

# The Bookhams Residents' Association

bookhamresidents.org.uk

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## Autumn 2022

Working for Bookham since 1926



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BRA team co-ordinate new planters in the High Street!  
Read more on page 10

## Here's our Autumn newsletter, we need your help!

If you are reading this, I am sure it is because you value and appreciate what a great place Bookham is and are interested in what is being done by the Bookhams Residents Association (BRA) to keep it that way. But we need your help to carry on this valuable work.

This newsletter contains articles written by many of our volunteers and provides information on some of the BRA's current projects and activities from planning and development to health and wellbeing. The scope of the BRA's work is far-reaching, and this is why it is so important to our community.

We are however reliant on 'people-power'. We already have some incredible volunteers, but we need more!

Everyone has busy lives, but the time commitment does not have to be significant, and we need all sorts of different skills – if you are happy to give a small number of hours a month there will be a role for you.

**On the back page of this newsletter see how you can help...**

*(Continued on page 2)*

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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:

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Or call: 0300 030 9890

Or visit our web site:

[www.bookhamresidents.org.uk](http://www.bookhamresidents.org.uk)

On the web site you can sign up for our occasional e-mail service and pay your annual subscription.

We also have social media presence on Next Door and Facebook.

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But why is it worth making time available for the BRA? Well, aside from the fact that you will be helping us to look after our environment, infrastructure and facilities for this and future generations, you will also:

- Meet new people
- Have the opportunity to contribute to our objectives and future plans
- Help us take on more projects or progress some more quickly
- Give something back to our fantastic community

If you think this might be for you then we would love to put you in touch with one of our volunteers who can talk to you about how they became involved, what being a volunteer entails and what they have got out of it.

And last but not least, we are a very friendly bunch so if you would like to find out more, please do get in touch with us via the BRA website or give us a call.

## Chairman's Message

Peter Seaward

As the long hot summer becomes a distant memory we are looking ahead to a time of change for the BRA over the next few months.

As many of you will be aware I am standing down from the role of Chairman in the year ahead. I sincerely hope that there is someone out there who would be interested in undertaking this interesting, challenging, sometimes frustrating, but ultimately rewarding role.

However this is not the only role we must focus on. You will see that my message has been moved from the front page as we have a more pressing issue. We really do need some 'new blood', people to join the BRA team and keep us moving forward. The challenges do not go away, but unfortunately a number of us who have been involved for many years are facing up to not being able to now do as much as we would like. Please, please think about how you could help.

Thank you to those of you who withstood the heat and attended the AGM back in July. It was an interesting and enjoyable meeting. Later in the Newsletter we cover the meeting in more detail but I would like this opportunity to welcome Simon Edge who was elected as the Vice Chairman at the AGM. I am looking forward to working with him in the months ahead and his contribution to the BRA is already proving to be very beneficial.

Our current workload continues with the proposed boundary changes, the Local Plan, and speeding in the village plus much more and these are covered throughout the Newsletter.

Best wishes,

*Peter*  
—

## Community

### Introducing Simon Edge, our new Vice Chairman



**We are very pleased to announce that Simon Edge is joining the BRA Committee as a Director and Vice Chairman**

Simon has lived on the north-east side of Bookham for nearly 30 years. Now retired from a career in public sector audit, he recalls, "we moved here when I got a new job and needed to commute to central London. We also wanted a safe, vibrant village community atmosphere, with access to good schools and to the countryside. Bookham more than met all our wants and needs then, and it is still doing so now". He says, "it is because Bookham is such a great place to live that I have wanted to "do my bit" to help keep it that way, and in trying to improve it.

Taking an active part in the BRA is an excellent way of doing that. I previously served for five years as a local councillor which was very rewarding, except that far too much time was taken up by tedious politics rather than getting things done". I joined the BRA, rather than stand for re-election, because the BRA gets things done for the community, without the politics".

Welcome Simon!

## Community



*Bookham Scouts walking to the Friendship Tree in 2021 when Lower Road was shut for drainage works.*

### Remembrance Day

Pat Morrish

On Sunday 6th November, Michelle and David Smith and Pat Morrish will clean and lay a small wreath on each of the war graves in the churchyard.

On Remembrance Day, Friday 11th November, the four roads leading to the Squareabout will be closed to all traffic from 10.45 am until 11.15 am.

This is to ensure that the annual Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial in St Nicolas Churchyard can take place. The necessary Traffic Control Orders have been agreed with Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) and other services who will be affected have been informed.

Prayers will be said for The Fallen. The

Last Post will be sounded and wreaths will be laid.

On Remembrance Sunday 13th November, those Scouts attending the Church Service will be the first to leave and will gather on the path leading to the Squareabout. At approximately 11.30 am the Third Bookham Scouts will walk to the Canadian Friendship Tree in Eastwick Park Avenue (about 50m from the Lower Road junction). They will be lead by Karen Wheeler, Scout Leader.

