LOOKING BACK AT 2020

St Mary’s Excavation
Sheer House
Butterflies in Surrey
Byfleet Heritage Society 25 year Anniversary

Website: www.the-residents.org  Email: editor@the-residents.org
Welcome to the latest issue of The Resident newsletter. This edition will be an online version only due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and will be emailed out to members and will also be available on The Resident Association website at: www.the-residents.org.

Last year was difficult for all of us with many families suffering stress and heartache due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope that you have been coping during another lockdown where we have had no access to restaurants, pubs, outdoor sports and non-essential shops, etc... People have once again been separated from loved ones due to lockdown and social distancing guidelines. This year is looking more hopeful with the vaccination rollout making good progress with many people already receiving their first jab. This has been made possible by the huge effort made by the GP surgeries, NHS workers, support services and volunteers.

We continue to be grateful for the efforts of the local Volunteer Groups who are supporting neighbours and vulnerable people. Please check the Residents’ Association website for further details about the three villages and also contact details for support groups that can provide assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic: www.the-residents.org.

Issue 166 has the usual RA Village Representative and Neighbourhood Forum reports as well as 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 an interesting article about an excavation at St Mary’s Church and another one about Butterflies in Surrey.

With all the personnel changes at Woking Borough Council, the RA, Byfleet and West Byfleet and Pyrford Neighbourhood Forums are looking forward to enjoying a good working relationship with the new team. (See article on page 20.)

I hope that you enjoy reading Issue 166 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. Just a reminder that subscriptions are now due and details of how to pay are contained within the Membership report.

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

Thank you and Stay Safe.

Robert Munford
Editor

Membership Secretary’s Report

Well, 2020 was certainly a year that none of us will forget, as hard as we might try to. Many thanks to all our membership who continued to show support, and I am happy to be able to report that our numbers only dipped slightly to just under 2400 members.

We were unable to hold any Drop-Ins during 2020, in order to respect the COVID-19 social distancing restrictions and, consequently, Issues 164 and 165 and now 166 have been online versions only, published to our website www.the-residents.org. Changes in working practices are being felt nationwide, and the RA is very interested to know from its membership what changes it could make to its newsletter too. We recently sent an email to all our members (for whom we hold up to date email addresses) asking for feedback. You can add your comments using the following link: www.forms.office.com.

Membership subscriptions for 2021 are now due (and if you didn’t manage to pay your 2020 subscriptions, these can be paid in the same way). The level of the subscription remains at £5, but any additional donations are always welcome. Whilst we cannot ask our Street Reps to collect from door to door at the moment, if you are able to make your payments online, please can you contact your Village Representative for details on how to pay, as well as confirming your email address to them:

- Eleanor Grady, Byfleet Village Representative
  vrb@the-residents.org
- Keith Creswell, West Byfleet Village Representative
  vrwb@the-residents.org
- Andy Grimshaw, Pyrford Village Representative
  vrp@the-residents.org

Alternatively, you may send a cheque payable to “BWBPRA” to:

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

In anticipation of a return to a more normal life as the vaccination rollout gathers momentum, I wish you all a happier 2021.

Isabelle David
Membership Secretary
members@the-residents.org

Getting to know members of the Committee:

ISABELLE DAVID
Membership Secretary and Advertising Manager

Q. What town were you born in?
A. Hampton, Middlesex

Q. Could you provide a brief overview of your career?
A. Haphazard! Recycling waste management (lasted one week); Safeways Supermarket management trainee (lasted 10 months); Accountancy training (lasted full 3 years and got qualification) Financial services industry... both as gamekeeper (working for various regulators) and poacher (much more demanding and not nearly as enjoyable).

Q. What is your favourite Book?
A. Impossible for me to answer – I love and eat nearly everything.

Q. What is your favourite Food?
A. Of Human Bondage (Somerset Maughan). Not sure why, maybe just because it is so beautifully written. Currently ploughing my way through Troubled Blood by Robert Galbraith (aka J K Rowling) – all 927 pages.

Q. If you could live anywhere in the world for a year, where would it be?
A. I am curious about India, both its people and its contrasting landscape. And I love the food.

Q. Who are your top three real life heroes?
A. It’s a difficult question to answer... I admire my (paternal) grandmother for reaching and attending Girton College, Cambridge University in 1921. Despite completing the Mathematics degree course and passing the exams, the degree was not awarded to women at that time. The award ceremony finally took place on 17 October 1998 – better late than never! I admire my (maternal) grandmother for being one of the kindest and most selfless people that I have ever known. One of the high points during my teenage years was when my mother’s parents moved from Paris to Hampton to be close to us as they got old (they were 80 years old by then), and I was able to “pop round” to see them whenever I needed to let off steam!

Two out of three ain’t bad.

Q. How do you relax?
A. That’s easy – Sailing, gardening and DIY.
Welcome to edition 166 of our Newsletter.

We had so hoped that it would have been possible to revert to our hard copy delivered to your door but as you will all appreciate this has just not been possible. So a third electronic copy will be available to all residents on the RA website. We know that for some this is not ideal but in the circumstances it has been a great success.

We look back on 2020 and reflect on lost lives and destroyed livelihoods. A year of immense pain and sadness. However it has also been a time of resilient community spirit with Borough and County Councils working in tandem with many voluntary, community and faith groups across our villages to support and help the vulnerable.

I want to remind you all that under the “News” tag on the RA website we constantly post updates and items of important news (police, health, scams etc.) that 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.

Annual General Meeting

It will be held as soon as it is practical to do so.

Woking Council Site Allocation Development Plan Document (“SADPD”)

The public consultation on the Inspector’s report with final modifications closed on the 14th December 2020. The RA submitted a detailed response which is available on our website. Currently WBC are working through the responses and summarising them before onward transmission to the Inspector. There is no timetable.

At a Council meeting on the 3rd December Woking Council had before it a petition signed by 2,761 individuals calling for the withdrawal of the modified SADPD and the submission of a new Plan. Correctly it was resolved not to withdraw the SADPD. However an amendment proposed by Councillors Barker and Azad was adopted which requires that the “Council calls for a joint study with other authorities and partners on the future infrastructure requirements of the East of Woking based on both current and future demand and that the terms of the study come to the next meeting of the Executive.” The terms were agreed at the Executive meeting held on 4th February so clearly the Petition was not in vain. The RA will be part of the infrastructure study and will be consulted at key stages.

The Study will be done in two phases. The first phase will focus on updating the four key infrastructure areas - transport, education, flooding and health (see below), this will be completed by April/May 2021. The second phase will cover the remaining infrastructure areas and will be completed in August 2021. This is a very demanding and indeed ambitious timetable.

Woking Borough Council

With effect from 1st April Julie Fisher will become Chief Executive taking over from Ray Morgan who is retiring. Also retiring in April is Director for Planning and Deputy CEO Douglas Spinks. At the time of writing a successor has not been officially appointed.

Residents’ Panel

The new leader of Woking Council, Councillor Ayesha Azad has established a Residents’ Panel to act as a sounding board for future initiatives. I have volunteered the RA to sit on this Panel.

A Single County Unitary Council Authority for Surrey

The Government published a Recovery and Devolution White Paper last 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 wrote 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. However the Minister confirmed that he would not be issuing an invitation so for the time being any thought of a Unitary Authority for Surrey will not be happening. However it is highly likely that over the next few years there will be a Local Government reorganisation with a degree of unitisation to achieve economies of scale, service integration and greater collaboration across Surrey. It has not gone away. We must be alert to defending local decision-making.

Health Care

One of the key infrastructure areas to be updated is Health. This is an area of immense concern and importance to our community. In normal times we are aware of the pressures on the West Byfleet Health Centre and that is before many more homes at Broadoaks plus an 80 bed care home; a “village retirement village” at Sheer House and possibly at some stage in the future (though hopefully not) 555 homes at West Hall.

We read that once again there is to be another restructuring of the NHS. At a local level we have seen the merger of some Clinical Commissioning Groups; SCC has subcontracted certain health care responsibilities to WBC; WBC is developing a Health and Wellbeing Strategy and is formalising a relationship with the North West Surrey Integrated Care Partnership; other committees have their Health and Wellbeing Task Groups with their own terms of reference and we now have the dawn of digital medicine.

I can only hope that all these groups are working together in a structured and coordinated manner.

The WBC Health and Wellbeing Strategy requires engagement with residents and the voluntary community and the RA looks forward to constructive participation. Our intention is to become very much better informed and share that information with you.

Local Elections in May

It would appear that these will go ahead as planned. For those of you who intend to vote can I encourage you all to apply for postal votes - it is easier and safer.

If you want to apply for a Postal Vote – Follow Link: www.woking.gov.uk/elections-and-voting/voting/apply-postal-vote. Deadline for Postal Votes Applications is 5pm on 20th April 2021.

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. Their schedule of committee meetings (many of which are lengthy and also require pre-meeting discussions) is onerous and I begin to think that the system is not sustainable. We are asking too much of a small number of people.

Similar thanks go to our Member of Parliament who is always available to consult and is active in his support of our Green Belt.

Thank you and take care.

Stewart Dick
Chairman of the Residents’ Association

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Welcome to WBC is developing a Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Councillor Morgan has appointed a new leader of Woking Council, Councillor Ayesha Azad has established a Residents’ Panel to act as a sounding board for future initiatives. I have volunteered the RA to sit on this Panel.

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Thank you and take care.

Stewart Dick
Chairman of the Residents’ Association
Despite the quiet of the Village during the pandemic, a lot has been happening since the last edition.

