

# BVRA newsheet

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

Vol. 35 / 3 - Autumn 2019

Banstead-BVRA@outlook.com

www.Banstead-BVRA.org

## **VILLAGE SIGN** by **Brian Ransom**

At last! After two and a half years Banstead's traditional village sign is a reality.

Mayor Councillor, Keith Foreman unveiled the sign on a rather damp and overcast Saturday morning in front of approximately 100 people, who had braved the showers and supported the event.

Due for delivery in October, it was welcome news that the Village Sign People had rescheduled their workload and were able to deliver the sign on 15<sup>th</sup> July. This was good news but it put us under pressure to install the foundation and erect the sign before the Mayor came to unveil it on the 27<sup>th</sup> July. Special thanks therefore must go to Mr Steven Kelly of SJK Paving and Construction for agreeing, at very short notice, to do the installation at no cost to BVRA.

When the Winkworth Woodland Community Project [WWCP] came together in February 2016, its purpose was to improve the rather gloomy Bolters Lane entry route into Banstead and I hope people will agree that the verge of daffodils and wildflowers corner along with the new village sign has done just that.

The vivid colours of the sign stand out brilliantly against the greenery of the woodland and will do so in all four seasons, a pictorial image of our village, its history and places of interest that will welcome both residents and visitors alike to our lovely village for many years to come.

I would like to thank all those many people who have supported this project with their individual cash donations, some via the now defunct MyDonate Website, the collection pots in the jeweller's JT Snuggs and Edibles Delicatessen plus of course at the various stands during May Queen and Village fairs. I also need to thank Reigate and Banstead Borough Council for agreeing to our proposal for the sign, granting BVRA the Licence and advising on the woodland.

Finally I would like to mention that through this project I have met so many lovely Banstead people and organisations that have supported me in many different ways from Banstead Rotary to The Horticultural Society, and of course not forgetting those people whose kind words of support for the sign kept me going throughout.

Thanks Banstead!



Mayor Councillor Keith Foreman (L) and Brian Ransom (R)

Photograph courtesy of Jane Alexander Photography

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

Welcome to our autumn newsheet. By the time you get this newsheet, summer (or what passes for summer these days) will be drawing to a close. I hope you all enjoyed the summer months and caught at least some of the sunshine – probably the best weather was in July with the hottest temperature ever recorded.



Our village is looking better than ever, with huge thanks to our colleagues in Banstead Village in Bloom and many others who have all helped to improve our village. Special thanks to Jennifer Russell for looking after our wheelbarrow and donating all the flowers – see picture. The awards ceremony will have happened by the time you get this newsheet and we all hope that we have done enough to achieve the gold award this year. Now, if only we could repair our 'Lake Victoria' puddle in the middle of the High Street...!! Please see our petition and report from David Gradidge later in this newsheet. Along with all the usual challenges that we face there is now the changes that would be caused with the expansion of Heathrow – please see separate article later in this newsheet.

Special thanks also to Brian Ransom for our new village sign – see article on the front cover, to Gerald Bridge for his work on the railway station – see article later in this newsheet and to our army of road stewards who deliver this newsheet, collect the annual subscriptions and report back on anything affecting our members. Finally, our local council has some money and they are looking for ideas on

how it should be spent – please see article later in this newsheet and please send us your thoughts and ideas for using these funds.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE by David Gradidge**

I have not been down every road in the village, but here is my attempt at updating the list of the 10 worst roads in Banstead. Avenue Road having been top of the list for some time is now pristine – I hope it is not now attracting speedsters. So I now nominate:

- Court Road to be top of the list as it is awful for the whole length.
- The entrance to Wellesford Close is not far behind



What of the rest –

- The Gables is multi-patched and has more potholes than you can count
- Thornfield Road from Pound Road to Chipstead Road has numerous bad stretches
- Courtlands Crescent on the west side is breaking up
- Salisbury Road – however many times it is patched, it soon becomes rubble again especially outside Forge Steading
- Gale Crescent is poor throughout
- Harbourfield Road is starting to break up
- Shrubland Road has had a very bad entrance off Garratts Lane for years and has many pot holes.
- It is a toss up between Garratts Lane and Bolters Lane for the last spot

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

By the time you read this latest newsheet the Development Management Policies (DMP) will be part of the Reigate & Banstead Local Plan. The Inspector sent her report and approval in the first half of July and it has since been approved by the Executive members of the council and been passed by the councillors. No changes were made to the recommendations for Banstead. Some future development will happen in the Horseshoe and the proposed changes to the Community Association were approved. However, there is a clear statement relating for both sites that any public objections should be raised at the planning stage, whenever that will be.