The Friendship Tree was planted after the 1939-45 war in memory of those Canadians where based in Great Bookham, many of landed, and died, on the D-Day landings on 6th June 1944. Wreaths will be laid by the tree and prayers will be said. Anyone who would most welcome. Proceedings should not take more than fifteen minutes.

### Minutes of the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**John Howarth: Company Secretary**

**Present :** Directors: Cllr Roger Adams, Cllr Clare Curran, Andrew Freeman, Chris Pullan, Peter Seaward, David Smith

**Company Secretary:** John Howarth

**Bookham Councillors:** Cllr Sarah Chambers, Cllr Elizabeth Daly

Members and Committee Members of the Association.

#### 1. Chairman's Welcome & Introduction

Peter Seaward, Chairman, introduced guest speakers, following the formal business of the AGM, were Michael Coughlin Executive Director Partnerships, Prosperity and Growth for Surrey County Council (SCC) and Jane Last Head of Community Partnership and Engagement. He commented that the amount we pay to SCC is by far the largest item of expenditure we pay out every month in Council Tax. So where does all this hard-earned cash go?

#### 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from David Cox, Lyn and Peter Smudge, Cllr Monica Weller

#### 3. Minutes of the 94<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

3.1 **Accuracy:** The Minutes were ACCEPTED as a true record of the meeting.

3.2 **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising that would not be covered on the agenda.

#### 4. Chairman's Report

This will be my last year as BRA Chairman. I was planning to step down this year but have been asked to stay another year so that our new Vice Chairman, Simon Edge assuming you vote for him this evening can have a clear run into his new role.

As always there is a bedrock of tasks,

## Community

we do all taking time and often unnoticed. Planning is one where we look at around two hundred applications every year. Membership and communications always take time and is a demanding activity, dealing with Highways and the problems associated with them, Mole Valley District (MVDC) liaison on things like street cleaning litter and public area maintenance and improvement again take some time. Christmas lights, hanging baskets are another basic part of our workload.

Special activities this year included continuing work on the MVDC Local Plan, the new youth centre which may go to full planning stage soon. By the way if this does go ahead it will be the single biggest public investment in Bookham for the last 50 years or even more. This problem about the lack of investment in our public spaces and facilities is an issue we raise regularly with MVDC, SCC and all our Councillors. We call ourselves a village., We are a small town and growing. 12,000 people live here probably bigger than Leatherhead and slightly smaller than Ashted. All we have had in the past ten years I would guess are two cycle racks and the refurbishment of the toilets on Lower Shott. We deserve better. We have through our own resources, which is all organisations in Bookham not just the BRA raised well over £1 million pounds for redevelopment of various village halls, scouting centre, sports facilities at SPACE and so on.

### Infrastructure

A major achievement this year was finally getting rid of the flooding on the Lower Road by the Squareabout and East Street This is something we have worked and lobbied on for well over 10 years or more and special thanks are due to Clare Curran who has persisted in making SCC Highways step up and get this done. Thank goodness no more wedding day dresses being ruined by inconsiderate drivers rushing through the floods.

### Boundary Review

There is an on-going Boundary Review for Mole Valley District now, and we have worked hard with others to get this first recommendation from the Boundary Commission changed. This would have created a new ward from the centre of Church Road, The High Street and Dorking Road going east well into Fetcham and may still be called Eastwick Ward. As the Boundary Commission are supposed to take strong notice of specific location identities this makes no sense. We await to see if the Boundary Commission take note of all we have said along with our Councillors and Fetcham's too to get this proposal changed.

### MVDC Local Plan

The Local Plan is still taking time and money as the hearings from the Planning Inspector are well under way. Many in the village think this is just a problem for those who live in Little Bookham Street. Not so, in addition to the Preston Farm site there are other small sites plus continuing infill of over two hundred dwellings. All this on top of an infrastructure already creaking. Our mantra constantly is "Bookham is Full". Unfortunately, this is not a recognised Planning term!

### Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

CIL is also taking some time. CIL is a levy on all new building which is paid to MVDC and is in two parts. The majority goes to the Council for strategic developments and some 25% in the case of Bookham to a Neighbourhood Development pot. This fund is to alleviate the effect of new buildings in respect of infrastructure improvements. These can be varied, MVDC recently changed the rules for CIL, some good to help improve administration and visibility some not so good. This latter included to ability to pool funds whereas the scheme as laid down by HMG was for the money raised to be used in the location where it originated. This is not implying MVDC are doing anything incorrectly but in our view could be used in projects someway

from origin. We have used CIL to help fill up the gap in funds I mentioned before about Public Realm investment. We have just completed a power source to St Nicholas lych-gate for outdoor events (Remembrance Sunday) and lighting for the tree there which is a Christmas focal point. Another project approved and being implemented now is to improve the planting and planters in the shopping area. We are waiting to hear whether a large grant to improve signage especially for disadvantaged travellers has been approved for Bookham Station. Beyond that we are seeking funds to make cricket safer on Chrystie Rec, a replacement facility for the old Skateboard Park on the Lower Road rec and eventually to refurbish and extend the sports pavilion to the northern end of Chrystie Rec. This is used by Bookham Sports Association which includes football and cricket, and the building needs a serious renovation, extension, and upgrade.

There is more but I hope this gives you an understanding of what keeps us busy and how we try and spend your £5.00 subscription wisely.

### Committee & Volunteers

I need as always to thank many so please bear with me. To Chris Pullan, John Howarth and Andrew Freeman for keeping us on the straight and narrow, managing our money and all our legal and reporting matters. Our Membership Secretary Carolyn Elson who looks after all the Road Stewards and many other membership channels which is some task. Thanks to for everything Les Huett does on our Communications strategy and implementation. Within less than four years, with Carolyn, Les has moved us well into the digital arena using every social media channel but not TikTok (Yet!). We now have close to two thousand of you on our database which makes it so much easier to keep you up to date, but we have not forgotten our print media or good old fashioned notice boards which really have a major purpose.

The Planning team under Nigel Smith

# Community

and now Keith Whale are all unsung heroes. So thanks Brain Eve, Julia Dickinson, Frances Fancourt, Chris Cunningham, Peter Witter, and Geoff Tranter. Fighting the peculiarities of the Planning System and balancing individual needs with those of the community is not an easy task.

Margaret Lawson does wonders for the village in keeping in clean and tidy. Not just through the regular monthly Litter Picks but also getting other groups to help as well as her own Womble scheme. Here individuals adopt their own road or location to improve it. This is a growing band.

Frances Fancourt with her colleagues look after everything horticultural and along with Chris Cunningham lead the way of all matters relating to trees. In this band too we should include the Poole's (Diane and Steve) for their leading work on Blue Hearts. Nick Forrer used to look after all our notice boards and what a difference he made. Unfortunately, due to health problems Nick has stood down.

I need to thank Michael Agius for all his work as Vice Chairman and his continuing activities on Highways. He along with Clare did so much through the Flood Forum and highways to get the Squareabout fixed.

Keith Francis does his usual excellent detailed work on everything relating to transport and especially buses which since Falcon took over the 479 have improved. By the way if you have not used the SCC funded on demand bus service please do so. All the reports are favourable and is remarkable excellent value for money. Just load the Surrey Connect app on your mobile. Andrew Matthews needs a special thank you. His work in attempting to get improved disabled access at Bookham Station has been outstanding. His procurement skills are pretty good too in finding watering machines for the shopping areas.

Finally, Thanks to all our Councillors and to those who lost at the last election. All are full members of our committee and their willingness to

work on all these matters is so much appreciated.

On being put vote the Chairman's Report was ACCEPTED.

## **5. Treasurer's Report:** (Chris Pullan)

The surplus for the year was £408 compared with a surplus last year of £215

We have two main sources of income. The subscriptions which were £10,852, 28% above last year's figure. This very good result was boosted by Members paying more than the requested £5. A major charge on BRA funds was the £3,120 on Xmas lights. There were contributions of £3,850 for Covid projects from MVDC with corresponding expenditure.

Other organisations asked us to donate to their projects. In 2021 they were higher. We are pleased on behalf of the village to make such donations.

You will note that the BRA has a number of sub-funds which amounted to £17,341. These are reserved for specific purposes for example light fittings in the lych-gate.

My thanks to Lawrence Penney for examining the Accounts

## **6. Election of Directors**

### **6.1 Resignations from the Board**

The meeting noted that Michael Agius resigned from the Board during the year.

### **6.2 Retirement by Rotation**

Dave Smith Retired by Rotation under Article 55 and offered himself for re-election. On being put to the vote this was AGREED.

### **6.3 Ratification of Appointments to the Board**

The Directors are empowered to make appointments to the Board during the year, subject to such appointments being ratified at the following AGM. During the year Simon Edge, Les Huett and Geoff Tranter were thus appointed. The meeting was asked to ratify these appointments. On being put to the vote this was AGREED.

## **6.4 Election of new Directors**

No nominations had been put forward. The Company Secretary reminded the meeting that the Board could make such appointments during the year and that they would have to be ratified at the following AGM.

## **7. Election of Officers**

### **7.1 Election of Chairman**

Peter Seaward was nominated as Chairman. On being put to the vote this was AGREED.

