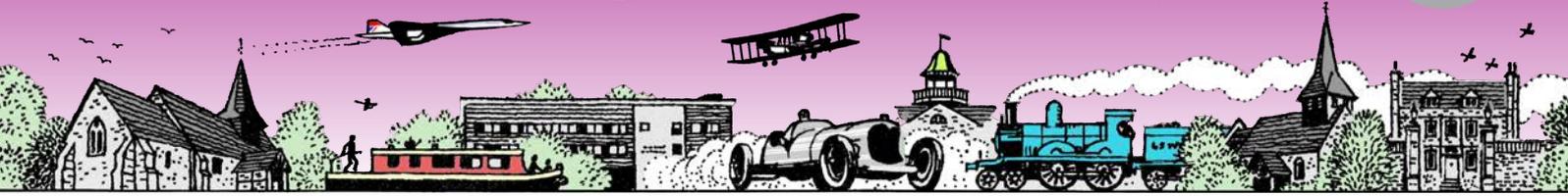


The RESIDENT

MAR 2022
Issue
169



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

NEW BEGINNINGS... TIME TO CELEBRATE OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY



featured ARTICLES

Photos Courtesy of Bob Holmes

The RA
Orchard Project



P10

Gardening News



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RA Queen's Jubilee
photo competition



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Boxes of Kindness Project



P13

Welcome to the latest issue (Issue 169) of The Resident Newsletter



I am pleased that this edition is a printed version and is being distributed by our wonderful Street Representatives, who will also be collecting subscriptions for 2022. A special thanks to all the Street Reps for delivering issue 168 of the Newsletter. This issue will also be available on the RA website - www.the-residents.org.

In this issue there is an update on the Byfleet Fire Station Trust and the launch of the RA Orchard Project. We have introduced a Puzzle Corner that includes a Sudoku puzzle; please let me know if this is a good idea and if you would like to see more of this. The Sheer House building has now been demolished and the site is now ready for the start of the new development. The developers have now announced the new name of the development, which is Botanical Place.



We have an update from Octagon on phase 4 of the Broadoaks development in West Byfleet.

There are several village events taking place this year and they are included within Page 24 of this issue. These include Byfleet Parish Day, Pyrford and Wisley Village Show, and Summer Fair West Byfleet.

I am sure that you will enjoy reading Issue 169 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 on the back page.

Please check the Residents' Association website for lots of useful information and any breaking news about our local community, it is updated on a regular basis. www.the-residents.org.

Thank you to those people that have posted comments on the RA website or have sent me articles to include within this and future editions.

If you have any comments or suggested articles for future editions, please feel free to email me at editor@the-residents.org.

Best wishes from the editor and hopefully it will be a great spring!!

Robert Munford
Editor

Membership Secretary's Report

I was very impressed to see so many people attending the much-delayed AGM in January 2022. I hope that those who attended found it informative, and that you were able to catch up with a few fellow residents. In November, we held our first Drop In since the pandemic started. Again, it was heartening to see the support that we continue to receive from our Street Reps.



The **total subscriptions received in 2021 is £12,519.50**, so we have managed to return to 2019 subscriptions levels thanks to the generosity of our members, many of whom have donated more than the £5 annual membership subscription.

The **total membership numbers are slightly down**. One of the difficulties we are experiencing is the recruitment of Street Reps to replace those who are retiring after many years of service.

What is the role & key responsibilities of the Street Rep?

- To deliver the Resident three times a year to members on their list
- To collect subscriptions once a year and to return subscriptions and up-dated membership lists to the Village Representative
- To be a conduit between members, the Village Representative and the Committee for raising members' concern about the area
- To contact new residents and make them welcome and aware of the Association
- To endeavour to recruit new members within their area

Please ... if you can spare a few hours to support the RA, do get in touch with either myself (members@the-residents.org) or your Village Representative (see Committee contact details on the back page).

Feedback from Street Reps ...could we do things better? ...collecting annual subscriptions...

Some of you have responded very positively to the push for subscriptions to be paid directly into the bank. Asking for money on the doorstep does not come easily to all of us (although our chairman seems to enjoy it)!

Where do you stand?

Calling all Byfleet residents

The role of Byfleet Village Membership Officer (BVMO) continues to be vacant.