Volunteer Groups
We continue to be grateful for the efforts of the Volunteer Groups who support their neighbours and especially note the help of Byfleet Care and also Emma Osbome’s group in offering both transport and shopping support. Although quite a few of us have had our first vaccination, it is important to remember that some isolation is still essential and we can all offer some support to the local volunteer groups so they can focus on the needy.

Christmas
We did not see, of course, the cheerful gathering and carols of most years but we did have a splendid lights display thanks to the WB Business Association, particularly James Lowe the butcher, and the sponsor- Retirement Villages Group.

Sheer House Redevelopment
This is now moving at pace, with hoardings erected, whilst preserving noticeboards and post box. Plans have been submitted to the Council and lots of meetings have been held by the developer RVG, both public and the Liaison Group (see WB Forum report) to understand public concerns and to mitigate the inevitable disturbance and disruption. We appreciate RVGs efforts in engaging with the local community. Demolition will start later this year. There is a more detailed article on Sheer House re-development elsewhere in this Newsletter. (see details on page 16).

Broadoaks Park
This is also proceeding rapidly with the first houses now occupied and the Care Home advertising for staff. Although we miss the mature trees along the Parvis Road that were cut down, the developer, Octagon, are planting many replacement trees and promise a greater green space. So, the concept of a productive green use of the site seems sensible and has been adopted by the Community and plans are drawn up for planting on and around the station. Our appreciation goes not only to the Group but to Byfleet United Charities and the remainder by SCC, our nice new “Welcome to West Byfleet” sign.

Green Belt and Infrastructure
Despite the 2761 signatures, Woking Borough Council (WBC) felt unable to change the current version of their Site Allocation Planning document to accommodate the loss of Green Belt land in Byfleet and West Byfleet. The Council considered that the SADPD withdrawal and resubmission at this stage would cause significant delay to its preparation with significant adverse implications for managing development across the Borough and could lead to speculative development. Whilst the concerns of residents were noted, Council resolved not to withdraw the SADPD and that the review by the Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State should run its course.

We hope the Inspector takes a more enlightened attitude to preserving our green spaces and recognises the need to protect green space for our future generations and the environment. He has been provided with details of the petition.

However, as a result of the debate on the petition, WBC will be conducting an Infrastructure Study to see if the east of Woking Borough would be able to absorb the current and potential future large increase of population. This is reported on further in this Newsletter.

Community Gardening Group
Unfortunately some of the planned activity of the Group has been curtailed by the pandemic lockdown but it has achieved having WB Station adopted by the Community and plans are drawn up for planting on and around the station. Our appreciation goes not only to the Group but also to South Western Railways and Network Rail for this.

West Byfleet Live
Following advice from WBC, this summer’s event has been cancelled but the Committee are determined to stage an even better event in 2022.

Parvis Road Shared Path
The petition calling for a shared path on the south side of the Parvis Road, signed by 280, went to Joint Committee of Surrey County Council and Woking Borough Council. It was agreed to a study being made into its feasibility by Surrey Roads. Cllr Amanda Boote has volunteered to use some of her County Council allowance towards funding it. It is noticeable that its requirement is a lot more visible in various Council documentation than previously. Hopefully, we will have more positive news in the next Newsletter. Unfortunately, as an example of non joined up thinking within SCC, 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 West, Wentworth, Tattenhall and Rosemount. Anyone who is interested in giving a few hours back to the Community, should contact me (see contact details on last page).

Finally, on a personal note, I will be retiring at the next AGM, if anyone would like to shadow me for a few months and see what the role entails, please contact me.

Keith Creswell
Village Rep, West Byfleet
BYFLEET

Village Events
Our seasonal village events were necessarily limited this autumn and winter. Residents missed gathering together at the War Memorial for the annual Remembrance Sunday service. A lockdown exception was requested and secured for a very limited, socially distanced wreath laying. A wreath was laid by the RA on behalf of all village members and residents.

We enjoyed the Christmas lights and decorations, which adorned the village approach, Village Hall and Plough Green. On behalf of members and residents, the RA would like to thank the Byfleet Amenities Group for repairing and setting up the displays in ghastly weather. The Tree of Positivity, so named by some of our village young people, on Plough Green allowed messages of hope and gratitude to be pinned up. Sadly, the journey around the village that Father Christmas planned to take in his pony and trap had to be cancelled at the last minute due to Government COVID-19 guideline changes – luckily, we only had to wait until the night of 24th December for his return!

We are grateful to the shops that had dressed their windows so beautifully for Christmas even though trading was curtailed.

Village Heritage
This is a notable year for our Byfleet Heritage Society - BHS, which celebrates its 25th Anniversary. The BHS benefits from a rich archive of historical artefacts relevant to Byfleet. In the normal course of events, its many members enjoy monthly heritage talks, visits and events. Do consider joining! The BHS Heritage Room is in our Community Library and is a valuable resource. The BHS celebrates its 25th Anniversary with a special edition calendar which can be purchased from the library when open again or can be requested via info@heritage.org.uk. To mark the Armistice year, a fully revised second edition of Jim Allen’s book ‘Byfleet and The Great War’ has been published and is available to purchase via the BHS website.

The Old Fire Station, Byfleet
The Old Fire Station is a Grade II listed building established in 1885. It has been looked after by the community’s heritage. This group is now working on setting up a Byfleet Fire Station Trust and registering an interest in a ‘Your Fund Surrey’ grant. We hope to have a detailed article on this initiative in our next issue of The Resident Newsletter. In the meantime, to learn more about our old Fire Station building, please see the BHS website www.byfleetheritage.org.uk.

and the Historic England website (List entry 1392421). Please see BHS article on page 21.
St Mary’s Church archaeological excavations have made interesting progress since we last reported on this. A detailed update on this work is on page 15 of this Issue.

Village-related Initiatives
Generosity of spirit There have been many generous initiatives by residents and local organisations in these restricted times – the following are just some of them.
Many organisations contributed funding towards 250 parcels of provisions that were delivered to residents, most of whom had been in touch with voluntary groups during 2020. A team of volunteers organised by the Byfleet COVID-19 Volunteers and the St Mary’s Church team worked together to deliver the parcels before Christmas.

The Woking Foodbank Team at the Methodist Church continue their sterling work, often collecting donations from doorsteps and delivering parcels to clients, when the centre cannot open.
Byfleet Care have been working hard through Tier 4, second and third lockdowns and have included taking clients to their COVID-19 vaccinations in their list of services.
Our schools have been supported by our local Estate Agents who offered to print off any home-learning material for parents who did not have access to a printer at home. Started up by a local resident, a scheme was set up for residents to contribute towards devices and equipment needed by some of our school pupils for their home-learning. Byfleet United Charities kindly offered their knowledge and added matched funding to help get the purchased equipment to the schools which needed it.

Byfleet Book Swap was instigated by a resident in Gaveston Close allowing residents to swap books in a COVID secure way while libraries are closed and shopping more restricted. Any donations received are for St Luke’s Cancer Centre in Guildford.
‘Pretty and Preloved’ based at the Village Hall opened between lockdowns and raises money for The Matthew Hackney Foundation. Perhaps you would like to call in post lockdown?

Other initiatives:
Byfleet Amenities Group has produced some unique gifts showing scenes of Byfleet as part of their fundraising. Attractive cotton tea towels and bags are available with scenes of historic Byfleet buildings. These can be purchased by emailing grahamosborn@virginmedia.com.

Recycling
Full marks to our local Co-op who have introduced recycling stations for what they call ‘scrunchable plastic’ which cannot be put in our fortnightly bin collections. This includes wrappers such as biscuit and crisp packets, bread bags, cling-film and baby and pet food pouches. More fun to be had cleaning and scrunching plastic in these lean times!

The RA Garden Seed Share Scheme pilot will start in Byfleet in March 2021. See the article on page 14 of this Issue for more details.

Our Green Belt and Footpaths
Please read about the latest on the SADPD on our Planning Officer’s report on page 9.

Footpath along Byfleet Manor House: A permanent ‘diversion’ of Footpath FP94, which runs along the front of the Manor House, has been applied for to succeed the Surrey County Council Temporary Prohibition of Traffic Order which is due to expire by 11.06.2021. The temporary prohibition, which closed the footpath to walkers, was intended for public safety due to drainage works being carried out to the adjacent Manor House wall and piers as part of an extensive redevelopment. Residents are extremely concerned by the threat to their use of this footpath which has been used by Byfleet residents for centuries.

There is no update from SCC at this point on the commitment towards the development of the remainder of the off-road footpath and cycle-path along Parvis Road between Byfleet and Broadoaks. Please see my colleague Keith Cresswell’s update for more detail on page 4.

In other News
It was with great sadness that the community learnt of the death of Susan Robinson on 18th October 2020. Susan trained at the Royal Ballet Upper School and opened the Susan Robinson School of Ballet in Byfleet in 1975. Susan, her team and the ballet school have been part of the fabric of Byfleet life since then. We send our deepest condolences to her family, friends and colleagues.

RA Subscriptions and Street Representatives
2021 subscriptions are now due. We regret that Street Reps remain unable to collect your subscription at your door. Please see the Membership Officer’s report for guidance on how to pay your 2021 subscription.

Our Street Reps really look forward to the time when they can deliver a paper-copy newsletter and knock to see you in person again! When this time comes, we would love to welcome additional Street Reps to the team. Could you spare an hour or two three times a year to join us? We are looking for an Assistant Membership Officer for Byfleet. Please contact vrb@the-residents.org.

Thank you all for your support and interest in Byfleet.

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

**Members’ Subscriptions in Pyrford**
Since March 2020, Street Reps have been asked not to collect further monies. Even so, in Pyrford just below £4,000 was collected in 2020, which is 87% of the full amount collected in 2019.

