and our sympathies are with Maureen, Jackie, Ben and the rest of his family.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

BVRA Committee:

Vice-Chairs: Mike Sawyer (355454) and Sally Hull (370050)
Treasurer and Road Steward liaison: David Gradidge (353981)
Secretary: Mrs C Vassallo-Bonner (357882)

Group email: Banstead-BVRA@outlook.com

Local Councillors:

Reigate & Banstead Borough Council Ward Councillors:

Dr Lynne Hack, 19 Longcroft Avenue, SM7 3AE
email: Cllr.Hack@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Mr Eddy Humphreys, 20 The Oval, SM7 2RA
email: Cllr.Humphreys@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Mr Sam Walsh, Melrose, 11A Longcroft Avenue, SM7 3AE
email: Cllr.Walsh@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Surrey County Councillor:

Mr Ken Gulati, Quetta, 25 Colcokes Avenue, SM7 2EJ
email: ken.gulati@surreycc.gov.uk

FUTURE EVENTS

OUR AGM—AGENDA

1. Welcome by the Vice-chairmen
2. Minutes of the 69th AGM—summary distributed to members at the meeting
3. Presentations by Simon Bland (Economic Prosperity Programme Manager from Reigate & Banstead Borough Council) and Michelle Cass (Banstead Business Guild).
4. Report by the Vice-chairmen.
5. Presentation of the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2017 – summary printed on the inside back cover of this newssheet
6. Election of Officers, Executive Committee and Independent Examiner.
7. Welcome to our local Councillors, followed by Open Forum debate
8. Any other business.

Followed by informal chat & light refreshments.

OTHER EVENTS

April

- 29th —May Queen Committee —May Queen procession and fair (High Street / The Orchard)

May

- 3rd —U3A—Talk on Weather, Wildlife and Warming by Ian Currie *
- 6th—Arts—Pop up exhibition by Banstead Art Group outside the Library
- 7th—Rotary—Charity walk organised by Banstead Rotary (Tattenham Corner)
- 9th —Horticultural—The Cottage Garden (the Priory School)
- 11th —Diabetes— Caring for our eyes (Bourne Hall, Ewell)
- 12th—History— Banstead Scrapbook *
- 15th —Cinema—La La Land (Church Institute)
- 17th to 20th —Opera— Made in Dagenham (Adrian Mann theatre)
- 20th —TWRA—Pageant (the pond, Walton on the Hill)

June

- 10th —Horticultural —Early Summer Flower Show *
- 15th —U3A—Talk on The Secret Gardens of London (St. Mark's Great Tattenhams)
- 17th —Choir— St Cecilia Chorus "The World's Most Beautiful Tunes" *
- 30th —WI—Musical social evening *

July

- 8th—Rotary—Banstead Village Fair in The Orchard
- 14th —Horticultural – Afternoon Tea at the URC with Pietro Roseo
- 16th —Nork Residents Association—Music in the Park (Nork Park)
- 19th—U3A—Talk on Windsor Castle *
- 20th —Diabetes—Talk on the emotional impact of diabetes (Bourne Hall, Ewell)
- 22nd—Horticultural— Summer Flower Show *

BANSTEAD ARTS FESTIVAL

The annual Banstead Arts Festival will take place from 29th April to 14th May with a wide range of events on offer.

The Festival will include the May Queen procession, evening concerts in the Banstead Community Hall by Red Priest with their unique take on the music of Handel and by the Yehudi Menuhin School Orchestra; and in addition there will be two lunchtime chamber music concerts at All Saints Church.

The Young Musicians concert showcases our local young musicians and the Schools Poetry competition will be adjudicated by the professional poet Joshua Seigal. A guided local butterfly walk, coach trips to Portsmouth and contributions by other local organisations will ensure that there is plenty of interest throughout the fortnight.

Please see our website www.bansteadarts.co.uk for full details from the end of March. Tickets will be on sale from 3rd April online at www.bansteadarts.co.uk and at Banstead Library. Tickets will also be on sale at the door if still available.

All events marked with a * are being held at The Community Hall, Park Road.

Please check out our website for further details.