I took on the role over 12 months ago as a stopgap, but my other responsibilities are suffering as a result. This is a desk-based role and does not require attendance at Committee meetings (although you are always welcome to attend). As BVMO you will be responsible for inputting new and updating existing member details on the database, including subscription receipts. If you are interested and would like to find out more, please do get in touch (members@the-residents.org).

Isabelle David
Membership Secretary
Email: members@the-residents.org



KNITTERS REQUIRED TO "YARN BOMB" WEST BYFLEET

Knitter extraordinaire, and leader of the local knitting group, The WitKnits, has been asked by our local councillor, Josh Brown, to yarn bomb West Byfleet for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

"There are over 100 bollards in West Byfleet so I had a think and came up with the idea of covering them with knitted Grenadier guards to add some colour to our village. We need more knitters to help with this project. Wool and pattern provided."

If you would like to brighten up our village contact Janet Hodges email: janatwb@aol.com



Welcome to edition 169 of our Newsletter. Let us hope that 2022 will see a return to something closely resembling normality in our daily lives.



Annual General Meeting

At last we held our overdue AGM on the 12th January at Our Lady Help of Christians Church in West Byfleet. It was attended by 70 members which in all the circumstances was a great effort - thank you one and all. An amended Constitution was approved which going forward will simplify several administrative matters.

Upon the completion of the formal business we were addressed by Julie Fisher, Chief Executive of Woking Borough Council. Julie discussed a range of issues including Woking town centre master plan, regeneration projects, the environment and other WBC priorities including health and wellbeing. A focus was the development of a corporate strategy very much involving input from residents through the Community Forum, the Residents Panel and the Road Shows which many of us attended.

My thanks to all those who contributed to making the evening a success - particularly of course Julie.

Unfortunately we were unable to serve refreshments etc. but next time!

White Paper - Planning for the Future/Planning Bill 2022(?)

I started writing about this in August 2020. There was a consultation White Paper to which the RA, WBNF, WBC and Surrey MP's all submitted robust responses. Then the Queen's Speech included a Planning Bill. Strong vocal opposition continued and with the appointment of Michael Gove (MP for Surrey Heath) as Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities it was clear that a fundamental rethink was underway.

A further consultation or as is more likely a Planning Bill will go before Parliament this spring and will comprise at least some of the Government's planning reforms announced in the 'Planning for the Future' White Paper of summer 2020. However, it is unclear how heavily watered down the Bill will be.

I believe that there remains a determination to streamline the planning process; a resolve that Local Authorities must greatly reduce the time that it takes them to agree Local Plans (currently the average is seven years); that section 106 will be scrapped and that the ambition of building 300,00 new homes per year will be retained though with market forces flexibility.

It seems likely that localism will continue to have an important contribution to make in any reformed planning regime. Let us also hope

that the proposal to improve infrastructure delivery as part of any planning application will remain as a fundamental planning requirement of approval.

Woking Borough Council - Joint Study on the Future Infrastructure Requirements of the East of Woking

At a Council meeting on the 3rd of December 2020 Woking Council adopted a motion 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. The terms were agreed at the Executive meeting held on 4th February 2021.

The first phase involved updating four key infrastructure areas - transport, education, flooding and health.

In this Phase One Woking Borough Council (Planning Policy Team) issued two draft reports.

- i) Local Development Framework Infrastructure Capacity Study and Delivery Plan DRAFT 2021 Review; and
- ii) DRAFT Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2021 Review – Extract of Byfleet and West Byfleet Infrastructure Capacity and Requirements.

The RA and Forum Task Groups submitted responses on the above documents and discussed them in subsequent Zoom meetings with WBC and SCC. We received responses on our concerns regarding Education, Transport and Flooding from the relevant stakeholders. The draft reports with minor amendments were agreed by full Council on 14th October 2021.

Phase Two provided an update on the remaining themes being Social and Community infrastructure; Public Services (including emergency services); Utilities; and Green Infrastructure. The RA responded on the draft papers and subsequently the RA and PNF participated in Zoom discussions with WBC. The draft report was approved by full Council on Friday 10th February.

Surrey 2050 Place Ambitions

This visionary ambition paper has been prepared by the Surrey Future Steering Board and states "The Surrey Place Ambition sets out a clear and coherent narrative about what Surrey's strategic partners want collectively to achieve over the next 30 years in terms of "good growth" but never have the challenges to deliver this been so great."