Thank you to those Street Reps who did manage to collect subscriptions before COVID-19 struck and to those members who paid their membership subscriptions direct into the RA Pyrford Collections bank account.

As the Street Reps are still being asked not to collect monies door to door, please could members pay their subscriptions electronically. If you don’t have the bank details, please email me: vrp@the-residents.org.

**Street Representative Vacancies**
If you live in one of the following roads: Dean Close, Elveden Close, Old Woking Road, Orchard Lea, Pyrian Way, Rowley Close.

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

**Pyrford village events**
- London Bike Ride through the Village in May 2021 has unfortunately been cancelled.
- Pyrford Flower Show - see the report on page 22.
- Dulux London Cycle Ride is planned for 25th - 26th September 2021 along Coldharbour Road.

**Local Footpaths**
During the current lockdown, many of us will have been incredibly grateful for all the footpaths and towpaths close to the Village. Should 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.

**Grass Verges Around Pyrford**
One Pyrford member has raised the issue about the state of the grass verges around the village with Woking Borough Council. Following the excess rain recently, this seems to be becoming a significant issue as many have been severely damaged by vehicles parking on & driving over them.

Affinity Water, after backfilling the holes outside the shops and opposite the Cricket Field, levelled the ground and scattered grass seed. Could you do the same with the grass verges outside your property?

**Marshall Parade Shops**
Unfortunately, at the time of writing not all of the eight shops in the parade can be open. PLEASE DO USE THOSE SHOPS THAT ARE OPEN.

The building of the additional two units and flats has recommenced but progress is, unfortunately, awfully slow, though it is fantastic that the top floor roof has started to take shape. I have not been given a target date for completion of the works but recently planning permission has been sought & approved for a change in the planning use to allow the retail units to be used for a proposed dentist practice.

**Planning Applications**
Since the last edition, the following key planning applications have occurred:

**Approved in a Conservation Area**
- Mark House Aviary Road - Extension, Little Orchard Aviary Road - Replacement Conservatory.
- Lady Place Cottages Church Hill - Extension, Church Farm House Church Hill - Replacement Conservatory.

**Approved outside a Conservation Area**
- 153 Old Woking Road - Flats

**Refused**
- Lock Lane - A new bungalow in Green Belt, Pyrford Place - Boathouse in Green Belt

**Deferred**
- One recent application needs highlighting. Qaro, Pyrford Heath was a “Prior Approval” for “an additional storey on a bungalow”. Due to the key principles involved, one of the ward councillors requested that this application be discussed at the Planning Committee. The application was initially deferred for further review but then was, at a subsequent meeting, approved. For background “Prior Approval” is a new type of planning regulation, approved by the Government in August 2020, that is a permitted development right. There are conditions that need to be met, but in principle, for detached houses, up to two additional storeys can be erected on the topmost storey of the house, or one additional storey on a detached house of one storey.

Under the regulations only adjacent neighbours are entitled to comment and only the character of the applicant’s property can be considered not the appearance in the wider street scene.

This new regulation clearly limits the ability of residents to object to Prior Approvals.

The following planning applications in Green Belt are still 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 green keepers 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 a two storey boathouse following demolition of existing boathouse, refurbishment of existing footbridge” N.B. An application was refused on 3rd September 2020, but another application has been received.

The following in a conservation area is under consideration:

**Church Farm House, Church Hill**
Listed Building Consent to replace existing 15 casement & 2 bay single glazed windows and doors with slim line double-glazed windows and doors using existing openings.

**Anti social behaviour around Pyrford Cricket Club**
Surrey Police did produce a report on how the situation could be improved and recommended some measures for prevention. The level of incidences is being monitored.

Andy Grimshaw
Chairman, Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum
BYFLEET

A belated Happy New Year to all Byfleet residents! Let’s hope it’s a better one!

Despite the restrictions, it’s been a busy time for the Forum. Before Christmas, we supported the Save our Green belt campaign during the consultation period which ended in December. We are now awaiting the decision of the Inspector and haven’t ruled out taking legal advice if he ignores our concerns. Our crowdfunding was very successful last time (thank you) but we would have to do more - please keep an eye on our website and Facebook group for further updates.

The Green belt Petition was rejected by Woking BC in January but they did vote for an infrastructure review prior to any new large developments. This review was discussed by the Woking BC Executive committee on Thursday 4th February. The webcast is here if you’d like to watch it. In a nutshell, this is an internal review; it should begin in April and will be overseen by the Director of Planning. Your Councillors, Byfleet and West Byfleet Forums and the Residents’ Association should all be consulted.

We currently have some CIL money (community infrastructure levy) available to us and we have decided to use some of it to improve the play area in Sanway Road with some new play equipment. This play area hasn’t been improved for many years and was a popular suggestion at the drop in meetings we held a few years ago. There will also be an additional picnic bench. Surrey County Councillor Amanda Boote has also made a contribution from her Surrey community allowance and part of this will pay for a replacement memorial bench on Plough Green for one that was sadly vandalised some time ago.

A lot of people have mentioned how nice West Byfleet’s new village signs are and we will look into replacing ours in the near future. If you have any ideas on what those new signs should look like, please let us know.

Have you looked at the Ideas Map on Your Fund Surrey? Surrey County Council is giving local communities up to £100m over the next five years to spend on projects that improve their local area. We have submitted an idea to restore the tennis court on the Recreation Ground. If you would like to see this happen, please Like our idea on the map. You will see that other local groups have also submitted ideas so do have a look and support the ones you like.

One dedicated group of local residents has been fighting hard to save our historic fire station and turn it into a heritage-based community resource. You can support that idea here.

The Forum committee is also very interested in hearing your thoughts on all the Byfleet Ideas on the map and of course, any of the above. You can email us at info@byfleetforum.org.

Fiona Syrett
Chair, Byfleet Residents’ Neighbourhood Forum

PYRFORD

I start with some sad news – the passing of Brian Dodd.

Brian was a founder member of Pyrford Forum and the lead on the Infrastructure section of the Neighbourhood Plan. He was also involved in many other community organisations in Pyrford Village like the Arbor Centre, Pyrford Village War Memorial Hall and the Pyrford & Wisley Annual Flower Show & Fete.

Pyrford Village will miss him.

Re-designation of Forum

The Redesignation request was successful, so Pyrford Forum is now the designated organisation for the Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum Area until 2 December 2025.

Impact of Pyrford Neighbourhood Plan

The Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum monitors planning applications to ensure that they do not breach the various Policies detailed in its Plan. It does on occasions, make formal objections and since September 2020 the Forum did so on the following applications:-

- Boat House at Pyrford Place, Bungalow in Lock Lane, Flats at 153 Old Woking Road.

More detail on other planning applications in Pyrford can be found in the Pyrford Village Representative report on page 6.

NCIL & Possible Local Projects

The Woking Joint Committee on the 11th of November approved the allocation of £14,000 from the Pyrford Neighbourhood Area Community Infrastructure Levy balance of £28,000 to support the repair of the Pyrford Cricket Club Clubhouse. This was in addition to £4,993 already raised via Just Giving, £3,000 allocation from Surrey County Cllr Liz Bowes Member’s Allocation and a few thousand pounds from other local organisations. The work started in mid-January 2021.

A great example of Pyrford Village helping to keep a key asset.

I am sure further donations would be gratefully accepted via Just Giving at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/pyrfordcc?utm_term=eNWdnVpda

The Forum is reviewing all the suggestions made by members. Those projects that are likely to cost more than £10,000 have been listed on the Surrey County Council Projects Fund interactive map. £100m has been set aside by Surrey County Council which can be accessed for:-

- Capital, one-off costs - the Fund cannot pay for ongoing running and maintenance costs
- Projects that fit with the aims of Surrey’s Community Vision
- Projects that have the support of your local community

Please take a look at www.yourfundsurreymap.commonplace.is and support those projects you think are worthwhile.

The remaining projects, like Wildlife Habitat Areas, are being reviewed and prioritised.
Fundraising During Covid

Fundraising during lockdowns has been difficult but thank you so much to those residents who purchased the Heritage CD which raised over £300 towards the costs of the Heritage Conservation Assessment. Unfortunately, this still leaves £1,200 to find. If you could help financially, please contact me at info@pyrfordforum.org.

Site Allocations DPD

As a result of COVID-19, the consultation period at the end of 2020 was extended. As yet no new date is available for the publication of the Planning Inspector’s report.

A petition calling for the withdrawal of the SADPD was discussed at the Woking Borough Council’s December 2020 Full Council. The petition wasn’t accepted, but a motion was passed asking WBC Officers “for a joint study with other authorities and partners on the future infrastructure requirements of the east of Woking.” I am pleased that the February Executive, the Portfolio Holder Clr Gary Elson asked that Pyrford Forum be included in the list of consultees at key stages of the Study which will be done in two phases.

The first phase will focus on updating four key infrastructure areas in the Infrastructure Development Plan – transport, education, flooding and health – and it is anticipated that this phase will be completed in April/May 2021. The second phase will cover the rest of the other infrastructure areas and should be completed by August 2021.

Andy Grimshaw
PNF Chair

WEST BYFLEET

This is an exciting time for West Byfleet. It is seeing the most change in its physical infrastructure since the 1970s. The development of new housing at Broadoaks Park is well under way. Many new homes have already been built and when finished there will be 254 and an 80-bed care home. (See article on page 19).

The redevelopment of the village centre will begin in the summer with demolition of the existing buildings. You may have seen the plans and images already but for those who have not; they can be seen on a website - www.sheerhouseredevelopment.co.uk.

As a reminder, the scheme will provide 200 retirement apartments and retail space at ground floor level. Woking Council Planning Committee is due to vote on the last stage of approval on 6th April.

