

Bookhams Residents' Association

A Parish or Village Council for Bookham? No Thanks!

What you need to consider when casting your vote in the MVDC referendum on May 4th.

In this special edition of the Bookhams Residents' Association Newsletter, which is being circulated to all households in Bookham, we provide residents with the important information they need to consider when casting their vote in the Mole Valley District Council referendum to be held on the 4th May.

We also report on the BRA Petition against a Village Council which so many of you have supported.

Other News

It's not just about the referendum of course. There is a lot of village news as well. There is the AGM to be held on 18th May which all members are invited to attend; reports from the village on environment; infrastructure; recreation and community.

Spring 2017

THE **B** BOOKHAMS
RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION
RA

Founded 1926

Registered Company No. 10053863

www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

Tel: 0300 030 9890

The Bookhams Residents' Association Newsletter is published twice a year in the Spring and Autumn and is distributed by a team of volunteers to all BRA membership households.

If you have any comments on the Newsletter or any additional reports you would like to see, please e-mail:

publicity@bookhamresidents.org.uk

Or call: **0300 030 9890**

Calls are charged at a standard land line rate from either a land line or mobile.

Or visit our web site:

www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

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THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee - Number 10053863

To: All Members

This is the formal notice of the Annual General Meeting to be held at the Old Barn Hall, Church Road, Bookham on Thursday 18th May 2017 at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

1. Welcome, Introduction and apologies
2. Minutes of the 89th Annual General Meeting 2016
 - 2.1 Accuracy
 - 2.2 Matters Arising
3. Chairman's Report: Report on the activities of the Association during 2016
4. Treasurer's Report: To receive the Accounts for the Financial Year ending December 2016
5. Election of Directors
 - 5.1 To note any resignations from the Board
 - 5.2 To re-elect Michael Agius who retired by rotation under Article 55 and who offers himself for re-election
 - 5.3 To ratify the appointment of David Smith, who was appointed under Article 56
 - 5.4 To elect new Directors
6. Election of Officers of the Company
 - 6.1 Election of Chairman
 - 6.2 Election of Vice Chairman
 - 6.3 Election of Treasurer
7. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2017
8. Determination of Membership Subscription
9. Any Other Business
10. Guest Speaker: Nick Gray – Deputy Chief Executive, Mole Valley District Council

If you would like to nominate a Director for the Board of Directors please advise me, John Howarth, no later than 27th April 2017 in writing to the Registered Office address or by email to qvldhow@tecrec.net. If you are unable to attend the meeting and you would like to appoint a proxy to vote at the meeting please advise me no later than 8th May 2017.

If you would like to present Motions for Discussion please advise Andrew Freeman (Administration Director) no later than 4th May 2017 at Hylands, Crabtree Close, Bookham, KT23 4PQ or by email to: admin@bookhamresidents.org.uk

Those attending who are not members may join at the door. Subscription is £3 per annum.

Please note that there will be wine and soft drinks available after the guest speaker.

John Howarth

Company Secretary

Email: qvldhow@tecrec.net

Company Number: 10053863

Registered Office: 16 Dorking Road, Great Bookham, Surrey KT23 4LX

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Peter Seaward - Chairman

After what seems a long winter I trust a sunny spring will have arrived by the time this reaches your doorstep.

Elsewhere in the newsletter, you can see how we have been working over the past six months and I do hope that all of you see us as not simply a small pressure group but as group of villagers who want to continue putting their time into doing worthwhile actions for the benefit of everyone. These range from picking up over 150 bags of litter since we started the monthly litter pick last March, to talking to the Surrey Police Commissioner about the future of local Policing, working with others on the Transform Leatherhead programme and progressing key drainage problems through the Flood Forum.

Other activities include the War memorials restoration; helping the Poppy Day appeal; yet more tree planting; trying with others to get a sound Urban Tree policy; new benches and notice boards; bulb planting and, with others on key Joint Actions Groups (JAGs), looking at problems and seeking solutions for issues at Chrystie Rec and Grove estate.

There are others too. Being a partner with Bookham Colts and the Bookham Sports Association in finding money to improve and safe guard the Chrystie Rec Pavilion, getting our priorities acted on by attending and working with the MVDC SCC Local Committee.

This is far from all we have been doing. Not a bad effort and more than a simple pressure group.

On the Parish Council debate the BRA have campaigned actively, supported by a unanimous vote at a Road Stewards meeting, to persuade the Village to reject this idea. You will have seen, and I trust you supported, our petition to oppose the creation of a Parish Council.

Parish councils are far from the normal way of dealing with local issues. Only 25% of England's population has a parish council, most are small and only a few are of a similar size to one that might exist in Bookham. These too were mainly formed in a different era and had to pick up village assets. Cranleigh (often quoted as a model for Bookham) spend nearly all their precept (parish tax) on their Village Hall, their tennis courts, grass cutting and ground maintenance equipment and public toilets. Not to mention a healthy sum on administration. All things done here voluntarily or by MVDC.

