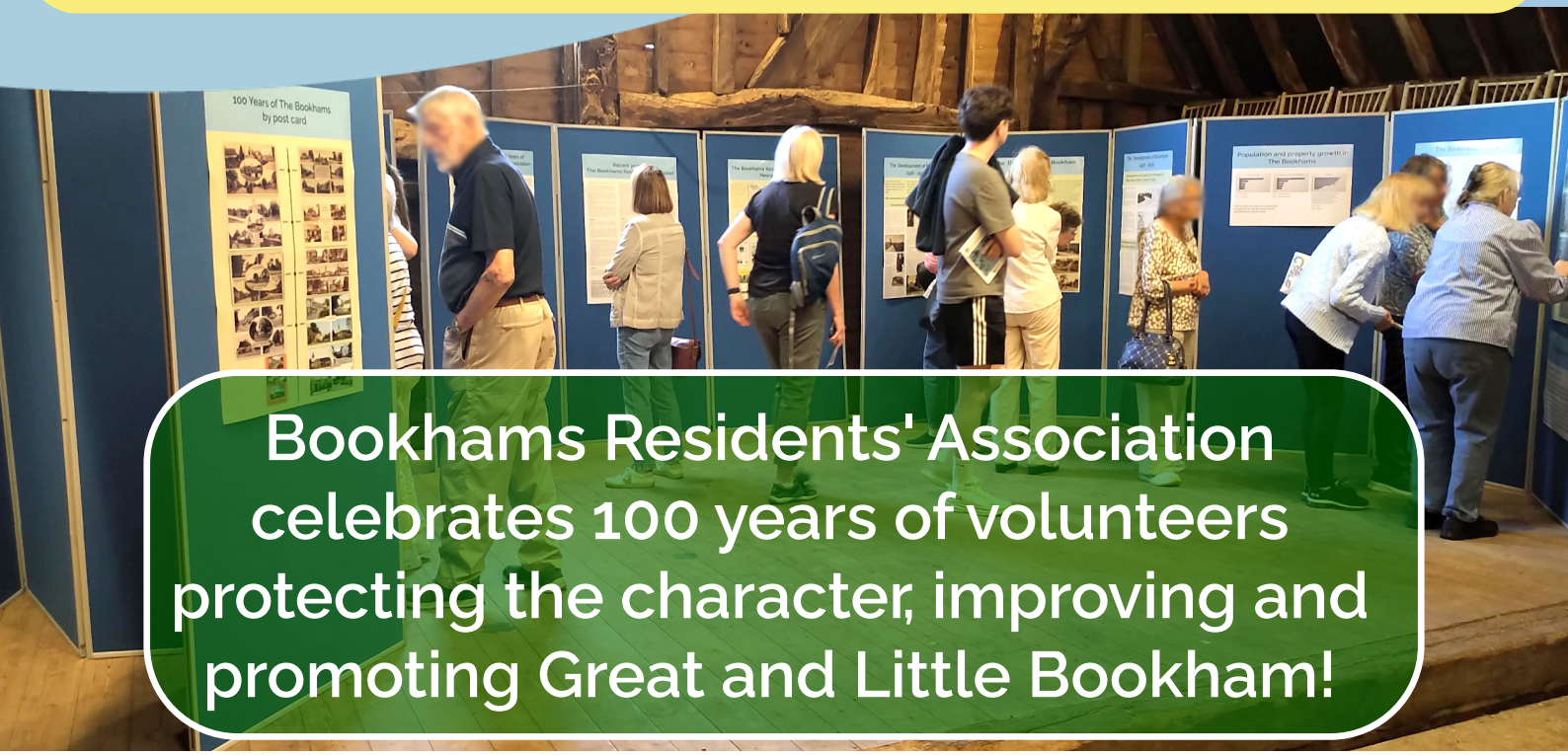
The Bookhams Residents' Association

bookhamresidents.org.uk
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# November 2026

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## Bookhams Residents' Association celebrates 100 years of volunteers protecting the character, improving and promoting Great and Little Bookham!

## Welcome to the BRA's Centenary Newsletter

### Simon Edge BRA Chairman

**In this edition we celebrate the BRA's centenary. It was lovely to see hundreds of residents attend the AGM and the exhibition at the Tithe Barn in Manor House Lane, to help celebrate the first 100 years of BRA voluntary service for the community. We also have articles on current issues to help keep residents up to date, and include things that "you just couldn't make it up"!**

We also celebrate the building of the new Youth and Community Centre which should be completed soon, and open for use in the New Year. The Bookham Youth and Community Association's massive efforts over many years are finally coming to fruition. Huge congratulations to David Cox and his team on their great achievement.

**As always I thank our volunteers for what they do for the community.**

In this edition we particularly celebrate Margaret Lawson - our "Litter Picking Queen". Margaret has organised the monthly litter pick for over 10 years, overseeing the removal of thousands of bags of rubbish from the village centre. Thank you Margaret, and enjoy your retirement.

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I must also congratulate the Reverend Canon Alan Jenkins on his impending retirement as the Rector of St Nicholas Church. Alan has been a friend to the BRA during his 20 years here and we all wish him a very happy retirement.

**Supporting the community.** The projects team has been replacing and refurbishing benches, and is now organising the Christmas lights. A significant new project is working with MVDC to include equipment for older children as part of the refurbishment of the Lower Rd Recreation Ground's play equipment.

We have two articles on major issues that will significantly impact the Bookhams. But first, a quick update on East Surrey Council (ESC) (Formerly known as East Surrey Unitary Authority).

ESC is working through its implementation plan, and making all the right sorts of noises about how it will communicate with and listen to residents. It has not yet set out clear policies to be implemented, but no doubt they will follow in due course. One thing is clear in the current messaging, money will be tight!

We remain keen to see the ESC set up a Neighbourhood Area Committee in our area to promote effective two-way communications. This will probably have to wait until after 1st April 2027, however, our local Councillor, Andrew Matthews, says he is very supportive of the idea.

The BRA will need to update its Articles of Association at the next AGM to reflect the creation of ESC, and demise of MVDC and SCC.

**Bookhams Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)** is a formal planning document and the current NDP passes its 'best before' date around the end of the year. While it is not a panacea for protecting our community from acquisitive development, we are convinced that the Bookhams will be better off with a new NDP than without one. So, the BRA is proposing to act as a catalyst, including providing funding, to drive a new NDP forward.

SCC is leading on creating a **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan** (LCWIP), a long term plan for improving walking/cycling networks, and access for those using mobility aids. The intentions are well meaning, but there are many significant challenges to find solutions to. The acceptability of any LCWIP proposals will depend on their practicality, affordability, and equity in producing a sensible outcome.

Sometimes the BRA comes across issues that I look at and think **"Seriously? You just couldn't make this up!"...** We have two such issues in this Newsletter.

First, residents have told us, in no uncertain terms that **SCC's initial consultation on the redevelopment of the former Keswick Care Home** has been very badly handled. A leaflet drop is said to have been incomplete and lacking information, there was no face-to-face meeting arranged for residents, only on-line presentations with limited Q&A, and that digitally excluded some residents.

Residents are staggered that a proposal for a four storey development could be made in a residential area made up of two story houses and flats, and bungalows. They are particularly worried by overlooking of their properties and the safeguarding of neighbouring children related sites, plus the nature of tenancies and management of tenanted flats.

SCC must do better than this, listen to residents' concerns and make significant changes to its redevelopment plans.
Second, **Berkeley Homes**, having reneged on its agreement to build

**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 production: Les Huett**
**Newsletter print: Simon Jordan, Surrey Litho**

a new Howard of Effingham School, is now seeking permission to build around 600 homes on the site instead.

A recent public meeting held by Berkeley Homes saw a capacity KGV hall of well over 100 people (with the same number unable to enter) ask questions including about scale, traffic congestion, infrastructure, and medical facilities etc. A number of Berkeley's responses brought jeers from the audience.

Berkeley has spent many years saying the Howard of Effingham School was not fit for purpose so it could justify getting (very special circumstances) planning consent. Now it thinks the School is fit to take in children from another 600 new homes. Really?

The BRA will work with Effingham's Parish Council and Residents Association on areas of shared concern, especially those compounding from the Preston Farm development.

**And Finally** I would like to thank Les Huett for all his work putting the BRA Newsletters together for the past 15 years. As Les moves on to other activities, this superb Centenary edition Newsletter is a testament to his hard work for residents and the BRA.

