

# BVRA newsheet

from the Banstead Village Residents' Association

Volume 23 : No 1 - February 2007

## CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Dear Residents

There are a number of routine matters to report since our last NewsSheet in September, many of which you will find covered in the updates on Planning and Village Centre Management issues below. In regard to the major developments around the village there is some progress. Proposals which our village ward Councillors have discussed with us for redevelopment of leisure facilities at the Lady Neville recreation ground are now well defined but still await funding commitment from the Council. Once we know what can be funded we will report in detail on the proposals. The flats at the former Queen Elizabeth hospital site are now well advanced and some are sold; it remains to be seen if our fears of certain adverse effects of this development, for example on traffic using Holly Lane, were justified. Other smaller developments are in full use with no problems immediately apparent. Our concern is that the cumulative effect of the developments over the last year or two will place an overall strain on our infrastructure. As an example, the Longcroft Clinic is overloaded, and discussions with the Primary Care Trust about relocation to a site that would permit expansion of their facilities move very slowly. We have been active in supporting the Longcroft on this matter but the outcome is still uncertain, as is the matter of a new critical care hospital, which now looks unlikely to materialise.

Flooding around the village has become an increasing problem, given the wet weather we have been suffering. Perhaps it has become so bad that the County Council will address this problem in a coordinated way across the whole network of drainage, in spite of their declared lack of funds for this purpose, rather than the somewhat ineffective troubleshooting at individual sites that has been our previous experience.

The Christmas lights became a difficult issue this year and a full report is given below by Pam Goldsack, who is resigning from her role as coordinator after seven years of hard work. Our thanks are due to her and her team, and we desperately need a volunteer for next year, when we hope again to receive funding from the Borough Council that will enable us to continue to improve the *Let There Be Light* initiative that began in Millennium Year. Christmas time without the lights would now be unthinkable.

The AGM this year will be on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. I hope to see another increase in attendance. Our guest speaker, barring unforeseen events, will be Chief Superintendent Guy Darby who is in charge of the East Surrey Division. Since many of your concerns, expressed in answer to our survey last year, fall broadly within a heading of police matters this will provide an excellent opportunity to obtain authoritative answers to your questions. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Roger Collins

(01737) 358384

## LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN for Banstead

The community liaison team from Reigate & Banstead Borough Council is working with borough councillors Cllr. Dr Lynne Hack, Cllr. Brian Cowle and Cllr. Sam Walsh to develop a Local Community Action Plan for Banstead. The process aims to develop a better understanding of local residents' needs and priorities in Banstead which will be pulled together into the plan. Your input is essential to this process and, as the Community Liaison team is keen to speak

to and involve as many local residents as possible, **a form is enclosed with this newsletter for you to submit your comments.**

The form can either be sent directly to the Community Liaison Officers, whose details are on the form, or it can be dropped into the Helpshop in the Horseshoe.

Alternatively, you can submit your comments online at [www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/banstead.htm](http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/banstead.htm)

**Ben Skipp**, community liaison officer,

(01737) 276143

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### **THE WATER SITUATION**

No this is not about the "Lake Victoria" or the "Garratts Lane Flood Plain".

The local drought order was lifted in mid November. My contact at Sutton & East Surrey Water has told me that the recent rainfall has now started to have an effect on ground water levels and that for the first time in 2 years they are starting to rise. Rainfall has in fact been at or above average every month since last August, and the hosepipe ban has just been lifted.

**David Gradidge (01737) 353981**

### **DRAINAGE IN BANSTEAD**

My article in the last Newsletter asking for those who had suffered flooding or inconvenience recently to contact me brought, sadly, an excellent response. Contact with householders very soon showed that the problems were not recent, indeed complaints had been sent to Surrey C C over many months and, sometimes, years.

Repeated heavy rains enabled me (at great risk to life and limb!) to go out following a storm to trace the source of the problems, to take photos and then to write to our County Councillor on September 15th and again on October 17th with a number of case studies.

Without going into too much detail, the main points were as follows -

- The source of the problem can be many 100yds from the flood. For instance a garden at the top end of Winkworth Road gets flooded from a car park in Flint Close, but it is a series of blocked drains in Sutton Lane which is the root cause. At the other end of Winkworth Road water cascades down the north side, finding a drain some 200yds from the mini roundabout. The root cause here is blocked drains throughout the length of Bolters Lane coupled with all the drains on the roundabout also being out of action.

