

The Bookhams Residents' Association

bookhamresidents.org.uk

Tel: 0300 030 9890

June 2023

Working for Bookham since 1926



Please note due to an unforeseen circumstance with our arrangements for this year's AGM we are having to reschedule to the 9th August. This means the date in the print version of this Newsletter of 19th July is incorrect, Our apologies.



www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

In This Edition:

- AGM
- Peter Seaward retires
- Bookham's New Youth Centre
- Committee members retire
- The Big Help Out
- Eastwick Park Medical Practice
- Neighbourhood Watch
- MVDC Elections
- Connect on-demand bus service
- Infrastructure
- New Coronation bench
- Membership

Chairman's message

Peter Seaward

It seems summer is on its way at last. The past months have kept us busy. The Local Plan and the hearings were demanding and now we sit and wait for His Majesty's Government to decide what they are doing next. It appears this maybe a long wait.

Our youth activities are frustrating. The proposed new Youth Centre is delayed due to the rapidly rising costs, but new plans should be available soon.

For many years we have been trying to get the skateboard equipment on Lower Road Rec removed and replaced but our attempts have had several problems which will be overcome. It all takes far too much time though.

Please press all our new Councillors to get behind these projects and help remove the bureaucracy. Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) kindly granted various organisations some funding to celebrate the Coronation so we have been given funds towards a Coronation celebration bench on Lower Shott. See page 11 for more details.

As you will all have seen Bookham is part of MVDC's drive to install electric charging

(Continued on page 2)

Chairman: Peter Seaward: chair@bookhamresidents.org.uk

Administration: Andrew Freeman: admin@bookhamresidents.org.uk

Communications & Newsletter: Les Huett: publicity@bookhamresidents.org.uk

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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:

publicity@bookhamresidents.org.uk

Or call: 0300 030 9890

Or visit our web site:

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.

Annual General Meeting

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 Wednesday 9th August 2023 commencing at 7.30pm.

Agenda

1. Welcome by the Chairman
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13th July 2022.
 - 3.1 Accuracy
 - 3.2 Matters arising
4. Chairman's Report: Report on the activities of the Association during 2022
5. Financial report for 2022
6. Appointment of Directors
 - 6.1 To note the resignation from the Board of Peter Seaward and Andrew Freeman
 - 6.2 To ratify the appointment to the Board of Neil McDowall
 - 6.3 To appoint new Directors (if any)
7. Election of Officers of the Company
 - 7.1 Election of Chairman
 - 7.2 Election of Vice Chairman
 - 7.3 Election of Treasurer
 - 7.4 Election of Honorary President
 - 7.5 Election of Honorary Vice Presidents
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2023
9. Determination of Membership Subscription for 2023
10. Any other business
11. Guest speaker—TBC

If you would like to nominate a Director for the Board of Directors or you would like to present Motions for Discussion, please advise Les Huett (Company Secretary) no later than 19th July 2023 in writing to the Registered Office address or by email to:

company.secretary@bookhamresidents.org.uk

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 19th July 2023.

Those attending who are not members may pay on the door.

Les Huett

Company Secretary

(Continued from page 1)

points and those on Lower Shott will be completed soon.

We have had positive dialogues with the Police about the unpleasant incidents in the High Street recently and are assured these are most unusual and arrests have been made.

Please come and join us at the AGM in August so we can collectively discuss what more we can do for our lovely village in the coming year.



Peter Seaward, our BRA Chairman is retiring after 18 years of service. Peter reflects on his time in office in conversation with Geraldine Brassett.

It is with a mixture of pride and gratitude that I will step down as Chair of the Bookham Residents Association on 19th July 2023. Pride in what has been achieved in the eighteen years since I took up the reins as chair and gratitude to all the incredible people. I have been fortunate to work with many of whom have become lifelong friends.

Casting my mind back to before my involvement with the BRA, my awareness of the Bookham community was probably as it is for many people. I felt fortunate to live in such a lovely village, but my day would typically involve leaving early for work and returning late. I knew about village life, where to shop for what, how to access amenities but had never really considered what might be possible beyond that.

However in 2005 I retired and, little did I know it at that point, but I was about to start to learn much more about the needs of a community and what people working together could do to improve the environment and facilities.

