



If you haven't paid your subscription yet, it's not too late. Simply scan the QR code or for other payment options, see the back page.

Annual subscription is £5.00 per household



BRA Team with their awards at inaugural Mole Valley Sustainability event.

In this issue:

- New Youth & Community Centre
- The Old Crown reopens
- Public art at Lower Shott
- Surrey Unitary Authorities
- Litter pick heroes
- History of Fairfield House
- Keswick Care Home future
- Using "Just Park " app at NT car parks

Simon Edge BRA Chairman

Welcome to the BRA's November 2025 Newsletter. I hope you enjoyed the summer and are looking forward to the festive season. The BRA's team of volunteers have continued to do so much for the benefit of the Bookhams. I hope you enjoy reading their updates.

We have lots to celebrate in this edition, but also a huge change that,

like it or not, residents will have to deal with!

I will start with the celebrations.

After many delays and false dawns, Surrey County Council is seeking planning permission to build, a **new Youth Centre** at 164 Lower Road. It's sad that the preferred site, on the Lower Road Recreation Ground, was dropped but the delivery of a new Youth Centre in Bookham will be something to celebrate.

Working with Mole Valley Council's Property Team, we have had **the Toilet Block on the Lower Shott completely refurbished**. Not a glamorous building, but an essential facility for the Village. We secured funding for improvements including: lighting the village sign, a water refill station, an electric point to aid future maintenance, and re-laid wobbly paving.

In the adjoining bus shelter, we are installing some **beautiful public art**. Congratulations to the artist, Elise Macfarlane, a Year 8 student at The Howard of Effingham School. Elise's triptych reflects on famous authors that have spent time in Bookham: Jane Austen, C.S Lewis and Lewis Carroll, and shows great artistic talent. A lovely addition to the Village that really brightens up the place.

I was delighted to represent Residents by cutting the ribbon and pulling the first pint to officially **re-opening The Old Crown**. Heartwood Inns have made a marvellous investment in the heart of Bookham, transforming the Pub, and showing confidence in the High Street. We wish Heartwood Inns and the local team every success, and also to other local businesses that have open recently.

And the huge change? See John Downman's article on page three. A Parish Council is like a puppy, it's for life not just for Christmas.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!

Chairman's AGM Report 17th July 2025

As we approach our centenary in 2026, the Bookham Residents Association (BRA) continues to serve as a strong voice for our community, powered by the dedication of volunteers and the support of our circa 3,500 members. Below is a summary of the BRA team activities during 2024-25.

Communications & Outreach

Noticeboards: David & Michelle Smith posted over 3,000 community posters.

Digital Reach: Our email service has 2,000+ subscribers; the website welcomed 9,000 visitors and 46,000 page views.

Newsletters: Les Huett and Carolyn Elson lead the team that distributes 10,000 newsletters bi-annually via 95 Road Stewards.

Membership: Maintained at circa 3,500 with a £5.00 annual household subscription. Thank you to those who also made additional donations!

Planning Matters: The BRA Planning Committee reviewed 170+ planning applications and



Simon

**Simon Edge
BRA Chairman**

submitted ~40 formal responses. 80% of BRA's responses aligned with MVDC decisions.

The Committee raised strong opposition to developments like Preston Farm and concerns over the "Grey Belt" land classification. There was also criticism of the Bookham Masterplan for poor consultation and unrepresentative data.

Community Safety: Led by Neil Clarke, a retired Surrey Police officer. Neil offers ongoing advice and liaison with police to help residents improve home and property security.

Youth & Education: Partnerships with BYCA, BYP, and local schools including Howard and Polesden Lacey. SCC cancelled plans for a new Youth Centre at Lower Road but recommitted to a facility at 164 Lower Road. Full article on page 4.

Projects: Geoff Tranter led an improvements programme which included: a new noticeboard; Weales clock repairs; bench installations; refurbished toilet block with water refill station.
(cont. on page 3)

The Bookhams Residents' Association Newsletter is published twice a year in the June and November and is distributed by a team of volunteers to all Bookham households. You may contact the BRA via our website:

www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

Or call: 0300 030 9890

Our website is updated regularly with BRA news and local authority information. You may also sign up for our occasional e-mail service and pay your annual subscription online.

BRA Editorial Team: Carolyn Elson and Les Huett.

Newsletter design and build: Les Huett

Newsletter print: Simon Jordan, Surrey Litho

New Unitary Authorities are announced – affecting the services we receive, who provides them, and how much (more) we will all have to pay.

John Downman reports

Central Government has confirmed that Surrey County Council and its 11 District and Borough Councils will be replaced by two new Unitary Authorities (UA), with elections to these in May 2026. Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) will come under the East Surrey UA, comprising: Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Mole Valley, Reigate & Banstead and Tandridge. The UAs go live from 1st April 2027.

Council Taxes and historic debt.

It is said this new UA approach will make service delivery cheaper, and simpler with residents only having one UA to deal with. However, the BRA is sceptical that any "savings" will result in residents paying less Council Tax as pressures will continue to mount on budgets. The combined debt of the Councils in East Surrey UA is cited at £285m,

AGM report continued....