- The blocked drains are almost all in the main roads - Winkworth Rd/Bolters Lane/Sutton Lane/High St/Garratts Lane/Holly Lane. Apparently these are cleaned out at night rather than during the day in order to reduce traffic disruption.

- Many of the drains must take many months to become blocked to the top - this requires 5ft of silt to fill up the sump to the top. Some even

had a healthy lawn growing on top making them invisible other than to very close inspection!

- Apart from Holly Lane, all the above drains lead to soakaways. Once silt gets above a certain level in the sump, water cannot get to the soak away and the drain floods over. The problem in Holly Lane where man-hole covers get raised is of a different order and needs an engineering solution.

We are grateful to Cllr Angela Fraser for arranging exceptional access to Surrey engineers who we met on December 7th. By great good fortune (or do we have influence in even higher places?) this was the day of the Kensal Rise Tornado and at precisely the time when we set off - 11am - the heavens opened. This very satisfyingly flooded all the blocked drains and more, and gave the officials a graphic illustration of our ongoing problems. Among other matters, we learned that the reduced number of drain cleansing vehicles across Surrey means that we now have to share a machine with several other Boroughs, resulting in programmed cleaning only aimed at dealing with each gully once a year. This is also dependent on roadside parking not obstructing access, and the ability of the operator to raise the gully for cleaning - many gulleys are 50 or more years old and they can get jammed with the decreasing level of maintenance.

The engineers' follow up letter has promised ad hoc action - shortly - in all the trouble spots, but as I write, very little has actually happened. The feeling persists that the reduced frequency of routine cleansing has created a level of blockages that now requires a more costly investment in cleansing and gully replacement.

**Postscript** - Some success, at least the Garratts Lane gulleys have since been cleared!

**David Gradidge (01737) 353981**

### **ROADS AND PAVEMENTS**

Following last years survey it was possible to draw up a list of which roads and pavements members considered to be the "worst" and in need of urgent attention.

Subsequently I had the opportunity to take a Surrey C C engineer over all the offending areas. He said that there were funds to repair

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perhaps 6 of the worst pavements, but as far as he knew no roads in Banstead Ward were scheduled for major resurfacing.

The worst pavements lead off from the High St where there is a mixture of slabs and tarmac with tree roots adding to the uneven surface. Any repair will mean replacing slabs with tarmac. I believe that Buff Avenue will be on the list and work will be completed by the end of March.

The roads needing urgent attention fall into 3 categories -

- Where the problems are concentrated at the entrance, and the road has been repeatedly patched. North Acre and Shrubland Road are good (or is it bad) examples of these. These roads were noted by Surrey C C but nothing has happened.

- Where the road is subject to repeated potholing (there is a definition of a pothole). Longcroft Avenue is one example and here the contractor eventually gets round to repairing these. Another example many will know is the Horseshoe, where the poor structural condition of the road is further complicated by the fact that the land is owned by Surrey council's property department and repairs come out of their overstretched budget, not the highways budget, which seems to make it even more difficult to secure proper repairs.

- Where the top surface is falling apart but does not qualify as a pothole. Once this starts to happen there is often very rapid deterioration. Great Ellshams and especially Grange Meadow fall into this category. These roads have been repeatedly patched over the years but not recently. The only road that has been repaired is Barnfield a cul-de-sac off Sutton Lane but this was small scale compared to many others.

It remains the impression that only trivial ad hoc repairs are being carried out, that any road requiring major work is being shelved and that the situation will only get worse with the backlog getting ever longer.

**David Gradidge (01737) 353981**

### **LADY NEVILLE**

After a very lengthy gestation period, we understand that the Borough Council is developing some initial proposals for a revamp of the pavilion in the Lady Neville Recreation

Ground, together with work to improve the area around the pavilion. The Association has been pressing for this for some time and we are pleased that at last this project appears to be gaining some momentum. The BVRA Sub-Group has liaised closely with our ward Councillors and we have jointly developed some concepts for this scheme which have been issued to the Council for their consideration.

**Tony Ford (01737) 354757**

### **LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES**

**Hospital site** – the promised review of the location of the new site has yet to materialise, but we will keep listening (and hope that there will be sufficient funding for an adequate solution). In the meantime, services continue to be withdrawn from the Horseshoe clinic without any public indication of its future.

