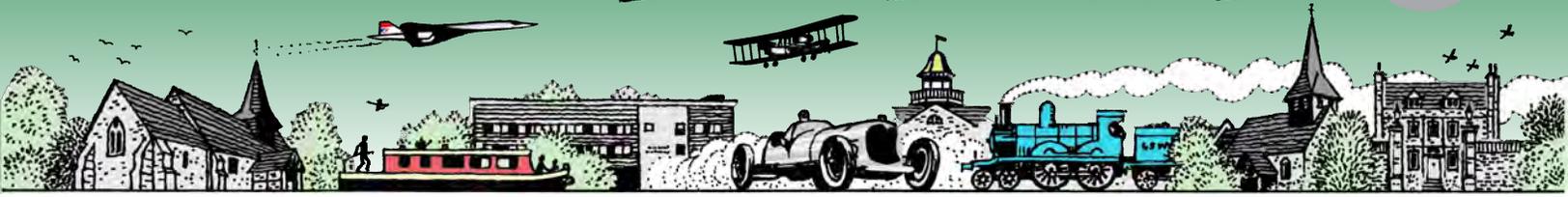


# The RESIDENT

Issue  
165



The Newsletter of the Byfleet, West Byfleet & Pyrford Residents' Association

## THREE VILLAGES ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS



*Open*  
FOR  
BUSINESS

Photos Courtesy of Bob Holmes

### featured ARTICLES

Our Active Travel  
Vision



P11

St Mary's Centre for  
the Community Update



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'Barefoot Soldier'  
completes trek



P15

Broad Oaks Park  
Update



P18



Welcome to my second edition (issue 165) of The Resident newsletter. This edition will also be an online version only due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and will be emailed out to members and will also be available on The Resident website: [www.the-residents.org](http://www.the-residents.org)

Issue 165 has the usual RA Village Representative and neighbourhood forum reports but also has many other interesting articles. There has finally been some progress with regards to the re-development of the Sheer House site in West Byfleet. There is a full update on what is happening in the West Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum report. Hoardings around Sheer House complex have already been put in place and the demolition is currently scheduled to start on 29th October 2020 and is expected to last for 30 weeks.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we have missed many of the summer events that happen within the three villages such as the Pyrford Flower Show, Byfleet Parish Day, West Byfleet Live and many more, we all look forward to these events happening next year. Please see article on the Pyrford Virtual Flower Show.

I do wonder "what is the new normal" and when will life really get back to some sort of normality.

All the shops and local businesses in the three villages are all now open so **PLEASE DO USE THEM.**

I do hope that you enjoy reading Issue 165 of The Resident newsletter; it is the product of our committee and of the residents who give up their time to contribute and support it.

Please check the Residents' Association website for further detailed information about the 3 villages and also contact details for support groups that can provide assistance during COVID-19 pandemic: [www.the-residents.org](http://www.the-residents.org)

Thank you to those people that have posted comments on the RA website or have also sent me articles to include within this edition. If you have any comments or suggested articles for future editions, please feel free to email at [editor@the-residents.org](mailto:editor@the-residents.org).

Thank you and Stay Safe.

Robert Munford,  
Editor

## Membership Report

The last few months since Issue 164 was published online and freely available has seen an increase in interest in the



Residents' Association (RA). What is apparent now is that certain restrictions in the way in which we interact as a community are here to stay for the longer term and, as a result, the way in which we communicate with our members needs to be refined.

The easiest and most efficient method is to send out emails, but we only hold approximately 50% of the email addresses of our membership, and in some cases these may be out of date.

Our Street Reps do a wonderful job and prior to lockdown were able to ask you directly to provide email addresses. It is now more important than ever that we hold correct and up to date information about our members. **If you haven't received any communications from the RA since March**, please make contact: [members@the-residents.org](mailto:members@the-residents.org) (Please note that your details are held on a secure members database, and are not shared with any other organisations unless we have sought and received your express permission.)

Another way in which we can communicate is through posting items of relevance and interest to the Three Villages onto our website – [www.the-residents.org](http://www.the-residents.org).

Inevitably the COVID-19 restrictions are having an impact on our ability to collect subscriptions. To date we have collected approximately 60% of the amount collected throughout 2019. If you have not paid your 2020 subscription to the RA, and can pay electronically; please can you contact your Village Representative for details.

Isabelle David,  
Membership Secretary



## TV Licence for Over 75s

Remember that the rules concerning TV Licensing have changed and licences are no longer free for all those over 75 years old.

If you had a TV Licence up to 31st July 2020, don't worry you're still covered. The TV Licensing Company will be writing to you during September to explain what you need to do to get your Licence.

See website link to TV Licensing for more information: <http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk>

Please also see link to Age UK for more advice and information: <http://www.ageuk.org.uk>

## New Defibrillator Outside Waitrose in West Byfleet

A new defibrillator has been installed outside Waitrose in West Byfleet.

You can see the full list of locations of defibrillators in all three villages on the RA website:

<https://the-residents.org/2020/06/defibrillators-in-byfleet-west-byfleet-and-pyrford>



## Local Chemists

Boots Chemist in West Byfleet is now closed, please see list of all local chemists on the RA website:

<https://the-residents.org/2020/06/boots-chemist-closure-west-byfleet>



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

COVID-19 has forced a number of changes upon us. Your Committee has now adjusted to holding Zoom meetings, which, though perhaps not ideal, do



permit our work to continue more or less as normal. A second change was that The Resident number 164 was our first electronic edition and posted to our website for free access by all. This was considered to be a great success though we do appreciate that without door-to-door deliveries some of our members may not be able to access the Newsletter. We apologise for that. However with several street representatives self-isolating we do not feel that it is either reasonable nor practical to deliver a printed copy at this time. Issue number 165 will also be electronic.

However in addition to this Newsletter we are also distributing to every household in the Three Villages a one-page flyer to keep everyone in touch. We are immensely grateful to Octagon for sponsoring this new venture by the RA.

### Annual General Meeting

This was due to be held in March. Notice of the meeting had been published but in the event your Committee felt that there was no choice but to cancel it. The Constitution is demanding regarding the date by which The AGM must be held, the quorum and does not permit proxy voting. Taking these factors into consideration your Committee remain of the view that it is currently not realistic to attempt to rearrange the AGM and at our last Committee meeting it was decided to postpone it indefinitely. It will be held as soon as it is practical to do so.

### Woking Walk-in Centre

There will be no progress on reviewing its status until the COVID-19 Pandemic is over. Our wish is that it is upgraded to an Urgent Treatment Centre.

### Woking Council Site Allocation Development Plan Document ("SADPD")

The Inspector's report with final modifications is now with Woking Borough Council and by the time you read this it will be available to the public for consultation.

### A Single County Unitary Council Authority for Surrey

The Government will be publishing a Recovery and Devolution White Paper in the autumn. They see a clear linkage between economic recovery and reform of local authorities including the transition to more unitary

authorities. The leader of Surrey County Council has written to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communications and Local Government requesting the Minister invites Surrey County Council to submit a business case as soon as possible setting out their proposals for a single unitary council for Surrey. Clearly that business case will explain and justify exactly how the proposed annual financial savings will be achieved without resulting in a negative impact on the quality and standard of services. Perhaps even more importantly we will all have to consider how such a move, should it happen, will be of benefit to local democracy.

### White Paper: Planning for the Future

The Government have published a White Paper for Consultation on "Planning for the Future". The purpose is to deliver genuine reform of the planning system to "streamline and modernise" the planning process. The White Paper introduces three pillars of proposed reform namely:

- Planning for development
- Planning for beautiful and sustainable places
- Planning for infrastructure and connected places

Under each pillar a number of changes to the current system are proposed. Local Plans should set clear rules rather than general policies for development, be significantly shorter and be prepared much more quickly.

The proposals contained in the White Paper will require primary legislation followed by secondary legislation. The Government would expect new Local Plans to be in place by the end of this Parliament.

Side by side with the above there is a further consultation on four "shorter term" measures that are intended to improve the immediate effectiveness of the current planning system namely:

- Changes to the standard method of assessing local housing need
- First homes (30% discount to market for first time buyers) will make up 25% of affordable housing through developer contributions
- Temporary change to site size where developers do not have to provide affordable housing
- Extending the current "permission in principle" to fast track developers securing the principle of development for housing i.e. detailed plans can be submitted later.

### Sheer House

This is discussed elsewhere in this Newsletter. The RA is delighted that Retirement Villages Group ("RVG") have acquired the Sheer House Complex. RVG are one of the UK's leading developers of homes for later living

and are wholly owned by AXA S.A., a major international insurance group. Upon the completion of the development the investment in the centre of West Byfleet will be £90 million. The RA will do all that it can to support this project. The RA together with the West Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum, the West Byfleet Business Association and local Councillors has formed a liaison group with the developer.

### Environment

Our Rights of Way Officer and others are dedicated in their work to protect and enhance our environment. We thank them all. Please be alert to their petitions that require your support. I would also refer you to our **Active Travel Vision** that is published in this Newsletter. We hope that this will be the first of several Vision statements on matters of social and environmental importance within our community.

It is pleasing to note that life has certainly returned to our three villages with shops re-opening and cafes and restaurants reasonably busy. As always we encourage you to support your local community. Property agents tell me that there is strong activity in the residential market. Along the Parvis Road the progress with the Broadoaks Park development is impressive.