The Pump Track project for scooters and bikes is ongoing.

Environment: The Blue Hearts biodiversity project now includes ~ go wildflower areas and the team also planted thousands of bulbs. Our Tree Wardens supported planting of 66 trees and the regular litter picking events saw 198 volunteer attendances and 193 bags of rubbish collected.

What of local representation?

Each ward (geography to be confirmed) within the UA is expected to have two councillors. The Government is to confirm yet whether

Surrey will be structured as a Mayoral Strategic Authority, with a Mayor overseeing both Surrey UAs, or a Strategic Authority with no mayor.

In addition to all this upheaval, MVDC has initiated a "Governance Review" which is essentially a consultation on whether or not to create a plethora of new Parish Councils where they do not currently exist in Mole Valley. We are concerned that MVDC's approach is to make such fundamental decisions without a full democratic vote, and an inadequate understanding of the implications at the local level. The Governance Review is in two stages; Stage One has closed, and a public vote is not inherent to Stage Two.

How much more will we all have to pay in Council Tax?

We are not confident that the new UA will reduce, or even maintain, the current levels of Council Tax we all pay. However, we are confident that creating a new Parish Council (PC) will lead to residents paying more Council Tax. The PC will need to fund a Parish Clerk plus additional staff, and the delivery costs of any services it takes on. Will this cost us hundreds in extra Council Tax? We do not know. We do not believe these implications have been explained by MVDC and may not be understood clearly by many residents. It would be wrong for MVDC to impose a Parish Council

plus extra Council Tax on residents without having a referendum so that residents can have their say. The BRA thinks MVDC's Governance Review is both premature, and undemocratic in practice.

Premature: because The Governance Review is asking if residents want new Parish Councils in their locality before the UA has been created, let alone had a chance to get working. The unproven assumption seems to be that the new UA will be remote and uncaring of local issues, and sell off community assets. The hasty reaction is to quickly create Parish Councils and transfer assets and associated running costs to them.

Undemocratic: because MVDC is planning to make the decision to create Parish Councils itself, based on its consultation survey, without any commitment to date to hold public referendums.

We understand that less than 400 surveys have been completed across the whole of Mole Valley, a tiny proportion of Mole Valley's voting population. In contrast, in Bookham's 2017 Parish Council referendum a total of 4,929 residents cast their vote. Creating new council tax raising Parish Councils across Mole Valley based on a tiny amount of feedback, to an on-line survey, is simply not good enough.

Whether or not to create a new tax raising Council for Bookham requires a full public debate and a referendum so Bookham residents can decide. Anything less will be a betrayal of democracy by MVDC.



Artist's impression of the new centre. Courtesy of SCC

New Youth & Community Centre Good news! Budget secured and planning in progress

David Cox OBE, Chair of Trustees, Bookham Youth & Community Association (BYCA)

Background

In 2012, BYCA initiated an outline agreement with Surrey County Council (SCC) for a new replacement Youth & Community Centre. The old Centre closed in 2019 without the agreement being finalised. BYCA continued to push for a replacement Centre and in 2021 SCC agreed a budget of £2.5m to build one at the Lower Road Recreation Ground (LRRG), our preferred location. The old site would then be available for housing or other use. Despite MVDC Planning recommending refusal (due to

green belt), outline planning permission was granted in May 2021. Subsequent issues within the local authorities delayed progress and the planning permission expired in May 2024. A new application was submitted in April 2025, but this time it was refused by SCC Planning, citing green belt and bio-diversity issues.

New centre planned for old site (opposite Anchor Pub) – Budget of £2.8m secured

Planning's refusal of the preferred LRRG site was disappointing. However, the old site at 164 Lower Road was our "Plan B" per SCC Cabinet paper 2021 - "if the application is unsuccessful (LRRG), then the existing site will

accommodate the new community provision..."

Stakeholders immediately engaged with our County Councillor, Cabinet Member, and SCC's Leader to take Plan B forward, and a **budget of £2.8m** to build a new Centre at 164 Lower Road was formally approved by SCC's Cabinet on 23rd September 2025.

Extracts from SCC's press release:
"Surrey County Council's Cabinet has given the green light to build a brand-new Bookham Community Centre, marking a significant milestone for residents and local community groups.

The former Bookham Youth and Community Centre, located at 164 Lower Road, served the community from the 1950s until its closure in 2019.....After careful consideration of potential sites and planning constraints, Cabinet has now confirmed that the new Bookham Community Centre will be delivered independently of any housing

development, ensuring that the needs of the community remain the top priority.

...the current building on Lower Road, which will be demolished and replaced with a modern structure designed with Surrey County Council's net zero aspirations in mind. The building will have energy-efficient systems and renewable energy sources such as solar panels and heat pumps.

The new centre will provide a flexible, multi-functional space for a wide range of local activities, supporting the creation of a vibrant, inclusive community hub. Surrey County Council aims to complete the project by March 2027.