### **7.2 Election of Vice Chairman**

Simon Edge was nominated as Vice Chairman. On being put to the vote this was AGREED.

### **7.3 Election of Treasurer**

Chris Pullan was nominated as Treasurer. On being put to the vote this was AGREED.

### **7.4 Election of Honorary President**

Deferred until the 2023 AGM

### **7.5 Election of Honorary Vice President**

There were no new nominations. Michelle Smith remains as Vice President

## **8. Independent Examiner**

Chris Pullan proposed that Lawrence Penney continue as Independent Examiner. This was AGREED.

## **9. Membership Subscription**

It was AGREED that the membership subscription remained at £5 per household for the year 2023. The meeting was reminded that it was the members who decided the subscription on the Board's recommendation. If it was deemed necessary to increase the subscription during the year (given the current national economic climate) an Extraordinary General Meeting would have to be convened.

## **10. Any Other Business**

There were no other items raised

## **11. Date of Next Annual General Meeting: TBA**

# Mole Valley District Council

## Oh Dear, what a Dog's Breakfast!

### The Local Government Boundary Commission's Review of Mole Valley

Simon Edge

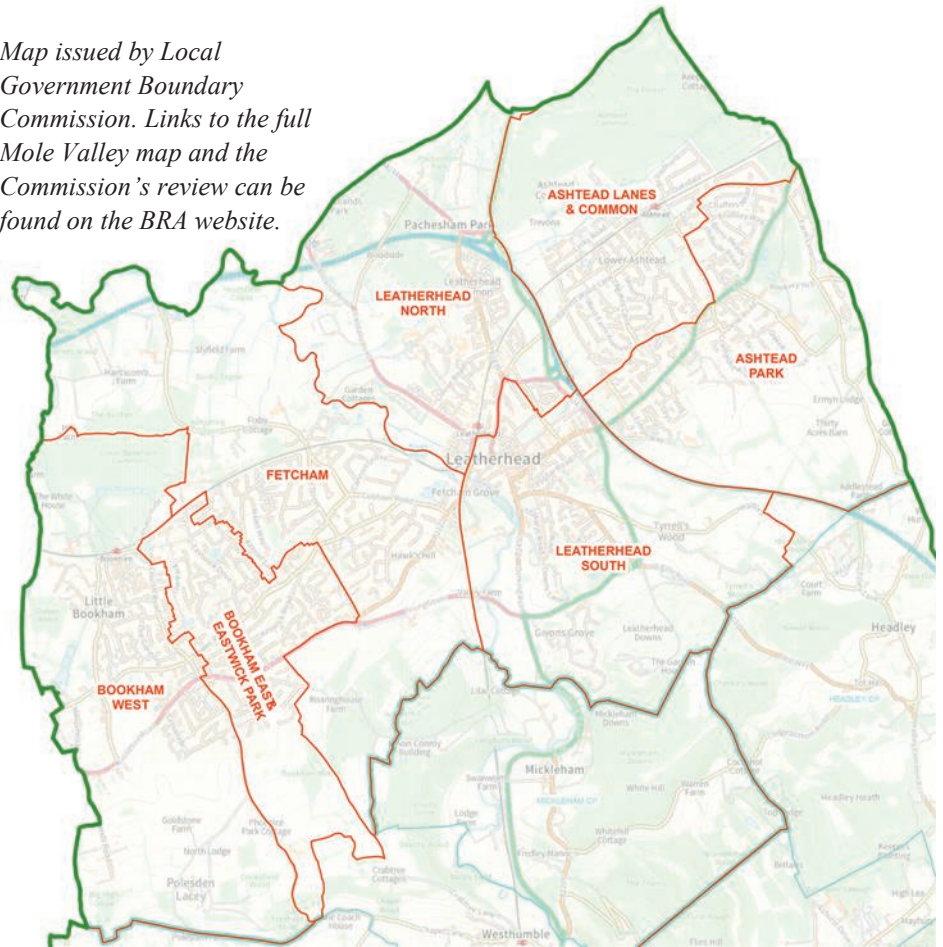
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (the Commission) conducts reviews of Council's electoral arrangements, including the number of councillors a Council has and the size and shape of the Electoral Wards they represent. Reviews happen periodically with Mole Valley's last review being in 1998.

The Commission's pre-review briefing to Councillors explained the process it would follow. It asked for an early decision on whether the Council wanted to retain a 'by thirds' election cycle (as opposed to changing to an 'all-out' cycle) as that would have a fundamental impact on the solution the Commission would deliver. A 'by-thirds' election cycle would require a 'three councillors per ward' solution. An 'all out' cycle would allow for the creation of one or two member wards. Councillors subsequently voted to retain the 'by thirds' cycle, so the Commission has duly delivered a three councillor per ward solution.