**Longcroft Clinic** – our members' survey raised serious concerns about the services provided by this practice. We have followed this up in discussion with the practice, which, we understand, has a "list" of 12,000 patients. The practice has wished for several years to expand to meet current needs, but what was once one of the most advanced surgeries in the area has been constrained by the size of its accommodation. We understand that they have identified a need for more doctors, nurses and equipment, but don't have the space for them in their current premises.

Their search for a new site has recently focused on the old clinic in the Horseshoe, which is owned by the Primary Care Trust (PCT), and they approached the PCT to purchase the site. Unfortunately, they have received no response. Nor has our MP, Crispin Blunt. Nor have we been able to get a response from the PCT. We can only continue to try to press them to come to a decision as a matter of urgency (in addition to owning the site they are the body responsible for medical provision!).

**Mike Sawyer (01737) 355454**

### **BUS SHELTERS**

The centre of Banstead is quite well served by buses – four buses each hour go to Sutton, three to Croydon, one to Epsom and one to Redhill. For those who use these services, the waiting shelters that are at three of the six bus

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stops along the High Street provide welcome relief from wind, rain and sun. Whilst these black, timber shelters cannot be described as pretty, they are an integral part of a properly functioning High Street and we accept them as such. They form part of the character of the High Street, which is a subtle mix of commercial, shopping, community and residential buildings and activities. And we take pride in the fact that this character is different from many other retail centres. Surveys over a number of years have shown that the majority of Banstead residents and visitors like it that way.

We were horrified then to learn that our own local authority, in conjunction with a private advertising company, is proposing to demolish the existing shelter outside Marks & Spencer (M&S) and to replace it with one of aluminium and glass construction with the whole of one end taken up with an illuminated advertising panel. Furthermore, there is also a proposal to erect a similar aluminium and glass shelter, again with an illuminated advertisement panel, outside Waitrose.

Whilst the replacement shelter outside M&S would provide better lighting for those waiting for a bus to Sutton or Croydon, and a new shelter outside Waitrose would provide a refuge where currently there is none for those waiting for a bus to Epsom or Redhill, there are many disadvantages with these proposals. We have objected to them.

The principal reason for concern is that Banstead is thankfully free of this sort of overt advertising standing in the footway. The introduction of such panels into the High Street would be visually intrusive, would dilute the character of the village and would make it more difficult, if not impossible, to argue against any future planning applications for advertising panels.

We also think that the shelters would be an open invitation to vandalism, resulting in scratched or smashed glazing, defaced advertisements and broken information boards.

We are also concerned that the shelter outside Waitrose would reduce the width of the pavement to about 1.5 metres (5 feet) at a point in the High Street which is frequently busy with shoppers.

In November, these applications were considered by the Council's Planning Committee but a decision has been deferred to a later meeting so that the Committee members can be given more information. We will continue to press for these applications to be refused.

This story raises a further interesting point. It appears that the commercial contract that the Council has signed with the private advertising company requires a certain number of shelters with advertising to be erected within the Borough. Yet those advertisements are subject to planning permission. Hence our Councillors are being asked on the one hand to apply normal considerations when deciding on these planning applications whilst at the same time needing to be mindful that if a certain number of these are not approved then their own Council could be in breach of contract. We think this puts our Councillors into a position where conflict of interest issues might arise.

Such an impression is not helped by the final twist in this saga. The more observant members may have noticed that grey metal electrical boxes have been installed in the footway close to the bus stops by M&S and Waitrose. Generally, such boxes will provide power to bus shelter lighting and illuminated panels. The boxes appeared shortly before the planning committee meeting in November. Whilst it would be wrong to jump to conclusions, the impression is left that the advertising company had sufficient confidence that planning permission was a formality that they were prepared to invest in this work in advance of the planning decision. We have asked the Council for information on what these boxes are for.

**Tony Ford**

**(01737) 354757**

### **LEISURE SERVICES REVIEW**

Since the last NewsSheet Reigate & Banstead council has decided to invest substantial resources in a new centre at Horley and a refurbishment of the Donyngs centre at Redhill.

The Banstead Sports Centre has received a reprieve until 2011. It has agreed in principle to replace the centre with a new facility, subject to deciding on a location – Beacon school or Preston. This decision is, of course, subject to agreement on the facilities to be

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provided – at present it is proposed to provide only four lanes in the swimming pool, which is impractical – and inevitably on the estimated cost being affordable when the time comes. Whilst this decision is to be welcomed, substantial concerns remain about its viability in practice, particularly in view of the deteriorating state of government grant.