The Liaison Group we formed to work with the developer, Retirement Villages Group has met regularly, helping to keep residents informed as the scheme progresses and to address issues as they arise. (See article on page 16)

“Saving our Green Belt!” Our petition to ask Woking Council to drop their proposal to take 45 acres of land around West Hall out of Green Belt to allow the building of up to 555 new homes and 15 traveller pitches was rejected. The Council have agreed to a study into the infrastructure in our area to ascertain whether it can cope with all the new homes, which might be built here. The West Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum will take part in this study. Residents are rightly concerned about infrastructure capacity and want to see it improved before the homes are built and not afterwards. Increasing highway capacity is impossible and tweaking traffic light phasing to help is not enough. Residents feel strongly that having so many new homes at Broadoaks Park and in the village centre means that West Byfleet is doing its bit to help the housing target.

Great News! The Forum was re-designated by Woking BC at a Council meeting on 11th February for a further five years. Many thanks to those who wrote in support of our application and to Penny Hoskyn for organising it for the Committee.

Community Centre

The Forum Committee is determined to get this project moving. We have been meeting with local organisations to get an idea of needs. We particularly want to provide facilities for our youngsters. There are funds available from the Community Infrastructure Levy on new development and from a new fund being launched by Surrey County Council. We hope to bring you more news about this in the spring. We know that we have strong community support for this project.

Recreation Ground

There is a treat in store for visitors to the Recreation Ground this spring. 12 cherry trees have been planted as an avenue along the path towards Parvis Road. They are a gift from the people of Japan who revere these trees and want us to enjoy them too. This is a worldwide project. The trees will provide a wonderful show of pink blossom and then lush green foliage throughout the summer.

Once again many thanks to our Local Councillors who have given us great support and help to improve West Byfleet for our residents.

Wade Pollard
Chairman, West Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum, www.wbfn.org

Footpaths and Bridleways

Our footpaths and bridleways have been busy during the pandemic. Residents have made full use of local paths, some recovering their local environment for the very first time. We are fortunate since access to green spaces is known to have a positive effect on mental health. But we should not take all this for granted and I wish to thank those of you who signed my petition to “Extend the 2026 deadline for the recording of historic footpaths & bridleways.” This has now closed with 14,140 signatures and will in due course receive a response from the Government.

Another aspect of local footpath law has come to the fore in recent months. The fencing of paths to the absolute minimum possible legal width by landowners. This has become a particular concern at one path crossing what was known, for nearly a thousand years, as Lees Farm. New fencing makes social distancing impossible without users trespassing on adjacent land, a concern when Government is intent on making trespass a criminal offence. So consider both rights and responsibilities before you step aside to avoid becoming stuck in the mud of a frequently used path or to try and maintain social distancing.

“The law locks up the man or woman Who steals the goose off the common But leaves the greater villain loose Who steals the common from the goose”

Article by Marion Malcher
Planning

Planning Report
An important role of the RA is the review of planning applications in the Three Villages. We receive details of all planning applications on a weekly basis and confirmation of which are to be decided on a delegated powers basis.

Our Three Villages all have Neighbourhood Forums. In addition Pyrford and West Byfleet Neighbourhood Forums have adopted Neighbourhood Plans. These Plans amongst other matters set out clear policies for development including the need to maintain the character of the area. Decisions on planning applications will be made with reference to the Neighbourhood Plan. It is important that wherever possible planning decisions respect the integrity of such Plans.

Planning applications are discussed by the RA at their monthly meetings in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Forums and Councillors. A decision is then made as to whether an objection is appropriate and on what grounds.

Any resident who has concerns about a planning application should contact both the RA and their Forum.

West Byfleet Village Centre - Redevelopment (Sheer House)
This is undoubtedly the major development in our Three Villages. Detailed plans have been submitted and are available on the WBC planning portal reference PLAN/2021/0059. It is expected that the Planning Committee at their meeting on 6th April will consider this.

Three Other Matters
White Paper
Planning for the Future - Last August the Government 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 Consultation closed at the end of October and the RA submitted its responses.

The “mutant algorithm” deciding where houses should be built was severely criticised by backbenchers and there has been a retreat by the Government on this issue. However the proposals are fundamental and far reaching.

Permitted Development Rights
Last September there was a change in Planning Law as regards these rights to permit homeowners to increase the height of their homes. Of course there are restrictions but this is a most unwelcome development that will result in much argument.

WBC Planning Committee
Over the last few months the Planning Committee has turned down applications for around 3,000 new dwellings in the centre of Woking. Putting to one side the merits or otherwise of these decisions, the very simple fact is that this makes it increasingly difficult to defend green belt land.

Stewart Dick
Planning Coordinator

Getting to know members of the Committee:

ANDY GRIMSHAW
Pyrford Village Representative and Chairman of Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum

Q. What town were you born in?
A. Woking Surrey in the Maternity Hospital

Q. Could you provide a brief overview of your career?
A. Despite having read a degree in Physics, I decided to become a Chartered Management Accountant. The first 13 years were working in the various entities in the then nationalised Electricity Supply Industry. The next 13 years were spent working in technology industries covering mobile telephony, fixed telephony & Cable TV. The last 13 years were working in charities as Head of Finance.

Woking Residents’ Panel
The Residents’ Panel will consist of 1,000 residents representative of the borough. The only requirements are that all panelists must be aged 18 or over, a resident of Woking borough and enthusiastic about participating in local democracy. Panelists are not required to have any prior knowledge, skills or expertise and will not be expected to demonstrate any specific abilities before participating.

Panelists will be contacted several times per year for their views on a variety of issues, projects and services that the Council provides. We aspire to have a panel that is fully representative of Woking’s different communities, to ensure we achieve a balanced view on topics we wish to consult on.

The views of Panelists will form a vital part of shaping Woking Borough Council’s vision for the future and we are excited to extend an invitation to members of your group to participate.

To join, I would like to invite members to read the information provided on the web page www.woking.gov.uk/residentspanel before clicking the link at the bottom of the page to complete their application and fill out a short satisfaction survey.

Green Belt
One of the two fields in Byfleet identified in Woking Borough Councils’ plan as potential land to be taken out of green belt for housing development (GB4 - on the right as you come into Byfleet just before the Queen’s Head pub), resembled an ice-rink for a number of days, having been partially under-water for a week before temperatures dropped in February.

Article by Eleanor Grady

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55a Station Approach, West Byfleet
West Byfleet Health Centre

The three practices continue to operate under the current challenging times. In an effort to keep all our patients and staff safe, we continue to request that patients do not enter the Health Centre unless they have a confirmed booking and even then, to not bring anyone with them unless absolutely essential.

The COVID-19 vaccination programme started in December and at the time of writing up to 10,500 patients (over one third of our entire patient population) had received their 1st vaccination which has been a massive, but successful undertaking. The challenges will continue as we try to proceed down the age groups as well as starting the wave of second vaccinations which begins in March.

We try to keep patients informed with current news through the websites of each practice but if any patient is interested we do have a Facebook Group which can be found under WBHC PPG.

Can I also remind our patients that we now employ a social prescriber across the three practices. Social prescribing supports individuals to take better control over their health and improve their general wellbeing. It aims to link residents, who have social, emotional or practical needs which cannot be addressed by a GP, to a wealth of different services within the borough. For more information: www.woking.gov.uk/living-well/social-prescribing or speak to your GP for a referral.

Liz Reynolds
Practice Manager, Wey Family Practice

CPR
To maximise the chance of survival for a cardiac arrest victim, timely intervention is crucial. For every minute that passes without treatment, the survival rate decreases by 10% so the quicker you can react and commence CPR and Defibrillation, the better.

Above is a short guide of what to do in a medical emergency when someone suffers a cardiac arrest and requires CPR and Defibrillation. Remember, every second counts so the quicker you can react, the greater chances of survival for the patient.

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• Medicals
• Menopause Clinic

www.privategpclinic.co.uk

Our ear wax removal clinicians use the Microsuction method
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FREE hearing test for over 55’s

www.earwaxremovalclinic.co.uk

Our Aesthetics services include:
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• Skin tags, moles, lesions removed
• Laser Skin Rejuvenation and Hair Removal
• Fillers and injections for wrinkles

www.surreyskincare.co.uk

We are approved by the UK Government to provide COVID-19 testing:
• Fit to Fly (PCR)
• Test to Release
• The Abbott Antibody Test
• We can also provide rapid testing for peace of mind/work/school etc.

www.earwaxremovalclinic.co.uk

West Byfleet Health Centre, 2nd Floor, Purple Area, Madeira Road, West Byfleet KT14 6DH
Tel: 01932 344004
Shepherds Market Charity Fair in parish of Wisley with Pyrford

Despite lockdown Shepherds Market breaks all records!!!!!

Despite the limitations of Covid and lockdown the annual Shepherds Market Charity Fair, organised by the Parish of Wisley with Pyrford, achieved a record result!

Despite the limitations of Covid and lockdown the annual Shepherds Market Charity Fair, organised by the Parish of Wisley with Pyrford, achieved a record result!

In normal times the Shepherds Market is held annually at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Pyrford on a Saturday in November. It attracts large crowds who come to buy items from a wide range of stalls, enjoy hot lunches and refreshments.

It was hoped that at least a very small number of stalls could operate from the church on a socially distanced basis with other activities conducted on line. With the sudden imposition of the second lockdown even the very limited activity planned at the church had to be cancelled.