About five weeks into my retirement someone 'gently persuaded' a small cohort of us to attend the BRA Annual General Meeting (AGM). And the rest, as they say, is history. At that meeting I was 'nudged' to join one of the BRA committees which I was pleased to do.

At that time the BRA rotated the Chair at each meeting and then, at one meeting I was asked if I would undertake the role on a permanent basis. At that time the BRA was much smaller, we had around 800 members and the number was decreasing. My first priority was therefore to grow the membership which John and Gillian Allen did through walking the streets, knocking on doors and setting up the network of Road Stewards which is still an important element of the BRA today.

It is one thing to recruit new members, but it is also important to keep them engaged so, around the same time, we published our first newsletter. I am proud that our membership has grown

and keeps growing and we now have in the region of 2,500 members.

The success of the BRA is, in part down to collaboration, whether that is with our own Planning Committee who work independently of the BRA committee or with Surrey County Council (SCC) or Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) and again I have been privileged to work with some very good people who care passionately about maintaining and improving our environment.

Having said that, the last 18 years have also shown me the importance of understanding how systems work and some of the challenges in navigating these to deliver successful outcomes. Has it occasionally been frustrating? yes, but those frustrations lessened as I became more familiar with not just 'what' needed to be done but 'how' to do it.

Someone once asked me if there were any key achievements that stood out for me, but this is a hard question to answer as there have been so many positive and important initiatives but one that always comes to mind is the work that the BRA undertook to address the problems with flooding on the Lower Road that impacted on children walking to the Howard of Effingham School.

This issue arose in the winter of 2013/2014. After some very heavy rain the Lower Road had about eight inches of flood water that the children had to walk through. Leaving aside whether or not they enjoyed the experience it meant that they were often spending days in school wet and then repeating the process on the way home. There was the added problem of cars driving through the water and soaking pedestrians.

Clearly this position was not sustainable so the BRA, working with MVDC raised in the region of £8,000 in a few hours which enabled the building of a path, within four days, at the back of the recreation ground. This meant that the Lower Road and therefore the



Peter receiving the Mole Valley Chairman's Certificate for promoting Community Cohesion in 2022

flood water, could be avoided. And whilst the problem with the flooding is now fixed, the path is still used and providing long term benefit to our village.

I wanted to highlight this example as, not only does it illustrate what can be achieved by people working together for the good of our community, but it also provides visibility of the important work of the BRA which perhaps sometimes goes unnoticed, but which delivers long term benefits.

Through chairing the BRA I have learned so much about our village, our local infrastructure, how local government works and how to influence that. It has not always been easy, and it has been a significant commitment but it would be true to say that I have definitely no regrets from having accepted the 'nudge' all those years ago.

My hopes for the future? That the BRA will thrive, and that membership will continue to grow. I would like to think that my legacy is that the BRA is now in a much stronger position than it was when I became Chair eighteen years ago and has the structure and influence to continue the great work it undertakes to further enhance our community.

Finally, I would like to pass on my best wishes to our new Chair and to all our volunteers, past and present, and to thank them for all their help and support over the last eighteen years.

Community

Bookham's New Youth and Community Centre

- a dedicated purpose-built space is needed to continue to develop the support that local young people so desperately want and need. Let them know you care!

Simon Edge Vice-Chairman reports:

The BRA has long supported the Bookham Youth and Community Association (BYCA) and the work of Leatherhead Youth Project (LYP) in Bookham. Since the old Bookham Youth and Community Centre closed in 2019, Leatherhead Youth Project has continued providing open-access youth work in Bookham.

The BRA's Vice Chairman, Simon Edge, spoke to Jenny Coffin, LYP Bookham Lead Youth Worker, about why the new youth centre will be so important for young people in Bookham.

Tell us about the youth work happening in Bookham?

On Mondays and Fridays during term time we run a youth café open to all secondary school aged young people after school, followed by targeted evening sessions. As part of the work we do in Bookham, we also provide primary to secondary school transition work and one-to-one mental health support for local young people. During the school holidays we run trips and have an annual residential.

In the past year we have supported 107 young people through our Bookham youth café with many more supported in our other projects.

Why is your work so important?