Progress & communications

More planning and other approvals will be needed. The stakeholders have already had productive discussions and meetings with SCC Officers to take matters forward which will continue as details are finalised. BYCA is investing in a new website to be rolled out in two stages 1) to inform the community on progress and matters relating to the new Centre, and 2) live management of the Centre.

BYCA comment

We thank SCC's Cabinet for its support. Particularly County Councillor Curran and the Leader of SCC, Cllr Oliver, who have both been very supportive over the years, and instrumental in overcoming obstacles and getting this project funded.

The drive is now to get the Centre built as soon as possible. Let's hope we have no more "false dawns"!



After much village interest following the start of refurbishment work earlier in the year, as reported in our June newsletter, The Old Crown public house is now open for business.

The Old Crown re-opens!

Under the leadership of General Manager Lukas Ackermann and Head Chef Sorin Mihalache, The Old Crown will offer a seasonally changing, sustainably sourced menu, reflecting Heartwood's



BRA Chairman, Simon Edge, was invited by Heartwood Collection CEO Richard Ferrier to open the pub by the traditional method of cutting the ribbon and then pulling a pint! The Old Crown is a historic local pub that has undergone a multi-million-pound refurbishment by The Heartwood Collection to restore its classic charm while introducing modern amenities. The sympathetic renovation has created a beautiful and inviting space for the community, with seating for 260 guests inside and an additional 100 external covers.

commitment to quality and the environment. Head Chef Sorin recently appeared onstage at the Bookham Food Festival to give a demonstration of what to expect at the pub. The menu will be complemented by a carefully curated drinks list, featuring a selection of local cask ales. *"We are thrilled to be opening our 34th pub in the wonderful community of Great Bookham"*, said Richard Ferrier, CEO of Heartwood Collection. *"The Old Crown is a truly special pub and we've taken great care to create a warm and welcoming space for everyone to enjoy. We look forward to becoming a cornerstone of the community."*

Bookham Life Art at Lower Shott



Anyone who has waited for a bus, or hidden from the rain at the bus-shelter on the A246 by Lower Shott will know it is fairly drab place. Well, at the time of writing, that is about to change. As part of the renovation of the public toilet block the BRA and Mole Valley Council's Property Team are installing some colourful public art.

The artist is Elise Macfarlane, a Year 8 student at The Howard of Effingham School, who chose to centre her triptych on three famous authors with Bookham connections: Jane Austen, C.S Lewis and Lewis Carroll.

Elise tells us the first painting imagines Jane Austen, sitting outside Polesden Lacey House on a sunny afternoon writing one of her most famous novels, *Pride and Prejudice*. Jane's Godfather was Rev. Samuel Cooke, the vicar of St. Nicolas' Church, who she stayed with on several occasions.

The second painting depicts Alice (*Alice in Wonderland*) spotting a white rabbit fleeing down a hole on Bookham Common, while the Lion (*The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*) stands proudly above. Between 1914-17, the author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, C.S Lewis privately studied in Great Bookham with W.T. Kirkpatrick, the former Headmaster of Lurgan College, Northern Ireland. The author of *Alice in Wonderland*, Lewis Carroll, first arrived in Guildford in 1868. Although there is no direct information on Carroll visiting Bookham, there is a strong chance that he did at some point. Including Alice in the painting adds humour, as with every rabbit hole she comes across, Alice would always be intrigued by what could be down there! The three signposts: saying, "Bookham Common", "Narnia" and "Wonderland" shows three different 'worlds' intertwined with each other.

The third painting depicts Bookham Station with its iconic

bridge. Elise wanted to include the train station as she has many happy – slightly stressful! - memories of sprinting to the station and running up the bridge to hop on a nearly-leaving train!

For the original paintings Elise used Acrylic paint, her favourite medium because she can use different tools to add texture and layer up the different colours to create cool effects.

Well done Elise – a worthy winner of the BRA Life Art Competition





Lower Shott uplift

In addition to the artworks that will be installed at the bus stop, other refurbishments have been made by MVDC following a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) request by the BRA.

Work has included an upgrade to the toilets, a water bottle filling station and illumination of the village sign and power connection for other community events that take place.

What is Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) ?

CIL is a charge imposed on developers whenever new homes or retail space is built in Mole Valley. These funds help to pay for the infrastructure needed to respond to the impacts of new development.

- CIL is split into two parts: Neighbourhood CIL, which is used for neighbourhood level infrastructure, generally at the instigation of local organisations; and
- Strategic CIL (SCIL), which is useful for major infrastructure projects the need for which arises from the level and pattern of development across the district over the period of the Local Plan.

If you are involved with a community group that could take advantage of Neighbourhood CIL then the BRA may be able to help with your application. The MVDC process is rather complex!



John Howarth:
June 1944 - June 2025



John Howarth receiving his "BRA Contribution Award" in 2024 from BRA Chairman, Simon Edge.