Undeterred, church members came up with a variety of merchandise to sell on line such as jams, plants, games and paintings of local scenes. (Some are still available from Brian Blair 01932 345624) There was the opportunity to have a sketch made of a loved one, to bid for the services of a local church member handyman, a ‘guess the weight of a cake’ competition, as well as guessing the number of sweets in a jar. There was the opportunity to have a makeup lesson on Zoom and a raffle for a week’s use of a Devon cottage. One parishioner undertook a sponsored 65 mile cycle ride to/from Henley on Thames.

The Rector, the Revd Nicholas Aiken agreed to wear a banana suit to conduct a streamed family service if by wearing it he could raise £1,000 – which he comfortably did!

As a result of all this activity – most of which took place on and around Saturday 14 November – the Shepherds Market has raised £17,096! This sum comfortably exceeds the £12-13,000 typically raised by the event in normal times.

Ed Brockman, who chairs the Shepherds Market committee said: ‘This is an amazing result given the obstacles put in our way by the lockdown and is a testimony to the energy and imagination of so many people who were determined not to let our charities down.’

Revd Nick Aiken said: ‘Charities are facing a particularly difficult time and I am proud of the efforts of our parishioners who have shown such generous support for our charities.’

All the proceeds of the Shepherds Market go to the three charities supported by the Parish of Wisley with Pyrford: Besom Woking, Church Missionary Society Devonport Project and Amaha We Uganda.

www.wokingbesom.org
www.amahaweuganda.org
www.churchmissionsociety.org

Article by Eldon Sandys

Three Village Remembrance Day Services

Photos Courtesy of Bob Holmes

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Snow and Xmas

Photos Courtesy of Bob Holmes
PRESS RELEASE

WOKING LIONS’ PROJECT
WENCESLAS GENERATES FUNDS FOR PEOPLE IN NEED

Once again Woking Lions, in conjunction with Citizens Advice offices, are renewing their winter appeal.

DO YOU NEED YOUR GOVERNMENT WINTER FUEL ALLOWANCE FOR 2020?
IF NOT WE CAN USE IT TO HELP THOSE IN FUEL POVERTY.

This year in particular many local people will not qualify to get help and struggle to keep warm and meet fuel bills. Woking Lions Club is therefore promoting the project as part of its service to the Woking and district communities. We hope you will support Project Wenceslas, all donations being managed by Citizens Advice Woking or Citizens Advice Runnymede.

If you do not need this money a donation of your Winter Fuel Payment or perhaps some of it would be much appreciated. Please submit on line at virginmoneygiving.com/fund/Wenceslas2020.

Alternatively cheques made payable to Woking Lions Club Co can be posted or hand delivered to Citizens Advice Woking, Provincial House, 26 Commercial Way, Woking GU21 6EN please write ‘Project Wenceslas’ on the reverse side. Gift Aid would add a further 25%. If you are eligible and need a form, please email bureau@wokingcab.org or call 01483 725192.

Photographs above and below show cheques from collections in 2020 presented to the Managers of both Citizen’s Advice Offices by President Paul Robinson. Our sincere thanks to all who donated to our winter fund last winter, we hope that you will be able to help us again.

There are so many important people who helped to shape our neighbourhood – Walter George Tarrant, Frederick Cornelius Stoop, Hugh Locke King, Alfred Stollery (Dick’s maternal grandfather).

Have you ever wondered why some of the street names include “lavender” or “rose”? How did the Marist School come into being? When was the Brantwood Estate developed? Ever heard of the “Camphill Casuals”? Some residents will remember the night hotspot – the “Carafino”.

Whether you have lived in this area for many years, or just moved in, Dick Bird encourages you to learn more about the area that you live in his own unique style.

If you would like a copy, please email Dick – Adrian.bird4@ntlworld.com - All profits from the sale of this book will go to Momentum Children’s Charity - www.moment-um.org/home.

Isabelle David
RA Membership Secretary

FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND MEMORIAL STONEMASONS

WEST BYFLEET: 33 Old Woking Road 01932 355897
FUNERALS • FLORAL TRIBUTES • MEMORIALS • PRE-P AID FUNERAL PLANS • LEGAL SERVICES www.lodgebrothers.co.uk

WEST BYFLEET PAST AND PRESENT
Our congratulations to local resident, Dick Bird, who has fulfilled a long held ambition to write a history of West Byfleet, intertwining his own family history with the events that have taken place over the last 100 or so years. “I am approaching the subject from a more personal viewpoint based on memory and family hearsay…”

There are seven generations of our family have been helping and advising local families in their time of need. For over 230 years we have been providing funerals, both modest and traditional, with care and compassion.

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...the family you can turn to
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Isabelle David
RA Membership Secretary
West Byfleet Community Gardening Group - On track for wildlife

Voluntary community group, West Byfleet Community Gardening Group (WBCGG), have confirmed they have been successful in the adoption of West Byfleet Railway Station to plant for wildlife and to beautify the station.

WBCGG aims, with careful and easy to maintain planting, to return the station to its former glory but also bear the future in mind by planting a diverse range of plants so that natural ecosystems can flourish. Rebecca Bradshaw, Professional Gardener, who helped set up the gardening group and who applied for the railway adoption said:

‘A century ago railway stations had raised beds and gardens and were tended to by train staff: the station was a celebration of plants and flowers that welcomed passengers to the village. By planting up at the railway we have an opportunity to be proactive in making a positive difference to local wildlife. With fantastic support from the station manager and railway staff in West Byfleet, the adoption of the railway station is a real opportunity for the community to make the space a haven that encourages wildlife as well as increasing wellbeing for passengers.

Fiona Brown, West Byfleet Station Manager and sustainability lead for the area says: ‘South Western Railway through their sustainability programme encourages & promotes the health and bio capacity of the environment of our stations, and those colleagues involved in the programme as well as supporting the well-being of individuals and communities. We are really excited to see the difference this will make to West Byfleet station’

The group will all be provided with high vis jackets and will have a full safety briefing soon before beginning weeding and planting for next year. Searching West Byfleet Community Gardening Group on Facebook you will able to find more information about this group. Plants good for pollinators will be planted such as: English bluebells, sweet woodruff, mint, lavender and thyme.

‘We are now thinking about planting and planning next steps. It’s exciting to see how we will be making a difference to the station’s appearance through planting. Stations make up a large amount of space in many villages, towns and cities and we hope that this initiative will encourage other groups to get on board with their local station and transform their station space into a green oasis for wildlife and for everyone to enjoy.’ concluded Rebecca.

RA Garden Seed Share Scheme

We are starting our community-enhancing initiative to harvest and share garden seeds for free. We hope that this initiative will bring a sense of sharing and fun. It will help those who are less able to get to Garden Centres. The use of locally harvested seeds is positive for the environment in that it reduces the risk of weeds and pesticides being brought into gardens via pot plants and seedling. We will even reduce emissions by fewer car trips out of the villages!

How can I get free local garden seeds each spring?

Long-term, the plan is to make seeds available for collection in spring annually in the Byfleet Community Library, thanks to the Library management and team. We plan to have a stall on Plough Green at the beginning of March each year for residents to come along and select their choice of seeds while they last!

Collecting seeds in this year of COVID-19 and uncertainty

We will not be able to distribute seeds on Plough Green on 6th March 2021 but it is open to any resident of Byfleet, West Byfleet or Pyrford.

Finally, what is available for you this year?

Agapanthus, Anemone, Aquilegia, Cosmos, Dahlia (singles), Delphinium, Evening Primrose, Foxgloves, French Beans, Golden Rod (Canadian), Hibiscus, Honesty, Hollyhock, Lambs’ Ear (Rabbits’ Ear), Lavender (French), Licnis, Love-in-a-mist, Lupin, Marigold, Nasturtium, Poppy, Runner Bean, Salvia, Scabious, Sunflower, Rudbekia, Verbena Bonariensis.

Please help us ‘grow’ the scheme year on year!

Thank you.

Eleanor Grady and Jean-Pierre Frossard

Article by Rebecca Bradshaw
St Mary’s Churchyard, Byfleet: The Archaeological Excavation of A Long-Forgotten Outbuilding

On 7th March 2020, with the approval of the Reverend John McCabe and Byfleet Heritage Society Chairman Jim Allen, Taylor Jackson led a keen group of fellow Eagle Scout volunteers from the American School in Cobham and cleared a large area of undergrowth in St Mary’s churchyard close to Sanway Road. They revealed the remains of a long-forgotten 19th/20th century outbuilding and found five old cast iron numbered grave markers and parts of a Victorian lawnmower.

On 24th March - the day after the UK’s first COVID-19 national lockdown began - churchyard maintenance volunteer Dick Alder suggested that I inspect the newly-cleared site. With my archaeology degree and training and my experience as a qualified industrial archaeologist in Ironbridge, Shropshire, I thought it would be relatively simple to excavate and survey the remaining foundations, to research their history and then produce a report for the St Mary’s Church and Byfleet Heritage Society archives.

Delayed by April’s strict lockdown, initial investigations on 4th May yielded the first archaeological finds - a rusty metal spanner, small glass jar, some animal bone and one piece of pottery. Suitably encouraged, Dick soon obtained the Rector’s approval for us to continue our work and fenced off the site.

Starting with two one metre square ‘test pits’, I soon found the topsoil contained large quantities of broken bricks and roof tiles suggesting that the building had either collapsed or been partly-demolished decades ago. Octogenarian local resident Mick Polley who visited the dig on 1st June and recalled seeing the building disused and dangerous when resting in the churchyard with fellow members of the Byfleet Scout Band after the VJ Day parade in 1945 supported this theory.