Once again I wish to thank our ward Councillors for their support, assistance and advice. They have a very heavy workload but always find time to help. Their involvement in many issues including anti-social behaviour, Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy and Sheer House is most welcome. Similar thanks go to our Member of Parliament who is always available to consult.

Lastly can I remind you all that under the "News" tag on the RA website we post items of important news that have or may have an impact on our community. It is a source of helpful and pertinent information and I would encourage you to make use of it.

Thank you and take care.

Stewart Dick  
Chairman of the Residents' Association



## Catnaps

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## WEST BYFLEET

### Street Representatives

Street Representatives are key to the success of the RA; we have a great team in West Byfleet. However, we still need to identify street reps for the top of Coldharbour Road, Claremont Road, Rivey Close and Madeira Road and related side roads. We also need better street rep coverage for blocks of apartments such as Globe, Magna, Wentworth, Tattenhall and Rosemount. Anyone one who is interested in giving a few hours back to the Community, should contact your Village Representative (see contact details on last page of this issue)



### COVID

The inspiring volunteer efforts in West Byfleet have continued and even widened. Our appreciation goes to all who are helping their neighbours, if you need help or want to volunteer see <https://surreykind.org.uk>.

### Sheer House

The excellent news since the last newsletter is that there has been tangible progress on the redevelopment of Sheer House. The Retirement Village Group (RVG), backed by AXA Insurance Group have taken over the site and are submitting detailed plans within the same overall planning consent as before for retirement apartments. They have shown an encouraging willingness to engage with the community. Although we have concerns about wind tunnel effect and lack of sunlight in the public square and the mass on the Old Woking Road, the plans were approved by WBC and we will have to make the most of it. With RVG being very happy to engage, we are hopeful of them achieving an attractive and welcoming public and retail space that will considerably add to the village. There will be a few years of disruption but I am sure we will all welcome the replacement of this dead albatross from around the neck of West Byfleet.

RVG have stated that demolition of Sheer House site is scheduled to start from 29th October 2020.

Once work on the site commences, some disturbance is inevitable but the contractors will keep to sociable hours and will make a contact available for any concerns or problems arising. Hoardings have already been erected for the safety of the public and to help protect the site from vandalism. If anyone would like to report a problem to RVG, they can either call freephone 0800 061 4979 or email [info@sheerhouseredevelopment.co.uk](mailto:info@sheerhouseredevelopment.co.uk).

### Woodlands Car Park

A group of residents and RA officer met with Councillor Gary Elson and the local Police

Commander, David Bentley, to discuss anti-social behaviour in and around the car park. The area will be more closely monitored and it is hoped we will see a tangible reduction in such behaviour.



### Community Gardening Group

The WB Community Garden Group has planted a fresh border outside the Library with the agreement of SCC staff. Although of short duration with the Sheer House redevelopment, this will help improve the street scene, aid the air quality and provide an example of community work in practice, many thanks to the participants particularly Katrina, Louisa and Rebecca.

The WB Community Gardening Group planting on Birch Walk has also been generally successful with some dedicated volunteers ensuring watering takes place in the dry weather, well done to the Group and we look forward to more planting schemes around the village.

### Parvis Road - Byfleet to West Byfleet

Irrespective of political views, many will remember Richard Wilson with fondness. One of Richard's achievements as Councillor was to get a commitment for a shared path on the Southside of Parvis Road together with a controlled crossing to the Recreation Ground as part of the Broadoaks Redevelopment Plan. He even used some of his Councillor funds to construct a shared path across the corner of the Rec, to avoid the Camphill Road/ Parvis Road junction, conceptually as part of the scheme. The Broadoaks' developer, Octagon, are meeting the commitment and building the path immediately adjacent to their premises and paying for the controlled crossing. The crossing has now been installed and is somewhat closer to Highfield Road than was initially hoped but some adjustment to the Recreation Ground entrance will be needed to avoid congestion. With regard to the remainder of the stretch between Byfleet and Broadoaks, a petition has been raised to ask Surrey County Council to complete the commitment. See <https://petitions.surreycc.gov.uk/ParvisPathway>

At the time of writing 237 people have signed the petition. The petition is open until 24th October and will be presented to the next Woking BC/ Surrey CC Joint Committee meeting in November.

Please also see the Active Travel Vision article on page 11.

### Local Businesses

The vast majority of businesses have now reopened in the village and it is good to see the pavement cafe society resurrected.

It is disappointing that we are now down to only one chemist in the village and that not

being open on Saturdays. Please see a full list of alternate pharmacies in the neighbourhood and those offering deliveries on the RA website - <https://the-residents.org/2020/06/boots-chemist-closure-west-byfleet>

RVG have said a new pharmacy will be one of their retail priorities when the redevelopment is completed.

All residents are asked to remember we still have a thriving retail sector even with the Sheer House redevelopment and are asked to support their local shops.

Until next time

Your West Byfleet Village Representative team

### Getting to know members of the Committee:

#### KEITH CRESSWELL

West Byfleet  
Village Representative



Q. What town were you born in?

A. Lambeth, London.

Q. Could you provide a brief overview of your career?

A. Chartered Accountant, qualified with a City firm, moved into industry (IT) based in Putney, Bracknell, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Slough. Took early retirement. Governor at WB Schools, Fullbrook, FD and Trustee of local Citizens Advice and Domestic Abuse charity and other charities. Retired from all except RA and Treasurer of Woking LibDems.

Q. What is your favourite Food?

A. Pariserbøf

Q. What is your favourite Book?

A. Depends on my mood. Only read fiction when on holiday so perhaps - The Fire Engine That Disappeared. Otherwise non-fiction.

Q. If you could live anywhere in the world for a year, where would it be?

A. Would have to be a place with social justice and respect for all. But for Nature - Vancouver Island, for City life - Copenhagen.

Q. Who are your top three real life heroes?

A. Don't have any but three I admire that I can call to mind: Clem Attlee, Magarethe Vestager, Barack Obama and my wife above all if we are allowed a family choice. Then there is a host of Bebop and modern jazz musicians.

Q. How do you relax?

A. Reading, listening to jazz, old RnB and classical, gardening, answering emails!! When not in lockdown, cycling and long lunches with friends and family.

## BYFLEET

### Byfleet Village Life

We rejoice in seeing the increase in activity in our village and the maintenance of appropriate social distancing and care for others shown by the majority of our community.



Most of our shops and restaurants are now open again with adapted operating procedures. Many restaurants are taking telephone orders. A number of shop premises have changed hands and/or been upgraded in this challenging year. We welcome these businesses to our community. The sense of vibrancy in the centre of Byfleet is returning with only 3 of the over 85 shops and restaurants premises vacant. **Please do all you can to support these businesses through lean times.**

Our schools worked hard over the summer break to prepare for their pupils' safe return. We wish pupils, their families and the staff a fulfilling and happy academic year. Our churches continue to enable worship from home and are now starting to hold services with numbers limited due to social distancing. Check church websites for more information.

### Highways, footpaths and bridleway-related news

**Speeding cars and motorbikes** - A small but concerning number of drivers continue to cause danger and noise pollution on key arterial roads in Byfleet. Please do report your concerns if you feel able to. On the Surrey police website homepage, there is a useful button to use to report an issue and another button to tell the police something you might simply want them to be aware of. Separately, the Surrey County Council Highways Team are undertaking a Parking Review in November 2020. Your comments and suggestions can be registered on the SCC Website – these can include speeding-related matters.

**Sopwith Drive** - Residents were very concerned about the rows of Heavy Goods Vehicles using the inside lane of Sopwith Drive as a parking bay, putting both pedestrians and drivers at risk. The RA would like to thank our Councillors for arranging the trim of the traffic island vegetation and the installation of the crossing point and the double yellow lines. Cllr Amanda Boote raised an emergency traffic order to address this and also arranged the work to improve the kerbstone/ island design at the roundabout between Sopwith Drive and Parvis Road.

**Muddy Lane** - recorded as Footpath No. 129 Byfleet, Footpath 3 Wisley (Part) and Footpath 566 Wisley.

We are very pleased to note that High Court of England and Wales recently upheld HM Inspector's decision to allow SCC's application to re-designate Muddy Lane as a Bridleway. Those on foot, on bicycle or on horseback, can use this Bridleway, which links Byfleet to Wisley. Use of motor vehicles, including motorcycles or off-road vehicles, is not permitted.

### Planning Applications of note:

**Emerald House PLAN/2020/0309** - This application has been approved. The application to develop Emerald House, which sits in High Road near the War Memorial, is to use the existing exterior and footprint for residential accommodation. In principle, the RA sees this as a positive move, as the building has been boarded up for many years.

**Units 11 & 12 Wintersells Road PLAN SCC 2018/0144 Application EL18/3802** – This application is for a Change of Use to a Waste Transfer Station and Recycling Facility. SCC approved the application in July 2020 – a planning decision very much regretted by the RA. The RA had objected to this application on the grounds of an estimated 200-skip movement per day, traffic flow congestion and air quality concerns.

**Byfleet Road, New Haw, KT15 3LA PLAN RU.19/0373 and RU.19/0378** – Although this land to the west of Byfleet Road (to the rear of 98-138 Byfleet Road) comes under Runnymede Council planning authority, the RA and local residents are very concerned about the Graftongate proposal to build 13 Industrial Units. These units are forecast to generate 950 vehicular moves daily, of which 10% are estimated to be HGV. Those who live in the area, or who use Byfleet Road to travel to Byfleet and New Haw Station or to New Haw, are very aware of the traffic congestion already experienced on most days of the week and for a very substantial part of the day and evening. The developer's agent held a Webinar presentation and Q&A on 21st July 2020. Many local residents, including representatives of the RA, attended on-line and made their concerns clear.