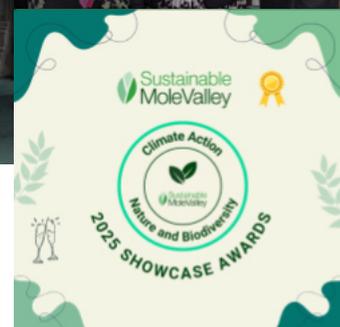
Les Huett remembers

Former BRA Company Secretary John Howarth has sadly passed away after a period of poor health.

John was our "go to" sage for anything related to local Council and Government regulation and was instrumental in setting up the BRA as a Company Limited by Guarantee in 2016 which has had many benefits for the Association.

I always remember John applying the Donald Rumsfeld, former United States Secretary of Defence, frequently referenced 2002 "Knowns and Unknowns" speech on weapons of mass destruction to the question of "Should Bookham have a Village Council?" referendum in 2017 which he took great delight in explaining!

BRA Team receives awards from Sustainable Mole Valley



On 16th October Sustainable Mole Valley (an initiative by Mole Valley District Council) held its inaugural Showcase Awards event to celebrate the incredible efforts of local organisations, volunteers, and community champions.

The Nature & Biodiversity category of the Mole Valley Sustainability Awards celebrates those who are planting trees, restoring habitats, conserving green spaces, and helping wildlife flourish. The BRA was nominated for its work in: Litter Picking, Tree Wardens, Blue Hearts in Bookham & Fetcham and Chalk Streams and received awards for Blue Hearts and Chalk Streams.

Congratulations to Diane and Steve Poole for their work on Blue Hearts and Julia Dickinson for her work on Chalk Streams.



Steve Poole receiving the Nature & Diversity award from Cllr Claire Malcolmson

This community-led project is transforming roadside verges and other areas into wildflower habitats which improve biodiversity. Marked by distinctive blue hearts, these spaces support pollinators and add bursts of colour to everyday journeys.

Bookham Beavers are Litter Pick Heros!



Join the BRA Litter Pick Keep Bookham tidy!



We meet on the first Sunday of the month at the Lower Shott car park at 11.00 a.m. If it's a Bank Holiday weekend, then we meet the following Sunday.

Gloves, grabs and high-vis tops will be provided and a session usually lasts around 90 minutes.

The Bookhams
Residents'
Association

bookhamresidents.org.uk
Tel. 0300 030 9899



Margaret Lawson - LitterPick co-ordinator

Litter picking in the Bookhams has continued - sadly there is still plenty for

us to collect. Many thanks to all our "Womblers" and also to our regular pickers who meet on the 1st Sunday of the month, unless it is a bank holiday weekend, in which case it's the 2nd Sunday.

We've been very pleased to have some youngsters joining us and also in July we were delighted to have some Beavers and their parents helping us too.

If you would like to join the team, do contact me via litterpicking@bookhamresidents.org.uk

Necessary equipment is provided.

Its non-stop for the Blue Hearts team!

After the Sustainable Mole Valley awards the Blue Hearts team have been busy planting the first tranche of 2,500 daffodils along the Lower Road Recreation ground cherry tree avenue! They are late-flowering white and other light varieties to go with the cherry blossom. The BRA have paid for the bulbs.



History of Fairfield House

An occasional article by Vivien White



Grade II listed Fairfield House is the large house half way down the High Street currently covered in scaffolding and plastic. It is the grandest building on the High Street, being a Georgian building of three stories which dominates its neighbours, many of which are Grade II listed cottages dating from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. So what is its history?

The plot is clearly marked on the wonderful 1614 Thomas Clay map as a double burgage plot of 7 acres with a small farmhouse owned by Thomas Bicknalls. Historic England think the farmhouse was replaced by the first version of the current house in the early 18th century. Between 1770 and 1975 it was owned in by various successful people from outside the area who chose it as a place to either continue their profession or retire in a village community.

The first known owners were George Otway and his son Jacob who moved there in 1770. George was a Freeman of the City of London, a member of the Salter Company and had a successful cheese broking business. The house may have been built for them but they were not to enjoy it for long as George died in 1777.

His son Jacob had died the year before, shortly after marrying Sarah Bell, a widow who had been born in Great Bookham. She inherited the house and in 1792 married George Lowdell, a surgeon.

In 1798 the couple appear to have remodelled and extended the house to its current appearance as its rental value almost doubled following the work. Sarah died in 1809 and after George Lowdell's death in 1827 the house was sold

to John Jardine, with Sarah's family receiving the proceeds. It was then bought by another surgeon, Robert Stedon and was probably first named Fairfield House during his ownership.

It was sold after his widow's death in 1889 to Charles Arnett, a wealthy retired tobacco merchant and his wife, Mary Jane. Mary Jane continued to live there with her unmarried daughters after Charles's sudden death in 1899. They were very involved in the church and village life with the youngest daughter having been said to have introduced the Boy Scout movement to Bookham. After Mary Jane died in 1921 the house was sold to the Rear Admiral Pudsey Dawson who lived there until 1935.

