



## **VILLAGE DAY – SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> AUGUST** by David Martin (Banstead Rotary)

Banstead Business Guild, Banstead Rotary and Banstead Village in Bloom came together to organise the Village Day to celebrate the increased freedoms following a rather unusual and challenging 18 months of the Pandemic.

The Banstead Village Fair in the Orchard had 24 stall holders representing a wide variety of local charities and organisations. The Orchard was colourfully set out with tombolas, raffles, bric-a-brac, cakes and many tables giving information to the members of the public.



The event was opened by the Mayor of Reigate and Banstead, Cllr. Jill Bray accompanied by her husband the Mayoral Consort Richard Mantle and Deputy Mayor Cllr. Rachel Turner. Rotary President John Hannam welcomed her and guided her around the stalls. In her opening speech she recognised the importance of the event in raising the profile of local groups and congratulated Rotary on the organisation of the event! Banstead Rotary worked collaboratively with Banstead Business Guild and Banstead Village In Bloom, whose horticultural volunteers made the village displays sparkle!

The Banstead High Street shop owners all joined in with competitions and events from Banstead Library along to Christ Church. Surrey Fire & Rescue and Surrey Police provided a fire engine and police car at Christ Church which were a big attraction for the younger visitors as usual!

A large crowd gathered to hear the Show Choir perform with popular songs from the shows in the Orchard; to see the street musicians, a stilt walker, a magician and a 'Minion' parading up and down the High Street; and to admire the floral displays.

The public turned up and were not put off by a challenging weather front delivering periodic heavy showers. It was a good day – we look forward to repeating the celebrations in 2022.

Editor's note - please see our website for more pictures of the event.

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



Welcome to our slightly delayed autumn newsheet. All of our lives are affected by the Coronavirus and we are all trying to work out how to live our 'new-normal' lives - whatever that may be.

I hope that you all enjoyed the summer weather and managed to get a break albeit following the new requirements.

Our village continues to change with some new retirement apartments in the process of replacing our old Priory School. We've been well and truly drenched recently and some roads have suffered more than others - please see article from David Gradidge on infrastructure. We are also suffering with the arrival of new 5G masts - please see article from Catalina Vassallo-Bonner.

We have proposed changes to our Lady Neville park - please see article from Marion Hayns. Our railway station has been upgraded, please see article from Gerald Bridge and our long running campaign to improve the state of Winkworth Road has been taken up by Catherine Searle who has raised a petition on the Surrey County Council website. Further afield, we have a brand new hospital being planned for the old Sutton hospital site in Belmont - please see my article on page 6.

We are always keen to extend our committee, either as a members of our Executive or as an occasional helper. Please contact us if you are interested or just curious about helping us support our lovely village or if you would like an informal chat (our email address is on the front page). We would be particularly interested in anyone with an interest in being our Treasurer as David Gradidge (our Treasurer for many years) has indicated he would like to hand over this role to someone else.

My thanks to all our contributors for their work and their articles, especially David Martin (Rotary) for his article on our village day (see front page) - I hope that you managed to take part in the activities in between the rain showers..! Please see pictures. Please be careful out there - stay as safe as you can.



## **INFRASTRUCTURE by David Gradidge**

Court Road has been patched. This is a great improvement, but they only did what was really needed. There is a date for Salisbury Road, where I hope Surrey will do a better job as the foundations have a similarity to Brighton Beach.

Conditions in Winkworth Road:

- At the top end we were threatened with a 20m 5G mast in close proximity to houses and those in Flint Close behind. The Council rejected this application but will they be back.?
- Many have complained about noise caused by traffic going over the worn sections of what is a concrete road built in the 1930s. A petition has being organised to get Surrey to make urgent repairs
- At the lower end where there are dips in the road, flooding is the issue. On July 12<sup>th</sup> we had what was probably the worst deluge since August 13<sup>th</sup> 2006.

No drains can cope with such intense rainfall as on slopes there must have been broad rivers going down the middle of the road. However, the situation would have been made worse if the gullies in Bolters Lane were blocked. When I used to go and inspect them in the past this was more often the case.