Abandoned in wartime, then overgrown and forgotten for almost 70 years, some of the building’s remains were briefly rediscovered by Dick Alder and Ted Walker while clearing undergrowth in June 2016. This prompted the Byfleet Heritage Society to investigate and Jeff Secchiari found some fascinating archives at the Surrey History Centre relating to significant alterations to the churchyard in the 1930s ordered by a new Rector, the Reverend Lt-Col F J Cheverton. These changes included removing, disturbing and damaging numerous graves and tombstones without consulting the church authorities or any relatives of the deceased. Archives also confirmed that we had found the ruins of a late 19th century storage building, presumably to house churchyard maintenance equipment. Drawings and photos from the late 1930s also showed a gentlemen’s urinal and soak-away added to the east end of the store in 1933 with access from a new path apparently made of re-used gravestones!

New research at the Surrey History Centre by our team last summer found further relevant details including a report of a Consistory Court held in the Village Hall in January 1939 brought against the Reverend Cheverton by unhappy parishioners.

Meanwhile, with the lockdown easing last July, we recruited other local volunteers to help remove the extensive overlying rubble layer up to one metre deep and the work soon evolved into weekly two-hour sessions by a team of six. Our two original test pits became one single trench, which revealed the original floor and drainage gulley of the 1933 gents’ urinal at a lower level accessed down three stone steps. Finally, on 7th September, we found significant physical evidence of Cheverton’s misdemeanours when we discovered the substantial remains of the re-used gravestone of a rather notable local resident. Installed facing upwards forming a section of floor at the foot of the urinal steps was the lower half of a memorial to Captain Henry Nathaniel Rowe (1780-1860) an accomplished mariner who had survived the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 near the start of quite a distinguished career in the Royal Navy.

Excavations continued for two more months until, with winter approaching and a second lockdown starting on 5th November, a final session was held on 2nd November. Incredibly, this ended with the discovery of three more re-used gravestones laid face down to form the urinal steps. The top step was clearly inscribed with details of Jane Harris of Cobham, buried on 26th May 1849, aged 84, another smaller slab simply marked ‘F.E.H.: relates to Frederick Edward Hillier of Byfleet, buried on 27th December 1874, aged 39. A third slab is currently unidentified although researching the lives of all these people is ongoing.

Unlike most archaeological sites, there was no stratigraphy although we had many finds. These included an intact clay tobacco pipe bowl found on the floor in the SE corner of the store with the maker’s stamp ‘Norwood Eton’ revealing that it was probably made by Eton-based pipe-maker Richard Henry Norton between 1876 and 1914. Other material comprised pottery, glassware, grave markers, a metal bucket and numerous door hinges, locks and fittings.

About two thirds of the site remain unexcavated pending a decision on resuming work in 2021 whenever the current third Covid lockdown ends. Until then, we believe that our mystery outbuilding was originally a rectangular stonewalled structure with two rooms and a timber-framed tiled pitched roof. By 1896 it was L-shaped with a longer brick extension at the rear (probably coinciding with churchyard expansion further south) before again becoming rectangular in form in 1933.

© Compiled by Julian C Temple
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By now, everyone will know that the old Sheer House site, which sits between Lavender Park Road and Station Approach, was acquired by Retirement Villages Group in late June 2020. As you probably also know, Retirement Villages, which is owned by the insurance group AXA, specialises in creating and operating thriving communities for older people.

Our first step was to establish working relationships with local people, community groups, representatives, and other stakeholders so we could start consulting.

Discussions quickly revealed considerable local support for a real transformation and that the community wanted the old buildings demolished and replaced with something better as soon as possible.

While COVID restrictions have prevented most face-to-face events and meetings, the team has held online meetings, presentations, and public events, as well as engaging via social media platforms such as the project Facebook page. Hopefully, the many people who attended one of the three public Zoom events that we have hosted so far will agree these have been a useful and highly effective way to involve the community.

The formation of the Community Liaison Group was a great idea. The frequent meetings, as often as weekly, have helped establish important relationships and meant we have been able to provide regular updates and discuss any concerns raised via the community representatives.

As readers of The Resident will know, the Liaison Group gathers representatives of the three local communities, business, neighbours, and the electoral wards as well as people from our project team. Over the past few months, we have been able to discuss everything from site security to how, subject to getting all of the planning consents agreed, the public car park will be managed. One of the questions that arises the most often is about when work will begin.

Initially the team concentrated on the Section 73 planning application. Securing this allowed the team to press ahead with its vision for a mixed-use development that combines apartments for later living with public amenities and facilities such as a replacement public library and car park, new restaurant, café, and retail units and amenities for extra care such as a wellness centre. Woking Borough Council approved this on 08 December 2020.

Only then was the team able to fully focus on the detailed design elements, such as materials and character: the so-called Reserved Matters.

Fortunately, and with the help of the Liaison Group, we had already received a great deal of useful and important feedback from many sections of the community. For example, our design team, led by PRP Architects, was encouraged to look at how the Arts & Crafts Movement of the late 1800s had inspired some of the local architecture. Our architects also liaised with the regional Design Review Panel (DRP). This is an independent, professional body that provides detailed advice and guidance, including for planning authorities. The DRP examined and critiqued our designs as they evolved. The panel’s expert insights helped enormously.

Local feedback has not focused solely on the architectural elements. We also had a lot of suggestions regarding the trees and the soft landscaping that will, we hope, transform this part of West Byfleet into a greener, more accessible, and enjoyable destination. Keith Creswell helpfully pointed us in the right direction.

The level of constructive feedback and the hard work done by PRP and the rest of the team meant we surprised ourselves by submitting our Reserved Matters application mid-January. Woking Borough Council did a fantastic job of getting the application documents online quickly too. We hope everyone will find the time to take a look.

We are still keen to hear your thoughts, suggestions, and anything else that might contribute to this phase of the process as well as to the future life of the development.

Spencer Neal and his colleagues at Keeble Brown are leading our engagement activity. Readers of The Resident can contact on freephone (0800 061 4979) or email (info@sheerhouseredevelopment.co.uk) or their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/sheerhouseredevelopment). In addition, please sign up to the newsletter, sent via email, for news and other details. We already reach out to nearly 600 people via the newsletter, while the Facebook page regularly reaches over 5,000 people with updates.

We understand that our application will be considered at the Planning Committee meeting on 06 April 2021.

We do not want to jump the gun by second-guessing the Committee’s decision, but we have been busy with pre-mobilisation activities for several months. Negotiations with demolition contractors, onsite ground analysis and other surveys are all well in hand if not already completed.

We anticipate demolition will take 30 weeks to complete, followed by a construction programme of around 36 months. We expect to start the works on site before the next issue of The Resident, so please watch out for our updates either online, in the local paper or via email. We will also be hosting more Public Zoom Events, including one to talk about the demolition programme.

Until then, and until the next issue of The Resident (assuming the editor will invite another article), please keep in touch and please stay safe and well.

James Ahearn
Development Director
Gardening through the winter into spring can be a challenge.

Frozen ground and shorter, darker days do little to encourage us outside.

There are still some gardening jobs we can be getting on with to keep us busy during lockdown.

I love to grow Micro greens. They sound fancy but they are in fact just seeds that have germinated and grown a little but don’t be fooled they pack a powerful flavour punch. They can be grown easily in an old fruit or mushroom punnet on a sunny windowsill.

Just make sure you make a few holes for drainage and then fill halfway with some compost, sprinkle some seeds on top, basil, cress, mustard, rocket, beetroot or even dried peas work really well.

Keep them well watered, I use a spray bottle and some of them will be up within a few days. All can be eaten as soon as they are a few centimetres high but if you leave the peas to grow a little more they are delicious in salads and will carry on growing after they have been cut so you could get two or three harvests.

All of them are delicious sprinkled onto soups and stews or even in your favourite sandwich. The garden centres are full of seed potatoes at this time of year too. These are specially grown potatoes that are disease free...although I have grown potatoes from a sprouted supermarket potato! You can grow these easily by digging a small hole in some ground, I use my bulb planter to make the hole, and drop in a potato and cover back over with soil.

If you don’t have any space in the garden you can use an old bucket or even a sturdy reusable shopping bag. I have also had success using an empty compost bag, just ensure whatever you use has some drainage holes in.

Just pop a few inches of compost in the bottom and place two or three seed potatoes in and cover with compost. Once the potatoes start to grow just keep covering up the green growth until you reach the top of the container.

The green growth will flower and once the flowers fade your potatoes are ready to harvest.

Now that the days are getting longer and lighter its also the perfect time to start off some cut and come again salad leaves.

Fill a seed tray (you could use an empty mushroom punnet with some holes poked into) with some multi purpose compost and lightly sprinkle over some mixed salad seeds.

Press the seeds down lightly and cover with a thin layer of compost. Give them a light water. Leave them somewhere light and warm and in around 21 days you will be picking your own fresh salad. These will regenerate after you cut them and you should be able to get another 2 to 3 harvests of fresh leaves.

March and April are also a great time to sow beetroot. The seeds can be sown direct into the soil or started in seed module trays.

I always use the multi-sow technique. Fill up the module trays with compost and lightly water. Pop three seeds into each seed tray module and cover with a little more compost.

When the seeds have grown and have formed their second set of leaves plant the bunch of three out together into the soil. Once they have grown to a golf ball size they can be harvested. Delicious roasted with garlic in the oven.

Article by Claire Crawford

Basingstokecanalartist.com

A local artist's view of Surrey Wildlife Woodlands and Waterways........................................

Paintings and Drawings for sale, can be delivered locally.

Please contact me via my website for details. JJ
Butterflies in Surrey – Spring and Early Summer

Across the UK there are 56 different species of butterfly that may be seen in a good year.

Each county has a differing number based on a combination of habitat and climate. In Surrey we are most fortunate in having 42 species to enjoy. This is among the highest of any county in the British Isles.