We, like nearly all other communities

that were governed locally by Urban District Councils, never went down the parish council route when these UDC's were reorganised. So, Ashted, Fetcham Leatherhead, Ewell and Epsom, do not have parish councils, but other Districts in Surrey do.

Well over 125,000 people locally exist without the need for a third layer of local government. All have Residents Associations just like Bookham and collect the same level of subscriptions (less than £3 per household per annum).

Bookham has effective and strong village organisations: The Bookham Community Association (BCA), Churches Together, the various youth and sports bodies all run by about 1,000 Bookham volunteers.

We have seven community buildings many of which raised over £750,000 in the last few years to upgrade their facilities without the need to be reliant on a local tax.

Please vote "NO" to the creation of a Parish Council on May 4th and oppose this unwanted solution looking for a problem.

The proponents of a Village Council have proposed a Community Centre. Why do we need another facility which would likely cost over a £1,000,000? Where would it go? The Neighbourhood Development Plan (see page 8) states that the central area of Bookham should be for 2 and 3 bedroom houses—not a Community Centre. Little research or evidence has been applied to this idea. Those with older memories may recall the poor state of the Barn Hall when it was run by Leatherhead Urban Council or much more recently the now renovated SPACE building on Dorking Road which fell into a poor state when under the distant management of MVDC until the local volunteer force got to work.

Why change this magnificent volunteer culture for another layer of bureaucracy and yet more tax? The "insignificant" cost claimed by the few who are attracted to this idea will amount to an increase of at least 20% plus of what we already pay MVDC to do these tasks for us. Not a small amount.

MAY 4TH ELECTIONS & REFERENDA

On May 4th we will have the opportunity to vote on three subjects:

- A Surrey County Council Councillor
- Bookham Neighbourhood Development Plan (See Bookham Vanguard article on Page 8)
- A Local Advisory Poll on whether we in Bookham want a Parish Council (also known as a Village Council).

To help secure additional infrastructure funding for Bookham we would encourage all residents to vote YES for adoption of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Please Note: This is entirely separate from the Local Advisory Poll for or against a Parish Council for Bookham as discussed in the Chairman's Message and other articles in this edition.

**Postal Voting:
Residents who are registered to vote by post will be receiving their voting slips around 20th April, approximately two weeks before polling day. Please ensure you return your voting slip in time.**

ENVIRONMENT



RESTRUCTURING OF LAND MANAGEMENT DEPT. BY SWT AND ITS EFFECT ON NORBURY PARK

Michael Anderson

Bookhams Residents' Association is represented on the Norbury Park Liaison Committee, an advisory committee made up of local interest groups such as cyclists, horse riders, ramblers, as well as countryside and residents' associations and local and county council members – all those who have an interest in the management of the Park.

The committee meets twice a year and this presents an opportunity for Surrey Wildlife Trust executives and countryside rangers to report on the activities that have taken place during the previous six months. As part of this reporting, the committee are given a detailed presentation by Graham Manning or Andrea Neal, our Norbury Park rangers, on the seasonal planning and works that have been carried out, by them and by volunteers under their management.

The committee were informed in January that SWT were restructuring the land management team, and reducing its size from 16 to 10. There will cease to be dedicated rangers responsible for a particular site; their place will be taken by a centrally located team with specialist roles, for example surveyors, liaison officers and volunteer leaders. We understand that interviews for these positions will take place during March and decisions made by 20th March. Redundancy notices will be served on those who are not appointed to one of the new roles or, of course, if they do not apply.

There are concerns at the centralisation of the countryside team and in particular at the loss of the extensive and intimate knowledge that rangers have built up of their site, in our case in Norbury Park, but also across the county. The reduction to three Volunteer leaders to cover the whole of Surrey's sites will not only stretch them to the limit but raises

questions as to how well informed they will be about them.

There are three farms on Norbury where livestock is raised and grazed as well as a number of properties. Good relations and local knowledge are vital as is having an immediate point of contact when there are problems. The Park is widely used by dog walkers, ramblers, horse riders and mountain bikes. If you share our concerns, please do contact the Surrey Wildlife Trust headquarters.

For more information visit
Surreywildlifetrust.org

info@surreywt.org.uk

01483 795440

Surrey Wildlife Trust

School Lane

Pirbright

Woking

GU24 0JN

BOOKHAM TREES

Frances Fancourt

The BBC Radio 4 recently discussed how trees removed harmful particulates from the air. An astonishing 50% of particulates were removed from the air from four houses with four silver birch trees planted along their verges, compared with four similar houses with no trees along the same stretch of road.

The Tree Wardens are passionate about the benefits of trees and we plan to keep planting and caring for trees locally to the benefit of everyone.