Reigate & Banstead Planning Department has refused the proposed demolition of the Priory School and the building of 44 independent retirement apartments. The main objection came from the council Conservation officer who objected on the grounds that the building was locally listed and was an excellent example of late 19<sup>th</sup> century architecture in the old English style.



He also went to some length to remind the planners that the building had been a marriage gift to the daughter of John Jaques, a local landowner and inventor of the games of Croquet, Ping Pong, Ludo and several card games including Happy Families.

The conclusion to the planning officer's comments states "In conclusion, the façade of the locally listed building is of architectural, artistic and historic value, and could be easily retained within any scheme and therefore its loss is not justified. It is unclear why the façade cannot be retained, given the scale of development and the fact that the applicant has been aware of the policy requirement to retain the locally listed building.

The new building is an overdevelopment of the site, with a disproportionate amount of development to soft landscaping, and the design is unsatisfactory on the south west and north west elevations, (nor is the scale justified for instance as enabling development, given the proposed demolition of the locally listed building)."

There is still no news on the Wellesford proposals. The planning department has been in touch with the developers and listed various matters which it was not happy with and suggested that amendments were made to the application if it was not to be refused. As yet the amended plans have not yet arrived.

Local planning applications and requests for tree work continue and for the most part are in keeping with their particular surroundings.



**The BVRA Newsheet is supported by;**

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## **BANSTEAD VILLAGE IN BLOOM (BVIB) by Marion Hayns (BVIB)**

It is said that every picture tells a story and no one can have failed to notice the huge improvement that has taken place over the last couple of years in this lovely village of ours. From the eye catching bikes on the two main roundabouts leading into the High Street lovingly decorated by local school children, the amusing 'Pot People' created by clients attending the Banstead Day Centre, the cheerfully embellished bus shelter and the wonderful improvements carried out to that previously shabby and neglected area in front of the Tesco parade of shops, so generously gifted to the residents of Banstead by a local benefactor.



Now our attention is turning towards the Lady Neville Park and play area which by comparison is looking very tired and shabby. We have a meeting with the Leader of the Council together with the Councillor in charge of the Parks Department scheduled for the autumn when we intend to argue the case for funds to be allocated more fairly to the north of the Borough. The RHS judges were very critical in 2017 and again in 2018 citing lack of any coordination in the outline and planning of the soft landscaping surrounding the children's play area and Village cricket green. We are led to believe the play area itself is scheduled for a complete refurbishment in 2 to 3 years time according to the 10 year rolling programme established by the Council – in our opinion this is well overdue. Please note our quiz night on Saturday 26th October - see future events later in this newsheet.

Meanwhile the Friday team of yellow vests persevere with our weekly maintenance programme!

**The Martians have landed!** 50 years after man first landed on the moon a return visit was made to Banstead by a very weird bunch of Aliens from Outer Space who descended into the Orchard in front of All Saints Church! These had all been lovingly crafted by local Beaver colonies as part of a recycling project – the last of this year's entries for Banstead Village in Bloom. Local comedian Tim Vine was very generous



with his praise and encouragement as he spent time chatting with the excited children. Sevenoaks Hearing kindly donated goody bags to each of the 96 children who had taken part and Tim presented Amazon vouchers to the winning colonies, first prize going to 7th Banstead, second prize to 3rd Banstead (Huron) and third prize to 1st Woodmansterne. I am very grateful to all those leaders who supported me in putting this together. We have been tremendously encouraged by the huge number of you who have joined in with us to 'make a difference' and we thank you all for the varied ways in which you have supported us, be it