Catching sight of a butterfly is a delight and being able to study one up close is really fascinating. These most attractive and varied insects play a vital role in pollinating flowers and are a very sensitive indicator of the state of our planet.

Butterflies are described as ectothermic meaning that they are dependent (along with other factors) on air temperature, wind speed and the sun’s rays to survive. To fly they need to raise their body temperature to at least 18-28 degrees centigrade, which they achieve by basking in the sun, mostly with their wings open.

Each species has its own characteristic breeding pattern and food plants both in caterpillar form and as an adult. The flight season also varies between species, which is why some butterflies are more prevalent in spring and early summer as opposed to high Summer through to Autumn. This article will focus on six species to be found in the early part of the year.

Species of Butterflies

Brimstone
The Brimstone is one of the first species to appear in spring as well as being one of the longest lived as an adult. The Brimstone overwinters in holly, ivy and bramble within woodlands with males being the first to awake from hibernation in March. The female seen in this photograph is pale greenish white in contrast to the male of the species, which is lemon yellow and highly conspicuous in flight.

Comma
The Comma flies from mid March to May in woodland and in a second brood from late June to October, often found in gardens. The Comma has a distinctive ragged outline to its wings, more pronounced in males, and gets its name from the small white comma like mark on the underwing. The shape and colour of the underwing acts as excellent camouflage, looking just like a dead oak leaf. The adult typically feeds on brambles.

Common Blue
The Common Blue is widely distributed across Surrey in large numbers the Common Blue emerges typically some time in May. As seen in the photograph, the male is distinctly blue in colour and the female is predominantly brown with varying blue near the wing bases. The Common Blue only flies in sunshine and typically feed on flat headed flowers such as fleabane. In the evening, adults congregate to roost on grasses with their heads pointing downwards.

Holly Blue
The Holly Blue is a regular visitor to gardens any time from mid April to June with a second brood appearing in late July and August. The Holly Blue flies quickly around shrubs in the sunshine and almost always rests on a plant with its wings closed. To confirm the identity of a Holly Blue look for the silver, black-spotted undersides without any trace of orange (Common Blue). In weak sunshine one may get a glimpse of the attractive blue upper wing as the butterfly rests.

Large White
The Large White, along with the Small White, are often referred to by gardeners as a cabbage white as the caterpillars are vastly destructive to brassicas. Surrey has a resident population, which provides a small first brood from late April usually, reinforced by migrants from the continent in September or even October. Large Whites seek out white flowers for roosting, where they are well camouflaged. Broad bean flowers are a favourite.

Orange Tip
The Orange Tip is widespread and common in Surrey the Orange Tip flies from April to early June. Only the male has the unmistakable orange tip to the upper side forewings that advertises to predators that he is poisonous as he searches for females. The resting butterfly with mottled green underwings that conceal the forewing means it is very well camouflaged. Preferred habitat – woodland margins, hedgerows and gardens.

With the exception of the Common Blue, all of the other species mentioned above may be seen locally in your garden providing there are the food plants available. To view all of those listed and many additional species one has to go slightly further afield in the county.

Location
Surrey has a large number of great places to view butterflies. Listed below are a couple of sites of particular interest for butterfly enthusiasts where each of the six butterflies mentioned above might be seen along with many others.

Bookham Commons
Managed by the National Trust, the commons are made up of deciduous forest, rough grassland and scrub. The woodland which makes up about two thirds of the site is mostly oak; ash holly and willows. 27 regular species of butterfly may be seen including Small and Large Skippers, Small Copper, Purple Hairstreak, Brown Argus, White Admiral and Silver Washed Fritillary. One of the main butterfly attractions of Bookham common is the stunning yet elusive Purple Emperor.

Denbies Hillside
Owned by the National Trust since the early 1960’s this area of chalk grassland near Dorking faces the North Downs and provides excellent habitat for many species of butterfly. It is well known for sightings of the Adonis Blue as well as very large numbers of Chalkhill and Common Blue. Small Coppers may be seen here together with Green Hairstreak, Brown Argus and Marbled White. Access by car is from the National Trust car park on Ranmore Common road.

Article by Tony Williams

Conservation
If you are interested in saving Butterflies, Moths and their habitats throughout the UK the national charity to join if you are not already a member is Butterfly Conservation – www.butterfly-conservation.org

As well as being a national organisation of 40,000 members there are local branches of Butterfly Conservation. The nearest is Surrey and SW London branch which run excellent field trips from April to September each year.
Bringing history back to life at Broadoaks Park, West Byfleet

With its vast green and 350 year old oak trees, Broadoaks Park in West Byfleet already gives the impression of a well-established country estate, and one that has been designed with community living in mind.

The carefully considered development by local luxury housebuilders Octagon will offer high quality homes and communal green space in equal measures, but it’s already a hive of activity, with new residents moving in before Christmas and a Sales Suite launching last month.

Balancing 125 contemporary new build homes with the existing architecture of the 19th century Grade II Listed Broadoaks Mansion, Coach House and lodges has been no mean feat, but with a reputation for delivering luxury homes to uphold, the Octagon team relished the challenge.

Octagon’s CEO, Tim Banks, explains; "The Coach House, which is being converted into six two-bedroom apartments, had to go through careful planning with input from English Heritage to ensure we retained the character of this fantastic building - but with a team that specialises in historical properties and a long track record of previous projects, it’s been a fairly smooth process! The Coach House has been very popular with buyers so far – visitors love the history of the development and being able to own a part of something that is incredibly special and unique.”

Showcasing this heritage and character to potential buyers from the moment they arrive is the Grade II Listed West Lodge near the entrance of the development – this has been transformed into a Sales Suite, which opened its doors last month to clients on an appointment-only basis.

"West Lodge is a great insight into what we can achieve in terms of finish and quality when it comes to these historic buildings. Inside we have a scale model of the whole 25-acre development that really helps clients envisage our vision for Broadoaks Park. We’ve had some great feedback on the Sales Suite already and look forward to welcoming many more clients in the coming weeks and months.”

Perfectly complementing the original architecture, pitched roofing, intricate brick detailing and large sash windows give each of the new homes at Broadoaks Park a neo-Victorian elegance, with a mix of red and yellow brick finishes giving the estate personality.

Inside, bespoke kitchens house lacquer finished cabinets with quartz work surface, a full range of Siemens appliances and boiling water hot tap, whilst the impressive bathrooms include white sanitaryware by Villeroy & Boch, finished with polished chrome fittings. High-tech additions include whole house ventilation, RAKO mood lighting controls, automated garage doors and underfloor heating.

A number of homes in the first phase launch of Broadoaks Park completed at the end of 2020, with residents moving in in time to enjoy their first Christmas at Broadoaks Park. More homes are handing over to excited buyers every week, and with just a limited number of available properties currently remaining, the time to reserve is now.

Available homes at Broadoaks Park start from £625,000 for a 2 bedroom apartment within the historical Coach House and £1.05m for a 4 bedroom detached house overlooking a picturesque garden square. Appointments at the Sales Suite are by appointment only – please visit broadoakspark.co.uk or call 020 8481 7500 for more information.

Article by Kate Geraghty
Octagon Group
Marketing Manager
I am pleased to report that Mrs Julie Fisher has been appointed as CEO of Woking Borough Council (WBC) from 1st April 2021 when Ray Morgan the current CEO retires. 

Mrs Fisher has been Director of the Council’s Community Services at WBC for the past 8 months; she was previously Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children’s Services at Surrey County Council. In the past she has held a number of senior posts in major companies and will bring a fresh approach to the role, a challenge that she says she is very much looking forward to.

Woking Borough Council also has a new leader, Cllr. Ayesha Azad who succeeds Cllr. David Bittleston following upon his retirement. Cllr. Azad stated “It is a huge responsibility and honour to be elected as Leader of this Council. Before I speak about my priorities, I would like to thank my predecessors for their service to this Council”

Also retiring in April is Deputy CEO and Director of Planning Douglas Spinks. At the time of writing a successor has not been officially appointed. Additionally, Peter Bryant who has been the Director of Legal and Democratic Services for many years is expected to be retiring in June.

It seems that Local elections will be going ahead in May as planned. It will be a busy time for the local authority, candidates and residents alike as they will be voting for 10 Ward Councillors, (2 in our area Pyrford and Byfleet & West Byfleet) 7 Surrey County Councillors (2 in our area The Byfleets and Woking South East which includes Pyrford) and the appointment/reappointment of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey.

The Surrey Police survey asking residents if they would be prepared to pay additional council tax in order to boost policing numbers and support officers and other staff in the County has now closed. David Munro the Police and Crime Commissioner was asking for an increase of 5.5% or approximately £1.25p per month on a Band D property. The results of the survey will be interesting!

Gary Elson
Pyrford Councillor

Wine & Something

Based in Guildford, Wine & Something is the story of a brand built in lockdown

Having only established itself a year earlier and exclusively serving the trade industry before COVID-19 struck, the company knew it had to change journey, after losing 100% of its income, and reinvent itself as a consumer brand – quickly!

Fuelled by the spirit and determination of an underdog, the company changed brand name and created a unique positioning to be relevant to the general public. The result is Wine & Something - a brand and website that was conceived and created during lockdown, launched in September 2020.

Wine & Something promises to bring ‘wow’ to the wine lives of customers across the UK. How? By bringing them a unique collection of 300 indie wines from 75 artisan producers across 12 countries. This is about taking people on a journey of discovery - which is why 85% of its portfolio is exclusive to Wine & Something in the UK. Oh - and 100% of the wines are selected by world-class Master of Wine - Robin Kick.

Wine & Something would like to treat the lovely people of Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford with a 10% discount on your first order using the code RESIDENT10. www.wineandsomething.com.