Another 13 trees will soon be planted, mostly in The Garstons and Vicarage Close – both areas which have lost much tree cover over the years.

To add to the winter flowering cherries there, we will plant later flowering cherry varieties, birch and other species. Other roads to benefit are Gilmais and Hilltop Rise where trees have also been lost.

We will also soon be starting another round of verge tree maintenance, removing stumps and dead trees, and clearing unsightly areas.

HISTORY OF BRA TREE WARDENS IN BOOKHAM

Frances Fancourt

The Tree Warden group was formed in 2012 when Lawrence Hole advertised for new people to join him and form a local group. He had been a Tree warden with the Tree Council for a number of years, but was not affiliated with any local organisation. I was already on the BRA Planning sub-committee "looking after trees", having offered myself to Bookham Vision/Vanguard as someone to carry the case for our local trees. They did not see a role for a tree person so passed me on to Stan Miles on the BRA Planning sub-committee.

Five people responded to Lawrence Hole's call for more tree wardens, including myself. Lawrence's aim was to plant a tree in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee under the Tree Council's Big Tree Plant initiative. At the same time the BRA had suggested the idea of planting a tree for each year of the Queen's reign. On studying the Tree Council's Big Tree Plant documentation I noticed that it was possible to apply for whole planting schemes running over 3 years, and suggested that we plan a 3-year scheme rather than plant just one tree. Hence the idea of planting 40 trees emerged.

We offered to carry out the planting on behalf of the BRA, investigated planting sites and forwarded our plans to SCC or MVDC as appropriate. Our planting methods and aftercare improved after time as we lost quite a few of the earlier trees for various reasons. Most have since been replaced, and many more have been planted. Once we started receiving approval from local residents and dignitaries alike the ball kept rolling. Residents called us asking for trees to be planted in their roads.

We have now planted trees in most areas of Bookham and a few in Fetcham along Kennel Lane. The 100th tree was planted on a soggy grey day in February 2016. It is a *Prunus Sargentii* which was specifically requested by the residents around the Barn Meadow Lane green, where we also planted two other trees.

We plan to continue planting with authority permission especially where requested by local residents, keen to see their roadside verges improved. We care for the trees ourselves but we also rely on residents to help us water

ENVIRONMENT

the trees for 5 years after planting; thus the survival rate for our verge trees is greater than when planted by local authorities without local resident help.

Every tree makes a difference to the aesthetics of the environment. Trees absorb CO₂, gaseous pollutants and remove airborne particulates from the air; they also moderate heavy rainfall improving areas prone to flooding.

You can see a list of the First 100 Trees that have been planted around Bookham with varieties and locations on the BRA web site. From the home page click on: Infrastructure, Environment & Transport > Trees

Tree Wardens are:
Lawrence Hole (Fetcham):
01372 452 769
Jenny Wilson (Bookham):
01372 453573
Frances Fancourt (Bookham):
01372 454000

FRIENDS OF BOOKHAM COMMONS

Bookham Commons "Life on the Edge" Project – a great start.

Robert Hall

2016 saw the start of the £12,000, three year "Life on the Edge" project where the plan is to clear areas of the Commons which over the years have developed considerable undergrowth, which in turn shuts out light and moisture so little or no grass grows, leaving a diminished bird population, notably the disappearance of the nightingale, woodpecker, owl, cuckoo etc. population.

Areas of the Commons bordering the track from the Tunnel car park across to the 100 Pound Bridge at Downside are the principal areas of attention. Funds raised by the Friends together with a grant from the Surrey Community Association, have enabled this project to get underway. Those wishing to know more are more than welcome to attend the ever popular Friends "Spring Buffet and Talk evening" at the Barn Hall on May 17th.

For more information about the Friends of Bookham Commons either pick up a leaflet to be found in a pocket under the National Trust notice boards at the entrances to the Commons
info@bookhamcommons.org.uk
www.bookhamcommons.org.uk

Those who are interested on joining the Friends should call Robert Hall (453183) or Paul Gallard (459972).

Keep this date free!

Friends of Bookham Commons

Wednesday 17th May 2017



SPRING BUFFET

The Barn Hall, Church Road, Bookham

7.00pm - AGM

7.30 pm Buffet

8.15 Guest Speaker Ted Green MBE

Founding member of the Ancient Tree Forum who works ceaselessly for the protection and greater awareness of our ancient trees.

Followed by **Ian Swinney** Bookham Commons Ranger

Raffle (Prizes include hand crafted local oak items donated by The National Trust)

Tickets: £15.00 each. *Includes buffet, glass of wine and lecture.*

Available from:

- **Wishing Well**, 7 High Street, Bookham Tel 459969
- **Howard Weale**, 111 Little Bookham Street, Bookham Tel 457009
- **Paul Gallard**, 5 Fox Lane, Little Bookham KT23 3AT Tel 459972

For People and Wildlife on Bookham Commons

COMMUNITY

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

It may seem long time ago since Christmas but we hope you liked the new Christmas lights in the High Street, Church Road and Lower Shott. These were supplied by a local Bookham company, DCI Lighting, and paid for by the BRA with funding from MVDC and Bookham Retail And Business Association.