**That's all from me, enjoy the festive season!**

Simon



**Simon Edge**
**BRA Chairman**

# 100th Annual General Meeting and Anniversary Heritage Weekend

## Les Huett



heritage open days



On 19th July the BRA held it's Centenary AGM at the Old Barn Hall . It was a full house and in addition to the normal AGM business a light hearted presentation was given on the history of the BRA and it's parallels with the life of Queen Elizabeth II who was also born in 1926.

As part of the celebrations Bookham resident, Barry Feltham, had on display some of his collection of postcards of life in the Bookhams for the last 100 years. They are a fascinating piece of local and social history. Refreshments were also served and there was much chatting and reminiscing! One guest even went as far as to say that it was the best AGM he had ever attended!

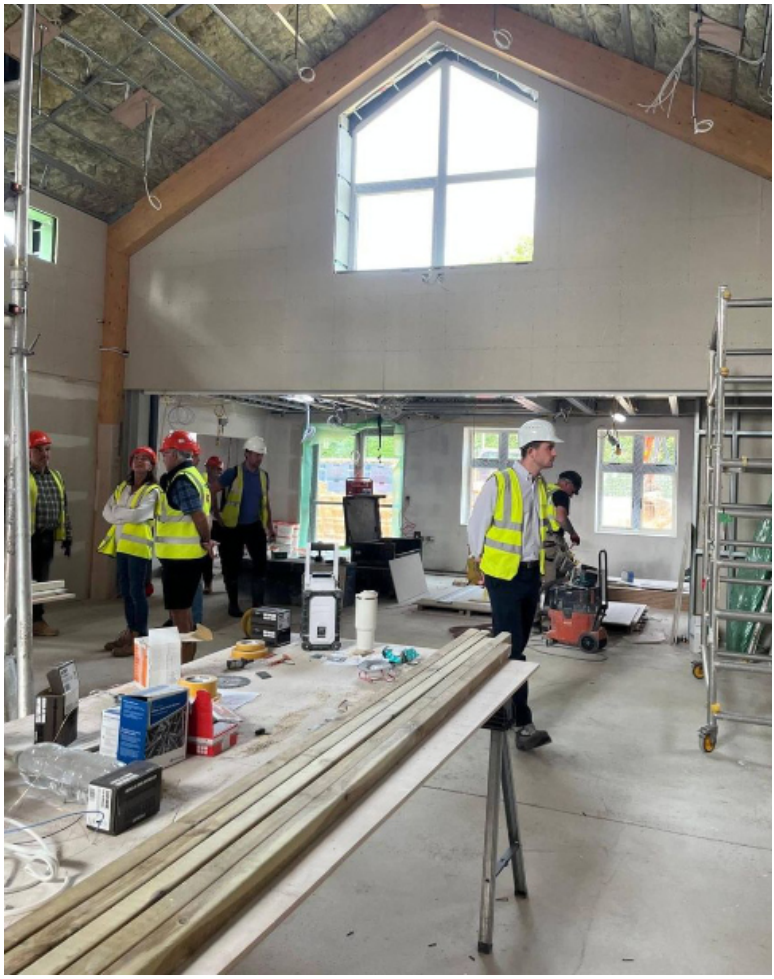
To complete the Centenary Celebrations, and as part of the Heritage Open Days festival, respected local historian Vivien White and BRA's Les Huett created a 12 panel history of the Bookhams and the BRA's part of it. You can read Vivien's article on pages 10-15.

Also included in the display were maps showing stories on development in the last 100 years; aerial photos from 1922; Local government and MPs; education; Bookham by postcard; population and growth of the Bookhams. Such was the interest that many visitors asked Vivien and Les to produce a booklet which is being considered. We also plan to add more content to the Bookham history on the BRA website,

# Bookham Youth & Community Centre - built by Christmas?

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



Progress on the building of the new Centre has been rapid over the Summer months and we are advised by Surrey County Council (SCC) that works should be completed by Christmas.

A number of hurdles have been overcome with the help of BRA. After completion, there will be a hand over period to Bookham Youth & Community Association (BYCA) from SCC including the completion of the Lease.

After that, the building will need to be fitted out with furniture & equipment for which a grant has been obtained from Your Fund Surrey. The Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), includes football, two pickle ball courts and basketball, will also be opened. During this time, the opportunity will be taken to open the centre for people to have a look around.

The plan is that once it is open, the Centre will host after school Youth work and activities three afternoons per week, free at the point of delivery. The Bookham Colts Football Club U9 teams will be using the MUGA for training etc.

The facilities will be available for community hire. Anyone want to set up a daytime Pickle Ball Club? In the meantime, BYCA's team of volunteers are busy getting things in place and special mention must be made of the Anchor Pub who provided funds for the development of our website and towards future youth work costs.

We have recruited a good team but we could do with a few more to help in a variety of areas even if it is just a small amount of time. No experience needed. A little bit of time given makes a big difference! For more information and to sign up for updates:
**www. bookhamyouth.org.uk**

# The Anchor Pub - helping local charities and good causes

Tony Mann




For many years the customers of The Anchor pub, on the Lower Road, used to raise around £10,000 a year for local charities and good causes. That excellent work tailed off over the last couple of years as the Anchor went through some difficult management issues.

Happily, now, those difficulties have been overcome. Early this summer, Brian and Theresa Turner, local people and regulars at The Anchor for many years, became the new landlords. Under their management, and the improvements they have made, the Anchor is thriving again and that means the amount of money raised for local charities is increasing rapidly.

In fact the amount of money raised on a weekly basis for charities and good causes is back up to its former level, and a total of £10,000 for the year looks within reach. This will come as great news for all the local beneficiaries including amongst others: Home Start (the local charity that helps young needy families), and the Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance, who between them receive £100 each month; and Dementia Care, Bookham Youth & Community Centre, Epsom Hospital, Leatherhead Hospital, Good Company,(formerly The Foodbank), and the KGV Sports Ground, which all receive varying donations.

A tremendous recent event, a tombola at a ladies tea party at The Anchor, raised over £2,000 for the Royal Marsden at Sutton. A wonderful amount with huge thanks going to many of the Bookham High Street retailers and local suppliers such as Conisbees for their support by donating tombola prizes.

**It is great to see The Anchor doing well again. Good company, food and drink, and supporting charities and good causes. Keep up the good work!**

# Community Safety

Neil Clarke

While the hot summer months helped discourage some anti-social behaviour, local residents still experienced issues with vandalism, shoplifting, and late-night noise from motorbikes and cars. Although reporting every incident can feel thankless, it remains vital for helping the police assess the true scale of local issues and allocate their resources effectively.
To help residents stay safe from evolving criminal tactics, Surrey Police have released the fifth edition of The Little Book of Big Scams.
**https://www.surrey.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/surrey/advice/watch-schemes-and-initiatives/operation-signature/surrey-book-of-scams.pdf**

.Key topics covered in the guide include:

- **Online Shopping**
- **Computer Services Fraud**
- **Romance Scams**
- **Courier & Door-to-Door Fraud**
- **Advance Fee Fraud**

The guide also outlines **ten golden rules** to avoid victimisation, emphasising that neither your bank nor the police will ever call to ask for your PIN, passwords, or ask you to transfer money to a "safe account."

# Neighbourhood Development Plan

John Downman

## What's a Neighbourhood Development Plan?

The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) allows our community to define in a planning context its vision for the area, covering issues such as housing, offices, retail, parking and the environment. The NDP, once adopted, becomes a formal planning document to be considered when planning submissions are made. It sets out the local policies but is subservient to the Council's Local Plan and any national legislation.

**The Benefits**

Apart from embedding the local perspective on the planning documents and decisions, as far as one can, having an NDP in place allows more local influence on how money from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is allocated. CIL is the charge which can be levied by the local authority on new development. It affords funding for local organisations and the local authority to help deliver the infrastructure needed to support development.

**Bookham's NDP**

The current NDP was prepared by Bookham Vanguard, a community group formed just for the process. It runs from 2015 until the end of this year. It sets out policies on:

- Environment – trees & hedgerows
- Design & local character
- Development of housing
- Infrastructure – highways, drainage, education, healthcare & community facilities
- Retail & employment – High Street, Lower Shott, other retail sites, industrial/commercial land

A number of these policies need updating and expanding to respond to changes since 2015. Also, a mandatory part of the process is a new survey of housing needs in the Bookhams. Whilst the development of an updated NDP must be independent of existing resident or community associations, the BRA is proposing to act as the catalyst to get a new Forum up and running to drive this forward. There are various costs involved in the process, we estimate around £10,000 over three years, as well as time, but we believe that it is worthwhile. The original Bookham Vanguard benefited from government grants, but these are no longer available, so we are exploring other potential sources.