All young people need a safe space for them to go to. The projects we run help them with their social skills, self-esteem, confidence and sense of belonging. We aim to empower young people so that they can learn new skills and find ways to contribute to the



Jenny Coffin, LYP Bookham Lead Youth Worker

wider community. We take a relational approach to the support we offer and tailor it around the needs of the young people, so that no matter what barriers they face they develop the skills needed to overcome them. Through regular relational youth work we are able to identify young people who are at risk and ensure support is put in place.

What are the biggest challenges you face?

Since the old Bookham Youth and Community Centre closed, our current biggest challenge is space. We have been using the pastoral centre but are now at capacity. It has been a really wonderful stop-gap, but a dedicated purpose-built space is needed to continue to develop the support that local young people so desperately want and need. It is important to be able to provide a space for young people to do exercise and sports and

the new building will make this possible.

How would operating from a new centre affect you?

It would allow us to work with a greater number of young people at more points during the week. This would enable us to increase the support we can provide for the local community. The location of the new centre is far better for young people as it's easily accessible and would also give us visibility over the recreation ground, creating a safe space for all users. We would also be able to provide one to one mental health support directly from the building, which given the increase in demand for this service would be amazing.

I'm sure you are looking forward to moving into the new centre.

What are your hopes for the future?

We want all young people in Bookham to feel safe, happy and make positive life changes. It's so important to us that young people have a role in helping to shape and lead the youth work they engage in, making sure it really supports their needs. Investing into the next generation is so crucial and we can't wait to expand the ways we can do that with the help of the new centre.

Simon also spoke to David Cox OBE who is Chairman of the BYCA and has been pressing both SCC and MVDC for many years to get a new Youth and Community Centre built in a central location in Bookham.

Reacting to Jenny's comments, David said "I completely support Jenny's views. There is a huge need for the new Centre to be built, a need that has been unfilled for far too long, failing our young people. It is four years since the former Centre was closed and 11 years since it was agreed a new centre was required. This is not a complex project. Planning was submitted by SCC in November 2020

Community



Computer generated image provided by Surrey CC. This is for indicative purposes only and not the final external design.

and approved by MVDC in May 2021. Sadly, internal inter-Council bureaucracy has taken two years, but the Councils are working with key community stakeholders for a positive outcome.

"It is high time that the Councils stop failing Bookham's young people and provide the facilities they need. The BYCA, working with the LYP and the BRA, will continue to work to achieve that."

If you have children, grandchildren, or simply care about the negative impact that the lack of a dedicated Centre is having on Bookham's young people, get in touch with the BRA, and your Mole Valley District Councillors and Surrey County Councillors to let them know you care!

Long serving BRA Committee members retire and we welcome new volunteers

After many years of service a number of our Committee members are retiring, or have recently retired, and we thank them for their contributions and support of the BRA over the years.

Committee members retiring are:

Peter Seaward: Chairman

Andrew Freeman: Administration Director

John Howard: Company Secretary

Chris Pullan: Treasurer

Nigel Smith: Planning sub-committee chair

We welcome new members to the team:

Les Huett: Company Secretary (in addition to Communications)

Neil McDowall: Treasurer

David Armstrong: Minutes Secretary

Geraldine Brassett: Publicity team

Keith Whale: Planning sub-committee chair

Simon Baxter: Vehicle Activated Signs Co-ordinator

We also welcome **Gill Caldwell** representing Churches Together to the committee and we thank **Martin Hollins** for his contribution.

BRA Noticeboards

The BRA has five noticeboards around the village and we are happy to display community events and notices on them. To find out more and how to submit your posters, please visit the BRA website:

www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

There is no charge for this service.

BRA Event Calendar

The BRA has an Event Calendar on its website and we are happy to display community events. To see events and to find out more and how to submit your event please visit the BRA website:

www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

There is no charge for this service.

Community



Margaret Lawson
Litter Picking Co-ordinator

I think we could say our Big Help Out Litter Pick event was a big success!

Apart from 22 of our regular litter pickers, we were delighted to welcome two new members as well as many Beavers and their parents. Most picked litter, (21 bags collected), but one weeded, and two began clearing weeds from the church wall and pavement.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make a difference to the appearance of Bookham.