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

The only major planning matter since the last newsheet was circulated relates to Wellesford Close. Shanly Homes have put in an application for 28 homes on the site of mostly houses and a few flats. BVRA has objected to the number (the last three council assessments agreed that 18 was a suitable number) as being too dense. We are also concerned about the impact of more vehicular traffic on Chipstead Road and the surrounding roads. We await the council response to the application.

Arlington Stables have appealed against the council decision to refuse the erection of a day room as have the developers of Farley Close against the council refusal to allow the building of an eighth house. Other than that we have the usual requests for extensions.

We have also had to cope with an application for the erection of a 20m 5G monopole at the top of Winkworth Road. This was duly refused by Reigate & Banstead planning department with the statement; "The proposed new mast and associated cabinets and hardstanding, by reason of the excessive height and disproportionate scale and the unattractive, utilitarian appearance in this prominent location, alongside its proximity to nearby residential dwellings would be at odds with the surrounding area. Thereby, the proposed development would represent an incongruous installation, harmful to the character and appearance of the area. This would be contrary to the provisions of policies DES1 and INF3 of the Development Management Plan." This monopole was one of nine recent applications within our general area, four of which have been approved, three refused and two which are awaiting a decision. We are very aware that these installations are coming. The area covered by a 5G mast is less than the old masts but the agents for people like Hutchinson rely on computer information rather than shoe leather to choose a site. Neither are they good at seeking local advice. We will continue to try and persuade the agents to select their proposed sites more carefully and to seek and listen to what the residents have to say.



## **BANSTEAD'S PROPOSED NEW MINI SCOOTER PARK by Marion Hayns (BVIB)**

As part of the upgrade to the Lady Neville Recreation Park, due to be completed by Easter 2022 and for which we have been campaigning for the last two years, one of the underused tennis courts is to be repurposed as a mini scooter park at the same time as the long overdue resurfacing of the courts and renewal of the surrounding fencing takes place. If you would care to make a donation towards the cost of the traffic lights and other signs please do contact me, we are hoping to be permitted to add sponsors names to the bespoke roundabout sign to be placed on Lady Neville Way(!) which is being generously created for us by a local graphic artist, Philip Pireson. In addition, we are pleased to report that as a result of our representations the two shabby wooden bus shelters in the High Street are to be replaced – and their replacements will remain in wood as before but incorporate clearer visibility.

Marion Hayns Banstead Village in Bloom marionh.bafs@hotmail.co.uk



**The BVRA Newsheet is supported by;**

Richard Saunders and Company

2 High Street Banstead SM7 2LJ

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## **BANSTEAD VILLAGE SHOP FRONT COMPETITION 2021 by Marion Hayns (BVIB)**

Back after an absence of two years, the 'best shop front' competition, promoted by the Banstead Business Guild (BBG) returned to brighten up our High Street for the Village Day. Owing to the uncertainty over the date fewer shops entered this year, but we thank all those who took part and congratulate the winners, Banstead Kitchen Studio, The Lemon Tree and Ora Hair!



It was a very difficult call and sadly no photos remain of the highly imaginative display by Ora hair who, due to Covid restrictions felt compelled to take theirs down as soon as the competition ended. Having based their theme around summer holidays we look forward to seeing what they come up with for their Christmas offering in early December!

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



Network Rail have postponed works to the embankment to the financial year 2022-23. A deferral risk assessment is imminent and this will set out what measures are necessary to ensure the rock face behind the stairs remains safe. Network Rail's last site inspection found little deterioration. Further inspections to monitor any change started mid August. The planned works are essentially to cover the rock face with reinforced concrete.

The works to provide tangible improvements for passengers using the station are complete. These improvements were made possible by the allocation of £30,000 from GTR / Southern Railway Passenger Benefit Fund which was announced in May 2019. All the works requested in the BVRA original submission made in July 2019 have been provided. These were: Improved lighting, waiting shelter (pictured), seating, signage to station and CCTV. Our thanks to GTR/Southern Railway for the improvements.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION by David Gradidge**

The Secretary of State has made decisions regarding the three counties where reorganisation was going to happen. These are Somerset, Cumbria and North Yorkshire. Pending approval by Parliament and objections, the situation is – Somerset a unitary authority and the same for North Yorkshire except the city of York continues to be separate. Cumbria is split in two. Now, Surrey has twice the population of these counties and the decisions taken are no real guide as to what might happen here in the future. A week in politics is a long time.