**The Key Steps**

1. Set up a new Bookham Vanguard, or whatever the name of the new forum is.
2. Obtain permission from the Council to establish the new forum.
3. Establish the new forum and meet. Start to gather inputs.
4. Conduct the housing needs survey; this is by an independent group appointed by MVDC
5. Public consultations during the process of reviewing the NDP and developing updated/ new policies, with additional consultation on the final draft. This process must be open, demonstrable and will be subject to audit.
6. Submit a draft of an updated NDP to the government appointed inspector.
7. Liaison and revision to obtain approval, with further public consultation as required.

**How Long Does It Take?**

We are envisaging between 2 – 3 years, based on Westcott Parish Council 's NDP which has just received approval. The duration of the consultations is set under statute, making much acceleration of the process hard. Also, the more that we may want to add or change looking towards the needs of 2030 – 2040 is likely to mean more work.

**We would like to hear from you if you are interested in joining the forum; and if you have any thoughts on our proposals to resource and drive this forward?**

bookhamresidents.org.uk

# The Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan

John Downman

## What is It?

The Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), is a scheme to improve cycling and walking routes between Leatherhead and Effingham as part of the Active Travel England initiative. The study is managed by Surrey County Council (SCC), with professional input from AtkinsRealis, the global infrastructure and engineering practice. The project team has worked to varying degrees with relevant residents' associations and the local cycling forum for relevant sections of the route.

**Recent Input**

Previous meetings had focussed on the Leatherhead/Fetcham sections of the route; however, the BRA is now a party to consultations on the development of options for the route through Bookham. The BRA met with the project team on 21st September to discuss the Bookhams' section, its many challenges and the limited options tabled to date.

**The Challenges**

- Significant sections of the Lower Road have no grass verges and some have a pavement only on one side.
- The restricted widths passing through the historic centre and the Squareabout.
- Some sections, especially to the west, are prone to regular flooding from groundwater.

**Options under Consideration by the project team, that we are currently aware of**

- Create a diversionary route via Keswick Road and bringing cyclist back onto the Lower Road via Eastwick Road past the Finch's yard. The poor condition of the road surface has been discussed.
- Short sections of a dedicated cycle lane where sufficient grass verges allow.
- A shared cycle/ traffic lane where a dedicated lane is impractical.
- Cyclists pass through the Squareabout, aided by upgraded crossings.
- A significant increase in the number of crossings across the length of the Lower Road, for pedestrians and cyclists.
- New crossings along Church Road and Little Bookham Street.
- Extending the 20mph zone.
- Losing 10 of the 18 on-street parking spaces in the High St.

**The Next Stage**

SCC/Atkins propose a public consultation towards the end of the year to help determine a preferred route, following which the scheme will require costing and an application made to the LCWIP (under central government) for the required funding. We do not know dates at the time of writing.

# Projects Update

Geoff Tranter and Debbie Shand



The Projects team has been busy planning this year's Christmas lights, and seeking contributions from local businesses to add to the grant funds obtained from Mole Valley and Surrey County councils.

We have also installed a new bench on the Garston's triangle to replace one that was worn out and recycled another bench to a new location at the junction of Beales Rd and Dorking Rd.

Exciting improvements are planned for Lower Road Recreation Ground as part of Mole Valley District Council's (MVDC's) programme to renew play equipment across the district. A total of £300,000 has been allocated from Community Infrastructure Leavy to improvements at the Rec, including £100,000 secured by the BRA specifically to provide facilities for older children.

While consultation so far has focused on play facilities for younger children, we want to make sure older children have their say too. We have agreed with MVDC to carry out a separate engagement exercise early next year, giving older children the opportunity to tell us what facilities they would most like to see.

# Bookham Common: Changes over the years

## Keeping residents up to date with the ongoing management of Bookham Commons

Tom Harrison

**Since prehistoric times, when the Commons was woodland, a combination of hunting and grazing, has largely created the mosaic landscape we enjoy now.**







Near 1000 years ago, the manorial landlords considered the Commons to be lower-value land, as it was too wet for agriculture. This 'waste' land was instead set aside for common use, with rights such as grazing and collecting firewood attached to specific properties and passed down to subsequent residents. The routine use of these rights would have maintained a much more open landscape. Landlords also impacted the appearance and habitats of the Commons. The five main ponds were dug to provide fish for Chertsey Abbey. First recorded in the 18th century, the ponds might well be much older than that.

Since the 1940s, trees and bushes have nearly filled all the open spaces due to a lack of grazing and the loss of a large and hungry rabbit population which historically kept them at bay. The National Trust reintroduced grazing on The Plains which, combined with hand-pulling saplings and judicious mechanical clearing, should restore more ecologically diverse open grassland. These areas constitute a remnant of lowlands semi-wet meadows, now a rare and precious habitat.

In the past, Commoners kept warm with wood harvested through regular, rotational coppicing. This tradition is now being reinvigorated by National Trust volunteers in the winter months. This is different from the felling of mature trees. Many of the large trees felled in recent years are Turkey Oaks, an invasive species, which overshadows native species and prevents them from thriving.

Historic grazing pressure allowed many trees, particularly oaks, the necessary space and light to grow into the magnificent and sprawling old trees seen across the Commons. Many of these trees are still growing and if future generations are to enjoy them, then some younger trees must be removed soon to give them space to 'breathe'. Dead and dying trees will be kept wherever possible though, as they are essential hosts to many rare insects, birds, bats for which Bookham Commons are nationally renowned.

You may have noticed bundles of small branches called fascines around the ponds. These, and other traditional techniques, are being used to protect banks which are being worn away by regular dog-use. The NT has also included a ramp of fascines at the Isle of Wight Pond to create a safe place for dogs to enjoy the water while protecting the banks.

Of course, other changes are encouraged by climate change, such as "summer and early Autumn branch drop" as trees try to conserve water, and the appearance of new bird species such as the magnificent Little and Great White Egrets.

**So what can we all do to support the right kind of long-term change on the Commons?**

Please do cherish and enjoy the Commons but be careful not to leave rubbish, including any kind of green waste. This summer, we had green waste fly-tipped onto The Plains. This dump included poisonous plants which killed three cows, which horrified the many people who saw the bodies before they could be removed.

**Any green waste fly-tip found in the cattle enclosure should be reported immediately to our 24hr Emergency number 01372 540221.**

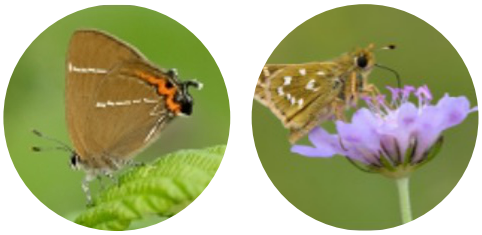
And of course, dog poo should be bagged and properly disposed of. Unfortunately, there is still a lot of dog poo being left by the tracks or even piled up in bags. Our thanks to those of you that do remove your dog's poo or place it in the designated bins: please can we all do the same.

We should all continue to be curious about the activities we see on the Common, how it changes over the seasons and years, and the conservation measures taken to mitigate unwanted change. Ella, the National Trust Ranger, will be happy to answer any questions if you see her, or you can contact The Friends of Bookham Commons at info@bookhamcommons.org.uk

# Norbury Park Conservation Group Volunteers

Paul Bristowe





The volunteers have continued to support Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) and Surrey County Council (SCC) over the summer. For SCC the main tasks were clearing back overgrowing vegetation on designated footpaths and bridleways. There was less work during the summer months supporting SWT, but one of the most enjoyable and enlightening day was a butterfly walk and talk led by representatives of the Small Blue Conservation Group. We were pleasantly surprised to learn that two rare butterflies can be found on site, the White Letter Hairstreak and Silver Spotted Skipper.

Over the autumn and winter the volunteers are supporting SWT on improving the chalk grasslands. We are lucky to have this habitat on Norbury Park as it is rare worldwide. It is also a diverse habitat with up to forty different species of plants in one square metre. However, if left unmanaged it will disappear.

The volunteers will be busy using tree poppers (a device used to pull up small trees) and mattocks to remove the roots to prevent regrowth. Most of the scrub will be burnt.