**Mike Sawyer** (01737) 355454

### **POLICE UPDATE**

Our regular and two-way communication with the local police through our monthly meetings has somewhat diminished due to changes in the structure of the Surrey Police, staff rotas, and how they now wish to engage with the community. In order to sustain a flow of information, we now ensure that a BVRA representative always attends the quarterly PCPG (Police Community Partnership Group) meetings at the Lambert Room, Banstead Day Centre, The Horseshoe, Banstead. Anyone is welcome and the next meeting is on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March, starting at 7.30 pm. Whilst there are informative and topical items on the agenda there is also an Open Forum where the audience can ask questions.

The last PCPG heard an overview of the Neighbourhood Policing Project. This national project aims to create more visible neighbourhood policing. It will also see the recruitment of more Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), who will be based in the local community and will therefore be more accessible. Look out for more information in the media.

You may also have noticed that 'Beat Panels' (Neighbourhood Panels) are being held in the local neighbourhoods. These have been publicised in the local press and on notice boards around the area (eg Village Institute notice board). These Panels aim to give residents a convenient and local opportunity to air their concerns, questions, etc. Look out for local notices for future dates.

**Speed cameras** – apparently there has been discussion about the public being trained to carry out speed checks. It appears that the police are very keen to hear from volunteers to advance this project. There has been no progress to date in our ward because a minimum of 6 volunteers are required to

initiate the scheme in any one area. Volunteers would receive instruction on use of the camera, personal safety and how to record the results. If you are interested in taking part or require more information you can contact Reigate & Banstead Casualty Reduction Officer, Eric Thomas, by email: Thomas1025@surrey.pnn.police.uk.

**Scam** – we have also been made aware of a scam regarding Neighbourhood Watch. People purporting to be from Neighbourhood Watch call on unsuspecting victims offering advice on how to protect their valuables and in doing so obtain information about where the valuables are kept making theft of these items so much easier for the con artist! **BE ON YOUR GUARD.**

For more policing information visit:  
[www.surrey.police.uk](http://www.surrey.police.uk)

**Sally Hull** (01737) 370050

### **SUTTON LANE**

The installation of the new pedestrian crossing on Winkworth Road close to the Sutton Lane roundabout has always seemed like a job half completed, needing a similar crossing of Sutton Lane itself. The County Council, spurred on by a joint petition from Greenacre School and Sunrise Senior Living, has reviewed the feasibility of introducing such a crossing.

The layout of Sutton Lane makes it very difficult to find a suitable location for the crossing, having regard to the need for proper visibility. But we were somewhat surprised when the County decided that the crossing could not be close to the roundabout like the one on Winkworth Road. Instead they have proposed a scheme which sets the crossing right on the corner of Orchard Close and immediately next to private driveways on Sutton Lane.

The Association was sufficiently concerned with this proposal to arrange a site meeting with the County's highway engineer, our County Councillor and the Police. Whilst we are in principle supportive of a crossing of Sutton Lane, the imposition that this scheme would have on residents seems excessive.

The matter is not settled. We have objected to the current proposals whilst suggesting some modifications to the scheme which may help to

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alleviate some of the difficulties. We understand that the County is currently developing the design further to try and reduce its impact with the intention of deciding in March whether to proceed with construction.

**Tony Ford** (01737) 354757

### **BANSTEAD VILLAGE HIGH STREET - Christmas lights**

This year the High Street Christmas lighting display expanded by more than fifty per cent. The Banstead Village Town Centre Management Steering Group (TCM) again voted to fund this project from their grant from Reigate and Banstead Borough Council. In the autumn, it appeared that the only challenge would be the loss of the large beech tree in the Orchard, which is the centrepiece of the High Street lights. However, things rapidly became more complicated. In October, our lighting contractor, Powerite Electrical, surveyed the High Street. We discovered that the Christmas lights on the lamppost in front of the old post office, that were installed only last year, were gone and could only have been removed by individuals using a hydraulic lift. Thus started a search for answers that eventually involved Surrey County Council, Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, the TCM, BVRA, borough councillors, SCC councillors and others. Cllr. Mrs Joan Spiers, the leader of Reigate and Banstead Council, played a leading role in sorting out this dilemma and I thank her for her personal support. My e-mail account has over 50 entries on this matter and I've lost count of the number of phone calls. Finally, on November 27 the Surrey County Highways Contract Performance Manager instructed Powerite Electrical to install replacement lights and agreed to foot this bill. The missing lights have never been recovered or accounted for.