### RA Garden Seed Share - Byfleet pilot

Knowing that many residents could not get to garden centres during lock-down, led us to plan a seed share scheme that we will pilot in Byfleet. Rather than composting surplus seeds and seed heads, we would like to encourage residents to collect and share these, free of charge, with other residents.

If you are keen to contribute, please gather any seeds (flower, vegetable or interesting grasses) you can spare and leave them in the box in the porch of 53 Rectory Lane, KT14 7LU. Please leave a note as to which seeds they are or please call or email [vrb@the-residents.org](mailto:vrb@the-residents.org) or call 01932 340795 to leave a message, if you are not able get out. We will collect the seeds from your doorstep, without compromise to social-distancing rules.

We are likely to hold our first Garden Seed Share Stall on Saturday 6th March 2021 10:00-12:00 on the Village Green. We will advertise this more widely, around the village, in early 2021.

### RA Street Representatives and RA subscriptions

We continue to suspend the collection of 2020 subscriptions to avoid door to door contact and to protect you and your Street Rep. Thank you to those of you who have paid directly into the RA bank account, the details of which are now on the back of the subs envelope. Your Street Rep looks forward to seeing you when conditions allow. Would you like to join our Street Rep team, once we are delivering newsletters again? This involves a few hours just three times a year. We have 21 roads in Byfleet without a Street Rep. These include, Catherine Close, Fullerton Way, Glebe Close, Grasmere Way, Magdalen Close, Magdalene Crescent and Wakefield Close. Can you help with these or any others near you?

Thank you all for your support and interest in Byfleet. Until Spring 2021!

*Eleanor Grady and Jean-Pierre Frossard  
RA Village Representatives for Byfleet*

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## PYRFORD

### COVID-19

Life in Pyrford is gradually getting back to a "new normal" with all the shops at Marshall Parade open, schools & nurseries open, sports being played on the Cricket Field and some Church services happening but with COVID limitations to ensure your safety.



### Remember social distancing and washing hands are still very important.

One consequence of the lockdown has been some anti-social behaviour around the Pyrford Cricket Club ground and pitch, the Social Club and the Village Hall car park. Meetings involving Cllr Gary Elson and local community representatives have taken place with Surrey Police who have agreed to investigate and report back on how the situation can be improved and to recommend measures for prevention.

### Street Representative Vacancies

Dean Close,  
Elveden Close,  
Old Woking Road,  
Orchard Lea,  
Pyrian Way,  
Rowley Close

If you live in one of the roads above can you spare a few hours a year to assist the RA, please do contact me (details on the back page) as there are vacancies for Street Representatives.

### Members' Subscriptions in Pyrford

Street Reps have been asked not to collect further monies, but a big thank you to all you Pyrford Street Reps who managed to collect £3,536, which is over 75% of the full amount collected in 2019.

### Footpaths

The landowner of Twisted Stone has installed a kissing gate and fencing at the Pyrford Road end of the Public Right of Way. The width is c 1.5m, which is legal, but it does make social distancing difficult.

A note requesting "no cyclists" has also been erected. Please note the golf course is now open.



If you have any issues with using footpaths in Pyrford or any of the other two villages, don't forget the RA has a Rights of Way

Officer, Marion Malcher contactable via email: [footpath@the-residents.org](mailto:footpath@the-residents.org).

### Marshall Parade Shops

All of the eight shops in the parade are now open. **PLEASE DO USE THEM.** I know many of you are already doing so, as regularly, there are queues outside.

The building of the additional two units has re-commenced but progress is, unfortunately, awfully slow. I am not aware of a new target date for completion of the works, but even if I had one, I would be loath to publish it because,



since work started in December 2017, the many dates provided have just come and gone!

### Pyrford's "Tropical" Storm

Thursday 13th August saw a brief "tropical storm" around Pyrford. It brought wind & torrential rain which meant a few trees and branches fell down and there was some localised flooding. A big thank you to WBC staff and Serco who were quickly in attendance to remove fallen trees and branches and the roads engulfed with mud and debris.

### Sheer House

An update on what is happening can be found in the West Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum report.

### Planning Applications of note:

There are two recent planning application involving demolition & rebuild of existing properties:-

#### 153 Old Woking Road

"Demolition of bungalow & erection of three storey 5 (previously 7) apartment block". Vehicular access off Lincoln Drive. **The application is still under consideration, but likely to be determined in September.** One of the many concerns raised was possible additional parking in Lincoln Drive, close to the junction with the Old Woking Road. Surrey County Council has been asked to consider double yellow lines.

#### 16 Lovelace Drive

"Erection of a two-storey replacement dwelling (3-bedroom) following demolition of existing dwelling" has been sought. Initially this was refused but was subsequently **approved.**

The following planning applications in **Green Belt** are under consideration:

### Twisted Stone Golf Club Pyrford Road

"Temporary consent is sought for a period of 12 months for use of part of existing car park as a greenkeepers maintenance compound and siting of storage containers (retrospective)"

### Wisley Golf Club Wisley Lane

"Engineering operations to The Garden Course to include replacement drainage and irrigation system, relocation of 5th and 8th tee boxes and re-profiling of section of the bank at the River Wey along with works to the bunkers to improve drainage and playability".

### Pyrford Place, Pyrford Road

"Erection of two storey boathouse following demolition of existing boathouse, refurbishment of existing footbridge and erection of single storey storage building and associated works". Has been refused.

The following in a **conservation area** are under consideration:-

### Mark House Aviary Road

Erection of a part single and part two storey rear extension following the demolition of existing rear conservatory. Alterations to the main roof to include a rear dormer and roof lights to the front to facilitate conversion of the loft into habitable accommodation.

### 1 Lady Place Cottages Church Hill

Erection of a two-storey rear extension

### Church Farm House Church Hill

Listed Building Consent for the proposed replacement conservatory, internal alterations and modification to existing paving/footpaths.

Andy Grimshaw  
VR Pyrford

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## BYFLEET

What a strange year it's been! I'm sure we're all immensely grateful to all the key workers who have kept our vital services running over the past five months, including Serco who have continued to keep the village looking clean and tidy. Also to the charities and community groups such as Byfleet Care, our food bank etc. who have provided much needed support to vulnerable Byfleet residents. Back in March the Byfleet Volunteers sprang up almost overnight and helped to make sure that no one who was shielding had to go without food or medication during the lockdown. A great achievement by all concerned!



Recently we were very pleased to see the improvements to the crossing point on Sopwith Drive. That was the result of two years' campaigning by myself, together with Marion Malcher. It isn't the proper pedestrian crossing that we wanted but it is all Surrey County Council has funding for at the present time, and it is a start. Surrey County Council has said they will keep it on the 'wish list' for when funds are available and we certainly won't let them forget that! Safety has also been improved by the double yellow lines that prevent lorries from parking along this stretch of road.

The Forum committee has had a much needed break in August so there isn't much else to report, except that we are 'soldiering on' with our Neighbourhood Plan and will be back next month with renewed enthusiasm!

Fiona Syrett  
Chair, Byfleet Residents' Neighbourhood Forum

## PYRFORD

### Re-Designation Of Forum

Under the Localism Act 2011, the Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum (PNF) existence is unfortunately time limited to five years. The approved Neighbourhood Plan is still valid until 2027, but a representative group for the Pyrford Area can be re-designated for a further 5 years.



The PNF Committee has decided to seek re-designation of the Pyrford Forum for the existing Pyrford Neighbourhood Area. The necessary paperwork was submitted to Woking Borough Council in late August 2020.

### Impact Of Pyrford Neighbourhood Plan

The Byfleet, West Byfleet & Pyrford Residents' Association (RA) continues to monitor all planning applications, but since the approval of the Pyrford Plan, to ensure its local policies are not breached, PNF has routinely monitored planning applications. It does on occasions make formal objections.

Recently, there have been a series of **refused applications** which all quoted one of the two main development policies in the Pyrford Plan, BE1 or BE3, as part of the reasons to refuse.

BE1 - Character of Area - All new developments must maintain the character of the area.

BE3 - Spatial Character - All new developments must be sympathetic to existing surrounding dwellings & plots.

These were:-

#### Chestnut Lodge Forest Road

"Subdivision of existing dwelling into two detached dwellings following demolition of parts of existing dwelling and external alterations"

#### 9 Tanglewood Close

"Proposed extension to existing front dormer and alterations to the roof pitch and eaves height below the proposed extended front dormer (amended description)"

#### Flat 2, 141 Old Woking Road

"Outline application for the erection of a detached single storey dwelling with accommodation in the roof space within the curtilage of Flat 2, 141 Old Woking Road (Matters of appearance and landscaping reserved)"

#### 166 Old Woking Road Woking

"Erection of 3x two storey dwellings on land to the rear of No.166 and No.168 Old Woking Road, erection of a two-storey replacement dwelling following demolition of No.166 and associated access, parking and landscaping"

Another benefit of an approved plan is the requirement that the proportion of any Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) arising from developments in the PNF area is increased from 15% to 25% this proportion is called Neighbourhood CIL (NCIL).

A separate article on page 8 outlines what CIL & NCIL is, how the 25% can be used and seeks possible ideas from the Pyrford community that are appropriate.