Councillors up for election in the three villages:

County Councillor Liz Bowes – Woking South East Division (includes Pyrford)

County Councillor Amanda Boote – The Byfleets Division

Pyrford Ward - Graham Chrystie

Byfleet and West Byfleet Ward - John Bond
Byfleet Heritage Society is delighted to celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2021, although somewhat surprised by the passage of time.

Our official birthday is 1st February 1996, when Sir Cliff Richard opened the Heritage Centre at Byfleet Community Library. Since then the Society has continued to grow, researching Byfleet’s long history, and completing many projects, some of which are pictured here. Although our monthly talks and activities are curtailed at the moment, we look forward to seeing our members - old and new - when conditions allow.

More details about us (and how to join!) can be found at http://www.byfleetheritage.org.uk or follow us on Facebook. In the meantime, we have a display in the windows of Byfleet library, and we look forward with excitement to the next 25 years.

Article by Tessa Westlake

Sir Cliff Richard opens Byfleet Heritage Centre at Byfleet Library, 1st February 1996

L to R: Cllr Joan Mackintosh, Doug Bright, Tessa Westlake, Sir Cliff Richard, and Mayor of Woking Cllr Neville Hinks

The Society reprints Leonard R. Stevens F.S.A. Byfleet: A Village of England with the kind permission of Mr Roger Parsons, Mr Stevens’ grandson (far left). Reprint was in 2001.

Members of the Stoop family at the unveiling of a plaque at Byfleet Village Hall to commemorate Mr FC and Mrs Stoop, village benefactors (2015.)

Michael More Molyneux, Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, speaks at one of our monthly meetings in 2017.

The Byfleet Heritage Room is for use of all based in our community library and in normal times, the room is open during library hours (although sometimes in use for things like story time) and we have a drop-in session on the first Saturday of every month.

The Society reprints Leonard R. Stevens F.S.A. Byfleet: A Village of England with the kind permission of Mr Roger Parsons, Mr Stevens’ grandson (far left). Reprint was in 2001.
Wild Pyrford
The idea for developing a YouTube channel to highlight Conservation initiatives in Pyrford sprang from discussions that took place during meetings of the Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum.

The Committee knew that many residents in the village were passionate about increasing animal habitats and encouraging the flora and fauna of our woods and open spaces. We knew of major re-wilding projects existing within the village boundaries and how groups of residents in West Byfleet and Byfleet, too, were busy generating interest in their Conservation projects.

So Wild Pyrford took to the screens of YouTube in September 2020 and each month has focussed on a variety of subjects from Bee Keeping to designing Natural Ponds, Community Gardening projects to Ditch Dredging.

The topic certainly gained some coverage in other media with an interview on BBC Radio Surrey with Tim Matthews Producer/Director and a newspaper article in the Woking News & Mail which can be found online at: - www.wokingnewsandmail.co.uk/?p=29681.

While the current Lockdown restrictions have limited our filming opportunities (!) it has meant that many people have sent in videos of their gardens, displaying their ‘green credentials’ by showing us ‘butterfly hotels’, their ‘wild meadows’, ‘bug houses’ and, in one case, a compostable toilet at the end of the garden (yet to be shown!).

Future projects will include a look at the role of our woodland Rangers who take conservation extremely seriously. We’ll put our grass verges under the microscope at a time when they seem to be so much under the threat from the tyres of delivery and builders’ vehicles. We follow a bird watcher and photographer from his ‘hide’ as he charts the increase of many of our traditional birds of prey.

Wild Pyrford is always looking for new stories of successful conservation or simply how Nature is being given a helping hand in our neighbourhoods. If you are involved in a local group that is helping to ‘green-up’ your local area, we would love to hear from you and welcome your insights and suggestions. Email: wildpyrford@gmail.com.

A link to the latest edition can be found on the Pyrford Forum Website at www.pyrfordforum.org.

Article by Tim Matthews

Woking Rugby Football Club
Byfleet has long been the home to the Woking Rugby Union Club with WRFC playing at the Byfleet Recreation Ground and training there two nights a week. The changing facilities at the club house have been far from ideal for many years and the club would like to upgrade their facilities and the pitch lighting to enable them to welcome visiting teams and make the club more inclusive by developing youth and women’s teams.

With so much uncertainty over how the pandemic will impact our ability to get together during the summer, the committee has decided that the 74th Pyrford and Wisley Flower Show will be a virtual event.

We will be building on the success of last year’s virtual show, and the range of classes will be expanded. In 2020 these included various classes in Art, Creativity, Photography, Horticultural, Domestic, Handicraft and also the very popular Pet section.

The virtual show will be launched on Saturday 3rd April. Please look out for posters around the Pyrford village, our website page www.pyrfordflowershow.org.uk and on our Facebook page Pyrford & Wisley Flower Show. We very much look forward to judging your entries and seeing more of the community’s creativity.

On behalf of the show committee, may I wish you and your families well, and we very much look forward to seeing you all in and around our villages, and of course at next year’s show.

John Attrill - Chairman
Pyrford & Wisley Flower Show

Woburn Abbey - The Very Rare Pink Almonds

Pyrford and Wisley Flower Show
Dear Friends of the Pyrford and Wisley Flower Show,
After such a chilly lockdown winter, it’s great to now be experiencing longer days and seeing spring is well under way. I hope that you have been taking advantage of the wonderful countryside on Pyrford and Wisley’s doorstep and enjoying exercising in such beautiful surroundings.

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Pyrford & Wisley Flower Show

West Byfleet Bowls Club
Anyone interested to an Introduction to bowls to look at the ‘West Byfleet Bowls Club’ website or leave a message on 01932 346474 or email wbbowlsclub@gmail.com, all you need to bring is flat shoes.

Article by Eleanor Grady

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Contacts & Information

WOKING BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Councillor</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Surgeries*</th>
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<tr>
<td>Byfleet &amp; West Byfleet</td>
<td>John BOND*</td>
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<td>01932 343351</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cljrjohn.bond@woking.gov.uk">cljrjohn.bond@woking.gov.uk</a></td>
<td>St Mary’s Centre, Stream Close,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Amanda BOOTE</td>
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<td>01932 344811</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cljraramanda.boote@woking.gov.uk">cljraramanda.boote@woking.gov.uk</a></td>
<td>Byfleet 2-3pm Cornerstone, St John’s,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mary BRIDGEMAN</td>
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<td>07890 045375</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cljrmary.bridgeman@woking.gov.uk">cljrmary.bridgeman@woking.gov.uk</a></td>
<td>West Byfleet 4:30-5:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyrford</td>
<td>Graham CHRystie*</td>
<td>Liberal Democrat</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:cljrgraham.chrystie@woking.gov.uk">cljrgraham.chrystie@woking.gov.uk</a></td>
<td>Byfleet Library 6-7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rashid MOHAMMED</td>
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<td>07897 532823</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cljrashid.mohammed@woking.gov.uk">cljrashid.mohammed@woking.gov.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gary ELSON</td>
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<td>01932 340649</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cljrgrgary.elson@woking.gov.uk">cljrgrgary.elson@woking.gov.uk</a></td>
<td>Surgery 1st Friday each month,</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>07824 628422</td>
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<td>9-12am, Church of the Good Shepherd, Pyrford</td>
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SURREY COUNTY COUNCILLORS

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<tr>
<td>The Byfleets</td>
<td>Amanda BOOTE*</td>
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<td>07824 776961</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amanda.boote@surreycc.gov.uk">amanda.boote@surreycc.gov.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Woking SE</td>
<td>Liz BOWES*</td>
<td>Conservative</td>
<td>01483 768257</td>
<td><a href="mailto:liz.bowes@surreycc.gov.uk">liz.bowes@surreycc.gov.uk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further details of elected councillors can be found at www.woking.gov.uk and 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). Note that there are Council Elections planned for May 6th 2021 – Subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Surrey David Munro Conservative 01483 630200 SurreyPCC@surrey.pnn.police.uk

“THE RESIDENT” NEWSLETTER

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>1 issue (£)</th>
<th>3 issues (£)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SINGLE (50x58mm)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOUBLE (either option) (D1 - 50x124mm)</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(D2 - 85x58mm)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TREBLE (either option) (T1 - 50x189mm)</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(T2 - 85x124mm)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 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

*Councillors up for election
RA Committee meetings take place on 3rd Wednesday of each month (except August & December) – check RA website for further details (www.the-residents.org).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date &amp; time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 3rd April</td>
<td>Virtual Pyrford Flower Show</td>
<td>Virtual Event (<a href="http://www.pyrfordflowershow.org.uk">www.pyrfordflowershow.org.uk</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th -26th September</td>
<td>Dulux London Cycle Ride</td>
<td>Along Coldharbour Road</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The census is coming on Sunday 21 March 2021
By taking part, you can help to inform decisions on services that shape your community, such as healthcare, education and transport. It’s important that you fill in your census questionnaire online. It’s easy to take part, but if you need a little extra help there are a wide range of support services.

There’s language support and accessible census guidance. You can also get help from census staff in the contact centre over phone, in a web chat or on social media. The Office for National Statistics will send you a letter in the post with an access code and instructions. You can fill your census questionnaire in online as soon as you get yours.

If your household circumstances change on Census Day, you can let the ONS know.

Remember, if you, or anyone you know, needs help, there’s plenty available. Call 0800 141 2021 or visit www.census.gov.uk.

If you prefer to complete a paper form, call 0800 141 2021 to request a copy. For more information, you should contact Emma Albery, Census Engagement Manager North Surrey 07452 942058 or emma.albery23@field.census.gov.uk.

The Committee 2021

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

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Website: www.the-residents.org Email: editor@the-residents.org