The Commission's recently published recommendations for Mole Valley's electoral arrangements, propose a loss of two councillors (down to 39) and a loss of eight wards (down to 13 three-councillor wards) across the District. We can only speculate what a combination of one, two, and three-councillors per ward solution would look like, and whether it would better represented Mole Valley's communities, including the Bookhams. What we do know is that the Electoral Commission's three-councillors per ward' recommendations mash Mole Valley's communities into a complete dog's breakfast of strangely shaped wards, to make the numbers fit.

The changes the Commission proposes must now be approved by Parliament subject to which the new electoral

*Map issued by Local Government Boundary Commission. Links to the full Mole Valley map and the Commission's review can be found on the BRA website.*



arrangements for Mole Valley will be implemented at the local elections in 2023. The BRA has written to our Member of Parliament, asking him to speak and vote in Parliament against the Commission's recommendations, making the following points.

When making its recommendations, the Commission must meet three statutory criteria:

- to deliver electoral equality for electors
- to reflect community interests and identities
- to promote effective and convenient local government

The BRA agrees that the Commission has met the requirement of electoral equality i.e. setting ward boundaries that mean each councillor represents approximately the same number of voters, but only by completely failing to meet its other two requirements:

The Commission's map clearly shows that the proposed ward boundaries do not reflect the interests and identities of local communities. In the north of Mole Valley, we now have only one Fetcham Ward, with the remainder of Fetcham being shoehorned into an "imaginary community" called "Eastwick Park" to form a ward called "Bookham East and Eastwick Park". The remainder of Great Bookham and Little Bookham become Bookham West Ward. Ashtead, one of the most populated areas in Mole Valley actually loses a Councillor.

In the south of Mole Valley the proposals create three very geographically large wards: Mickleham; Westcott and Oakwood; Capel; Leigh; Newdigate and Charlwood; and Brockham; Betchworth; Buckland; Box Hill and Headley.

The Boundary Commission's creation of imaginary "communities", and others with huge geographical areas is

## MVDC

why the proposals do not meet the requirement of promoting effective local government. Pity the Councillors who will have to understand the needs, and properly represent the interests of such large and diverse "imaginary" communities. How can those Councillors be expected to be the local face of, and provide, "effective local government"!

The BRA's response to the Boundary Commission's draft proposals did prompt some changes. The High Street is not now being split lengthways in two. Bookham's boundary with Fetcham along Kennel Lane, Lower Road and the Ridgeway is clearer.

The BRA did highlight that there was precedent (St Albans) where the Commission had not slavishly followed its numbers game to provide a better match between Councillors, Wards and Communities. Two member and single member wards were agreed because of local circumstances. The BRA proposed this should happen in Mole Valley with two Bookham wards, one of three Councillors the other of two. We supported Fetcham retaining two wards, with two members each. Sadly the Boundary Commission ignored our proposals. The BRA's full responses to the Commission can be read on the BRA website.

The Bookhams and Fetcham communities are based on historical settlements which are many hundreds of years old. The BRA and its equivalent in Fetcham (FRA) have not been going quite that long but they do have a long history of working closely together. So, because the Boundary Commission's proposals for the Bookhams and Fetcham are so wrong, the BRA and FRA have agreed to continue to work on the basis of their existing boundary. We will continue to work on behalf of our communities regardless of whatever mad lines the Boundary Commission draws on the map.

We hope that our Member of

## Community



Parliament's intervention will prompt the Boundary Commission to amend its proposals. However, if in 2023 you end up having to vote for a 'local' councillor in a ward that bears no resemblance to where you think you live, at least you will know why.

### Eastwick Park Medical Practice

#### Simon Edge

In the Spring Newsletter we reported on the contact the BRA had had with the Eastwick Park Medical Practice, and our desire to help the GPs with their aspirations to improve/develop the practice for the benefit of patients.

Our subsequent discussions with MVDC Officers showed they were keen to explore what can be done to improve health care provision in Bookham, but also across the north of Mole Valley. They saw the main objective as being: how to improve capacity in GP provision, taking account of the land being made available through the Local Plan, potential funding availability, and the plans of the NHS and commissioning groups. Ideas include the possibility to develop new GP surgeries/facilities, and or a new multi-service provider hub.

MVDC Officers agree to create a 'prospectus' of the collective aims to bring the various local government and NHS groups together and to brief MVDC and SCC Councillors. The BRA engaged with the residents' associations of Fetcham, Leatherhead and Ashted, all of which were supportive of what the initiative is trying to achieve, and which have had positive feedback from their local GPs.