### Heritage Conservation Assessment (HCA)

The document produced by our consultants has been thoroughly reviewed by the PNF Heritage Sub-Committee, led by Geoff Geaves, and comments made. Now that Surrey History Centre has recently opened, the old maps element for historical context can be obtained.

### Fundraising During COVID

PNF had planned another Big Night Out fundraising event for early June 2020, but due to COVID this has had to be postponed. PNF still hopes to arrange another date, probably in 2021, but PNF still needs to raise £1,500 to complete the assessment.

**In the meantime, any donations towards the costs of the HCA would be gratefully received.**

### Conservation

PNF has decided to rest Pyrford Portraits and concentrate on producing a video about conservation activities in and around Pyrford. A number of interviews have been held and tantalizing trailers should be available early Autumn, with the completed version expected by late Autumn. If you have any conservation ideas that PNF could cover please contact us by email at [info@pyrfordforum.org](mailto:info@pyrfordforum.org).

Andy Grimshaw  
Chairman, Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum



### The Surrey Song

You may remember the "Pyrford Song" that was sung by Ian Wishart (local Pyrford resident) well he has now released a follow-up which is subtitled "an apology from the Pyrford Song...sort of"

To watch and listen to Ian performing The Surrey Song visit: <https://youtube.be/GEcWFn9edts>

## JustGiving™

Ian is raising money for the Woking Hospice – see fundraising link below:  
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/pyrford-song-hospice>

## Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (Ncil/Cil) in Pyrford

So far, as of 31 March 2020 just under £28,250 of NCIL, the 25% of CIL has been paid by developers which is available to be spent in the Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum (PNF) area on appropriate items. PNF would like to seek ideas from Pyrford residents, but there are constraints as outlined below.

## What Is Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)?

CIL is a standardised non-negotiable levy that is charged to new development to raise funds to deliver infrastructure to support development. The rate increases each year in line with inflation.

In Woking, CIL was adopted in October 2014 and came into effect from 1st April 2015.

CIL is charged on the 'gross internal floor space' of a proposed development. However, some developments are exempt. These include:

- Minor developments and residential extensions of less than 100 square metres of net internal floorspace (unless it will comprise of one or more dwellings)
- New affordable housing
- Development for charitable purposes
- Self build housing and residential annexes.

Once there is an approved neighbourhood Plan, the percentage that must be spent locally increases from 15% to 25%. The PNF plan was adopted from 9th February 2017.

## How can it be Spent?

Woking Borough Council in its core strategy says that CIL is charged to new developments to raise funds to deliver infrastructure to support development the Council, local community or neighbourhood wants - for example, new or safer road schemes, park improvements or a new health centre. WBC goes on to say, "the definition of infrastructure is wide and includes a range of services and facilities provided by both public and private bodies. For the purposes of the Core Strategy, the definition of infrastructure is that set out below:

- **Transport:** road network, cycling and walking infrastructure, rail network, parking
- **Housing:** affordable housing
- **Education:** further and higher education, secondary and primary education, nursery schools and other early years provision
- **Health:** acute care and general hospitals, mental hospitals, health centres/primary care trusts, ambulance services
- **Social and community infrastructure:**

supported accommodation, social and community facilities, sports centres, open spaces, parks and play space

- **Public services:** waste management and disposal, libraries, cemeteries, emergency services (police, fire, ambulance), places of worship, prisons, drug treatment centres
- **Utility services:** gas supply, electricity supply, heat supply, water supply, waste water treatment, telecommunications infrastructure
- **Flood alleviation measures**
- **Green infrastructure:** parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces, green corridors, outdoor sports facilities, amenity greenspace, provision for children and young people, allotments, cemeteries and churchyards, accessible countryside in urban fringe areas, river and canal corridors, green roofs and walls"

The government has said that the neighbourhood portion of the levy can be spent on a wider range of things than the rest of the levy, provided that it meets the requirement to 'support the development of the area'. The wider definition means that the neighbourhood portion can be spent on things other than infrastructure (as defined in the Community Infrastructure Levy regulations) provided it is concerned with **addressing the demands that development places on the area.**

The Pyrford Neighbourhood Plan, (available to read at <https://pyrfordforum.org/pyrford-neighbourhood-plan>) was approved by 96.5% of those voting in the public referendum on 15th December 2016 and said under "Use of Community Infrastructure Levy":

Priorities for the use of Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) funding, will include:

- Investment in, and management of, public services, assets and other measures to support local services for the village
- Support for existing community organisations, including contributions to running costs and help with new investment
- Contributions towards the Community Projects listed in Appendix 1
- Support towards the provision of affordable housing within the Area
- Support towards the upgrading of the village infrastructure, including footpaths and traffic management
- Organising new surveys relating to the Village Infrastructure, Open Spaces, Built Environment and Social & Community Services

Appendix 1 outlined a number of projects that were proposed by local people that were outside the specific remit of the plan but were

listed to provide a focus for community action. These were:

- Footpaths
- Infrastructure Planning
- Locally Listed Buildings
- Recreational Area
- Day Care Centre
- Public Bus Transport
- Healthcare and Well-Being

## How Can You Help?

Apart from the concepts outlined in the Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum Plan above, PNF has yet to generate a "de tailed wish list".

The Committee was intending to start the process by having a "blue sky" discussion in March 2020, but COVID has gotten in the way.

## PNF would like to hear ideas from the Pyrford community

Any idea not intricately linked to the concepts identified in the approved PNF plan (see above) will need public consultation to show it has public support. Ideas that Woking Borough Council deems ideas that support concepts identified in the approved PNF plan, to have already been subject to public consultation.

Please send them to [info@pyrfordforum.org](mailto:info@pyrfordforum.org).

Article by Andy Grimshaw



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## WEST BYFLEET



**Sheer House** - The site has been sold! The buyer is Retirement Villages Group (RVG) a subsidiary of AXA, a French multi-national insurance company with over 125,000 employees.

RVG was bought by AXA in 2017 having been established in 1981. It has built 16 villages for retirees. The first was in Cranleigh and a local example is Mayford Grange in Westfield,



Woking. RVG intend to build around 200 apartments using the existing planning application

with some small amendments. Apartments will be for sale but some will be rented and RVG will supply services to residents. This means RVG will have an on-going interest in the site for many years. This is encouraging, as RVG will want West Byfleet to flourish.

As a result the Forum has decided to establish a working group to liaise with RVG. This will include local Councillors, representatives from the West Byfleet Business Association and the Residents' Association. The intention is to enhance communication between RVG and the community, to expedite progress of the scheme and to help with the many issues that are likely to arise during demolition and construction. The project is likely to take around four years. The loss of the Post Office, the chemists and soon the library means residents have taken a very big step backwards. The Forum is keen to ensure that the steps forwards are big too!

**We will keep everyone informed regularly about progress.**

### West Byfleet Recreation Ground

**Frederick Cornelius Stoop** - as a reminder, two successful entrepreneurs gave it to the community over 100 years ago, Cornelius Stoop who lived at West Hall and Charles Charrington who lived at Broadoaks. It is now managed for us by Woking BC. The Forum wants to improve it for the community and we have some funds from local development to do so. With the help of our local Councillors we have arranged for three new benches to be installed. We hope you enjoy them. This is the first of several projects we have to improve West Byfleet from the many suggestions received from the community.

**Broadoaks Park** - I am sure most of you will have seen the impressive progress as you go along Parvis Road. The toucan crossing has been installed which will be a great benefit to children and parents when the schools return. As the hoardings come down and are replaced with trees and natural hedging the site will quickly blend in with the surrounding green infrastructure and be less intrusive. When finished the site will have over 330 new homes.

**SADPD** - In a momentous decision for the Three Villages, the Inspector has ruled in favour of Woking Council that the land surrounding West Hall care home (designated as GB10) can be taken out of Green Belt for the building of up to 555 new homes and 15 Travellers pitches. Whilst there will be another consultation about this the grounds for change are very slim. The Residents' Association and the Forum opposed this vigorously and we spoke at the Public Examination to defend the Green Belt. Many local residents wrote in support during the consultation process. It is particularly galling that this will be happening when the Forum supported the removal of the adjoining Green Belt land at Broadoaks for new homes. We felt we had done our bit to support the housing need in our area.

The Government is currently consulting on a Planning White Paper, which again stresses the need to protect Green Belt. That has not helped us. We could not have done any more to protect what was the last Green Belt land in West Byfleet. We will do our best to ensure that all the development on the site enhances the quality of life of residents with access to much more green space.

*Wade Pollard*  
Chairman, West Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum,  
[www.wbnf.org](http://www.wbnf.org)

### Getting to know members of the Committee:

#### WADE POLLARD

Chairman of West Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum



**Q.** What town were you born in?

**A.** Eastleigh, Hampshire.

**Q.** Could you provide a brief overview of your career?

**A.** Spent in the City in banking and asset management.

**Q.** What is your favourite Food?

**A.** Kippers - too smelly to have at home and only usually served in English hotels for breakfast, so a rare treat.

**Q.** What is your favourite Book?

**A.** Prefer a magazine, the Oldie, full of varied and interesting articles aimed squarely at my age group!

**Q.** If you could live anywhere in the world for a year, where would it be?

**A.** USA - travelling in a large RV.

**Q.** Who are your top three real life heroes?

**A.** 1. Paul McCartney- what a songwriter  
2. All Spurs, Harlequin and Surrey CC players  
3. Warren Buffett - is an amazing investor, buying when most are fearful and selling when many are greedy.