## **ROAD STEWARDS by David Gradidge**

There are now vacancies for new road stewards as follows

- Buff Avenue - 26 members; Shrubland Road - 11 members; Diceland Road - 21 members; and Lower Dunnymans area - 26 members.

Please let know if you want to volunteer – you meet some very nice people. I am on 353981 if you would like more information or email me on [dgradidge@waitrose.com](mailto:dgradidge@waitrose.com)

## **FUEL BILLS by David Gradidge**

The following headlines have all appeared in The Times recently:

- 'A million gas boilers a year must be replaced...'
- 'Gas and car bills to soar under green revolution'
- 'Bills set to rise by £400 a year to cover cost of net-zero target'
- 'Higher gas bills to pay for hydrogen market growth'
- 'Families face biggest rise in fuel bills for a decade'

And on Aug 17<sup>th</sup>, 'Push for hydrogen energy will increase household bills'.

The next to last one is a fact but the rest is speculation, possibly wild speculation – in The Times? I will not at this time talk about heat pumps, but how about hydrogen that the government is pushing like mad.

Firstly, hydrogen is a very dangerous gas and far more so than methane that is used in 24m home central heating systems. It is currently costly to produce, store and transport. It has uses in buses and trains where storage can be managed but how about the use in homes? I believe small-scale trials are taking place in Scotland where up to 20% hydrogen can be added to this gas supply without affecting the operation of existing gas boilers and hopefully, without damaging the pipe lines. In higher concentrations all sorts of problems occur. One is pipe line embrittlement and another is leakage as hydrogen can escape where denser gases cannot.

Costs start to escalate as not only would the whole pipe line structure have to be replaced, but all 24m gas boilers would have to be modified or replaced. Then, how about gas cookers and gas fires – no mention in the press. So will it all happen as the Government wishes to meet the target of net zero emissions by 2050 (whatever that means) Probably not.. Let me know if you think otherwise. Oh, and just to confuse you, there is blue, green and grey hydrogen.

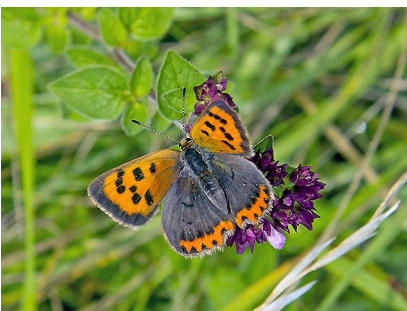
## **BUTTERFLIES OF BANSTEAD DOWNS by Lucy Shea (Banstead Conservators)**

In 1955, most of Banstead Downs was designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest due to its unique flora and fauna.

Known as chalk downland, Banstead Commons Conservators actively manage the 430 acres that make up Banstead Downs, to help increase species diversity and support the rare plants and butterflies that can be found on site. Proactive management has resulted in butterfly numbers exploding in recent years and the grassland areas are a true delight to visit in the summer months.



After a recent visit to Banstead Downs, local resident Nicola Campana-Etheridge who helps to monitor butterflies with the Butterfly Conservation Trust said: "I grew up in Banstead and am gutted that I never knew such a wonderful place existed. Banstead Downs is a precious site with such floristic diversity. It was an amazing experience to see so many Chalkhill Blues and Brimstones! It was one of the best days ever that I've had butterfly spotting!"



32 different species of butterfly have been recorded on Banstead Downs and perhaps one of the most special is the UK's smallest resident butterfly the Small Blue (pictured above).

If you'd like to find out more about the flora and fauna that can be found on Banstead Commons, please follow our Facebook page @BCConservators. Editor's note - links available of our website.

Photo credit to J. Peacock (Small Blue) and N. Gray (Small Copper)

## **WINKWORTH ROAD STRUCTURAL FAULTS CAUSING NOISE by David Talbot**

Our long-running campaign, spearheaded by Brian Ransom has been progressed by Catherine Searle (local resident) with a petition to Surrey County Council to resolve the road issues. The petition has been supported by over 100 residents and so should be reviewed by the Cabinet Member for Transport at the council.



We support this petition as does our SCC councillor, Luke Bennett, and we will follow the progress with interest.

Editor's note - link available on our website.