Inevitably over the summer months progress has been slow. However, drafting the prospectus has started, bringing together elements of MVDC's Strategy, the Local Plan, and potential funding sources. As part of that, it is seen as important that the various organisations involved work together on maximising the benefit of their combined infrastructure to improve delivery.

MVDC and SCC are now in contact, and SCC is keen to establish primary care needs in the area and to ascertain the likelihood of various projects succeeding.

Having MVDC and SCC co-ordinating their efforts, rather than duplicating each other's work, is a positive approach but tangible progress is yet to be made.

## Infrastructure

### Traffic Speeding in Bookham

**Councillor Clare Curran**

Many residents contact me with concerns about cars speeding in Bookham. Speeding cars and inconsiderate driving makes many people feel unsafe, especially when they are walking or cycling. Road safety is a council priority and climate change means that over time, more people will shift to walking or cycling especially for short journeys; safer roads will encourage this change.

Nearly all of the built-up area of the village has a 30 mph limit. There are many cars on Bookham's roads and several of the main routes are at capacity at some times of the day.

Speed surveys carried out by Surrey Police do show the proportion of drivers who exceed the 30 mph limit; this information also shows the Police where to send enforcement officers.

Problems with speeding traffic should always be reported to Surrey Police online or via the non-urgent number 101. Where the Police can see a pattern of speeding, then can send out officers to do speed checks and also work with Surrey Highways' engineers and road safety teams to try to make changes that will slow drivers down and improve the safety of the area for all road users.

Residents can see some of the work that has been done to slow traffic down in Bookham. Small build-outs in Rectory lane and in Eastwick Drive not only provide safer crossing points for

pedestrians but have also reduced traffic speeds in those areas.

Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) have been erected in Little Bookham Street; these flash a warning to drivers who are approaching them doing more than 30 mph. There are also other VASs that the Bookham Residents manage, which can be moved to different locations.

Later this financial year, a 20 mph zone will be introduced in East Street; this too should force drivers to slow down, making it safer for people who choose to walk or cycle and improving safety for local residents.

Surrey Highways are considering a larger safety scheme for Church Road too; fingers crossed that this will get a go-ahead in the coming months.

### Vehicle Activated Signs

**Andrew Freeman**

As many of you may have noticed there has been a Vehicle Activated Sign on the A246 by the public toilets for the last 4 or 5 months. Or should I more correctly say that you haven't noticed, in which case you've been adhering to the 30 mph speed limit! Thank you!

It may surprise you to learn that the sign is being triggered around 750 times a week, so just over 100 speeding vehicles a day. Hopefully this will fall over time but we're also looking at other sites as drivers get accustomed to sites if they are used continuously for too long.

Unfortunately we are restricted as to where we can place them as there are deemed too heavy for lampposts, and need specially erected posts which comes at a significant cost. As an alternative we are looking at perhaps purchasing a lighter sign that may be acceptable, e.g. a lithium battery or solar powered.

You may have noticed two signs along Little Bookham Street. These are hard-wired to the lampposts, i.e. they get the power from the lamppost as opposed



to a heavy battery. This means that they are permanent, whereas our aim is to be more mobile..

**If you would like to get more involved in the management of the mobile Vehicle Activated Sign, please send a message via the BRA's website: [bookhamresidents.org.uk](http://bookhamresidents.org.uk) or call 0300 030 9890**



*PS: And thank you for keeping within the speed limit as it also helps to slow down the traffic behind you! An easy win all round*



[bookhamresidents.org.uk/contact](http://bookhamresidents.org.uk/contact)



## Infrastructure

### Drainage

#### Michael Agius

The BRA continues to try and resolve the villages' many historical drainage problems through the Bookham Flood Forum, along with SCC Highways (and Thames Water. Meetings have continued to be held on Zoom.

The summer has been exceptionally dry, avoiding any of the usual flooding problems experienced throughout the village..



*Resurfacing work has been completed at Preston Cross and Lower Road junction*

### Highways

During the last six months the carriageways on Lower Road, Little Bookham Street and Rectory Lane around the Preston Cross mini roundabout have been resurfaced.

Roads around the village have been badly affected by essential Utility Street works, particularly on the A246 and Lower Road. Whilst the resulting traffic delays are frustrating for road users, the works are necessary to maintain and improve the village's ageing infrastructure.

Mole Valley District Council's Integrated Transport Scheme Programme for 2021/22 - 2023/24 includes the following Bookham project :

- Eastwick Park Avenue - £25,000 for construction of pedestrian improvements outside the entrance to Eastwick Junior School, similar to those constructed outside the school on Eastwick Drive.