After we finished we had nibbles and drinks in the sunshine, which was a pleasant end to our contribution to The Big Help Out.

Join the BRA Litter Pick
keep Bookham tidy!



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

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

The Bookhams
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Tel: 0300 030 9890



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

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 or with a supervising adult.



1st Bookham Puffin Beaver Colony and parents contributed to the Coronation The Big Help Out campaign by joining the monthly Litter Pick

Community



Eastwick Park Medical Practice

Simon Edge

Previously we have reported on the contact we have had with Eastwick Park Medical practice and our desire to help the GPs with their aspirations to improve and develop the practice for the benefit of patients.

The Communication channels are still open between the BRA and Mole Valley District Council, Surrey County Council, the Eastwick Park Medical Practice GPs, and NHS Estates. Although that communication continues to be rather sporadic, all of the parties seem to remain keen to talk to each other and the BRA.

The prospect of them all getting together to pool their thoughts and resources on what can be done, and how, to improve primary health care in the north of Mole Valley is still an on-going aspiration. The BRA is continuing to act as a catalyst (or might that be irritant) to keep the topic on the party's various agenda.

We are aware that NHS Estates have commissioned a stock-take of the various parts of the built infrastructure that makes up the Estate in the north of Mole Valley.

The stock-take is due to conclude during the summer months. Hopefully the results of this work will provide further impetus for progress. It remains a slow process!

Can you help?

Contact Administrator and Road Stewards needed

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

The administrator needs to have access to a laptop/PC to manage the messages of which there are two or three a week.

Full training will be given.

Road Stewards

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

Unfortunately we do not have Road Stewards for all roads in Bookham which means we do not have

volunteers to deliver Newsletters or collect subscriptions, to you and your neighbours.

All we need is a commitment of a few hours in the Spring and Autumn to deliver to around twenty homes.

If you are interested in any of these positions please contact us via the BRA website: bookhamresidents.org.uk or call 0300 030 9890



Neighbourhood Watch's biggest recruitment drive in recent times launched

A new recruitment campaign has been launched, termed a BETTER PLACE TO LIVE...

The scheme aims to achieve a better place to live no matter the starting point – whether it be working together to reduce fear of and opportunities for crime, supporting our neighbours, reducing isolation and loneliness, or making new friendships. With 2.3 million members already, the campaign aims to:

- attract even more members
- encourage groups to be more active
- encourage all local group members to register their membership nationally

To find out more, visit: www.ourwatch.org.uk/betterplacetolive

Mole Valley District Council

MVDC Local Election Results

Bookham Councillors following the 2023 Boundary Commission changes and 2023 Local Elections are:

Councillor	Ward
Cllr Christine Miller	Bookham West - Liberal Democrat
Cllr Monica Weller	Bookham West - Liberal Democrat
Cllr Roger Adams	Bookham West - Liberal Democrat
Cllr Paul Kennedy	Bookham East and Eastwick Park - Liberal Democrat
Cllr Elizabeth Daly	Bookham East and Eastwick Park - Liberal Democrat
Cllr Andrew Matthews	Bookham East and Eastwick Park - Liberal Democrat

All Bookham Councillors are invited to attend BRA Committee meetings and actively participate in discussion and requests for engagement with Council departments but are not allowed to participate in any BRA Committee voting.

The BRA is independent of all political parties and we look forward to working with our new Councillors for the benefit of all Bookham residents.

The Leader of the Council remains as Cllr Stephen Cooksey.

The Cabinet Members for 2023/2024 are:

- Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance - Cllr Bridget Kendrick
- Cabinet Member for Planning - Cllr Margaret Cooksey
- Cabinet Member for Community Services - Cllr Rosemary Hobbs
- Cabinet Member for Internal Services - Cllr Paul Kennedy
- Cabinet Member for Climate Change - Cllr Claire Malcomson
- Cabinet Member for Projects - Cllr Keira Vyvyan-Robinson
- Cabinet Member for Sustainable Economy and Security - Cllr Clayton Wellman
- Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism - Cllr Nick Wright

There were no Surrey County Council elections and so our elected member remains Cllr Clare Curran.