**Q.** How do you relax?

**A.** Mountain bike ride with mates in the Surrey Hills usually finishing with a cup of tea and a cheese straw in Peaslake.



### Learn to sew classes with Claire Watson.

Sewing and dressmaking courses are run from my studio in Byfleet and cater for beginners and also those wishing to develop new skills. Morning, evening and weekend classes are available.

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### Delegated Planning Rule Changes

At a Council Meeting that occurred on 23rd July 2020 a new scheme of Planning Development procedures was approved and it came into effect on 1st August 2020.

The draft new scheme details were debated at length by a group of Councillors (comprising all political groups) and Officers and after some amendments; the scheme was approved to proceed to the Council Meeting on 23rd July.

### Why was the scheme amendment necessary?

Revisions of planning processes take place regularly (last one 2016) and it was demonstrated that Woking was unusual in the Surrey Council's group by having a large number of cases submitted to the Planning Committee. It was clear that the presumption should be changed to ensure cases automatically go through the Delegated Powers (Officer controlled) route subject to a variety of safeguards which ensure that the Planning Committee is still involved in a major role where appropriate as below.

**What is the key provision in the new scheme?** Most importantly the right of any Councillor to call an application to the Planning Committee is retained subject to the original position that a good reason is provided when a 'call in' is requested. Officers are always available to assist in the process, as are Councillors especially those serving on the Planning Committee.

### What are the safeguards and what must be called to Planning Committee?

List is as follows:

1. Strategic, major or especially contentious applications will continue to be called in before
2. Staff Members or Councillor applications as before called in
3. Woking Borough Council and 50% plus Borough owned companies applications
4. Enforcement Notices will be called in prior to service
5. Tree Preservation Order objections will be retained and reported to the Committee
6. Any Application involving more than 5 or more houses to be automatically called in the Committee
7. I repeat that Councillor 'call ins' to the Committee will be retained as before.

Weekly Official Reports by the Borough to the public upon all Planning Applications will need to be carefully checked by Councillors and others to detect cases that might be subject to 'call in' to the Committee. Sometimes what appears a relatively simple matter may be an

important precedent and local knowledge is crucial in identifying appropriate cases.

Some local organisations such as Resident Groups and Neighbourhood Forums do have checking procedures in place. Residents are also at liberty to enquire about planning concerns they have with Councillors and with the WBC Planning Department.

Finally I can assure you that the New Delegated Powers Rules have not arisen due to COVID-19 but, as a result of legal changes and a need to focus upon key issues as well as safeguarding the public's right to enquire into and if need be properly challenge a Planning Application.

*Graham Chrystie,  
Chairman, Planning Committee and Councillor for Pырford*



### Gardening During Lockdown

I am sure I wasn't alone in my feelings of anxiety when we entered the lockdown back in March. We really didn't know what was going to happen and how we would get through the next few months during lockdown. I wanted something to occupy my time and distract me from the constant media coverage. I have grown my own fruit and vegetables for a few years and this year would be a little different as garden centres were closed and online seeds were taking weeks to arrive.



I hunted through my old seed boxes and found some left over, opened and sometimes out of date seed packets and set about keeping myself busy. I started with some cherry tomato seeds, sown into some compost and germinated on the kitchen windowsill.

Once they were big enough to handle I popped them into an old hanging basket from a couple of summers ago and hung them from a hook on the shed.

They are coming along well now and it won't be long until they are ready to pick and enjoy. I had a packet of salad seeds so found an empty wine box from Christmas in the garage and drilled a few drainage holes in the bottom. I used some left over weed membrane to line the box, filled it with compost and then sowed the seed. I also popped in some nasturtium seeds and they have grown happily alongside the salad. They keep the bugs away from the salad leaves and an added bonus is the flowers are edible too!!!

I use fresh herbs when I cook and always buy the pots from the supermarket but as we were not making our regular shopping trips I thought



I would have a go at growing my own kitchen herbs. I had a few packets of herb seeds that came free with a magazine at the end of last summer and thought I would give them a try.

I grew Basil, Mint, Oregano, Thyme, Coriander and Parsley. It has been great just to pop out into the garden and pick fresh herbs whenever I needed them.

Having the distraction of growing has been so therapeutic. Being able to grow what you eat is something we can all try, even a pot of herbs on a windowsill.



*Article by Claire  
Crawford*

### Update on Sanway, Byfleet Flood Scheme

Look out for the Environment Agency newsletter later in September or early October, updating the local Sanway community on this flood scheme.



With Councillor Amanda Boote's team of volunteers, everyone in the Sanway area should receive a copy. RHS Wisley will also deliver the newsletter to Wisley Village.

We had hoped to hold a public drop-in this autumn but with the current COVID-19 restrictions we will run it as a 'virtual' event towards the end of this year.

If you would like an electronic copy of the newsletter, or have any questions about the scheme, please contact the Environment Agency at [THM.Schemes@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:THM.Schemes@environment-agency.gov.uk).



## Our Active Travel Vision

All the major political parties are now supporting the move to get more people walking and cycling, now known as “Active Travel” to help reduce congestion, to reduce pollution and deliver health benefits to residents.

The Residents’ Association welcomes the ambition of the Government in encouraging Active Travel and setting appropriate standards for safe walking and cycling.

Our vision is that:

1. The major road routes through our neighbourhoods, i.e. Parvis Road, Old Woking Road, Sheerwater Road, Sopwith Drive and Oyster Lane will have dedicated and separated protected cycle and walking paths on both sides of the road whenever space or major redevelopment permits.
2. As soon as possible and as a step towards 1 above, all the above will have shared pedestrian and cycle paths or protected lanes (existing Old Woking Road lane eastbound to be protected) on both sides of the road to national standards and segregated where space allows.
3. Safe cycling routes will be reinforced or introduced in Chertsey Road, Camphill Road, Station Road, Woodlands Avenue, Madeira Road, Pyrford Road, Oakcroft Road and Coldharbour Road.
4. Additional non-vehicular tunnels (or bridges) will be provided at West Byfleet Station, Camphill Road and Oyster Lane to provide segregated safe access for cyclists and pedestrians across the railway independent of road traffic.
5. Appropriate signal control crossings will be put in place to facilitate the continuity of active travel paths and safe cycling routes, particularly Sopwith Drive near Viscount Gardens, Parvis Road at Sopwith Drive, Sheerwater Road at Madeira Road and Old Woking Road at Coldharbour Road.
6. The National Trust will raise the standard of the Wey Navigation towpath to a similar standard to the Saturn Trail along the Basingstoke Canal at least through Runnymede, Elmbridge and Woking Borough Council areas.

### As a general principle

7. All active travellers, whether by cycle, scooter, mobility scooter or on foot, will be encouraged to show consideration to other users including warning of approach from the rear.
8. All new major road schemes in Surrey will make provision for dedicated separated pedestrian and cycle paths.

9. All designated active travel paths will have direct crossings and marked priority over joining roads at junctions.
10. All residential roads and roads adjacent to playgrounds and schools will have a 20mph speed limit.
11. Residents will be supported in introducing road landscaping and traffic calming schemes on residential streets.



The Residents’ Association and three local Neighbourhood Forums, Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford, would ask all political parties to commit to the above at Local Authority level. We would ask all residents to support these moves and, in using these facilities, to observe the highway code and to show consideration to other users irrespective of their mode of travel.

The Residents’ Association recognises that some of our requests (particularly 1&4) may take many years to reach fruition but believe it is important that Local Authorities recognise the needs of the Community into the future and ask that the other requests be considered urgent priorities.

There are Bikeability <https://bikeability.org.uk> - cycle proficiency schemes operating in a number of local schools and they are also available for adults who want to improve their cycle proficiency.

For further information or comment, please email [vrrwb@the-residents.org](mailto:vrrwb@the-residents.org).

### Message from West Byfleet Health Centre

Over the past few months General Practice has led the way in adopting new technology with online and video consultations being offered to patients to prevent too many patients coming in to the Health Centre. This ensures patient and staff safety during these challenging times.

An online consultation offers an alternative experience of care for patients and supports the GPs in managing their time and workload. As we develop these new and innovative systems to ensure our service levels are

maintained our websites have been developed to ensure greater connectivity between our patients and the services the practices have to offer. In addition the three practices are working collaboratively as a network to share good practice and enhance our patient care.

To this end we have introduced a ‘Social Prescriber’ to support our most vulnerable and elderly patients with non-clinical issues.

We continue to monitor the re-development in West Byfleet village, but at this time are unable to plan for any additional pressure on our facilities but will do so as more information is released.

Liz Reynolds  
Practice Manager - Wey Family Practice

### Wey Family Practice

#### Flu Vaccinations can now be booked!

Flu vaccinations can now be booked through **EMIS access** (download the NHS App) or by **telephone**. Please do not use the website to book a flu appointment.



**People aged 50-64-years of age, who are not at risk, will not be vaccinated until November and December, provided there is sufficient vaccine.**



- **When can I retire?**
- **How much is enough?**
- **Can I afford to do all the things I want to do?**

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noel@pyrfordfp.com  
www.pyrfordfp.com

### Lockdown at Camphill Allotments, West Byfleet

Following lockdown in March, the biggest worry the plot holders at Camphill Allotments had was that we would not be able to visit our allotments for the duration of the lockdown period. Fortunately, we were able to, and from March through to the end of lockdown in June we plot holders formed our own isolation bubble!