The house was then bought by Sir Frederick Jones Tucker KC who was made Baron Tucker of Great Bookham in 1950 after being appointed Lord of Appeal. He and his wife Lady Elisabeth obviously enjoyed living in Bookham as he chose it for his Barony. He is known for presiding over the trial of Lord Haw Haw, a pro German wartime propagandist and traitor, who was found guilty and executed.

After Lord Tucker died in 1975 the house was bought by local builders FJ Hyde & Sons. A single-story building was added behind the main house, the garden paved over and the land the house sat on reduced to a third of an acre. The rest of the

land was developed with about 350 square metres on the High Street being given to Mole Valley District Council as a village green. The current owners bought the house in 2002 and used it as the offices of their company. After the company was sold and the owner retired they obtained permission to return it to residential use as seven apartments. They decided to do this themselves to ensure that it was restored and its former original features retained and are working with the Conservation Officer at Mole Valley District Council. The apartments will be available for rent in the early 2026 and it will be great to see the house restored and back in residential use.



1804 map courtesy of Surrey History Centre



Restoration work in progress

I am hoping to finish my book on Little Bookham's history in time for next year's Heritage Open Day on Saturday 12th September at Manor Farm Tithe Barn in Little Bookham. If

anyone has any relevant old photos or documents, particularly original house deeds, they would be prepared to share with me please email me at:
littlebookhamhistory@btinternet.com

Christmas Lights in the shopping area

Geoff Tranter

Plans are proceeding to set up the ever popular Christmas Lights in the Bookhams shopping centre.

The BRA and many local businesses have agreed to sponsor the cost along with Mole Valley and Surrey County Council also contributing. Depending upon the sponsorship raised will determine the extent of the displays.

Our friends at Bookham and Horsley Rotary are hosting the Spirit of Christmas event once again on Saturday 6th December.

MVDC will be allowing free parking on the day in their local pay and display car parks

BOOKHAM SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2025
1:00PM - 4:00PM

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

HIGH STREET, BOOKHAM

What's happening when and where?

Time	Where	What
1:10pm	Top of High Street	Great Bookham School choir
1:30pm	Centre of High Street	Eastwick School choir
2:00pm	Top of High Street	Santa arrives & travels to his Grotto in Patrick Gardner
2:00pm	Centre of High Street	Action Theatre School choir
2:15pm	Top of High Street	Rampant Rooster Morris Dancers
2:15pm	Bottom of High Street	Churches Together choir
2:45pm	Top of High Street	Decibelles choir
3:00pm	Bottom of High Street	Rampant Rooster Morris Dancers
4:00pm	High Street	Santa leaves his Grotto and heads back to Lapland

Don't forget to look out for Santa on his Sleigh runs in and around Bookham - full details in winter 2025 edition of Bookham's Bulletin.

Rotary in Bookham & Horsley helps individuals and organisations, both locally and internationally, with donations of our time and money.

With more help we could do so much more, if you would like to get involved, in whatever capacity, please drop us an email at info@bhrotary.org.uk - we'd love to hear from you!

Rotary Charity number 264727

Rotary
Bookham & Horsley



BRA services for the community

The BRA has a number of activities and free services and to make day-to-day community life in Bookham just that little bit easier and to enjoy living in Bookham. To find out more visit the BRA website and use the Quick Links for the BRA, Community and Council & Utilities.



bookhamresidents.org.uk

Village Noticeboards

We have five noticeboards around the village. We accept A4 and A5 posters. For more details on how to submit and what we accept are available on the BRA website

Litter Pick

We meet on the first Sunday of the month at Lower Shot at 11.00 am. If it's a Bank Holiday weekend then we meet the following weekend. Kit is provided. Please note participants must be aged 16 or over or if under 16 assisting as part of a recognised organisation or with an adult.

Community Events Calendar

Advertise your your one off or regularly occurring events on the Community Events Calendar.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Not sure if you have something that is recyclable but isn't accepted by MVDC ? With our simple tool you can enter the item and it will show if the item can be recycled locally by other recycling groups.