A BRA member who sadly passed away in 2016 donated to the BRA funds to provide a bench for the village. The bench is in oak and was made at the Norbury Park sawmills and has been installed at the top of the High Street.

BCA VILLAGE DAY: WHITE ELEPHANT STAND

Saturday 17th June is the BCA Village Day and one of the stands will be a White Elephant stall. If you have any bric-a-brac you would like to donate, please contact Margaret on 01372 454 897.

OUR VILLAGE; OUR CHOICE; OUR MONEY

BRA UNDER ATTACK!

John Howarth—BRA Company Secretary

Most of you will have seen the attacks on the BRA in various forms – in the local newspaper, on social media, on the BEAM web site. It has been accused of being undemocratic, not representing the views of the village, and publishing misleading and untruthful information.

And what is the reason for this you may well ask?

It appears the BRA is being vilified for challenging the statements made by those who wish to establish a Village Council. What is undemocratic about making such challenges?

In respect of statements the BRA has made, rest assured that they can all be supported by documented evidence.

Why did the BRA do it?

Firstly it was not convinced that the claims made by the proponents of the Village Council made a coherent, substantial case and prospectus.

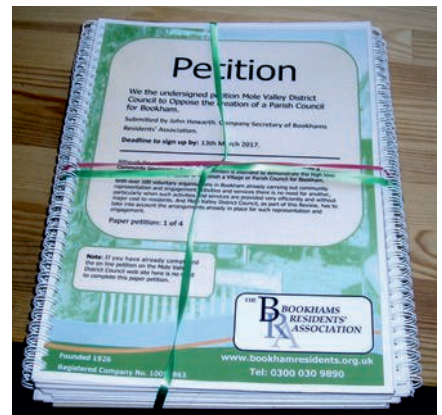
Secondly it remembered that the Bookham Vision Project reported that the residents of the village did not support the setting up of a Village Council – only about 5% voted in favour.

Clearly the Village Council advocates think they know better and that the residents gave the wrong answer.

The BRA believes the village has already given the right answer and supports the views of the residents already expressed in Bookham Vision.

However the actions of the BEAM group (Who elected them? Who do they represent? Who gave them their mandate?) who applied for public money (probably in the autumn of 2014), subsequently received £9890 (early in 2015) and have already spent over £5,000 (BEAM web site), have resulted in the residents of the village having to confirm their already given opinion.

The BRA therefore reminded residents that they could, and should, re-affirm their opinions by voting NO in the advisory poll on May 4th. THE BEAM CASE HAS NOT BEEN MADE.



BRA PETITION AGAINST A VILLAGE COUNCIL: RESULTS

Les Huett—BRA Publicity

During January a team of volunteers (at no cost and we are extremely grateful for their help) distributed a leaflet to 5,000 households in Bookham advising Residents on what they need to consider in the light of the MVDC Village Council Governance Review and asking Residents to support a petition against the creation of a Village or Parish Council. In the space of just two months residents have been supporting the petition and at the close of the petition on 13th March the results are:

**E-petition: 1028
Paper petition: 664**

Total: 1692

As the petition has reached and passed the required MVDC threshold of 800 signatures the petition will be included as part of the body of evidence to be included as part of the Governance review.

COMMUNITY

A VILLAGE COUNCIL FOR BOOKHAM SOME KNOWN “UNKNOWNNS”

John Howarth: Company Secretary—Bookhams Residents Association

“There are known knowns, that is things we know we know.

There are also known unknowns, that is things we know we don’t know.”

Donald Rumsfeld, US Secretary of Defence, 1975-1977, 2001-2006

IT IS KNOWN that there are just under ninety Parish Councils in Surrey, mostly in the rural areas in the south of the County. It is fairly easy to estimate that only about 25% of Surrey’s population live in such “parished” areas. Most are small, with correspondingly small taxes (precepts), and some have been around for decades. For example Cranleigh Town Council has archives going back to the 1890’s.

Mole Valley has thirteen parish councils, mostly south of Dorking. Wotton Parish has the smallest Band D tax (£10.50) and Charlwood Parish has the largest (£49).⁽¹⁾

Normandy (in Guildford Borough) has set a Band D tax of £102 for 2017/18. Effingham’s is £68.⁽²⁾

The proponents of a Village Council for Bookham mention on their web site that Oxted (in Tandridge) and Cranleigh (in Waverley) are similar to Bookham in terms of the number of residents. Oxted has a tax of £10⁽³⁾, Cranleigh has a tax of £54.⁽⁴⁾

The use of Band D as a reference point can be misleading. For example if the Band D tax is set at £54, a house classified as Band E will have a tax of £66, Band F £78, and Band G £90. Bands E (14.3%) F (23.9%) and G (28%) account for two thirds of properties in Bookham.