There was a little gang of 3 of us who visited our plots every day, adhering strictly to the rules and keeping socially distanced on our individual plots. There was Janet Hodges, a retired music teacher, and font of all knowledge and our leader! Then there was Gail Green, recently retired and living in Stoop Court, which backs onto the allotments, and myself, Amanda Goldsmith, on furlough from my job at Debenhams. We were joined every day by Janet's adorable Bengal cat, Pharaoh, who became an honorary 4th member of our gang!

The three of us girls were at the allotments every single day. We prepared our plots for the coming season, in the glorious spring sunshine, and shared plants and seeds and advice. As the time went on, we experienced many things together, and became like a little allotment family. When I lost two friends early on to the virus, and was not able to go to their funerals, we held an allotment wake in remembrance of them, and I planted a little

memorial garden for my friends Cherrie and John.



Gail had a lockdown birthday in May, which we celebrated with bunting and bubbly and homemade cakes.

On VE Day we flew the Union flag and

celebrated once again with bunting and bubbles and a special tea. The weather of course was amazing and we grew tanned and healthy and happy as larks, watching our plots blossom with fruit, flowers and vegetables.

Then someone told us about a competition in the Daily Telegraph, inviting readers to submit photos of their gardens, allotments, window boxes, which they had cultivated during lockdown. We sent off some photos of us hard at work on the allotments and were delighted to be short-listed and to have one of our photos featured in the Saturday edition of the paper. We were especially thrilled as there had been over 2,000 entries and from that only 29 photos had been featured, and we were one of them!

We also had special Saturday cooked breakfasts by our sheds, before tackling our burgeoning crops and the never ending weeding! Our friend, Howard, had generously given all of us dahlia tubers and they were flourishing, adding colour and joy on all our plots. The flowers and fruits were in abundance, and the flowers were truly magnificent, but unfortunately there were no flower shows at Pyrford or Byfleet this year, so we held our own competition, to see who could grow the tallest sunflower. This year, they were all massive and it was declared a draw! We also had an abundance of Love Lies Bleeding, with their beautiful trailing bracts, all self seeded from one plant given to me by my cousin Pam the year before!

Even though lockdown has ended and I am back at work, I still spend as much time as possible on the allotment, with my special gardening friends, enjoying the sense of community and happiness there, the peacefulness and sense of accomplishment, the changing seasons and mostly the absolute joy of nature.

*Article by Amanda Goldsmith*

### Centenary of Pyrford War Memorial

A simple ceremony took place at 11 am on Saturday 18 July to mark the centenary of the dedication of Pyrford's war memorial by the then Bishop of Guildford on 18 July 1920. The memorial stands adjacent to the 12th century St Nicholas' church whose bell was struck 56 times, once for each person recorded on the memorial. There are 22 names on the memorial of those who died in World War 1 and 34 who died in World War 2.

At Saturday's ceremony a group of parishioners from the Parish of Wisley with Pyrford stood by as the names of those recorded on the memorial were read out by the Churchwarden of St. Nicholas, Andy Pearce. The Revd. Canon Nicholas Aiken conducted the short ceremony and laid a wreath.

*Article by Eldon Sandys*



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## St Mary's Centre for the Community

A Surrey-based community interest company is working alongside the county's long term unemployed, including the homeless community, to transform St Mary's into a modern tea room, scenic garden and beautiful modern spaces for local residents of all ages to enjoy.



Working alongside Woking Borough Council and the borough's homeless shelter, York Road Project, Barnabas Fresh Start CIC is undertaking the three month build project at St Mary's Centre for the Community in Byfleet helping to provide training, skills and support through working on the build project.



**Photo: Mark and Jackie Richmond collecting timber from Octagon's Broadoaks Park development in West Byfleet, with help from Site Manager Lewis Jones.**

Mark Richmond, director at Barnabas Fresh Start, explains; "As a local resident and a family run charity, every project we undertake is incredibly personal to us, and St Mary's Centre for the Community will become a fantastic community space for people of all ages to enjoy."



Working with The Council, Woking Community Transport

have been supplying daily transport from Woking to Byfleet, taking people daily to work on the project. The work has been able to continue over the past few months, with additional safety measures in place.

Cllr Simon Ashall, Woking Borough Council's Portfolio Holder for Centres for the Community said: "With volunteers from York Road Project

receiving invaluable training that could help them find future employment, this community-led initiative is a model project that I hope others will look to follow."

"I would like to thank Fresh Start, all the staff and volunteers from York Road Project and Octagon's generosity in making this happen. Also Woking Community Transport, which has been ferrying people to work in Byfleet every day."

"I'm sure staff at the centre are looking forward to welcoming users back to a new-look St Mary's when it's safe to do so."

The three-month project will include transforming the large main hall inside into a contemporary tea-room with indoor seating, while a pergola strewn with climbing plants is being erected for visitors to enjoy the outdoor space.

The team have been recycling timber and other build materials from the nearby Broadoaks Park development by Octagon, visiting the working site once a week to collect what they need to transform the centre.



Tim Banks, CEO of Octagon, comments; "We are delighted to be supporting Fresh Start's project. It's a fantastic initiative and one we are very proud to be part of."

For more information on Barnabas Fresh Start and the St Mary's Centre for the Community initiative, visit <http://www.freshstartcic.co.uk>.

The new garden café, hosted in St Mary's Centre for the Community, is open with takeaway and seating outside from Tuesday to Friday from 8.45am to 4.15pm and on Saturdays from 10am to 3pm. It will be managed by Mark's daughter Amber.

Article by Kate Geraghty, Group Marketing Manager at Octagon

## Byfleet Community Project – Mill Lane

The project originated from work that the Estate Manager at Byfleet Manor had planned for the stretch of Mill Lane immediately outside the Manor's grounds. This would have entailed clearing the ditch and cutting the verge and some of the hedgerows. This could only be



done from the beginning of September to avoid disturbance to nesting birds. Amanda Boote learned about this, and asked if the work could be extended to the whole length of the Mill Lane ditch, leading to Bluegates Hole, and that it should be a community project.

It was hoped that the Byfleet Scouts would take part, but they decided that it would not be possible to comply with social distancing requirements when the time came. The team that did the main part of the work were from Byfleet Manor. The main community help came from Byfleet Angling Association and Louise Jelly, a local landscape gardener.



Article and photos by Bob Holmes

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## The Basingstoke Canal

I am reaching out to the local community to ask if you could help us in protecting the wonderful Basingstoke Canal.

It really is a fantastic local amenity, and is frequently enjoyed by walkers, anglers, canoeists, boaters and many others. It is a site of both rich history and scientific interest due to its extensive wildlife and nature. During these difficult times it has been interesting to see a significant increase in the number of people who have been using the canal for exercise and relaxation.

However there is a real threat to the canal. The owners of the Canal (Surrey and Hampshire Councils) already have severe budget constraints and realistically this tightening of budgets is likely to get worse. The result is that the maintenance and upkeep of the Canal will continue to deteriorate with the real ultimate risk that the canal could fall into disuse.

The Canal Society was formed back in the 60s when we campaigned to restore the previously derelict canal and after 25 years work and the help of the councils, it was opened in 1991. Since then the Society has actively campaigned to help maintain and protect the canal. If you would like to find out more about us please visit: <https://basingstoke-canal.org.uk/the-society/the-society-today>.

Given the on-going council budget cuts, any



help towards maintaining the canal and raising awareness is crucial, now more than ever. We need your help as well as our local council to raise money, support projects and maintenance



through membership, volunteering, donations and trips on our boats (COVID-19 permitting). The Basingstoke Canal Society is doing all it can to protect the canal but we would welcome any help you give us. So what can you do to help?

- Making as many as possible aware of the challenges we face
- Join the Basingstoke Canal Society and see the opportunities for volunteering and social events plus get regular updates
- Book a trip on our 50-seater Trip boat based at Odiham or our smaller boat based at Woking. You can book on a public trip or charter the boat exclusively for a group (we are planning COVID-19 'compliant' trips)
- Help towards the upkeep of the canal by joining one of our work parties

There is a real risk that if nothing is done the canal will return to the derelict overgrown state it was in back in the 60's so please help us to keep the canal alive.

If any further information is needed or if you would like to discuss how we could help each other if you want to join online please visit <https://basingstoke-canal.org.uk/get-involved/join-the-society>.

Please give me a call. (07715 895598) or email me at [steve.chalmers@basingstoke-canal.org.uk](mailto:steve.chalmers@basingstoke-canal.org.uk).

*Article by Steve Chalmers  
Basingstoke Canal Society*

## Pyrford Virtual Flower Show

The 72nd year of the Pyrford & Wisley Flower Show will certainly be one to remember but not for the usual reasons. Like many social events, large gatherings and community functions we were forced to cancel the usually well attended show. However, keen to mark the occasion and to provide some respite for the boredom of lockdown we held a virtual

show. We were delighted to receive over 500 entries consisting of a wonderful array of photographs and videos. Our categories included:



Something from my collection, pets, lockdown hair, local landscape, cress grown in an unusual container, handcraft that best represents lockdown.

Those who took part were inventive, thoughtful and incredibly imaginative in the way they created and captured their subjects. The Committee who judged the entries on the day of the Show, socially distanced on the Cricket Field, were so impressed. Please check our new website: [www.pyrfordflowershow.org.uk](http://www.pyrfordflowershow.org.uk) for all the winners. See some photos below of some of the winners.