Mole Valley District Council & Surrey County Council Service Requests and Reporting

Our Councils have multiple responsibilities and it is often a challenge to find out which Council and Council department is responsible for what. For example, SCC is responsible for roads, pavements and highways but MVDC is responsible for street cleaning. You get the picture...

To help residents make a service request or report anti-social activities like fly-tipping we have set up Quick Links on the BRA website which take you directly to relevant council department and reporting forms.

We all know how many potholes appeared in the last few months, but instead of going on to social media and complaining, report it instead. Then it's more likely to be fixed and we all benefit!

Also included are Emergency Flooding—who to contact and utility providers.

Our website is mobile optimised so it's easy to report when out and about

Try it now by scanning the QR code below on your mobile!

Visit the BRA website for Quick Links at the top of the page or scan the QR code below:

www.bookhamresidents.org.uk



Transport



Mole Valley Connect

Keith Francis

At last the original two leased *MV Connect* mini-buses have been returned and four new mini-buses have arrived enabling the service to be extended to the whole of Mole Valley not forgetting continuing access to Epsom hospital, Effingham Junction railway station and the *Waitrose* and *Sainsbury's* supermarkets at Cobham.

With the recently increase of service area to the whole of Mole Valley a new fare structure has been introduced which takes in to account the distance of your journey.

To make bookings download the Surrey Connect app from your smart phone app store or for desktop visit:

www.molevalleyconnect.org.uk

If you do not have access to a smartphone, you can call:

0300 123 7751

The booking line is open between Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00 pm.

Travel times are:

Monday to Friday 7am to 7pm

Saturday: 8am to 6pm

Falcon Buses

Local Bus Fares capped until 2024

Falcon Buses, who run the 479 and 408 services, are part of the fare cap subsidy from Government announced on 19th December. The original cap operated from January to March 2023, However, the cap of £2.00 per single journey has been extended to 30th October 2023 and then a new cap of £2.50 with come in to place until November 2024.

The 479 runs between Guildford and Epsom via Bookham and is an up to every 30 minute service from Monday to Sundays.

The 408 runs between Cobham Sainsbury's and Chipstead Valley via Bookham and Leatherhead. This is an up to once an hour service and runs on Mondays to Fridays.

For Falcon Buses timetables and service updates, visit:

falconbuses.co.uk

Or call: 01932 787752

Mole Valley Connect	Under five miles	5-7 miles	7-10 miles	10-12 miles	12-15 miles	Over 15 miles
Adult single	£2.00	£4.00	£6.00	£8.00	£10.00	£15.00
20 and under single	£1.00	£2.00	£3.00	£4.00	£5.00	£7.50

Note: Mole Valley Connect is not part of the £2.00 cap

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 Teams, the last being on 8th February.

The winter was fairly wet and unfortunately many of the usual flooding problems were experienced throughout the village. Amongst these were :

- whilst flooding on Lower Road between The Squareabout and East Street has improved, following last year's major works, the outfall down Church Road to Fife Way is now highlighted as in need of major works. SCC will study this.
- Lower Road between East Street and Eastwick Park Avenue currently has no drainage. SCC will study this.
- Proctor Gardens, earmarked as a long term SCC Wet Spot project, was subjected to several bouts of flooding despite cleaning of pipes and soakaways. The necessary works have been highlighted to SCC as being of great urgency.
- A246 at Chandlers builders yard where the south side drainage outfalls into an inadequate soakaway. A connection to Thames Water's surface water drain on the north side of the A246 is being sought.
- Little Bookham Street from Lower Road to Bennetts Farm Place continues to be liable to flooding off Preston Farm. This will be studied further.

Highways

Michael Agius

During the last six months roads around the village have been affected by the wet and cold winter weather, resulting in the development of many potholes. SCC have been kept busy filling these.

Roads around the village continue to be affected by Utility Streetworks, particularly on the A246 and Lower Road. Many of these result from connections to new infill developments. Whilst traffic delays are frustrating for road users, the works are necessary, either to to maintain and improve the village's ageing infrastructure or enable utility connections to new houses.

MVDC 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 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.

Lower Shott—Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Points

Les Huett

The EV charging points in Lower Shott car park at the time of going to print were being installed.