There is no upper limit to the level at which a Parish Council tax can be set.⁽⁵⁾

Parish Councils have very few statutory duties defined in law (e.g. to provide allotments, to publish information on a web site.) However they all have regulatory and administrative responsibilities that they must follow, and these generate overhead costs.

According to its latest published accounts Oxted Parish Council spends about 50% of its income on “salaries & administration”⁽⁶⁾. Cranleigh, with a much larger tax and hence larger income, spends about 32%⁽⁴⁾. This is not unusual. For example Haslemere (tax £35) spends 48%⁽⁴⁾ on “administration” and Witley (tax £57) 62% on “office and general expenses”⁽⁴⁾. Godalming, which at some time must have used its powers to borrow money, and has a Band D tax of £58, spends 68% of its income on “administration” and a further 7% on “debt charges”!⁽⁴⁾

Elections to Parish Councils take place every four years, and even then only when sufficient candidates put their names forward to trigger an election.

It is **NOT KNOWN** what the initial precept for Bookham will be since, if a Village Council goes ahead, it would not be set until February 2018 when budgets are being prepared.

It is **NOT KNOWN** what the first percentage increase will be since this would not be determined until February 2019 when budgets are being prepared.

It is **NOT KNOWN**, because of the above uncertainties, how much money – after **UNKNOWN** overhead costs – would be available to the Village Council to use.

It is **NOT KNOWN** on what projects and initiatives the money will be spent.

It is **NOT KNOWN** how many Village Councillors there will be, since the number would be set by Mole Valley District Council if it decided to establish a Village Council.

It is **NOT KNOWN** who such Councillors would be, since no potential candidates have yet put their names forward.

It is **NOT KNOWN** who the Parish Clerk

would be, and how much he or she would be paid.

In their web site the proponents of the Village Council make the following statement:

“If a local council cannot be constructed to be cost effective it should not have one.”

But without, even in draft form, a Prospectus; a Business Plan; or a Budget how can the residents of the village make an informed judgement as to whether such a Village Council would be cost effective or not? And we do not have them.

OUR VILLAGE; OUR CHOICE; OUR MONEY

With so many **UNKNOWNNS** vote **NO** to a Village Council.

Sources:

- 1) molevalley.gov.uk
- 2) guildford.gov.uk
- 3) tandridge.gov.uk
- 4) waverley.gov.uk
- 5) cpalc.org.uk
- 6) oxted-pc.org.uk

**Postal Voting:
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COMMUNITY



Marion Chow

marion.chow@grangecentre.org.uk
Grangecentre.org
 01372 455231

We have had a great start to the year so far kicking off with the amazing news that we won an award from the Aviva Community Fund for our "Cooking up a Storm!" project. The funds will be used to upgrade one of the teaching kitchens by installing induction hobs, an adjustable work station and replacing the cupboard and drawer doors and refreshing this essential teaching space.

At the end of January, we were delighted to welcome Terry Driscoll and Mark Secker to our Simply Scones Café where they presented us with a cheque for £1700 from Bookham and Horsley Rotary, as a result of the proceeds from the fantastic Brunch Event, which took place in November in the Barn Hall - our grateful thanks to everyone who made this donation possible.

More good news - our wonderful team of volunteers have been nominated for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service – the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK, which is the equivalent of an MBE. The Award "recognises groups whose work has significantly benefitted others and sets the national benchmark for excellence in volunteering by such groups".

The Queen then makes the awards on advice from the Minister for the Cabinet Office. The award winners will be officially announced on 2nd June. Our thanks go to all our volunteers and our own wonderful, dedicated Volunteer Coordinator, Karen Pinchbeck, who recruits and looks after the 107 strong team of volunteers.



Cheque presentation from Bookham & Horsley Rotary for £1700 to The Grange.



CATHRYN HOSSACK

Bookham Vanguard Publicity

What will this mean for Bookham?

If the Bookham community votes FOR the Plan in the May referendum:

1. Every planning application coming forward in Bookham will be subject to the policies the NDP contains.
2. Developers will contribute around £65,000 per annum to MVDC to be spent specifically in Bookham.
3. The NDP policies are designed to add to existing National and Mole Valley Planning Policies to ensure development in Bookham fits our local village needs to:

a. Focus on the development of smaller two and three bedroom homes,

especially towards the centre of the village

b. Protect retail space in the High Street area by protecting shops from change of use

c. Protect other business premises and local employment

d. Protect our local halls and community facilities

e. Retain, as far as possible, the green, semi-rural aspect of the village by retaining trees and hedges and allowing space for off-street parking

f. Point out highways and drainage issues that should be taken into account when development takes place

g. Support the development of schools and healthcare facilities as the increase in population puts these services under pressure.