## Local West Byfleet Resident known as Britain's 'Barefoot Soldier' finally completes agonising 700-mile barefoot trek and is greeted by family in emotional reunion.

- After 35 long days on the road, Army Major Chris Brannigan, 40, finally completed this agonising 700 mile trek from **Land's End** to **Edinburgh** (via London) barefoot this week (August 12), with an emotional reunion with his family.
- The dedicated dad took on the challenge to raise money to fund pioneering research into a treatment for his eight-year-old daughter Hasti, who suffers a rare genetic condition.
- Chris' challenge saw him exceed all targets, to raise over £350,000 in a month, which will now pay for the needed research, and also go towards the huge cost of a clinical trial.
- The public support was phenomenal - people stepped out to support and cheer Chris on in every town he's visited, providing food and words of encouragement when times have been tough.
- However it was extremely gruelling, both physically and mentally, on the dad-of-three, who suffered foot infections and injuries along the way that, at times, made him doubt if he'd be able to complete the walk.

Speaking after finishing, Chris said: *"I'm just so relieved I made it and was able to finish, because at times I wasn't sure if I'd make it."*

*"I've had a few injuries along the way, including foot infections, which made me doubt at points if I'd be able to complete the full 700 miles."*

*"This is by far the toughest challenge I've ever done - there have been real ups and downs but the support locally and the generosity of those who've donated really kept me going."*

*"Whenever times were hard, I just reminded myself why I was doing it, to give my daughter the future she deserves."*

Like any little girl, eight-year-old Hasti dreams about what she wants to be when she grows up - and more than anything she wants to become a dancer and chef.

However, tragically her family face a race against time to fight for Hasti's future, as she suffers a rare, debilitating genetic condition which, by the time she reaches puberty, could dramatically restrict her quality of life and leave her permanently needing around-the-clock care. Parents Chris and Hengameh Delfaninejad,



42, were devastated when Hasti was initially diagnosed with a rare genetic condition called Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS) in 2018. The heartbreaking parents were told diagnosis meant a series of serious physical and mental health challenges.

For children with CdLS the severe mental health challenges often get worse from puberty. They often suffer from seizures and severe anxiety and self-injurious behaviour.

They now live in fear worrying about how the potentially life-limiting condition - which has no cure or even treatment - will impact their happy-go-lucky daughter's future, which is why Chris is raising money to fund pioneering research treatment options.

In Hasti's case, her parents were aware there was something wrong as soon as she was born, but she didn't receive a diagnosis until 2018.

There is no cure, or even a treatment to help Hasti, which is why her parents Chris and Hengameh have set up their own charity, Hope For Hasti, and on Monday 6 July, Army Major Chris departed from Land's End to embark on a 700 mile, month-long trek to Edinburgh to raise money for pioneering research to help find a treatment.

Chris really felt the physical impact of walking barefoot, at one point even walking with crutches, but says the support he's received along the way by locals has been incredible.

People have come out in droves to show their support, offering meals and medical advice for his injured feet, and by the time Chris finished, donations had surpassed **£350,000**.

Initially they set out to raise £50,000 from this challenge, and this was to go towards the £400,000 needed for research. Having raised

this, additional funds will go towards the £2.5million needed for a clinical trial.

He says: *"It's was a tough challenge but I did it for my little girl, to give her hope for the future. Every painful step barefoot and every donation, no matter how small, hopefully means we are a step closer to funding research into treatments."* They are also urging people to sign a petition asking the government to review its National Framework for Rare Disease, encouraging them to invest in research, earlier diagnosis and cutting edge treatments to give people who are affected hope.



**Watch the YouTube Video covering the family background:**  
<https://youtu.be/j-Pr4lNnBoY>



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Army Major Chris Brannigan finished his walk and was greeted by his eight-year-old daughter, Hasti



Army Major Chris is greeted by wife, Hengameh

## THE JOURNEY (6th July - 12th August)

- 1 Land's End
- 2 Helston
- 3 Probus
- 4 Looe
- 5 Plymouth
- 6 Postbridge
- 7 Exeter
- 8 Yarcombe
- 9 Yeovilton
- 10 Redlynch
- 11 Warminster
- 12 Larkhill
- 13 Andover
- 14 Basingstoke
- 15 Sandhurst
- 16 West Byfleet
- 17 London
- 18 Henlow
- 19 Huntington
- 20 Peterborough
- 21 Cottesmore
- 22 Grantham
- 23 RAF Syerston
- 24 Ollerton
- 25 Doncaster
- 26 Selby
- 27 York
- 28 Rippon
- 29 Catterick
- 30 Darlington
- 31 Durham
- 32 Newcastle Upon Tyne
- 33 Otterburn
- 34 Jedburgh
- 35 Lauder



Army Major Chris Brannigan getting some sleep during the walk



Army Major Chris Brannigan

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

Please sign the petition:  
<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/330174>

**JustGiving™**

To donate, please visit:  
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/BarefootAcrossBritain>

## The Pitfalls of Releasing Funds Before a Grant of Probate

It is becoming more widespread that banks are releasing large sums of monies from a deceased's bank account without the need for a Grant of Probate or Grant of Letters of Administration (a Grant). Should you be concerned that the banks are releasing the monies without the need for seeing a Grant and what are the pitfalls?

Traditionally banks and building societies would release up to £10,000 without the need of a Grant, which would ease the burden on relatives, and executors of small and simple estates. The Building Societies Association confirmed that its members usually set a £15,000 limit for paying out funds without probate, although it admitted that the maximum amount ranges between £5,000 and £30,000, and depends on the merits of each case.



Since the Coronavirus lockdown began, banks and building societies have reviewed their bereavement process due to not being able to conduct face-to-face discussions with a bereavement relative. As a consequence of this, banks have raised the probate limits and in

some cases banks are now releasing amounts between £100,000 to £125,000 without the need of a Grant.

So, what are some of the potential pitfalls of banks releasing the monies?

- It has been noted that banks do not always check to see if the deceased had a Will, that it was the most up-to-date version of the Will or who the executors are of an estate. This means that anyone can claim to be a relative or an executor and consequently large sums of money can fall into the hands of people who are not entitled to it;
- If a person died without a Will (intestate), the banks may not be conducting the usual checks to ensure who is entitled to the monies under the Rules of Intestacy. This therefore means that an estate could be distributed incorrectly;
- If a person did leave a Will, the validity of the Will may be contested. It is therefore essential that the assets of an estate are secured before they are distributed. If bank account proceeds are released to the wrong individual then it could cause delays and extra costs trying to recover the same; and
- Just because you may not need a Grant to release funds from the banks or other financial institution does not mean that there is no Inheritance Tax to pay. If there is an Inheritance Tax liability then interest is due on the tax from 6 months after the date of death and if the Executors or personal representatives do not submit an Inheritance Tax return within 12 months from the date of death then there may be further penalties to pay.

Michael Culver, the Chair of Solicitors for the Elderly (SFE) said *"we are likely to see an increase in litigation, as a result of money falling into the hands of people who are not entitled*

*to it. Recovery of the money could take some considerable time and expenses, and there is a danger of smaller amounts never being recovered. This has the potential to create extreme distress at a time when people are already vulnerable and bereaved."*

If you do have any concerns about funds being released inappropriately then it is always advisable that you speak with a solicitor as soon as possible.

Article by Abigail Pfister, Senior Associate Solicitor and Head of Private Client Department at Mackrell Garrett Turner Solicitor

## Byfleet Library Opens

For the first four weeks starting 15th September, the library will open for three mornings - Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 10am - 1pm. After that we will revert to our usual hours.



Details of library re-openings, opening times (which may differ to normal), library addresses and other

relevant information can be found at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries/news-and-events/library-news/coronavirus](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries/news-and-events/library-news/coronavirus).



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## RA Garden Seed Share in Byfleet

PLEASE GATHER YOUR  
GARDEN SEEDS DURING  
AUTUMN 2020 FOR  
SHARING IN MARCH 2021!

Drop your envelopes of seed off in the box in the porch of 53 Rectory Lane, KT14 7LU.

Please advise the variety, colour and height of plant.  
On behalf of the Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford Residents' Association (RA)

**Bringing an exclusive collection of 125 homes to West Byfleet with their flagship development Broadoaks Park, [Octagon](#) are a local Surrey-based developer with a strong reputation for designing and building the highest quality homes and providing the very best customer service.**

Initially launching the first phase of 20 homes last autumn at an event attended by over 350 guests, Octagon have just announced that these are now all reserved, and the first residents will begin to move onto the parkland estate from next month. Showing the



**Computer Generated Image - Typical interior of one of the stunning homes at Broadoaks Park**

popularity of the Parvis Road development, the second phase of homes is already 50% reserved, with just nine family homes still available - with prices starting from £1.175m.

The luxury 2 bedroom apartments located within The Coach House, an original Listed building which is being beautifully restored, retaining its period features and charm, will also be launching next month with prices starting from £625,000.

Tim Banks, CEO of Octagon, comments; *“Broadoaks Park is an incredibly exciting development for the whole Octagon team. The collection of homes showcase the extensive skill we have developed over the past 40 years, encompassing a mix of new build and carefully restored properties. We will also be launching an on-site Sales Suite this November and look forward to welcoming new prospective purchasers to the development.”*

One of the first new residents is to move into Broadoaks Park this autumn; [Jenny Weiss](#) is a well-established interior designer and co-



**Computer Generated Image - The beautifully restored Coach House featuring six luxury apartments**

founder of Hill House Interiors. No stranger to the name Octagon, Jenny had previously lived in two of the developer’s large family homes across the county but was looking to ‘right size’ with her next move.