with a very welcome cash donation, through to helping to paint, plant, deadhead, undertake regular watering, litter pick, weed – the list is endless! The numerous benefits to be gained from volunteering are well documented, including both to our physical and mental well being and if you would be interested to join with us regularly or just occasionally as time permits, please do just email me at [marionh.bafs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marionh.bafs@hotmail.co.uk). We have a job to suit everyone! Some of you who were at the last 'thank you' tea for the road stewards back in April 2017 may remember the comment that the Village looked 'shabby' – from all the kind comments we have received from you this year it is shabby no longer and we await the judges' decision on Friday 13th September to see if they agree with you!

Photographs courtesy of Jane Alexander Photography.

## **LOCAL STORIES – CUT BACK ON PLASTIC** by David Talbot

If you are trying to do your bit to save the planet by reducing the amount of plastic you use and are frustrated with the amount that comes with buying fruit and vegetables these days, then do pop-in to Banstead Fruiterers – just a few doors along from Marks and Spencer. Here you will find fresh fruit and vegetables without the plastic packaging and with the ability to buy as much or as little as you want - none of this pre-packaged nonsense. John Nevin and his partner Caroline run the shop and they are assisted by Sharon and Valerie, they all thrive on providing top-quality produce and building-up a regular customers by working as part of the local community. The shop is open 7 days a week and John buys his produce fresh every morning (mostly at 3:30 AM) except Sundays. John and his team have been running the shop for 25 years, but have seen the business suffer with the growth of supermarkets and convenience stores. So, if you want top quality fruit and vegetables fresh from the market, a friendly service and less plastic, see Banstead Fruiterers.



## **LAKE VICTORIA** by David Gradidge

As I write (mid August), Lake Victoria will be half way across the High Street as it has been too many times to count this year. Surrey County Council don't rate it as needing urgent attention, but I ask them how many other High Streets in Surrey suffer in the same way.

We have already started a petition demanding Surrey County Council takes more urgent action. A form for you to sign will be in as many participating shops as we can gather. Look out for it. There is also an online petition - please see our website (address on front page). We need at least 1000 signatures and then hope to present it to the Local Committee as the next step.

It does not help that we still disagree with Surrey County Council as to the fundamental causes of this long term issue. We are backed up by a Councillor from Nork who just happens to be a geologist and has first hand experience in similar drainage problems.

## **HEATHROW** by David Talbot

As you may already know, Heathrow is planning to expand with the addition of a new runway, roads and buildings. As part of this planned expansion, they are also planning to change the air corridors that they use and part of that change would involve more flights over Banstead and at lower altitudes.

From casual observations (and a flight tracker app), it would seem that most of the existing flights over us would seem to be at around 7,000 to 8,000 feet - this, I feel, gives little impact. However, under the new proposals the frequency could increase to up to 47 flights per hour and the flying height could reduce to around 4,000 feet, which would be noisy and make our air quality worse.

I believe that the current position is that the plans have been approved by Government subject to detailed review and acceptance. A number of consultations have already happened and others are planned. If approved, the development is likely to be phased starting in 2022 and continuing past 2050. If you want more detail of what is being proposed, please see <https://aec.heathrowconsultation.com/> If you would like to join one of the opposition groups to these plans, please see <http://stopheathrowexpansion.co.uk/>



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

By the time this article goes to press, it will be two years since I first contacted Network Rail to make them aware of the concerns about the condition of Banstead station. The work to the station itself has been completed recently. **MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!!**

However, work is still needed to be done to the embankment following a geological assessment of its condition. Discussions are in progress to determine the required scope and safety system of working.

Once this has been completed the whole project will be signed off. No doubt the initial reaction by the general public will quite likely be that the station is no different, other than it has been painted. "What has been done and why has it taken so long?" is the likely question. The station users will, no doubt, have noticed the new glazing to the staircase, along with the provision



of a new length of handrail. It was only after commencing, that it became manifest that much more remedial work was needed than was initially considered necessary. Much of this work is not immediately apparent. This situation continued as each phase of the work progressed. Hence, the delay and the extra cost to Network Rail and Govia Thames Railway.