During 1999 my committee of six volunteers canvassed each retail and non retail establishment on the High Street and its environs to finance the lighting display. The support from businesses, community groups and individuals was outstanding and funded the first phase of the display. This year we hoped to reach new establishments, those who were unable to contribute seven years ago as well as original donors who might like to support the expansion and maintenance of the

lights. In September, Ron and Maureen Phillips armed themselves with 100 letters and distributed a copy to each High Street proprietor requesting a donation of any size. In October, Simon Bland, the TCM Community Relations Manager and I made some individual visits to traders to request support, with mixed results. I followed the advice of the Zizzi branch manager and wrote to head office in early November but never received a reply. Waitrose has always been generous in their support over the years and their manager was able to arrange a donation, even though they had closed their books for donations for this fiscal year. I'm sure we can count on their support in the future.

We are at a disadvantage because Banstead Village has no chamber of commerce or traders' association. I would like to publicly thank those who supported the 2006 appeal for the Christmas lights. The BVRA was the first to come forward and donated £350. Robert Fuller Fine Menswear kept up their tradition of generously supporting the lighting scheme with a donation this year of £500. In addition, we were supported by: Banstead Baptist Church £100; SB Harris Optician £100; Banstead Village Club £50; HSBC £50; T.A. Rooms £50; R. Saunders Estate Agents £50; One-One-Seven Clothing £20.

Thanks to these donors and to Ron Phillips' excellent stewardship of the *Let There Be Light* funds a significant reserve was built up and we were able to add this to the TCM funding and the donations mentioned above. All of the High Street is now decorated with high quality Christmas lights. This year five additional lampposts (excluding the old post office) were decorated, the small tree in front of Woolworth's, additional lights in the Orchard, in the trees in front of the Tesco parade of shops, and more strands of lights in the tree in front of the library and at the roundabout near the war memorial. Strands of lights damaged by storms were replaced as were some of the original timers. In response to some queries from residents I'd like to explain that the lights are arranged in the trees in an abstract fashion to make the best impact. The lamppost lights do not appear symmetrical because the diameter and shape of the columns differ; some are circular others hexagonal, etc. We

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had some nights when the lights came on at odd hours because of difficulties with the timing mechanisms. The Rotary Club of Banstead installs their Christmas tree in partnership with the High Street display and this enables us to share some of the costs. Many thanks to Dave Hill of Powerite Electrical for his high quality expertise and dedication to the project.

Finally, I have volunteered my time to organise the High Street Christmas lights since 1999 when a number of community groups banded together to form *Let There Be Light* to mark the millennium. This stunning lighting display now only requires maintenance to continue for many years to come. The High Street Christmas lights belong to the people of Banstead and are administered by the TCM. *Let There Be Light* has run its course and I would now like to step back from my role as volunteer coordinator of these lights. I would like to thank all of the helpful and generous individuals who support this project and wish all of the BVRA committee and members a very happy New Year.

**Pamela Goldsack**

### **RECYCLING FACILITIES at the Horseshoe and Woolworth car parks**

Back in September, we had a useful meeting with council officials to examine whether facilities at these car parks can be improved.

At the Woolworth car park, the facility is not ideally located with cars offloading inhibiting those wanting to park and no bins for plastic bottles.

It is difficult to identify a suitable convenient alternative location that does not reduce the number of parking spaces, with the size of the collection trucks being the main factor. However it was agreed that the existing area could be improved and enlarged slightly. The motor cycle bay may need to be relocated. Another issue discussed was the space taken up by shop owners and whether it could be made more orderly.

At the Horseshoe, the empty recycling spaces were noted. However quite recently 2 more bins for plastic bottles have been provided, but still leaving 2 others empty.

This car park is less cramped than at Woolworths and the opportunity was taken to

investigate whether there was scope for additional parking spaces. This is being pursued further. We also asked for the use of the space outside Priory School to be clarified.

**Postscript:** At the time of writing - Jan 2nd - anyone who has visited the Horseshoe cannot fail to see the disgraceful state of the bins. It is always a busy time of year, but there must be a better way than this.

**PPS:** However, it was all cleared by the 3rd.  
**David Gradidge** (01737) 353981

### **PLANNING**

There has been (thankfully) little to report since the September NewsSheet – no major applications received. We have continued to press the Council to refuse the applications for a new illuminated bus shelter outside Waitrose (at the narrowest part of the pavement!) and a similar shelter to replace the timber one outside Marks & Spencer, as Tony Ford reports earlier in this NewsSheet.