*“When I heard that Octagon were taking on the Broadoaks Park site in West Byfleet, I immediately contacted them to see if there would be a house on plan which might have my name on it. The development ticked so many boxes for me. It is within a short drive of my studio and showroom in Weybridge, and equally important, when I need to get into London, it is just a short walk to the local train station, with a fast service into Waterloo.”*

*“I do believe I was the second buyer there to have exchanged, and now of course, I am counting the days until completion, as I cannot wait to move in! As I will be living mainly on my own, it is reassuring that I will be part of a new ‘village’ community, and as well as relaxing in my own South-facing garden, I will be able to enjoy strolls through the communal grounds.”*

Finished to Octagon’s customary excellent standard, each home will be fitted with high specification fittings, including bespoke kitchens and contemporary bathrooms. High-tech fittings include RAKO mood lighting controls, automated garage doors and under floor heating throughout.

Visit <http://www.broadoakspark.co.uk> for more information and current availability.

Article by Kate Geraghty  
Octagon - Group Marketing Manager

**BROADOAKS PARK**  
WEST BYFLEET

The Coach House at Broadoaks Park is due to launch this October - located within Octagon's new flagship parkland development and consisting of just six beautifully renovated two bedroom apartments with private parking.

Broadoaks Park can be viewed by appointment with a member of the sales team. Brand new sales suite opening in November.

For more information please visit [broadoakspark.co.uk](http://broadoakspark.co.uk) or call 020 8481 7500.

WOKING BOROUGH COUNCILLORS					
Ward	Councillor	Party	Phone	Email	Surgeries* (1st Wednesday of each month)
Byfleet & West Byfleet	John BOND	Independent	01932 343351	<a href="mailto:cllrjohn.bond@woking.gov.uk">cllrjohn.bond@woking.gov.uk</a>	St Mary's Centre, Stream Close, Byfleet 2-3pm Cornerstone, St John's, West Byfleet 4:30-5:30pm Byfleet Library 6-7pm
	Amanda BOOTE	Independent	01932 344811	<a href="mailto:cllramanda.boote@woking.gov.uk">cllramanda.boote@woking.gov.uk</a>	
	Mary BRIDGEMAN	Independent	07890 045375	<a href="mailto:cllrmary.bridgeman@woking.gov.uk">cllrmary.bridgeman@woking.gov.uk</a>	
Pyrford	Graham CHRYSTIE	Liberal Democrat	01932 343494	<a href="mailto:cllrgraham.chrystie@woking.gov.uk">cllrgraham.chrystie@woking.gov.uk</a>	Surgery 1st Friday each month, 9-12am, Church of the Good Shepherd, Pyrford
	Rashid MOHAMMED	Conservative	07897 532823	<a href="mailto:cllrrashid.mohammed@woking.gov.uk">cllrrashid.mohammed@woking.gov.uk</a>	
	Gary ELSON	Conservative	01932 340649 07824 628422	<a href="mailto:cllrgary.elson@woking.gov.uk">cllrgary.elson@woking.gov.uk</a>	

SURREY COUNTY COUNCILLORS					
Ward	Councillor	Party	Phone	Email	Surgeries
The Byfleets	Amanda BOOTE	Independent	07824 776961	<a href="mailto:amanda.boote@surreycc.gov.uk">amanda.boote@surreycc.gov.uk</a>	
Woking SE	Liz BOWES	Conservative	01483 768257	<a href="mailto:liz.bowes@surreycc.gov.uk">liz.bowes@surreycc.gov.uk</a>	

Further details of elected councillors can be found at [www.woking.gov.uk](http://www.woking.gov.uk) and [www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk).

\*Councillor Surgeries for Pyrford, Byfleet and West Byfleet wards are cancelled until further notice due to COVID-19 restrictions, if you need access to a councillor please contact them by email (details are above)

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER					
Surrey	David Munro	Conservative	01483 630200	<a href="mailto:SurreyPCC@surrey.pnn.police.uk">SurreyPCC@surrey.pnn.police.uk</a>	

NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS			
Contacts	Byfleet	Pyrford	West Byfleet
Chairperson	Fiona Syrett	Andy Grimshaw	Wade Pollard
Secretary	Lynn Cozens	Andy Grimshaw	Sally Cantello
Email	<a href="mailto:info@ByfleetForum.org">info@ByfleetForum.org</a>	<a href="mailto:info@pyrfordforum.org">info@pyrfordforum.org</a>	Contact via website
Website	<a href="http://www.ByfleetForum.org">www.ByfleetForum.org</a>	<a href="http://www.pyrfordforum.org">www.pyrfordforum.org</a>	<a href="http://www.wbnf.org">www.wbnf.org</a>
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Postal Address	The Secretary, Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum, Byfleet Village Hall, 54 High Road, Byfleet, KT14 7QL	The Secretary, Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum, Pyrford Village War Memorial Hall, Coldharbour Road, Pyrford, GU22 8SP	N/A

## "The Resident" Newsletter

Advertising rates and sizes (effective from Issue 160, February 2019)

RATES		
Size	1 issue (£)	3 issues (£)
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- Newsletter produced 3 times a year
- 16-page, full colour, A4 publication
- 3500 copies printed
  - distributed across 3 villages using network of volunteer street representatives
  - lodged in libraries, health centres, local shops, etc

If interested, contact:  
[advertising@the-residents.org](mailto:advertising@the-residents.org)



## #HOPEFORHASTI

Hasti is a young local resident who attends West Byfleet Infant School. Hasti however has a rare, degenerative genetic disease, Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CDLS), for which there is currently no known cure.

Please see how you can support Hasti and her family to raise funds for research:

[www.gofundme.com/f/hope-for-hasti](http://www.gofundme.com/f/hope-for-hasti)



# Diary Dates 2021

RA Committee meetings take place on 3rd Wednesday of each month (except August & December) – check RA website for further details ([www.the-residents.org](http://www.the-residents.org)).

Date & time	Event	Details
February (date TBC)	VRA Drop In	Pyrford Village Hall, Coldharbour Road
Saturday 10th July	Pyrford & Wisley Flower Show	Pyrford Cricket Ground
Saturday 17th July	Byfleet Parish Day	Byfleet Recreation Ground
Saturday 24th July	West Byfleet Community Festival	West Byfleet Recreation Ground

**STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES**

## The Committee 2020\*

Chairman	Stewart Dick	<a href="mailto:chairman@the-residents.org">chairman@the-residents.org</a>
Deputy Chairman	<b>VACANT</b>	<a href="mailto:deputychairman@the-residents.org">deputychairman@the-residents.org</a>
Treasurer	Dharma Sivarajasingham	<a href="mailto:treasurer@the-residents.org">treasurer@the-residents.org</a>
Secretary	Lynette Davies	<a href="mailto:secretary@the-residents.org">secretary@the-residents.org</a>
New Membership Secretary	Isabelle David	<a href="mailto:members@the-residents.org">members@the-residents.org</a>
Planning Coordinator	Stewart Dick	<a href="mailto:planning@the-residents.org">planning@the-residents.org</a>
Footpath Officer	Marion Malcher	<a href="mailto:footpath@the-residents.org">footpath@the-residents.org</a>
Events Coordinator	Eileen Perryer	<a href="mailto:events@the-residents.org">events@the-residents.org</a>
Newsletter Editor	Robert Munford	<a href="mailto:editor@the-residents.org">editor@the-residents.org</a>
Advertising Manager	Isabelle David	<a href="mailto:advertising@the-residents.org">advertising@the-residents.org</a>
Website	Anita Flavell	<a href="mailto:web@the-residents.org">web@the-residents.org</a>

You can write to the Association at the following address:

**The Residents' Association  
c/o Byfleet Village Hall,  
54 High Road  
Byfleet  
KT14 7QL**

VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES (VRs)		
Byfleet VR	Eleanor Grady	<a href="mailto:vrb@the-residents.org">vrb@the-residents.org</a>
Deputy	Jean-Pierre Frossard	<a href="mailto:depvrb@the-residents.org">depvrb@the-residents.org</a>
West Byfleet VR	Keith Creswell	<a href="mailto:vrwb@the-residents.org">vrwb@the-residents.org</a>
Deputy	Emma Slaymaker/Liz Leese	<a href="mailto:depvrwb@the-residents.org">depvrwb@the-residents.org</a>
Pyrford VR	Andy Grimshaw	<a href="mailto:vrp@the-residents.org">vrp@the-residents.org</a>
Deputy	Ernie Elliott	<a href="mailto:depvrp@the-residents.org">depvrp@the-residents.org</a>
NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM REPRESENTATIVES		
Byfleet	Lynn Cozens	See previous page for contact details
West Byfleet	Wade Pollard/Penny Hoskyn	
Pyrford	Andy Grimshaw	

## Join Us

If you are not already a member, please do consider joining. For an annual subscription fee of £5 you will receive 3 copies of The Resident. Visit our website

[www.the-residents.org/join-us](http://www.the-residents.org/join-us)

or contact the Membership Secretary,

[members@the-residents.org](mailto:members@the-residents.org)

\*Subject to approval at the 2020 AGM as and when it can be held.