In May of this year, there was a further development concerning the station. The BVRA were informed that the station was to benefit from an amount of £30,000 from the GTR Passenger Budget Fund. This fund, to which GTR would contribute a total sum of £15 million, was created following the disruption caused to passengers travelling across the southern network during 2018. The money is to be used to provide tangible benefits at the stations. After due consideration by the BVRA as to how this money should be spent, a submission was made in July for consideration. At the end of a three month engagement process there will be a review of all the submissions made, followed by discussions with passenger groups before a final list for implementation is published.

## **THE HIGH STREET by David Gradidge**

If you include the Parish Church and perhaps the Police Station, there are 134 properties that allow some sort of public access. We still have 4 banks down from 6 not so long ago. Discounting those that don't actually sell things that leaves 120 "shops". There are 7 closed at the moment including no 59 next door to Costa Coffee that seems to be in a permanent state of reconstruction. Incredibly there are 22 where you can eat even it is only a snack. There are 7 estate agents, 7 opticians or similar and 7 charities. I am not sure about the number of hair dressers/salons and barbers but it is more than 10. The category that has increased the most – by 300% is funeral directors. Now I know we are all getting older, but..

## **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (CIL) by David Talbot**

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council receives a community infrastructure levy whenever properties are built. The main part of this is retained for major infrastructure projects in the area, however part is retained and spent locally. Your local Councillors have an input to which projects are done and the council is keen to hear any additional ideas / suggestions from residents and we are happy to receive them in the first instance. We will then collate the ideas / suggestions and send the full list to our local councillors. Our email address is shown on the front cover. Please remember the ideas / suggestions need to be on infrastructure (excluding roads and pathways) projects to benefit the community.

## **THE PROBUS CLUB OF BANSTEAD AT 50 – 1969 TO 2019 by Jeff Young (Probus)**

The Probus Club of Banstead in Surrey was launched in 1969 - the same year that Neil Armstrong first set foot on the Moon and hence 2019 has been a special year for the Club as it has celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Having been one of the first dozen or so clubs to be formed, it is pleasing to note that the number of Probus Clubs has continued to rise to around 2,000 in the UK.

The current Officers and Committee are proud to be the custodians of the heritage of The Probus Club of Banstead and in recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary milestone have documented the founding and development of the Club as a record for subsequent generations. The Club's archives were interrogated, and members' memories searched to provide the source information from which a 50-page booklet that has been produced and distributed to the current members. Copies of the booklet have been lodged with the British Library and the local history section at Banstead library to ensure that it will remain available as a source of information for future generations and the wider community. As part of the research for the history booklet it was interesting to note that in the year that the Club was formed the price of a pint of lager was 20p (4 shillings) and the annual membership fee was 50p (10 shillings) both have risen over the years to £3.70 and £15 today respectively!

The Probus Club of Banstead remains very active with a membership of 73. The maximum number of members is set at 80 to ensure that the Club's warm and friendly atmosphere is maintained. Members have also been offered a special issue commemorative Probus lapel badge at modest cost, incorporating the words '50 Years'. The celebratory 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lunch was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at the Bridge House Hotel in Reigate.

During the second half of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year the Probus Club of Banstead will be working to identify and then establish a permanent commemoration of the anniversary within Banstead to enhance public amenity and increase public awareness of Probus. The Probus Club of Banstead is in good order and well set to move on towards the 100 year mark in 2069.