The report (which is under consultation until 4th March 2022) was presented to the WBC Executive on 3rd February. The RA, PNF and WBNF have all expressed preliminary views. WBC for their part have agreed the Director of Planning will lead their discussion on this Paper.

This is one of several visionary and challenging papers produced by SCC over the past few years (for example I recently responded on behalf of the RA to the Surrey Local Transport Plan 2022-32) and I am not at all clear where

Surrey 2050 Place Ambition Vision document sits alongside these other papers as regards implementation and responsibility for implementation.

There are four Strategic Priorities for delivering the 2050 Place Ambition and within Surrey there are eight Strategic Opportunity Areas (SOA). The Woking Hub (SOA2) comprises in addition to Woking also Brooklands employment area and the strategic new settlement at Wisley Airfield. It is not clear why this is. Wisley Village still of course must submit a planning application.

Just a few additional observations. West Byfleet as the second district centre in Woking barely merits a mention and similarly the important issue of flooding is mentioned in passing. It is proposed that the A245 becomes a "smart" road. Lastly it is stated that there will be a need for connectivity between a new community at Wisley and Woking/West Byfleet. That sounds like a recipe for another traffic nightmare.

Health Care and Wellbeing

At our AGM we appointed a Health and Wellbeing Officer. The aim is to understand and communicate the structure of our local health care and available services and to be aware of proposed changes that will impact our community. The hope is to develop lines of communication with the NHS (Northwest Surrey Health & Care Alliance, Surrey Heartlands Clinical Commissioning Group and our Health Centre) and Council Health and Wellbeing Task Groups to increase local participation in health and well-being planning.

Sheer House

An update on Sheer House (Botanical Place) is included under the West Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum report.

Again, I want to remind you that under the "News" tag on the RA website we constantly post updates and items of important news (police, health, grants, 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.

Thank you and take care.

Stewart Dick
Chairman of The Residents' Association



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BYFLEET

Adults and children alike relished the return of festive lights and events in Byfleet. The Byfleet Amenities Group arranged their successful Village Christmas Market on Plough Green in daylight hours this year on



4th December, with Mayor Liam Lyons and our councillors attending. On 18th December, Father Christmas and his elves left their sleigh to be painted in readiness for the night of Christmas Eve and toured our village by horse and cart!

Village Events and Initiatives

Boxes of Kindness – The St Mary's Church community and volunteers made up 250 boxes of festive food and treats (and kindness!). These were distributed to appreciative residents by 24th December - a tremendous achievement. Another Post-box topper appeared before Remembrance Sunday to commemorate those who served and fell in past wars. In case you did not see it, the post-box on Cornwall Avenue was topped with knitted poppies and figures of Services and nursing personnel. Thank you to the secret knitters!



Foodbank and Citizens Advice in Byfleet – We have previously mentioned the Foodbank at the Methodist Church in Rectory Lane as an outlet of the Woking Foodbank. In recent months a Citizens Advice Bureau service has also been available between 12 and 2.30 p.m. each Wednesday. Anyone who needs help or advice can just drop in and meet with a trained counsellor.

Each week there is a "Free Food" table which is often stocked with food donated by the Co-op on the High Road. Anyone can avail themselves of this food, whether they have been formally referred to the Foodbank or not.

The RA Free Garden Seed Share Scheme – The 2022 season will start at the beginning of March! Please see page 11.



RA Orchard Project – 'Our gardens - our virtual orchard!' We are launching this long-term project with this Issue of The Resident. Please see page 10.



Village Heritage

The Byfleet Fire Station Trust raised their profile and funds at the Christmas Market! See page 9 to find out the Fireman's new name!

Our Greenbelt, Footpaths, Rivers and Planning

A245. Off-road footpath and cycle-path along Parvis Road between Byfleet and Broadoaks. We do not have advice of any progress on this matter, first raised in 2006. We are aware that one local resident has requested the inclusion of this item in the agenda of the Joint Committee of SCC and WBC due to take place on 4th April 2022.