Service Requests & Reporting Portal

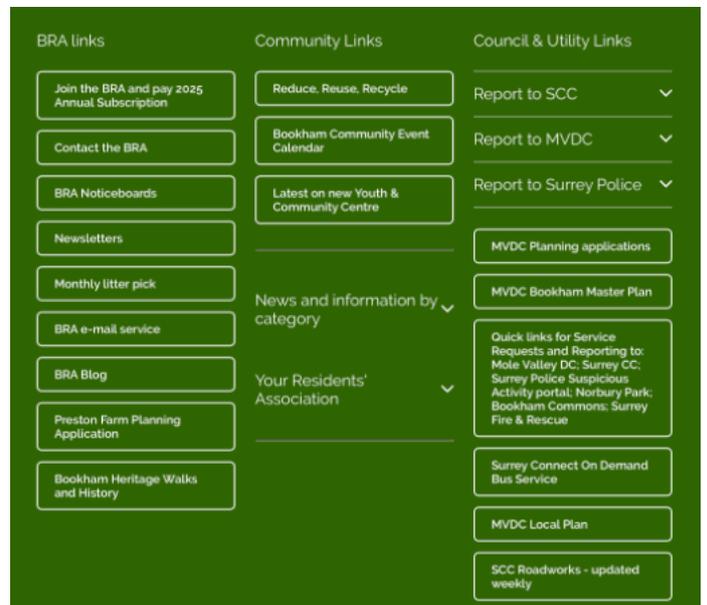
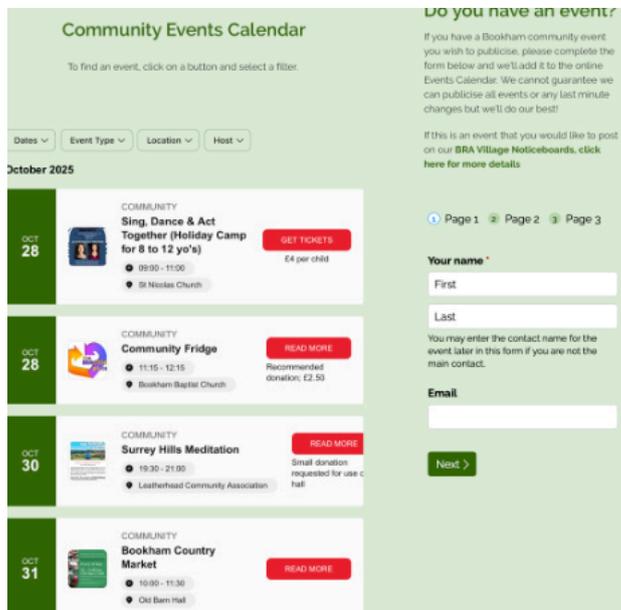
Not sure who to report a street cleaning request or overhanging branches or a pothole to, or seen something suspicious on your video doorbell? Our Service Report portal has all the links to the relevant authorities.

Bench refurbishment programme

Did you know that there are over 50 benches around Bookham. We run a programme in conjunction with funding from MVDC and employing local trades people to maintain the benches. We check the benches on a regular basis to check safety and condition and arrange reconditioning or replacement as necessary.



A new bench installed by the bus stop on Little Bookham Street which is much used and appreciated by waiting passengers.



Just Park...

John Downman gives some tips on how to avoid SMS text message charges when using the "Just Park" app at National Trust car parks.



The National Trust has introduced the Just Parking app to control parking in a number of its smaller car parks, such as Bookham Commons.

Some residents have experienced problems with using the app as

National Trust members park for free but may be charged still for SMS updates depending on their settings. We show you how to avoid this when setting up the app.

First, you need to download the Just Park app, if you don't have it already, and sign up, inputting your details, your car's registration and your method of payment. If you are a National Trust member, parking will continue to be free. For this you need to add also your NT membership, manually or by scanning your card; follow the prompts.

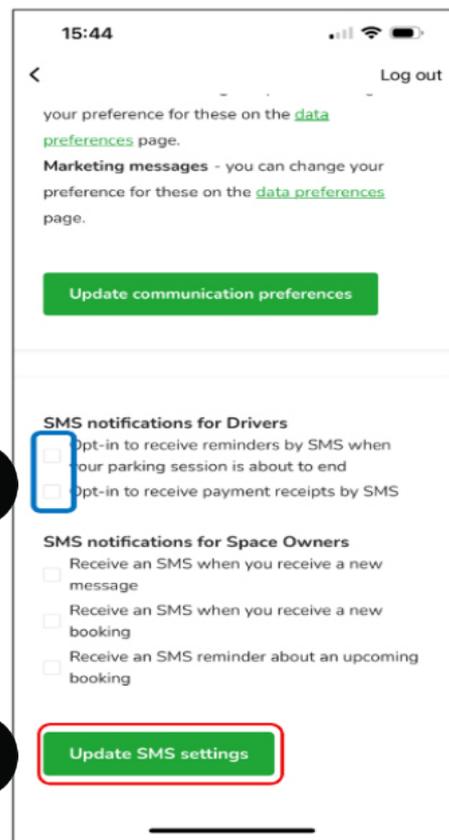
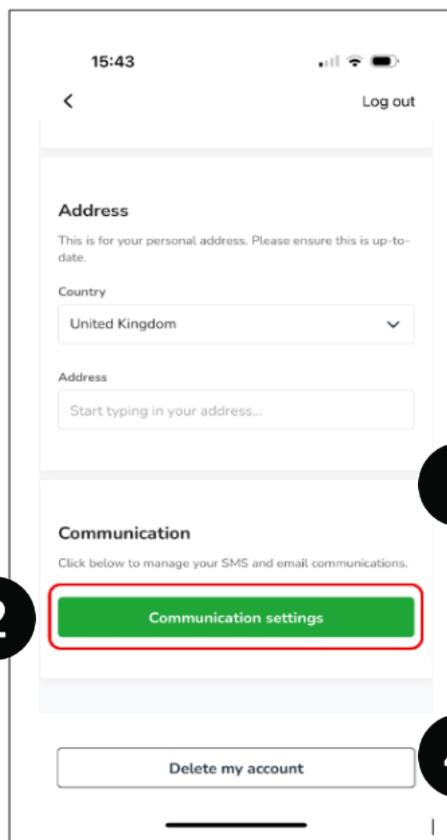
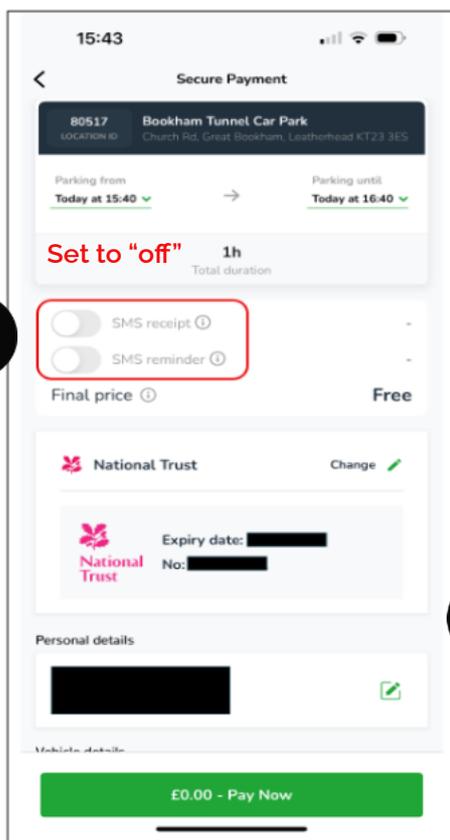
So, when you park, input the location ID. This will appear in the future as a drop-down. Then you input start time and leaving time.