## **ROAD STEWARDS by David Gradidge**

There are no vacancies for road stewards to report, so just a big thank you from me for all the hard work that you do to keep us going. If anyone is interested in joining us or if you know anyone who might, please contact me on 353981 or email [dgradidge@waitrose.com](mailto:dgradidge@waitrose.com)

### **USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS**

#### **BVRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**David Talbot** - Chairman

**David Gradidge** – Treasurer, Transport and Infrastructure

email: [dgradidge@waitrose.com](mailto:dgradidge@waitrose.com)

**Catalina Vassallo-Bonner** – Secretary & Planning

**Cliff Glanfield** - Data Records Manager

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

Group email: [Banstead-BVRA@outlook.com](mailto:Banstead-BVRA@outlook.com)

### **LOCAL COUNCILLORS**

**Ken Gulati** – Surrey County Councillor

email: [ken.gulati@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:ken.gulati@surreycc.gov.uk)

**Nadean Moses** - Borough Councillor

email: [Cllr.Moses@reigate-banstead.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Moses@reigate-banstead.gov.uk)

**Eddy Humphreys** – Borough Councillor

email: [Cllr.Humphreys@reigate-banstead.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Humphreys@reigate-banstead.gov.uk)

**Sam Walsh** – Borough Councillor

email: [Cllr.Walsh@reigate-banstead.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Walsh@reigate-banstead.gov.uk)

### **MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

**Crispin Blunt, M.P.**

Westminster Office: 0207 219 2254

email: [crispinbluntmp@parliament.uk](mailto: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 12th OCTOBER** - Maxwell Quartet - works by Haydn, Shostakovich and Beethoven

**SATURDAY 16th NOVEMBER** - Ugnius Pauliukonis - works by Chopin, Haydn and Debussy

**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](http://www.bansteadarts.co.uk) for details.

### **OTHER EVENTS by David Talbot**

**SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER** at 2:00 PM - BHS - Autumn Flower Show - Community Hall

**SATURDAY 14H SEPTEMBER** - All Saints Church - Heritage Open Day

**WEDNESDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER** - U3A - Open House - Community Hall

**MONDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER** at 2:00 PM - Curzon Cinema - Fisherman's Friends - Church Institute

**WEDNESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER** at 2:00 PM - Flower Club - Autumn Opulence - Community Hall

**SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER** at 11:00 AM - Disabled Riders - Autumn Fair - Diamond Centre

**WEDNESDAY 2ND OCTOBER** - Chipstead Arts - The role of Art in the Cycle of Crime - Community Hall

**TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER** at 7:30 PM - BHS - Lecture 'A Modern Kitchen Garden' - Preparatory School

**SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER** at 7:30 PM - Banstead Charities - Christmas Event - Community Hall

**FRIDAY 18TH OCTOBER** at 7:30 PM - History Group - Banstead's Past on Glass - Community Hall

**THURSDAY 24TH TO SATURDAY 26TH OCTOBER** - Art Group - Art Exhibition - Community Hall

**SATURDAY 26TH OCTOBER** at 7:15 PM - Banstead Village in Bloom - Quiz Night - Community Hall

**MONDAY 18TH NOVEMBER** at 2:00 PM - U3A - Around the World in 80 gardens - Community Hall

**THURSDAY 28TH NOVEMBER** from 5:00 PM - Banstead Christmas Community Event - High Street  
Father Christmas, Street Entertainment, Special Guests, Kids Treasure Hunt and Shopping offers

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

### **BANSTEAD ROYAL BRITISH LEGION by Mike Sawyer (Banstead RBL)**

THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION

**REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE - Sunday 10th November.** This year the 11:00 am service at the War Memorial (Sutton Lane / High Street roundabout) will again be preceded by a Parade of uniformed services, local groups and Councillors commencing from the Horseshoe (subject to any extreme weather!), which will start at about 10:30 am. Everyone will be welcome to attend the Service, which will be conducted by representatives of our local Churches. Also on Sunday 10th November, there will be an evening service at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Tadworth, at 6:30 pm.

In the lead up to Remembrance Day we would appreciate help with the annual Poppy day collections, at fixed locations. You may remember that last year the residents and visitors to Banstead raised about £53,000 – the largest in Surrey! We will again be putting the large poppies on lampposts in and approaching our village (the number and range will depend on how many volunteers we can attract!). If you would like to help with either (or both) of these activities please contact me on [nms.brbl@virginmedia.com](mailto:nms.brbl@virginmedia.com) or 07738449464 – we rely solely on volunteers so would be grateful for any help you can give.