Other applications have mainly been for house extensions, conservatories and loft conversions, most of which have caused no concern. One matter upon which we have objected, however, relates to the excessive size and impact of a new house in Garratts Lane, which appears not to have been constructed in accordance with the approved plans.

**Mike Sawyer** (01737) 355454

### **WATER DRAINAGE RATES**

Did you know that if your property is not connected to the surface water sewer – ie your rainwater goes straight into soakaways – your water rates should be charged at a lower level? If you are incorrectly assessed, you can apply to the Water company for a reduction, although for some reason they appear unwilling to give a credit for past years! The precise reduction to which you may be entitled depends on a number of factors, so you would need to contact Thames Water direct on 0845 9200888 or [www.thameswater.co.uk](http://www.thameswater.co.uk).

**Mike Sawyer** (01737) 355454

### **BANSTEAD – the forgotten village?**

For some time we have been conscious that other parts of the Borough have received a much greater level of public expenditure (by Reigate and Banstead council and Surrey

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county council) than have Banstead and that part of the Borough lying north of the M25. We have seen the large sums spent in Reigate and Redhill town centres, Priory Park, the plans for Horley town centre and the commitment to major new/ refurbished sports centres at Redhill and Horley. Whilst we don't begrudge these areas their improvements (well, only by comparison!) we do wonder why "north of the M25" doesn't get a look in? Oh yes, the council has decided that it may rebuild the Banstead Sports Centre – but that is subject to a future decision on location, scale and whether the money can be made available. And we await news of the long-promised upgrade to the Lady Neville recreation grounds – all we have had for the past few years is a closed paddling pool and deteriorating tennis courts!

This lack of investment has also extended to the maintenance of our roads, pavements and drainage systems, as we highlight elsewhere in this NewsSheet. Not only do we continue to suffer from "Lake Victoria" in the High Street, we have for months (and years) "enjoyed" the flooding at the "Garratts Lane flood plain" (which has recently excelled itself, with the road, and the pavement on the northern side, under several inches of water for long periods – days, not hours). We have the situation where Sutton Lane, Bolters Lane, Garratts Lane and Winkworth Road now flood every time it rains because the drains are not properly cleared. Rain is a natural phenomenon, flooded roads are largely caused by poor maintenance.

Why are we so badly served?

We are told there is not enough money, and Surrey has recently eliminated several hundred jobs to save money. But it is hard to escape the conclusion that the many reductions in maintenance budgets have resulted in the fine line between making savings and false economy being breached.

Or is it a matter of priorities – even though about 50% of the voters in the Borough live north of the M25? And where will the money for much needed repairs and improvements come from?

Well, the "good" news is that the government has issued a white paper on local government reorganisation. To pass more money to where

it is needed? No, to change the way councils are run! And at the time of writing it is anticipated that the government grant to our local authorities will again be well below the rate of inflation – in other words a reduction in cash terms!

Perhaps this quote is relevant:

"We train hard, but it seems that every time we are beginning to form in to teams, we are reorganised. We tend to meet every new situation by reorganisation and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralisation".

A current guru? No, Petronius - Governor of the Province of Bithynia, 65AD!

**Mike Sawyer**

**(01737) 355454**

### **U3A, Banstead**

If you are mature, have time on your hands, want to explore a new subject - or brush up on one from your schooldays, perhaps U3A is for you. If you have not heard of us, we are part of an international organisation and a registered charity.

We usually meet locally as house groups, so classes are of a comfortable size.

The subjects currently covered locally are: Bridge (3 groups); Computing, Drawing, Family History, French (3 groups), German, Grandparenting, Italian, Line Dancing, Local History (2 groups), Military/naval History, Music (2 groups), Opera, Painting, Philosophy, Poetry, Reading for Pleasure (2 groups), Scrabble, Singing, Social Studies, Table-Tennis (2 groups), Walking (3 groups), and Tennis.

If you are interested, in the first instance please contact either the **Membership Secretary on 01737 350947; or Secretary on 01737 554927.**

### **AGE CONCERN, Banstead**

We are looking for additional Trustees to help run this friendly local charity. It is a rewarding part time commitment with meetings at two-monthly intervals. If you can spare a few half days each year please contact the office (in the civic centre in the Horseshoe) or ring us up to find out more.

**Christine West**

**(01737) 352156**