However, if you receive parking notifications by SMS you will be charged for these; many have been caught out initially and perplexed by the small charge.

To avoid these charges, your final screen should look with the SMS reminders within the red outline set to off.

To reset your SMS reminders to off, go to the top right of your home screen where you will see your initials. Tap on your initials and then scroll all the way down until you see Communication Settings (highlighted in red below). Click on Communication Settings. Now, ensure that the two boxes within the blue outline below are unticked. If not, you will be charged 20p per SMS by JustPark, not the National Trust. Then click on Update SMS Settings outlined in red). Return to the home page.

That's it. A pain first time but there is no need to repeat.





Surrey Highways Update - Autumn 2025

CLLr Clare Curran

During the summer months, two roads, Eastwick Drive and Guildford Road, had a surface dressing treatment, which is a preventative treatment that seals and waterproofs the road and is intended to prolong the life of the road surface by up to 10 years. Surface dressing can improve the appearance of heavily patched roads. It is also a more environmentally friendly, as materials are reused to conserve natural resources wherever possible and is up to three to four times cheaper than alternative ways of maintaining a road.

The plans for delivery of the safety scheme for Church Road and the associated 20mph zone in the heart of the village have had to be delayed until the end of the year because of the difficulty of scheduling this work when there were road closures elsewhere in the village.

The verge cutting programme began three weeks earlier this year so that contractors would get ahead of the growing season and six verge cuts will be completed across the village through to October 2025. Contractors do not cut those verges which are designated Blue Heart verges. You can also access the countywide grass cutting map on the SCC website for more information.

Roadside Rangers have also been working in Bookham to keep pavements and footpaths accessible; the gangs have cut back vegetation and sided out the pavements along Guildford Road, making it easier and safer for children to walk to Great Bookham School.

The Horizon programme is for roads that need major maintenance and reconstruction. During this financial year 2025/6,

Lower Road is due to be fully resurfaced from the district boundary, Manor House Lane through to Kennel Lane. The surface is failing now and this work will greatly improve this road through our village.

There is always information online about roadworks that are planned or are happening. Residents can use the roadworks map on www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/roadworks/map

Or scan the QR code below.



Community Safety

Neil Clarke

Since taking on the role of Police Liaison for the Bookhams Residents' Association, I have been in regular contact with your local policing team and made them aware of several issues that have been raised by local residents. The most significant was reporting suspicions of the location of a

cannabis "farm", which has since been closed down and an arrest made. Others have included issues relating to e-scooters, general anti-social behaviour and speeding (particularly on parts of the A246 through the village). The most important feedback to pass on is that people need to report every

incident of concern, either via 101 or online to the Surrey Police website. By reporting all incidents patterns can be recognised, and the police's attention drawn to issues of concern to local residents.

The local policing team have assured me that they are looking into the possibility of re-starting a Community Speedwatch in the village. They are also active

in case-building evidence in relation to reports of particular reports of anti-social behaviour so that appropriate enforcement measures can be implemented.

Now, with my crime reduction advisor's hat back on, here are some tips for reducing vulnerability to theft.

Please remember the importance of security relating to outside sheds where you may store gardening tools, mowers etc. A very simple deterrent against theft is to paint a symbol, house name or post code on items using some brightly coloured gloss paint. This makes items easily identifiable and much less likely to be stolen for resale at a car boot sale. Also, installing a simple battery-powered, motion activated lighting outside; and/or an intruder alarm in a shed or outbuilding is a very effective deterrent against potential theft. The "intruder" will not know if it is connected to a house alarm and they are more likely to leave rather than take the risk of being caught.