The NDP has been through public consultation in Bookham throughout its formation. MVDC has consulted on it through Mole Valley and it has passed a formal planning inspection by an independent planning examiner. He said about the plan: "it is a VERY GOOD NDP. It reads well, it looks well and it has a very clear and sharp focus on

i. Style, size and type of housing required

ii. The retail centre

iii. Design and quality of homes to be built

The last step before the Neighbourhood Development Plan can become part of the planning policy for all development applications in Bookham is the Referendum on 4th May. The exact question that will be asked at the polling station is:

"Do you want Mole Valley District Council to use the neighbourhood development plan for Bookham to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"

If 50% or more of those voting say YES, then the plan will be adopted as planning policy.

Please support YOUR Village Development Plan and vote "YES" on 4th May

You can download the NDP from www.bookhamvanguard.co.uk.

LEISURE

SPACE CELEBRATES ITS 5TH BIRTHDAY!

Trevor Goul-Wheeker

Many children celebrate their birthday at South Bookham SPACE, more did in 2016 than ever before, but in January 2017, SPACE celebrated its very own 5th Birthday.

South Bookham SPACE was first opened by Jacqueline Wilson, the famous children's author, on Saturday 7th January 2012, following an extensive renovation of the old Boys Club building on the Dorking Road. The refurbishment was made possible when a small group of local residents got together to form the South Bookham SPACE Ltd. charity, raised an incredible £250,000 in funds and negotiated a 25 year lease with Mole Valley District Council.

The generous support of the BRA, MVDC, local charities, businesses, organisations and individual residents provided these funds and more since and within six months of the SPACE opening the purpose built floodlit Outer SPACE multi-use games area was also opened ahead of schedule in 2012.

Since then, SPACE has become a busy community centre offering an extensive range of indoor activities for all ages; from TinyTalk and Creation Station toddler & parent sessions to a bridge club, martial arts, a wide variety of Pilates classes for all levels of ability, Pole Fitness and Zumba. The outdoor floodlit sports area, Outer SPACE, hosts tennis, soccer and netball teams, but sadly no basketball as yet.

The latest addition is The Creation Station, arts & crafts classes to help babies and toddlers develop their imagination by exploring with different materials and textures, which started in January.

Weekends are largely reserved for private hire and SPACE has proved to be an extremely popular venue for Children's parties, with 2016 seeing the highest number of children's parties since it opened.

South Bookham SPACE Chair, Trevor Goul-Wheeker is delighted with the success of SPACE saying, "The last five years has flown by so fast, I can hardly believe it. But I can believe how many local people are taking part in the multitude of activities going on and how SPACE has become the ideal venue for children's parties in Bookham. Its success

is down to the small group of volunteers that run the facility and I'd love to hear from anyone keen to join us to make the next five years even more successful."

The SPACE team are especially seeking someone to help run marketing activities and increase awareness of everything that SPACE offers the local community. Anyone interested should contact Trevor at the e-mail address below.



Author, Jacqueline Wilson opens SPACE in January 2012

To find details on how to book SPACE for a party and all the regular activities taking place please visit:

www.southbookhamspace.org.uk
or email:

info@southbookhamspace.org.uk

BOOKHAM YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

David Cox OBE—Bookham Youth & Association (BYCA)

The Centre is managed & run by volunteers.

Youth at the Centre

The Bookhams Youth Project is now under way and the facilities are being utilised on a Monday evening and Friday afternoon. Attendance by young people has been very encouraging.

To help, the Bookhams' Residents Association provided a grant towards equipment as did The Anchor Pub (opposite).

Other Youth organisations continue to use the large amount of space that is available together with the much improved supplementary facilities. This allows the groups using the facility a large degree of flexibility in activities in a spacious environment.

It is used by other youth and young adult groups such as Disability Challengers, Barnardo's and St Nicolas Church. All these run Clubs in the evenings and Disability Challengers use

the Centre during the holidays. Other groups use the facilities on an ad hoc basis.

Future of the Centre

Discussions involving Bookhams Residents' Association representative & BYCA Trustees continue to be held with SCC & MVDC to replace the centre, which does have a limited life span, with a new community facility. The aim of this is to have a new building without the need to raise funds from the community.

This will take until beyond the current lease with SCC which expires in 2019. However, assurances have been received that there will be no change and discussions have started to extend the lease for another period.