The Belted Galloway cattle returned to help keep the grasses short, this year they are grazing freely using no-fence technology within virtual boundaries (so no electric fencing this year), further information is on the SWT web page below.

The volunteers also support SCC on a hazel coppice in The Hazels. This is a traditional woodland management activity and is normally carried out on a seven to eight year cycle. The work is beneficial in letting light onto the floor of the wood and helps to revitalize the wood with vigorous new growth to the benefit of small mammals, invertebrates, etc. Straight stems are processed for stakes and binders for hedgelaying, and tree planting stakes for use on the SCC estate. It is also planned to improve the view from both the main viewpoints.

Anyone interested in joining work parties please register on the SWT website under Volunteering and express an interest in Norbury Park. www.surreywildlifetrust.org

# The founding and 100 Years of The Bookhams Residents' Association 1926 -2026

**Researched and written by Vivien White**

The Bookhams Residents' Association was founded in 1926 as the Great Bookham Ratepayers' Association.

It was renamed the Bookhams Ratepayers' Association on 30th March 1930 when it was agreed at the AGM that Little Bookham residents could join the Association.

By 1946 it had been renamed the Bookhams Residents' Association.

This account has been researched from local newspaper articles, committee meeting minutes and BRA newsletters.

Unfortunately there are some gaps where records no longer exist. If any residents have any records that could fill in the gaps, please get in touch.

## The Founding of BRA in 1926 and the 1920s and 1930s

No records survive that give the exact date of the founding of the BRA or explain why the Association was formed. The late 1920s and early 1930s were however a peak period for the formation of such associations because of rapid post-First World War housing expansion. And this is exactly was what was happening in Bookham at this time. Ratepayers' Associations were established for residents to have a say in the development of their area and they advocated for infrastructure such as roads, sewage and lighting without raising local taxes. This is what the BRA would do in this period.

Two of the co-founders of the Association are recorded. They were William Leavis and Charlie Pelling, who were Chairman and Vice Chairman of Great Bookham Parish Council at the time. The Parish Council had been formed in 1894. The councillors had originally tended to be the wealthier local residents, but the parish council was struggling for support by the 1920s as new people moved into the village and the longstanding councillors like Arthur Bird of The Grange, who was Parish Council Chairman for many years, died.

William Leavis and Charlie Pelling had both moved to Great Bookham in 1923. William Leavis had become a Trade Association Secretary having come from a working class background and Charlie Pelling had been an electrical engineer. William Leavis became a parish councillor by 1925 and by 1929 was Chairman of the Parish Council and a Bookham councillor on the Epsom Rural District Council. Charlie Pelling became Vice Chairman of the Parish Council. They obviously saw the Ratepayers' Association as the way of encouraging residents to participate in village affairs and after helping found the BRA they both went on the new committee.

From its inception BRA worked closely with the parish council including raising funds for joint representation to an Inquiry on Mains Drainage in 1929.

Whist drives seemed to be the main fund raising tool which were used not only to fund BRA, but also for charity appeals. They were also important social events with up to a hundred residents taking part.

The first known BRA Chairman was Robert Andrews in 1929 who was also a parish councillor. AE Murrells was Secretary. Both would be involved for many years.

The first full committee is known from a newspaper report of the BRA AGM in 1930:

- N Chesterfield - Chairman,
- WW Leavis - Vice Chairman
- F Jenkins - Treasurer
- C Hanchard - Secretary

other committee members:

- EE Catley
- Mr Moore
- Mr G Buchan
- Mr Dibley
- Mr Muggeridge.

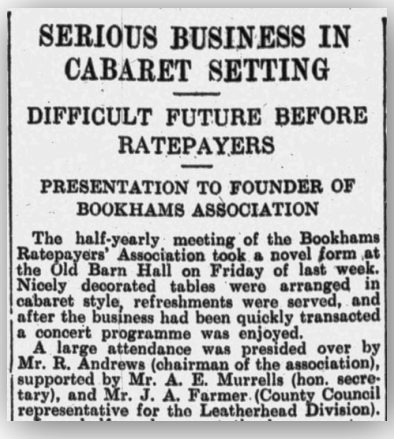
The early years focused on getting a mains drainage scheme approved for much of Great Bookham as most houses were reliant on cesspits. The BRA was also pushing on fairer ratings of properties and the provision of a secondary school. Primary school provision was poor but for secondary schools children had to travel outside the local area.
Perhaps surprisingly, both BRA and the Parish Council opposed the straightening of the Guildford Road at Grove Corner, as it then looped around in front of Grove House. They thought "straight cross roads will tend to increase the speed of motorists and be more dangerous to pedestrians". The land was compulsorily purchased in 1929 and the road straightening scheme went ahead.

Most Bookham residents at that time had only recently moved into Bookham. Many had moved from crowded and polluted London streets to a rural area and were concerned about the pace of development. In a joint meeting in September 1929 with the parish council a resolution was passed unanimously

*"expressing the opinion that, in view of past building developments in Great Bookham and other parts of the Epsom Rural District Council's area, the Rural District Council should apply to Parliament without delay for powers to enable them to control future developments more effectively".*

Over development and lack of infrastructure continued to be a major concern as it still is today.
The two Bookham Parish Councils were dissolved on 1 April 1933 when Great Bookham and Little Bookham were moved under Leatherhead Urban District Council. This led to the BRA having a greater role. In 1933 its membership was 348 (out of a population of 3,584 and about 900 households), rising from 297 in 1931 and 256 in 1950.

The Federation of Ratepayers and Kindred Associations of Surrey was started to try and increase the associations' influence. In 1935 there were 36 associations including Bookham affiliated with AE Murrells from the BRA Committee elected to its council. Both Charlie Pelling and William Leavis had retired from BRA by 1937 because of ill health. William Leavis had been particularly effective and had been elected the first chairman of the Leatherhead Urban District Council. But there seemed to be no problems in good people coming forward at that time – sometimes there were even too many applying to be on the committee.
The BRA also at this time nominated members for the local elections at this time there was less



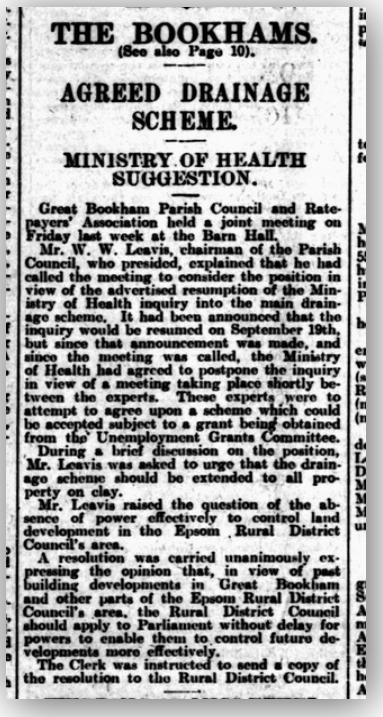
SERIOUS BUSINESS IN CABARET SETTING

DIFFICULT FUTURE BEFORE RATEPAYERS

PRESENTATION TO FOUNDER OF BOOKHAMS ASSOCIATION

The half-yearly meeting of the Bookhams Ratepayers' Association took a novel form at the Old Barn Hall on Friday of last week. Nicely decorated tables were arranged in cabaret style, refreshments were served, and after the business had been quickly transacted a concert programme was enjoyed.

A large attendance was presided over by Mr. R. Andrews (chairman of the association), supported by Mr. A. E. Murrells (hon. secretary), and Mr. J. A. Farmer (County Council representative for the Leatherhead Division).



THE BOOKHAMS.
(See also Page 10).

AGREED DRAINAGE SCHEME.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH SUGGESTION.

Great Bookham Parish Council and Ratepayers' Association held a joint meeting on Friday last week at the Barn Hall.

Mr. W. W. Leavis, chairman of the Parish Council, who presided, explained that he had called the meeting to consider the position in view of the advertised resumption of the Ministry of Health inquiry into the main drainage scheme. It had been announced that the inquiry would be resumed on September 19th, but since that announcement was made, and since the meeting was called, the Ministry of Health had agreed to postpone the inquiry in view of a meeting taking place shortly between the experts. These experts were to attempt to agree upon a scheme which could be accepted subject to a grant being obtained from the Unemployment Grants Committee.