Last year when it was announced that the EV charging points were going to be installed we received a question from a resident on the capacity of the chargers. We raised this with Cllr Clayton Wellman and his reply was:

"They will be chargers that should deliver an 80% + charge within 3 hours. The time limit on the bays will be 3 hrs (as per our standard short stay bays). An hour with what is proposed for Bookham (and across the district) would therefore likely give around 30% (around a 100 miles for a 300 mile range EV). Users will have to pay for the spaces, but with costs anticipated to be under a third of the £100 to fill up a diesel or petrol vehicle, it's fantastic value. Of course, evenings, Sundays + BHs will remain free to park."

This appears to be a good solution for those people who normally charge their vehicles at home and need a top-up and for those people who have limited access (such as a flat dwellers) to charging facilities.



New EV charging point in Lower Shott

Environment

Coronation Tree Bench Installed at Lower Shott

Frances Fancourt
Environment and Tree Warden

6th May 2023 will go down in history as the day King Charles III was crowned. To mark this great occasion we have installed a Coronation Tree Bench around a hawthorn tree at Lower Shott, near the Bookham sign. We do hope that you will enjoy sitting on it!

MVDC funded the bench from a special Coronation Fund available to all Parishes and RAs in Mole Valley.

With the very odd weather last year – extreme heat followed by an icy cold blast just before Christmas, many shrubs and trees suffered or died. We have replanted a number of trees on the verges in Bookham – at Amey Drive, Durlston Park Avenue, Downsway and Crabtree Lane, and we extended the line of cherry trees on the Lower Road. These will flower beautifully in years to come – they are still 'settling in'.

The Butterflies WI worked with us to replant the bed in the High Street outside Griffin Court. They are weeding and watering it carefully and recently they put in some extra plants to help bulk it up whilst the new shrubs are still small. What a good job they are doing!

If you are part of a local group and would also like to look after a Bookham planting area, do contact us – could this become ground for a bit of WI competition??

You can contact us through the BRA website or by leaving a message on the BRA telephone number: 0300 030 9890.



Local resident Betty Rice-Stringer and Frances Fancourt enjoy the spring sunshine.



Bookham resident Sam Dickinson tests out the newly installed bench!

Bookham Commons Centenary

Ranger Ian Swinney to retire

It is 100 years since Bookham Commons were given to the National Trust, their unspoiled scenery and wildlife to be preserved forever for the people of Surrey to enjoy.

The commons were owned by Hippolyte Louis Wiehe du Coudray Souchon who tried to sell the oak and ash trees on the Common immediately following WW1. The local community was horrified so in 1922 he sold the land instead to Percy Portway Harvey who gave the protesters three weeks to raise £1200 if they wanted to save the precious woodland.

Thankfully, 23 subscribers were eventually able to buy 332.507 acres on 6th October 1922 for £1650. On 2nd August 1923 they handed it all to the National Trust.

For nearly half of that time, Ranger Ian Swinney's mission has been to maintain the delicate balance between woodland, scrub and grassland that provides the right habitat for the Commons' remarkable range of plant and animal species.

On behalf of the BRA we wish Ian well for the future and we thank him for his efforts and contribution to making our commons such an idyllic place to visit and enjoy.

(full history can be read on the Friends of Bookham Common website.)

The Bookhams
Residents'
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Please help the BRA to continue its work for our village

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 so below 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 and click on "Join the BRA and pay 2023 annual subscription" button.

Pay online – visit the BRA website at www.bookhamresidents.org.uk and head to the Subscriptions page. You

Pay your subscription on line at:

www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

Or scan the QR code below on your mobile.



can use a credit or debit card to pay through our secure payment system.

When you are paying online please note the following:

After you enter your card details you have to type in your postcode (this is in the box that has the postcode WS11 1DB) in it, you will be able to type over this). If you do not do this you get the 'Invalid Card' message.

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

Pay by telephone using a credit or debit card.

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

A volunteer will ring you back and will

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

Standing Order and Bank Transfers

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

membership@bookhamresidents.org.uk

or call our helpline on 0300 030 9890 for further details.

If you pay by this method please put as your reference your surname and the LAST 3 digits of your postcode e.g. Brown3NL

This helps us to record your membership against your address.

Thank you to those residents who have already paid this year. 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?

See page 7 for our vacancies