For other activities such as Pre-School Smarty Pants and Parties for larger groups please visit our web site as detailed below:

www.bookhamyouth.org.uk

**Contact our volunteer Booking Manager (Ellen Thomas):
01372458019 or email:**

Ellen-Thomas@hotmail.co.uk
& cc bookhamyouth@o2.co.uk

**If you feel that you would like to give a bit of time to help us continue this asset for our community: contact David on:
07825 354763**

INFRASTRUCTURE

DRAINAGE

Michael Agius

BRA continues to try and resolve the villages' many drainage problems through the Bookham Flood Forum, along with SCC Highways (SCC), Thames Water (TW) and the Bookham Flood Action Group.

The collapsed and blocked lengths of 150mm diameter surface water drain, previously identified by TW in Little Bookham Street (LBS) between Lower Road and Bennett Farm Place, are programmed to be repaired in the near future. In the same vicinity, SCC have programmed work to clear blockages in several gully connections to TW's drain. Just north of Bennett Farm Place, TW have recently replaced a length of blocked 150mm drain on the east side of LBS, as shown in the adjacent photo. The 150mm drain increases to 225mm diameter north of Childs Hall Road but even here there are a few problem areas. As mentioned in the Roads Report, all these drainage problems need to be resolved before re-surfacing of LBS can take place under Project Horizon.

SCC Highways have carried out further investigations on Lower Road between East Street and the Squareabout, which have been discussed in great detail in recent issues of the Newsletter. Recent work included investigation of a gully connection under Lower Road just east of East Street, including construction of a new manhole where the connection had been broken by utilities running along Lower Road. On the north side of Lower Road the recently discovered drain alongside the church wall was jetted and a blockage located. This has to be investigated further, as do blockages in a couple of gully connections under Lower Road west of East Street.

In answer to BRA's question to the recent Local Committee, SCC replied "the drainage investigation and repair on Lower Road between East Street and the Squareabout remain on-going, as resources permit, along with other sites in the Bookham area. The work on Lower Road forms a part of the Bookham Flood Forum work and a number of investigations and repairs have been carried out and completed. Further repairs have also been identified from the work completed so far and these will need to be carried out in the



Updating drains in Little Bookham Street

new financial year subject to available revenue budgets. The Maintenance Engineer will continue to work with The Flood Forum to resolve these issues and provide updates". The fact that problems in the area have yet to be finally resolved is disappointing and BRA will continue to put pressure on SCC to complete the work through the Flood Forum.

Proposals for drainage improvements at the Dorking Road junction with the Polesden Lacey access road have been finalised. However, in answer to BRA's question to the recent Local Committee, SCC replied "One of the main issues with the construction of the scheme is the need for continued public access to Polesden Lacey.

The National Trust have indicated that in order for them not to suffer excessive financial burdens from the restricted access the works will cause, they have indicated that the scheme needs to be carried out between November and March. We believe that the scheme could go ahead at the National Trust's preferred dates of December 2017/ January 2018 but this, as with all the schemes is dependent on the finalised budget allocated for the Capital Highway Drainage Programme in 2017/18". In the meantime the BRA continues to pressurise SCC to carry out very necessary routine maintenance of gullies and soakaways along the whole length of Dorking Road.

Other areas where the BRA continue to seek solutions are:

- the ditch between the Lower Road Recreational Ground and Little Bookham Common, the subject of riparian responsibilities which are currently ignored by most of the residents living in Childs Hall Road and Sole Farm Avenue whose properties are adjacent to the ditch. The ditch eventually runs into an under capacity culvert, the cause of frequent flooding, before outfalling into Bookham Stream at the Common.
- the central area of Bookham from the High Street/East Street to The Park/Mill Close, where a study is proposed, subject to finding funding.
- the footpath from Greenacres to The Park where the outfall is blocked and has no adequate outfall.
- Kennel Lane/The Glade where there are root blockages in the main outfall to Fetcham

These are just a few of the many areas under investigation. If anyone knows of areas that are subject to flooding as a result of drainage blockages, please email Michael Agius: meagius@gmail.com

INFRASTRUCTURE

ROADS

Michael Agius

As previously reported, Surrey County Council (SCC) has developed a five year programme of major road repairs called Project Horizon. This includes Eastwick Drive, which, now that drainage problem areas have been resolved, is scheduled to be resurfaced this year. In addition the following roads are programmed to be resurfaced between now and 2018: Crabtree Lane; Little Bookham Street; Meadow Way/The Copse (Eastwick Drive to The Copse), Willow Vale (The Copse to the end) It should be noted, however, that Little Bookham Street will require considerable investigation and resolution of drainage problems over most of its length, before resurfacing can be carried out. Details are given in the drainage report. Apart from Project Horizon SCC continue to carry out works under their Integrated Transport Maintenance Scheme (ITS) and recently Pine Dean, off Eastwick Road, was resurfaced.

Under ITS funding design will be carried out this year of schemes to provide kerb build outs and crossing ramps at the entrances to the Eastwick Schools on Eastwick Drive and Eastwick Park Avenue, in order to control parking and make safer crossing points.