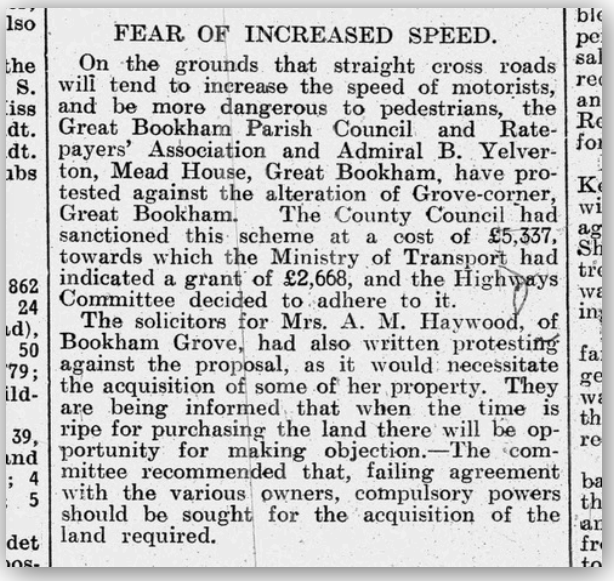
During a brief discussion on the position, Mr. Leavis was asked to urge that the drainage scheme should be extended to all property on clay.

Mr. Leavis raised the question of the absence of power effectively to control land development in the Epsom Rural District Council's area.

A resolution was carried unanimously expressing the opinion that, in view of past building developments in Great Bookham and other parts of the Epsom Rural District Council's area, the Rural District Council should apply to Parliament without delay for powers to enable them to control future developments more effectively.

The Clerk was instructed to send a copy of the resolution to the Rural District Council.

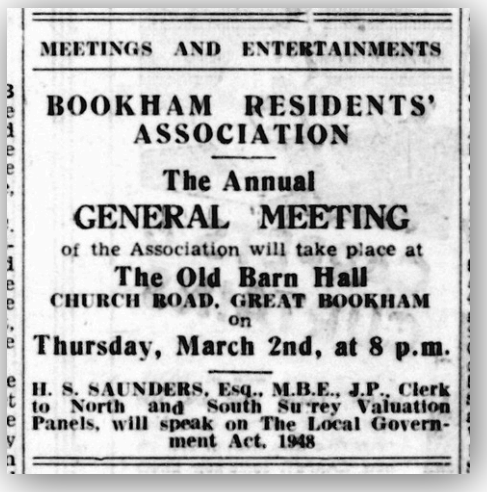
## Press Cuttings from The Surrey Advertiser between 1929 and 1935



FEAR OF INCREASED SPEED.

On the grounds that straight cross roads will tend to increase the speed of motorists, and be more dangerous to pedestrians, the Great Bookham Parish Council and Ratepayers' Association and Admiral B. Yelverton, Mead House, Great Bookham, have protested against the alteration of Grove-corner, Great Bookham. The County Council had sanctioned this scheme at a cost of £5,337, towards which the Ministry of Transport had indicated a grant of £2,668, and the Highways Committee decided to adhere to it.

The solicitors for Mrs. A. M. Haywood, of Bookham Grove, had also written protesting against the proposal, as it would necessitate the acquisition of some of her property. They are being informed that when the time is ripe for purchasing the land there will be opportunity for making objection.—The committee recommended that, failing agreement with the various owners, compulsory powers should be sought for the acquisition of the land required.



MEETINGS AND ENTERTAINMENTS

**BOOKHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

**The Annual**

**GENERAL MEETING**

of the Association will take place at

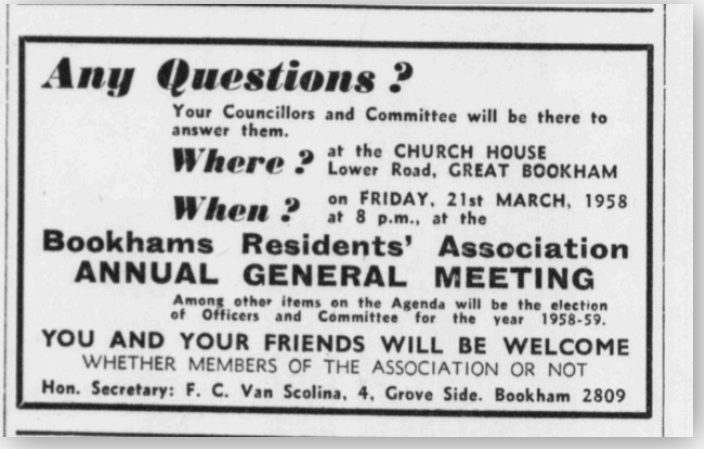
**The Old Barn Hall**

CHURCH ROAD, GREAT BOOKHAM

on

**Thursday, March 2nd, at 8 p.m.**

H. S. SAUNDERS, Esq., M.B.E., J.P., Clerk to North and South Surrey Valuation Panels, will speak on The Local Government Act, 1948



***Any Questions ?***

Your Councillors and Committee will be there to answer them.

***Where ?*** at the CHURCH HOUSE Lower Road, GREAT BOOKHAM

***When ?*** on FRIDAY, 21st MARCH, 1958 at 8 p.m., at the

**Bookhams Residents' Association**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Among other items on the Agenda will be the election of Officers and Committee for the year 1958-59.

**YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS WILL BE WELCOME**

WHETHER MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OR NOT

Hon. Secretary: F. C. Van Scolina, 4, Grove Side. Bookham 2809

party politics in local government. Problems arose when there were too many applicants from BRA members as to who should be selected.
Towards the end of the 1930s work began on the first town plans. The plans for Bookham were unpopular as new roads through the village were proposed together with the zoning proposals which set a density of homes per acre by zone.

Again Bookham residents were concerned about overdevelopment and a meeting on 13 January **1939** about the proposed Town Planning Scheme at the Old Barn Hall about 500 residents attended and many residents had to stand outside to listen.

Another stalwart and popular chairman of BRA at this time was Leonard Rose who died in office in 1939 and whose funeral was reported in detail by the Surrey Advertiser. Originally from New Cross, he had moved to Heatherdene, Groveside in Bookham in **1927** and after retiring from the GPO six years later had joined the BRA committee.

He was chairman for the last three years of his life, but his chief interest was the Bookham branch of the county library which he had helped get agreed and then managed on a voluntary basis. He was also Secretary of the Bowling Club.

## 1940s and 1950s

The BRA continued during the Second World War and by 1946 had changed its name to The Bookhams Residents' Association. Most ratepayers' associations eventually did the same, but Bookham was early in doing so. It marked a move to a broader focus for the associations and widened who it covered in the community.

The **1950** AGM was poorly attended and membership had dropped to 254. In **1950** BRA was pressing London Transport to improve the 418 bus service whose service had been cut and its route changed and whose timetable did not co-ordinate with train arrival and departure times. All very familiar!
All Great Bookham properties still did not have mains drainage and cesspools were said to be continually overflowing. BRA pressed for three annual free cesspool emptying service to reduce the nuisance.

In **1954** BRA joined with other residents and ratepayers associations in the Leatherhead and district to form a Surrey Federation of Associations to use their joint voice for matters that concerned them all.

By **1958** membership of the Association was 500 but only 300 members were paid up because of the problem of sufficient collectors. The President was DW Freemantle, the chairman Sir Charles Rugge-Price, Vice Chairman JB Elliott, Mr Saunders Treasurer and Mr Van Scolina Secretary.

In **1959** BRA had its first female vice chairman (Miss Linday) with five women on the large committee of 18 members.

The then MP, Peter Rawlinson came to speak to the AGM and said that the Minister of Housing and Local Government had written and told him that "no further expansion of the towns and villages in Leatherhead urban district should be permitted after "in-filling" and rounding off is completed" and that

the minister and local authority were anxious that "new building should not encroach upon the Metropolitan Green Belt".

### 1960s

In **1962** the 47 year old chairman of the BRA, Herbert Hale died unexpectedly. He was succeeded as Chairman by Miss Joan Linday, the first woman to hold the post. In **1963** the BRA had 926 members. There began to be problems with supporting candidates as local councillors. The BRA decided not to continue nominating a councillor who had served for 15 years and another candidate was nominated by the association who resigned soon after after winning the seat because of the amount of work involved.

The BRA also joined with Stephen Fortescue, then Chairman of Leatherhead Urban District Council to try to persuade Surrey County Council to buy the Gilmais swimming pool off the Leatherhead Road in Great Bookham to prevent its closure, but were unsuccessful.