## **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS by David Talbot**

As many of you know, we are in the process of rolling out the ability for you to pay your annual subscription by bank transfer. This helps us as we do not have to knock on your door to collect the money, but also helps you as you do not need to be in when we deliver the magazine. It's really important that you make sure that your address is used as the payment reference so that we can identify which address has paid. We currently have three payments that we cannot match to an address. Please get in touch if you are, or if you know, the following people: Abrahams, M Kirby, or SM Hall. Thanks.

## **COURT ROAD / HOLLY LANE by Claire Mehrai (St Anne's Travel Safety committee )**

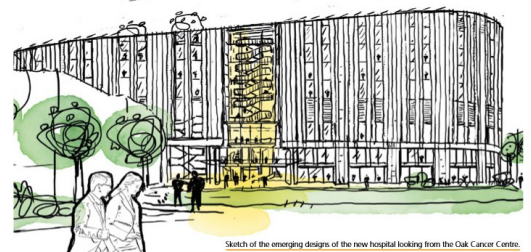
St Anne's Catholic Primary School is located on Court Road with entrances on both Court Road and Holly Lane. Court Road has long been used as a cut through for traffic wanting to avoid congestion on Banstead High Street. However, this narrow road is also the main drop off and collection site for 420 school pupils. This, coupled with double parked cars, speeding traffic and inadequate parking restrictions creates a real risk for children accessing the school.

Thankfully, in recognition of the dangers posed to pedestrians and the inconvenience that local residents suffer due to inconsiderate parking, Surrey County Council have awarded a substantial grant to improve road safety outside the school. The grant covers installation of dropped curbs and dotted paving on Holly Lane/Court Road, and on all arms of the roundabout at Garratts Lane. Signage and road markings will be updated and discussions regarding a school crossing point are still ongoing. The improvements are scheduled to be implemented in January 2022.

Editor's note - A review meeting was held in early August involving SCC Highways, Cllr Luke Bennett, representatives of the school including the Head teacher, David Talbot and Court Road residents to review the plans and provide feedback.

## **OUR NEW HOSPITAL by David Talbot**

Our new hospital in Belmont represents a major investment in the area and will give us a modern hospital fit for the 21st century after years of discussions. It does, however present a number of challenges with regard to transport and access, building size, car parking and landscaping. There are many ideas (but no plans) to alleviate the access problems and we await more detail on all these issues from Epsom and St Helier hospitals.



You may recall they held the initial consultations in June and they are reviewing the feedback from these and developing more detail on the proposals. The final consultation is expected to be held later this year - please keep a lookout on social media and let us know if you see any news.

## **COUNCILLOR LUKE BENNETT - AN INTRODUCTION**

A quick note from your new Surrey County Councillor (representing Banstead, Woodmansterne and Chipstead); now approx. 4 months into the new role.

Thank you to those of you who have written to me with ideas, concerns, complaints and appreciation! It's been a pleasure meeting many of you at virtual and in-person events and meetings; including the monthly BVRA committee meetings of course, as well as many other village organisations and groups, including e.g.: Age Concern, Banstead in Bloom, Banstead Conservators, The Royal British Legion, Banstead Business Guild, the Banstead Village Day (only partly underwater!), Banstead Library staff, local Police and the many fantastic local businesses, restaurants, bars, pubs and cafés!



Banstead is incredibly 'joined-up' with many community-spirited residents, all pulling in the same direction and generally preserving Banstead's 'village' atmosphere. It is an absolute pleasure representing the area in which I grew up (in the early 1980s). I moved back to the Borough (from London) around 10 years ago and having exited my business last year, I decided to stand for Council and become much more involved with my local community. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you over the last few months and I look forward to meeting and helping many more of you over the next 4 years in office. Beyond fixing potholes and the broad range of other services provided by Surrey County Council (including schools, adult social care, Libraries, etc), the Council is busy working on an ambitious improvement agenda, i.e. enabling a greener future, reducing health inequalities, creating a sustainable economy / 'building back better' and empowering communities such that no one is left behind. More info here: <https://www.facebook.com/LukeForSurrey/posts/241098857892832>

If there is anything I can do to help or you would like to get in touch, please email me (address below). Many 'routine' things like potholes, overgrown bushes and dislodged road signs can of course be reported online via the Surrey County Council website (Report it online - Surrey County Council ([surreycc.gov.uk](http://surreycc.gov.uk)) and emergency issues (e.g. large sink holes and trees across the carriageway etc.) can be reported 24hrs per day via our emergency number: **0300 200 1003**, but please let me know anytime my help is needed. I look forward to seeing more local funding requests for community-focused initiatives. Outdoor gym anyone? More info at Have Your Say Today – Your Fund Surrey Project Proposals – Commonplace All the best. **Luke Bennett.** Facebook: **@LukeForSurrey**  
(Editor's note - all links are available from our website - address on front page).