The programme also includes schemes for future potential prioritisation from MVDC's Road Safety central budgets :

- Lower Rd/Little Bookham Street - formal pedestrian crossing. £100,000
- Church Road - traffic calming measures. £200,000

**If you have any highways problems near you, the best way to report it is to go to [www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk) and "Report It", or phone 0300 200 1003.**

**Please also email Michael Agius on [meagius@gmail.com](mailto:meagius@gmail.com) so that he can keep a record of the problems.**

### Bookham Station Accessibility

#### Andrew Matthews

Following our last report, and despite a lot of good work we were unsuccessful in our application to South Western Railway (SWR) to be included in their bid for "Access for All" funding. This would have allowed us to build an accessible bridge with lifts at Bookham Station for step free access to platform one. Despite this disappointment we have secured the support of Surrey County Council and are looking at what might be required for a future bid for funding towards the end of the decade.

The only alternative solution for step free access to platform one, is to continue to press the National Trust to allow us to improve the path across Bookham Common to permit mobility scooters access to the London-bound trains, which they have not been

supportive of so far despite letters from a local councillor and our MP.

Other improvements that are being pursued are:

The 32inch displays that show the live train and bus departures, we have already had one installed on platform two, and are in the advanced process of securing the funding for a display on platform one.

The toilets are earmarked to be refurbished as part of the SWR 2022 - 2023 budget.

Tactile paving is to be installed at the station in due course.

A bid has also been submitted to the SWR community improvement fund for a bench to be provided by the bus stop outside the station.

### Bus Services

#### Keith Francis

##### 479 Service

From 28th August 2022 Falcon Buses took over operating the subsidised by Surrey County Council Sunday and Bank holiday services from Stagecoach so Falcon Buses now runs the 479 every day of the week. The new full timetable is available on the BRA website to download.

##### Mole Valley Connect

The new Mole Valley Connect on-demand bus service that we reported on in our spring newsletter is now well established and providing a much needed service in the district. You can

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find out more on the BRA or MVDC websites.

### Bus Service Funding

Surrey County Council received no government funding to support buses in the last round and as there will be a major review of our bus services next August they will need all our support so hopefully it can mean that we don't lose any routes.

More recently TfL has had to consider the funding of all its transport services including buses and the 465 from Kingston via Leatherhead to Dorking could I understand at some date be under risk for our southern "country" section meaning that all the parents of children who go from our area to the Ashcombe School in Dorking may be forced to have a re-think on their school and transport. We will be following develops on this and will advise residents accordingly.

### Our Shopping Areas get a Green Update

**Frances Fancourt**  
**BRA Tree Warden**

On 11th October a number of new plants arrived in our central shopping areas. These include a planter each at Lower Shott and Church Road, four planters in the High Street, plus renovated beds along the A246 and in the High Street.

It is many years since the beds beside the benches in the High Street were planted up. Organized by the Bookham Residents' Association and in a new collaboration with the Bookham Butterflies WI, these beds have been replanted and will be maintained with a colourful mix of flowering plants and shrubs thanks to the on-going commitment from the gardening section of this WI group.

This will be a lasting memorial to Queen Elizabeth II who died during its planning.

If your WI would like to join in this green initiative by taking on a bed or



*Olive trees in new planters at the top of the High Street and Church Road along with hanging baskets and raised flower beds. Olive trees are very hardy!*

some planters in our central areas do get in contact with me via the BRA website.  
**Funding for the trees and planters are the result of a CIL application made by the BRA.**

### Tree Planting in Bookham this winter

With Surrey County Council's mission to plant 1.2 million trees, we are happy to be getting some new trees in Bookham this winter. A line of red leaf flowering cherries should soon be planted along the Lower Road near the recreation ground, as part of the Queen's Green Canopy campaign.

With the extreme heat and drought in 2022 a number of street trees have died recently. We are working with the council to get these removed and replaced too. We welcome this initiative from the council .

### BRA Committee Member, Richard Moyse, supporting Royal British Legion poppy appeal

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November (Remembrance week end) Richard and a group of fellow cyclists will be riding around the key war memorials of Mole



Valley to raise money for the Royal British Legion's annual poppy appeal.

This will be approximately fifty miles in length starting at the top of Boxhill at 9.30am. There will be regular stops.

If you would like to join him, the more the merrier, but all participants (and their bikes) must be capable of riding fifty miles and be over eighteen years of age (not the bike!) Don't forget to bring your helmet. All riding at participants own risk.

Please contact Richard for more details at: [richardmoysebookham@gmail.com](mailto:richardmoysebookham@gmail.com).