BRA continued to ask for a secondary school in Bookham and wanted the Southey Hall site (the former Eastwick Park) used for that purpose rather than housing but Surrey County Council chose only to build a primary school. At this time there was some dissatisfaction by Bookham residents with the standards of education and behaviour at the Howard of Effingham School.
The London orbital route which became the M25 had been discussed since the 1940s but was finally being planned in the 1960s with the route south of London of concern as to how Bookham would be affected with various options discussed.

### 1970s

By the 1970s membership of the BRA numbered 1,700.

The M25 was the most important issue of the 1970s. The M25 Action Group proposed an alternative southern route for the M25 which would have gone through Bookham and Effingham.

A joint meeting by BRA and the Effingham Residents Association was held in May 1971 at the Old Barn Hall and was packed out before a Public Inquiry at Sandown on 15th June 1971.

Fortunately for Bookham the southern route was finally rejected in September 1973, mainly because of the effect on the Weybridge airfield (Brooklands site). This issue had divided the local villages and the different residents' associations.

It also divided the Leatherhead Urban District Council as councillors naturally supported the option that least affected their area. Arthur Durham the then Chairman of Leatherhead Urban District Council and a councillor representing Ashtead publicly expressed the disappointment of the council, saying the inspector had given more concern to the peace and quiet of Effingham and Little Bookham than he had to those of Ashtead and Leatherhead. Perhaps it was fortunate for Bookham that the Leatherhead Urban District Council was dissolved the next year when the Mole Valley District Council was created. Work began on the northern route ie the current route and was finally completed in October 1985.

### 1980s

By the 1980s the BRA no longer recommended candidates for local elections.

Issues in the 1980s included the future of the station. In January **1986** British Rail announced plans to make Bookham line a one-track station by British Rail which BRA and others fought as they were concerned it would lead to the station eventually closing. The proposal was abandoned in September 1986.

Another success in the 1980s was BRA's campaign with the County Councillor Tony Turner to persuade Surrey County Council to move the Bookham Branch of the County Library from its poor building at Lower Shott to the old school building at Townshott Close which Great Bookham School had recently vacated. The library finally opened there in 1988.

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## The following account for 1990 to 2026 are from BRA records only.

### Researched and written and by Les Huett

### 1990s

In **1992** J Eaton was Chairman followed in **1995** by M. Holden. In April **1997** Brenda De Bruin became Chairman. There was concern about the lack of volunteers to fill Committee roles.

Committee Meetings were held at the United Reform Church (URC)

with agenda items included Ninex cabling the area for the Community Area TV (CATV) and internet access with concerns about damaging trees in the process.
Regular work on Planning and Transport matters state of roads, rail and bus services with the BRA attending the Mole Valley District Council Environmental Forum.

Brighter Bookham was a focus group – tackling graffiti, clearing footpaths and street cleaning.

In **1997** approaches were made to the Bookham Community Association and Bookham Traders for greater co-operation to improve the voice of the Village. Also notes residents confusion between BCA and BRA.

**1996 – 1998** continuing problems with lack of Committee members.

**1999** public meeting to lobby against the closure of the Library (successful) and Youth Centre (unsuccessfully) but later rescued by BYCA.

Concerns expressed in **1997** and **1999** about the amount of money MVDC is spending on the Dorking Halls.

## 2000s

Brenda De Bruin still Chair but intends standing down at the 2001 AGM, still meeting at URC.

BRA runs a children's painting competition at Village Day.

Business agenda's take a common shape including - Brighter Bookham, Planning, Roads and Transport, Cllr's reports (very fulsome and open) Police Liaison.

Cleaner Bookham ran for 15 months but did not improve things enough to justify continuing.

Organised public meeting / support for the new Fairfield Medical Centre.

**2001** – proposals discussed to wind the BRA up as nobody to take on Chair role and other Committee roles. Approaches to merge turned down by the BCA. But in an EGM held on 3rd September 2001 Andy Freeman became Chair with aims to re-establish the BRA. Andy Freeman stood down in 2002 on becoming a MVDC Councillor.

A succession of acting Chairs cover until Peter Seaward is elected in **2004**. During Peter's 19 years as Chair, the BRA re-established itself as an effective lobbying organisation while also promoting and performing lots of beneficial activities across the Bookhams which are still undertaken today as detailed below.

Peter was succeeded as Chair by Simon Edge in 2023 taking the BRA into its second century of service to the community.
**2006** - meetings move to the St Nicolas Pastoral Centre, subs increased from £1.00 per household to £2.00. BRA Committee Minutes to now be posted on the website as part of an 'openness' agenda. Councillors now invited to the whole Committee meeting, not just a Councillors spot at the end of the agenda.

Other activities now appear on the agenda – War memorial cleaning, flooding, hanging baskets (with associated problems of funding), and Christmas lights.

The prospect of developing a Village Plan is discussed and developed over the coming years.

From **2008**, Anti-Social Behaviour starts to feature. Car burning at the Station, drugs usage, general rowdiness (e.g. in the High St and Lower Rd Rec).

**2009** – BRA supports formation of Bookham Vanguard Neighbourhood Development Plan (BVNDP), and Don't Drive our Children Away Howard Catchment issues, and BYCA which takes over the Youth Centre.

## 2012 - 2026

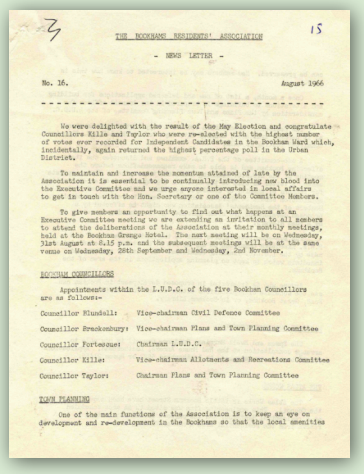
The BRA Newsletter is given a new look and introduces colour. In **2012** a BRA team of specialists contribute to BVNDP.

Activities the Association became involved with included a monthly litter pick; Parish Council referendum; the major planning application at Preston Farm; and the MVDC Local Plan. The Association becomes a Company Limited by Guarantee.

**Today the BRA still continues to review planning applications, with environmental activities including Tree Wardens and water course monitoring, with a general uplift of the villages with benches, planting and Christmas Lights and one-off projects.**

# Newsletters

The BRA has published  regular newsletters to keep residents up to date with association activities and also to inform of major planning applications and local authority programmes and projects which will affect many people.



THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

- NEWS LETTER -

No. 16. August 1966

We were delighted with the result of the May Election and congratulate Councillors Kille and Taylor who were re-elected with the highest number of votes ever recorded for Independent Candidates in the Bookham Ward which, incidentally, again returned the highest percentage poll in the Orien District.

To maintain and increase the momentum attained of late by the Association it is essential to be continually introducing new blood into the Executive Committee and we urge anyone interested in local affairs to get in touch with the Hon. Secretary or one of the Committee Members.

To give members an opportunity to find out what happens at an Executive Committee meeting we are extending an invitation to all members to attend the deliberations of the Association at their monthly meetings, held at the Bookham Grange Hotel. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 31st August at 8.15 p.m. and the subsequent meetings will be at the same venue on Wednesday, 28th September and Wednesday, 2nd November.

BOOKHAM COUNCILLORS

Appointments within the L.U.D.C. of the five Bookham Councillors are as follows:-

Councillor Blundell: Vice-chairman Civil Defence Committee

Councillor Brockenbury: Vice-chairman Plans and Town Planning Committee

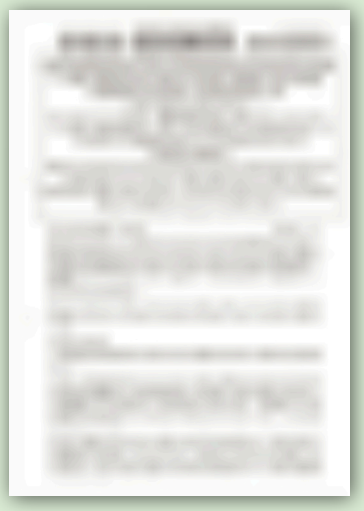
Councillor Fortescue: Chairman L.U.D.C.