The BRA are still in discussions with SCC for the need for improvements to Rectory Lane, to provide a footway on the east side of the road from The Grange south to the A246 and widening of the carriageway to a consistent width. In answer to BRA's question to the recent Local Committee, SCC said

"topographical surveys have been carried out and an initial design has been drawn up for the proposal. However, in order to construct this footway, land from outside the highway will need to be purchased and currently no funding is available for this. Therefore negotiations have not commenced with landowners. However the scheme remains on the Mole Valley Integrated Transport (ITS) List for consideration for future funding".

Meanwhile Gracewell, the developers of the Preston Cross Care Home, have commenced constructing a west side footway along Rectory Lane from the Grange to Lower Road at the instigation of the BRA. BRA consider that crossing points in this length, for residents from the Grange and the new Care Home, as well as all the Bookham children who walk to and from the Howard on a daily basis, should be improved. In answer to



Replacement water mains by Sutton & East Surrey Water Company.

BRA's Supplementary Question at Local Committee, SCC have agreed to study the matter but do point out that, even if improvements are deemed necessary, they would have to be prioritised amongst many other similar schemes, in an ever decreasing amount of funding.

Part of the review will hopefully consider whether limited parking restrictions in the vicinity of the Rectory Lane/Lower Road junction would improve safety for those crossing the road.

Sutton and East Surrey Water Company are currently replacing their mains in several roads in Little Bookham and BRA are keeping a close eye on the reinstatement of trenches. Part of the problem in this area is that the original road construction was concrete which has subsequently been surfaced with a thin layer of 'black top'. Reinstatement has to be sympathetic to the original construction. BRA are liaising with SCC's Streetworks Team to ensure any problems that arise are quickly resolved.

As a general safety measure BRA have asked SCC Highways to repaint the road markings at The Squareabout which have become somewhat faded. This results in certain drivers not realising that all approaches to the junction are subject to Give Way restrictions. In answer to BRA's question to the recent Local Committee, SCC replied that "an order has been placed for the refreshing

of all the road markings at The Squareabout. It is hoped that the refresh works can be carried out by the end of this financial year. It should be noted that the delivery of road markings is weather dependent as they are best put down on a dry carriageway surface".

With regard to road markings, after many years of lobbying SCC, in conjunction with Effingham Parish Council (EPC), SCC have at long last imposed parking restrictions, with the requisite double yellow lines, on Lower Road at the bends between The Vineries and The Howard of Effingham School.

Visibility around the bends has been dramatically improved, as well as allowing a length for vehicles to pass and not have to back up, as constantly happened in the past. BRA are continuing to lobby EPC and SCC to improve visibility even more, by grubbing up all vegetation in the verge on the inside of the bends.

If you have any highways problems near you, the best way to report it is to go to www.surreycc.gov.uk and 'Report It', or phone 0300 200 1003.

Please also email Michael Agius on meagius@gmail.com so that he can keep a record of the problems.

COMMUNITY

Bookham Monthly Litter Pick

Starting on Sunday 5th February 2017 and then on the first Sunday of the month.

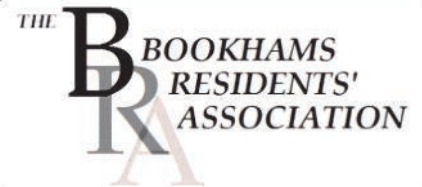
If you would like to join us in keeping Bookham clean, meet on the first Sunday of the month at the Lower Shott car park at 11.00 a.m.

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



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www.bookhamresidents.org.uk
Tel: 0300 030 9890



ABOUT THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Bookhams Residents' Association (BRA) was established in 1926 and aims to represent the views of all who live in Great and Little Bookham on important local issues to the local authorities and other public bodies and is independent of all political parties.

The BRA has a membership of 3,000 households which represents 7,000 residents i.e. approximately 60% of Bookham's population. By having a strong membership embracing the whole of Bookham the BRA can ensure that members views will be respected, noted and acted upon by the local authorities and others.

BRA Membership is £3.00 per annum per household

The BRA Newsletter is published twice a year in the Spring and Autumn. In addition to the print edition the BRA website is updated regularly as and when new stories affecting the Bookhams become available.

On the web site you can also register to receive occasional emails on BRA activities and village stories throughout the year.

There are also a number of regularly updated Notice Boards around the village.

www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

If you prefer to speak to the BRA team please call 0300 030 9890 and leave a message and a team member will get back to you.

On Sunday, 5th March as part of the BRA's regular monthly Litter Pick we co-ordinated with the Great British Spring Clean campaign. Villagers, families and Girl Guides joined in to give the village a good spring clean! Since starting the Litter Pick in March 2016 over 150 bags of rubbish and recyclables have been collected. Join us on the first Sunday in the month at 11.00 at Lower Shott. Grabs, high vis tops are provided.