*Richard after completing the Ride Essex 100 charity event earlier this year*



## Environment



### BRA becomes a Plastic Free Bookham Community Ally!

Diane Poole

BRA is delighted to show their support for the Plastic Free Bookham (PFB) project by becoming a Community Ally. Normally such allies would pledge to remove three pieces of single use plastic but since they don't have any to remove, they have achieved accreditation by:

- Hosting the PFB generated 'Reduce, reuse and recycle around Bookham and nearby' search tool, providing the IT development of the search tool and support behind it.
- Promoting PFB and Refill activities in the village via their twice yearly

newsletter and social media

- Organising a monthly litter pick in the village

If you run a local organisation or business and would like to join PFB on their plastic-free journey, have a look at their website [plasticfreebookham.org.uk](http://plasticfreebookham.org.uk) to see what's involved, or contact them at [pfcbookham@gmail.com](mailto:pfcbookham@gmail.com). Or follow them on Facebook ([@plasticfreebookham](https://www.facebook.com/plasticfreebookham)).

To access the PFB/BRA recycling search tool go to:

[recycle.bookhamresidents.org.uk](http://recycle.bookhamresidents.org.uk)  
or scan the QR code below.



### Join the BRA Litter Pick on the first Sunday of the month and keep Bookham tidy!



If you would like to join the BRA Litter Pick we 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.

The Bookhams Residents' Association

[bookhamresidents.org.uk](http://bookhamresidents.org.uk)  
Tel: 0300 030 9890



### Litter Pick

Margaret Lawson

The litter pick teams are out whatever the weather doing their bit to keep the Bookham village looking tidy. In addition to our main litter pick on the first Sunday of the month, we have a number of "wombles" who do a litter pick on their own in a particular part of the village, usually near their home. If you see a "womble" out and about give them a cheery "Hello" and a "Thank you" it is appreciated.

We have been litter picking since 2016 as of the "Clean for the Queen" Keep Britain Tidy event and have continued ever since. Our last "royal" litter pick was for the Queen's 75th Jubilee. earlier this year.

Any litter pick queries you can contact Margaret, our Litter Pick Co-ordinator on:

[litterpicking@bookhamresidents.org.uk](mailto:litterpicking@bookhamresidents.org.uk) or 0300 030 9890

Please note participants must be aged sixteen or over or if under 16 assisting as part of a recognised organisation.

The Bookhams  
Residents'  
Association

bookhamresidents.org.uk  
Tel: 0300 030 9890

## Not too late to pay your 2022 subs!

Throughout this Newsletter you will have read about the many examples of how the BRA continues to champion many initiatives in the village.

The BRA is run by volunteers who give their time freely and for free but some of the work we undertake costs money.

For just £5.00 per year per household you can help us to fund our work on behalf of our village and you will be a BRA member.

### 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.

However a number of our roads no longer have a Road Steward we have listed the ways you can pay.

Even if you do have a Road Steward why not try one of these other ways to pay – it will save them from having to call.

**Use the QR code** – scan with your smart phone and be taken to the BRA website payment page.

**Pay online** – visit the BRA website at [www.bookhamresidents.org.uk](http://www.bookhamresidents.org.uk) and head to the Subscriptions page. You can use a credit or debit card to pay through our secure payment system.

**Pay by telephone using a credit or debit card.**

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

One of our volunteers will ring you back and will input your payment card details into our secure payment system during the telephone call. Your payment details are not retained.

### Standing Order

If you would like further details to pay by standing order please email us at

[membership@bookhamresidents.org.uk](mailto:membership@bookhamresidents.org.uk) or call our helpline on 0300 030 9890 for further details.



[bookhamresidents.org.uk/subscriptions](http://bookhamresidents.org.uk/subscriptions)

Thank you to those residents who have already paid this year and don't forget if you have already paid your subs sign up for our occasional email service on the BRA website or follow us on social media to keep up to date with village news between our Newsletter print editions.

## Want to get involved?

As mentioned on the front page we have specific roles that we need volunteers for:

### Noticeboard Administrator

We have five noticeboards to be updated with new village notices and typically this will be weekly. The boards are all around the village so an element of walking is required between the sites. It would suit two people working together.

### Minutes Secretary

Committee meetings are held eight times a year and we have four directors meetings. They are currently held on the first Monday in the month and the

second Monday following bank holidays. Meetings start at 7.30 pm and are face to face (occasionally they may be Zoom calls). The Minutes Secretary will produce the minutes and actions at the meetings. A PC /laptop and internet access will be required.

### Contact Administrator

We have an online and telephone messaging service for residents to contact the BRA. The Contact Administrator will receive these contact messages via a BRA email account, and forward them on to the relevant BRA committee member for follow up. A PC /laptop and internet access will be required

### Road Stewards

Our team of Road Stewards are responsible for the delivery of the BRA Newsletter twice a year and collection of the annual BRA subscription.

### Vehicle Activated Signs

See page 8 for more details

If you are interested in any of these positions please contact us via the BRA website:

[bookhamresidents.org.uk](http://bookhamresidents.org.uk)  
or call 0300 030 9890