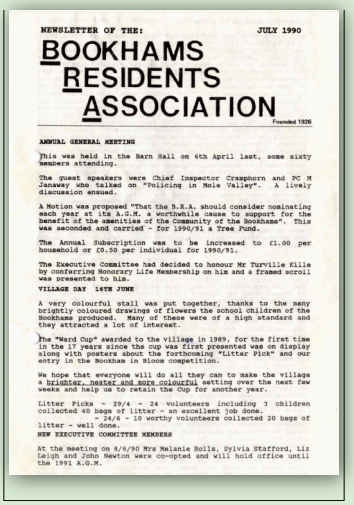
Councillor Kille: Vice-chairman Allotments and Recreations Committee

Councillor Taylor: Chairman Plans and Town Planning Committee

EGM PLANNING

One of the main functions of the Association is to keep an eye on development and re-development in the Bookhams so that the local amenities





NEWSLETTER OF THE: JULY 1990

BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Founded 1926

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This was held in the Barn Hall on 6th April last, some sixty members attending.

The guest speakers were Chief Inspector Crampborn and PC M Janaway who talked on "Policing in Mole Valley". A lively discussion ensued.

A Motion was proposed "That the B.R.A. should consider nominating each year at its A.G.M. a worthwhile cause to support for the benefit of the amenities of the Community of the Bookhams". This was seconded and carried - for 1990/91 a Tree Fund.

The Annual Subscription was to be increased to £1.00 per household or £0.50 per individual for 1990/91.

The Executive Committee had decided to honour Mr Turville Kille by conferring Honorary Life Membership on him and a framed scroll was presented to him.

VILLAGE DAY 16TH JUNE

A very colourful stall was put together, thanks to the many brightly coloured drawings of flowers the school children of the Bookhams produced. Many of these were of a high standard and they attracted a lot of interest.

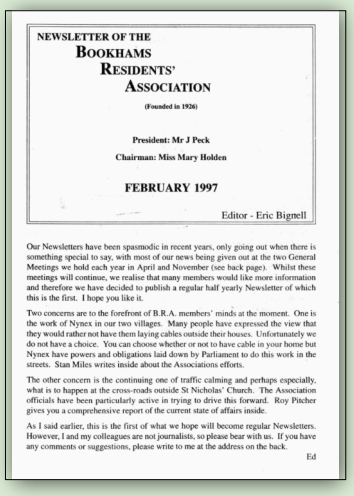
The "Ward Cup" awarded to the village in 1989, for the first time in the 17 years since the cup was first presented was on display along with posters about the forthcoming "Litter Pick" and our entry in the Bookham in Bloom competition.

We hope that everyone will do all they can to make the village a brighter, neater and more colourful setting over the next few weeks and help us to retain the Cup for another year.

Litter Picks - 29/4 - 24 volunteers including 3 children collected 40 bags of litter - an excellent job done.
- 26/6 - 10 worthy volunteers collected 20 bags of litter - well done.

NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

At the meeting on 8/6/90 Mrs Melanie Rolls, Sylvia Stafford, Liz Leigh and John Newton were co-opted and will hold office until the 1991 A.G.M.



NEWSLETTER OF THE
BOOKHAMS
RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION
(Founded in 1926)

President: Mr J Peck
Chairman: Miss Mary Holden

FEBRUARY 1997

Editor - Eric Bignell

Our Newsletters have been spasmodic in recent years, only going out when there is something special to say, with most of our news being given out at the two General Meetings we hold each year in April and November (see back page). Whilst these meetings will continue, we realise that many members would like more information and therefore we have decided to publish a regular half yearly Newsletter of which this is the first. I hope you like it.

Two concerns are to the forefront of B.R.A. members' minds at the moment. One is the work of Nynex in our two villages. Many people have expressed the view that they would rather not have them laying cables outside their houses. Unfortunately we do not have a choice. You can choose whether or not to have cable in your home but Nynex have powers and obligations laid down by Parliament to do this work in the streets. Stan Miles writes inside about the Associations efforts.

The other concern is the continuing one of traffic calming and perhaps especially, what is to happen at the cross-roads outside St Nicholas' Church. The Association officials have been particularly active in trying to drive this forward. Roy Pitcher gives you a comprehensive report of the current state of affairs inside.

As I said earlier, this is the first of what we hope will become regular Newsletters. However, I and my colleagues are not journalists, so please bear with us. If you have any comments or suggestions, please write to me at the address on the back.

Ed





THE BOOKHAM BROADSHEET
The Journal of the Bookhams Residents' Association

November 2001

THE NEW COMMITTEE MAKES A START

Chairman's Message

This is my first newsletter since being elected Chairman of the Residents' Association at the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) in September.

In this issue we report, with sadness, the death of Jimmy Peck who was, since 1966, a member of the Residents' Association and in more recent years our President.
We also pay tribute to Brenda de Bruin outlining her many achievements whilst Chairman of the Residents' Association.

At the EGM I'm pleased to be able to report that a full team of Officers was elected together with five Committee Members (a full list can be found below) resulting in a mixture of the old and the new. However, we are always looking for new members, road stewards and anyone else who has a little time that they can contribute to the work of the Residents' Association. So, if you are able to help, have some ideas on how the Association can work more effectively or, think there are areas in which the Association should be involved please contact any of the officers or members.

Frequent users of the Lower Road Recreation Ground will hopefully notice the planting of a number of trees sometime during November/December, three of which have been funded by the Residents' Association. We still have some funds in our "tree fund" so if anyone knows of an area or space within Bookham that would benefit from the planting of a tree or trees then please let me know.

And finally, may I, on behalf of all the officers and members, wish you and your family a merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Best wishes

Andrew Freeman, Chairman

The New Committee

At the EGM in September eleven people were nominated and elected as Committee members of the Residents' Association. From these volunteers a full team of officers was then elected. The Committee officers and members are:

| | |
|---|---|
| President: | Bob Foster |
| Chairman: | Andrew Freeman |
| Vice Chairman: | Erica Gillespie |
| Treasurer: | Tony Major |
| Secretary: | Anne Finn |
| Membership Secretary: | John Allen |
| Committee Members: | Gillian Davis |
| | Gordon Elsey |
| | Edmund Morgan Warren |
| | Derek Munson |
| | John Rose |







The Bookhams Residents' Association
bookhamsresidents.org.uk
Tel: 0300 999 8969

November 2025

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 264 Lower Road. It's said 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.

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Registered Company No. 10053863



Bookhams Residents' Association Newsletter: November 2024

Bookham Heritage Walking Trails – two self guided maps

Neil McDowall reports

Have you noticed the two-legged winged dragon (a Wyvern) at the Squareabout or wondered why there is a line of yellow bricks on the High Street pavement? Which pubs rent once included a red rose and a quart of lamprays, and in which church can be found features that were built a thousand years ago and from recent times the birth of a rock legend?

To find out more just visit the BRA website homepage where you will find a link "Bookham Heritage Walks and History". This provides the walks details together with much more historical information on the Bookhams over the centuries.

**Ideal for a late Autumn walk!**

Well the answers to all of this, and much more, can be found in the self-guided map leaflets for the two Bookham Heritage Walking Trails that are now available on the BRA website. These have been produced by Mole Valley Together. There is a 2/3rd skm "Great Bookham Village Trail" and a 5m/8km longer "Eastwick and Little Bookham Trail".

These are fascinating documents simply to read on the website but they really come alive if you actually do the walks (you can a print a pdf version to accompany you). Or you can can follow the route on your mobile.

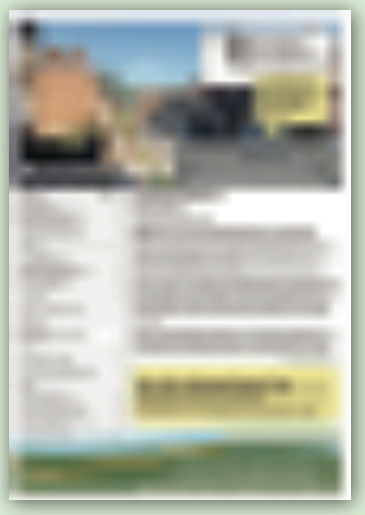
They give a great sense of what it means to live in Bookham and its place in history.

Great Bookham Village Heritage Trail

Scan for Bookham's Heritage Trails and History.

8





This is a selection from our Newsletter archive which you can view on the BRA website. We have a gap and If you have any BRA Newsletters prior to 1990 and the early 2000s please let us know so we can copy them and add to the archive.