### **USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS**

#### **BVRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**David Talbot** - Chairman, newsheet editor and webmaster

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

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

**Catalina Vassallo-Bonner** – Planning

**Martin Matt** - Secretary (interim)

**Cliff Glanfield** - Data Records Manager

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

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

### **LOCAL COUNCILLORS**

**Luke Bennett** – Surrey County Councillor

email: [luke.bennett@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:luke.bennett@surreycc.gov.uk)

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**Eddy Humphreys** – Borough Councillor

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**Sam Walsh** – Borough Councillor

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### **MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

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## **FUTURE EVENTS**

### **BANSTEAD ARTS FESTIVAL SOCIETY by Jeff Young (BAFS)**

Banstead Arts Festival Society is looking ahead cautiously to an Autumn/Winter season, albeit one in which elements of social distancing will have to continue. All four concerts in the season are re-bookings of artists whose dates had to be cancelled last year. The outstanding musicianship of the artists will have been worth the wait.

- **9<sup>th</sup> October 2021 - Sofya Gulyak**, the first woman to win the Leeds Piano Competition in 2009 presents a programme of towering works, including one of Beethoven's late sonatas, Bach-Busoni Chaconne and a dazzling showpiece by Chopin.
- **20<sup>th</sup> November 2021 - The Consone Quartet** play pieces by Mozart, Schubert and Mendelssohn. They are the very first period instrument holders of a prestigious BBC New Generation Artist Award.
- **12<sup>th</sup> February 2022 - Violinist Charlotte Saluste-Bridoux** plays a programme including major works by Mozart and Brahms; A rising star, she has recently been brought under the wing of the exclusive Young Concert Artists Trust.
- **19<sup>th</sup> March 2022 - Timothy Ridout**, another BBC New Generation Artist - hailed as the outstanding violist of his generation, will introduce some of the unsung glories of the viola repertoire.

Social distancing measures will be continued in the Community Hall and ticket sales will be controlled to ensure no overcrowding. Please see website <http://www.bansteadarts.co.uk> for booking information.

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



This year's **Poppy Appeal**, on the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Royal British Legion, will hopefully be back to the normal fully 'manned' positions at Waitrose, Asda and various shops etc. Your support is, as ever, very welcome, but can I make a plea for as many helpers as possible. Last year was a very restricted event and 'only' raised about £20,000. This year I hope we can get back nearer our usual £40,000+ with your help.

We are discussing the **Remembrance Day Parade** (Sunday 14th November) with the council and hope again to commence at the Horseshoe this year, in which case we will need to provide at least half a dozen stewards to monitor the High Street's private access and side roads junctions – fit and (preferably) younger helpers are needed, so please pass the message on to as many family members as you can..! The help of the many local residents' associations and others has been so important to us over so many years – so much so that we have been nominated for this year's Reigate & Banstead Council's Volunteer Awards



Building on last year's support, we again hope to get the help of local residents' associations and others to put lamppost poppies along the A217 and in our local shopping centres – again helpers would be very welcome. If you would like to see the range and significance of the Legion's activities I do recommend that you follow this link: <https://fb.watch/7KWEu4lyY6/>. Mike Sawyer (Tel 355454)

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

Saturday 3rd October at 10:00 AM - Banstead Combined Charities - Christmas Fair - Community Hall

Friday 8th October at 7:30 PM - Horticultural Society - Evening Lecture - Community Hall

Saturday 6th November at 2:00 PM - Horticultural Society - Late Autumn Show - Community Hall

Saturday 6th November at 6:00 PM - Cricket Club - Fireworks - Cricket Club

Thursday 25th November at 5:00 PM - Rotary / Business Guild - Christmas Community Event - High Street

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