Finally, for this edition, the use of timers to bring on lights in a staggered pattern inside your home is also a good idea if you are not going to be around for any length of time. It gives the impression of occupancy and burglars are always attracted to homes in darkness that appear to be unoccupied. I hope this advice is of some help?

If you need any advice you can contact Neil via the BRA website.



What's happening at Keswick Care Home site?

Cllr Clare Curran

In February 2022, SCC's cabinet agreed to close a number of council-run homes for older people, including the former Keswick Care Home and to explore opportunities for developing the sites for alternative adult social care services. Keswick Care Home was closed the following year as the building could not be modified to allow for a safe and appropriate level of care for residents.

In the summer, the next stage in development of the Keswick site was reached when a cabinet decision was taken to proceed to tendering for development agreements for five council-owned sites, including Keswick, for the delivery of supported accommodation units which will provide social care and support for people with mental health needs,

The development of the Keswick site will provide much-needed, self-contained long-term accommodation for local people with mental health needs, which means that they will be able to be cared for and supported more efficiently and appropriately than they would be in shared facilities. Self-contained accommodation promotes greater privacy, dignity and independence and helps to avoid some of the challenges of shared accommodation where the compatibility of residents with their own individual needs can be difficult to match with available accommodation.



Supported Independent Living can:

- Enable people to remain in the same accommodation as their needs change
- Help people to self-care and promote independent living skills
- Foster links with the local community and enable people receiving services to access the wider community and play an active part in community life
- Be domestic in nature and not resemble institutional care homes
- Provide a level of on-site support and care by staff which can scale to changing needs.

The site will need planning permission for the planned development and in line with usual planning procedures, there will be full consultation with local residents. Before the formal planning process starts, teams from the council's Adult Social Care service will hold engagement events in the village to ensure that residents are fully briefed on the plans for the site and the planned new facility.

Please support the BRA by paying your subscription by using one of the options below.

Thank you to those Residents who have already paid their subscription this year.

We that hope you have enjoyed reading the articles throughout the Newsletter. We can however only continue this important work with the help of those who support us whether that is through volunteering or by payment of subscriptions.

We are now collecting subscriptions for our financial year from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025. We have been able to hold the annual subscription at £5.00 per household. We would be grateful if you are able to also make an additional donation, however small, to help us continue to support our community

Ways to Pay

Many of you will be familiar with our Road Stewards who call once a year to collect the annual subscription along with delivering the Newsletters. We have a diminishing number of Road Stewards so here are the other ways you can pay. Even if you do have a Road Steward why not try one of these other ways to pay – it will save them from having to call.

Use the QR Code

Scan with your smart phone and be taken to the BRA website and click on "Join the BRA and pay 2025 annual subscription" button.

Pay online

Visit the BRA website and head to the Subscriptions page. You can use a credit or debit card to pay through our secure payment system. You can select subscription only, subscription and donation, or donation only by clicking on the button on the left.

When you are paying online please note the following: After you enter your card details you have to type in your postcode (this is in the box that has the postcode WS11 1DB) in it, you will be able to type over this). If you do not do this you will get an "Invalid Card" message.

This does mean that you will have entered your postcode twice on the form. The first time is for our records, but the second time is for verification of your credit or debit card and like your card details, it can not be seen by the BRA.

Pay by telephone using a credit or debit card.

Call the BRA helpline on 0300 030 9890 and leave your name, telephone number and a "code word" of your choosing (something simple like a pet's name is ideal).

A volunteer will ring you back and identify themselves with your code word and will input your payment

card details into our secure payment system during the telephone call. Your payment details are not retained

Standing Order and Bank Transfers

If you would like further details to pay by standing order or bank transfer please email us at:

membership@bookhamresidents.org.uk

or call our helpline on 0300 030 9890 and we will get back to you.

If you pay by this method please put as your reference your surname and the LAST 3 digits of your postcode e.g. Brown3NL. This helps us to record your membership against your address.

Subscription payment

- Subscription only
- Subscription + donation of £5
- Subscription + donation of £10
- Subscription + donation of £15
- Subscription + donation of £20
- Please select this button if you wish to make an additional donation only.

Select subscription or subscription and donation if you are able to.

Important: When entering your card details below, please enter your postcode in the last box where it says "Postal Code". WS11 1DB may appear when you click in the box. This code is for guidance only. If you do not enter your post code you will receive a "Card Invalid" message. The use of your post code is for validation purposes only.

Once you have entered your post code click on "Submit" to complete your subscription. Thank you.

Payment

Card number		Subscription payment
Expiry date		- Subscription + donation of £5
Security code		Amount Due: £10.00
United Kingdom		
Postal code		
<input type="button" value="Submit"/>		

Please enter your postcode here

Not sure if you have already paid your membership this year? Email membership@bookhamresidents.org.uk and our Membership Secretary will be able to advise you.

Pay your subscription online at: bookhamresidents.org.uk

Or scan the QR code on your mobile