# Former Keswick Care Home

John Downman

There has been much discussion and speculation over the development of the former Keswick Care Home site following the recent consultation on behalf of Surrey County Council (SCC). This closed for comments on 24th September 2026 and the results have not been published at the time of going to print. We understand that each of the two online sessions was attended by some 100 people and similar numbers responded to the consultation, demonstrating the interest and concern generated.

Whilst the scope of the consultation was restricted to three architectural considerations (massing, scale and layout), there continues to be great concern over the planned tenancies and management of the development. Unfortunately, speculation on social media and an absence of satisfactory answers from SCC has fuelled a number of rumours.

**Regarding occupancy:**

- The understanding prior to the online consultation on 17th September 2026 was that the occupancy would be a mix of residents seeking affordable housing and those with long-term mental health needs but not requiring the level of residential care and supported living provided at other local facilities with a good integration into the community. The mix has not been clarified, rather two contradictory mixes were offered in the consultation.

- There has been a lack of sufficient clarity on what SCC means by a person with mental health needs, their care and management and the risk assessments which would be in place. This failure has fuelled much speculation.

- There has been a similar lack of clarity and much speculation on what is meant by tenants in social housing.

- Both types of tenancies will have turnover, so the management of the development becomes important. Furthermore, what long-term protections will remain in place if the development is sold to an investor?

**All of the above need to be addressed.**

The BRA's letter of representation on 21st September 2026, raised not only the above but challenged also:

- A 4-storey building is too high and inappropriate in an area of bungalows and 2-storey homes.

- An inadequacy of parking provision to cater for residents, visitors, carers and deliveries in an already congested area. SCC stated in the consultation that underground parking had been dismissed as too expensive. A further statement that some tenancies may be contingent on not owning a car did not come across as realistic or enforceable.

- Having stated that all units would be inward looking into a courtyard, the plans undermined this with all units having also outward facing windows. The proposed screening is trees, but sufficiently tall trees take years to mature, and deciduous varieties have leaf drop in the

autumn meaning that there will be no effective screening. Therefore, the Scouting Centre and the schools playing fields will be overlooked.

- It is not evident that due consideration has been given to Policy EN4 of the Local Plan and the requirement "to take into account the suitability and compatibility with nearby uses".

**The next step should be the publication of the consultation, potentially with further consultation prior to a formal planning submission being made. SCC must address the concerns raised to date. Failure to do so will seriously under-estimate the push-back from residents. Or perhaps it will be nudged into the long grass for the new East Surrey Council to make the decision?**

# Berkeley Homes and Preston Farm Developments

John Downman

## Berkeley Homes

To the great disappointment of many, not least the school, Berkeley Homes has withdrawn from the original proposal to build a new school for the Howard of Effingham in exchange for developing just over 400 homes in Effingham.

Berkeley Homes has just submitted to Guildford Borough Council a new outline planning application for around 600 homes using the same land that it has acquired. The details of this are not yet in the public domain at the time of writing but we understand that it will have entrances off Effingham Common Road and the Lower Road.

The BRA will work with Effingham's Parish Council and Residents Association on areas of shared concern, such as increased traffic on the Lower Road and into Preston Cross, especially compounding that from Preston Farm (if developed). The western section of the Lower Road can be challenging and that is before potentially 800 new homes feed into the same roads.

## Preston Farm

Progress has been slow through issues such as dealing with restrictive covenants and further complications following the death of one of the original landowners. Thakeham Homes has yet to acquire the land.

However, we understand that plans remain for the development of 200 homes on this site to the north of the Lower Road and backing onto homes along Little Bookham Street. There has been no update yet to the application (MO/2024/0096), which was approved with conditions.

BRA

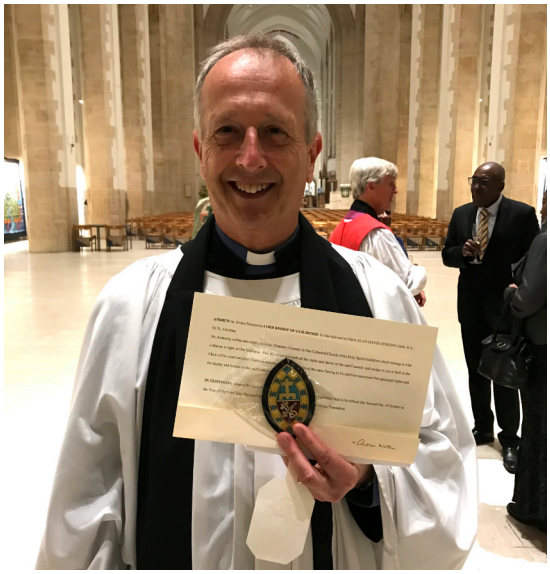
# BRA services for our community

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 to see our regular updates and community services including Events Calendar, Noticeboards and Quick Links to Council, Utilities and other relevant authorities.

bookhamresidents.org.uk

# Rector Alan Jenkins retires

## Gill Caldwell - Assistant Minister



**The Rev Canon Alan Jenkins, Rector of St Nicolas, Bookham, our parish church, has announced his retirement for the end of January 2027.**

Alan and his family came to Bookham in 2007, and they have very much appreciated their time here. Amongst other things, Alan has enjoyed his engagement with the local schools including 15 years as a school governor as well as sharing in many Christingle services; his involvement with Village Day which included bringing the *Adventure Plus* climbing wall to Great Bookham; active participation in late night shopping; initiating the *Bookham Youth Project* and what became *The Meeting Place* charity; full involvement in many Village Week quiz nights including as quiz master on more than one occasion; and chairing two hustings events prior to General Elections.

"Possibly my most demanding task", says Alan, "was having to judge the parade one Village Day whilst trying not to offend any of the participants. My most memorable was cutting the ribbon for the newly refurbished toilets at the Barn Hall! Being part of the Bookham community has been a real privilege and fantastic honour, and leaving will be very hard."

"Alan always ensured St Nicolas played its parts in supporting our work," said BRA Chair Simon Edge.

Alan and his wife Suzie will be retiring to their new home near Dorking. The process of appointing a new Rector will take place during Spring 2027.

# East Surrey Council visual identity chosen

East Surrey Council

East Surrey Council

Woodland
Countryside
Community
Waterways
Heritage

The East Surrey Shadow Executive has approved a new visual identity and logo for East Surrey Council, (formerly East Surrey Unitary Authority) shaped by feedback from residents, businesses, and community organisations. Designed in-house at no additional cost to taxpayers, the logo reflects the area's unique character, including its countryside, waterways, and heritage. It features five interconnected shapes representing the five areas uniting to form the new council. The design symbolises the connections between local people, places, and communities, capturing the essence of what makes East Surrey special.

# Bookham's Litter Pick Queen retires

Diane Poole









You may have seen us out and about in our yellow hi vis jackets and if you would like to join us one month you would be most welcome! We like to think we make our village a better environment for you all, although we cannot pick on private property like the Tesco car park.

We meet on the 1st Sunday of the month at 11am at Lower Shott car park (near the fishmonger). If the 1st Sunday falls in a Bank Holiday weekend, we meet on the 2nd Sunday.

Children under 18 are welcome with a responsible adult. All equipment is provided including litter pickers and hi-vis vests. After signing in and getting the equipment, routes are allocated and we collect for around an hour before returning to base.

**The BRA would like to thank Margaret Lawson who has done a sterling job leading this group for over 10 years, aided by Michael Herbert.**

We were delighted to be able to present Margaret with a BRA Contribution Award, a bouquet and framed collage of images of her time as Litter Pick Queen at the end of the November pick.

A new team is now running the litter pick but we do have a couple of minor roles we still have to fill, neither of which are necessarily needed every month.

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**Any questions or offers of help just email Diane on:**

litterpicking@bookhamresidents.org.uk

**If you don't use email, you can leave a message on: 0300 030 9890.**

The Bookhams Residents' Association

bookhamresidents.org.uk
Tel: 0300 030 9890

# 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 still collecting subscriptions for our financial year from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026. 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.

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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

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or call our helpline on 0300 030 9890 and we will get back to you.
I**f you pay by these methods please put as your reference your surname, house number and the LAST 3 digits of your postcode e.g. Brown22 3XX. This helps us to record your membership against your address.**

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If you prefer to pay by cheque, please send your cheque to our Registered Office. Your cheque should be made payable to: The Bookhams Residents' Association.

**Important:** Please write your address on the back of the. cheque and send or drop in to our Registered Office, 11 Church Road, Great Bookham, KT23 3PB. (Situated behind Thrive Studio and Rawlings opticians).

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