River Water Quality

You may recall that there was concern regarding Wey River quality in summer 2021. The wider issue has been the subject of several articles in the national press and media. Cllr Amanda Boote meets regularly with the EA and will voice the community's concerns. The RA has also been advised that the cabinet member for Environment at Surrey County Council, Marisa Heath, 'will raise the points around water pollution and the environmental issues with relevant bodies including national government, our MPs, the utility companies and the EA as opportunities arise to do so.'

Street Tree Planting

WBC and SERCO are planting just over 80 street trees in Byfleet in the 2021/2022 winter season, many of which have already been planted. Many thanks to our councillors who have facilitated residents' requests for new trees on 'their' verges. SERCO would welcome any additional watering nearby residents feel able to do. This is important even during winter and spring when rainfall may not be plentiful. A list of the species, varieties and location of this season's planting is available on the RA website.



We would like to start to build up a record of

plantings over past decades. If you have a note of what was planted in your road, we would love to hear from you!

In Other News

Benches – part of our social resource: A bench in memory of Cllr Richard Wilson has been installed on Plough Green and another in memory of Richard Grady of Woking Rugby Football Club in the Recreation Ground. Benches in our public spaces are an important part of our community's social resource and have proved their weight in gold for outdoor chats and companionship during the pandemic. We cannot reflect on this, without calling to mind Philip Riesebeck whose funeral took place on 25th November.

Defibrillators

A new defibrillator was installed recently at the 1st Byfleet Scout Hut in Murray's Lane thanks to a kind donation from a resident. Our councillors are in the process of securing more defibrillators for Byfleet. You can find a list of the locations of the defibrillators, in all three villages, on the RA website.

RA Subscriptions and Street Representatives

Thank you for your 2021 subscriptions. We almost caught up with pre-pandemic collection levels! Your Street Reps will ask you for your 2022 subscriptions with this edition. Paying by bank transfer or Standing Order helps. We understand if this does not suit you. Thank you in advance.

We have many roads without a representative - would you like to join the team? Please email vrb@the-residents.org. The task is not onerous but is so important for village cohesion!

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

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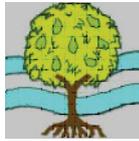
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PYRFORD

Members Subscriptions Received From Pyrford

Thank you to all our Pyrford members who paid their 2021 subscriptions and in many cases 2020 as well. In 2021, the monies received was £4,930, even higher than 2019.



Thank you to the Pyrford Street Reps for delivering issue 168 of the Newsletter. There should be a membership subscription envelope enclosed with this Newsletter for you to pay the 2022 subscription either online or via your Street Rep.

Street Representative Vacancies

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

Bellmore Avenue, Broomcroft Close, Broomcroft Drive, Coldharbour Road opposite School, Dorin Court, Hacketts Lane, Longridge Close, Norfolk Farm Close, Old Woking Road, Orchard Lea Close, Pine Tree Hill, Pyrian Close, Roughlands, Rowley Close.

Any help would be much appreciated, as I am covering these roads myself as Pyrford Village Representative.

Marshall Parade Shops

Synergy Pyrford Dental Centre opened on 24th January, transferring their practice from Waterside Devonshire Avenue Sheerwater. The flats continue to be fitted out.

If you go to the shops, you may have noticed the significant improvement in the pavements along the shop end of Lovelace Drive.

Andy Grimshaw
VR Pyrford



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Planning Applications

Since the last newsletter, the most significant application is an outline application for 26 dwellings at The Brambles, Pyrford Road. The RA has objected, as it believes it is inappropriate development in Green Belt. The application has been refused.

The following planning applications are of note in Pyrford:

WITHDRAWN

Pyrford Golf Club, Warren Lane	Proposed floating composite structure and bridge on existing lake to provide pontoon style seating.
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APPLICATIONS APPROVED

Pyrford Golf Club, Warren Lane	Various extensions and a pergola
154 Old Woking Road	Single storey extension
Pyrford Place, Pyrford Road	Erection of a replacement boathouse
Wisley Golf Club, Wisley Lane	Golf course changes

APPLICATIONS REFUSED BY WOKING BOROUGH COUNCIL

In Green Belt - None		
Non-Green Belt		
Little Copse, Pyrford Road	Erection of bungalow on split plot	Plot size created too small (now being appealed)
High Beeches, 2 Pyrford Woods Close	Erection of an extension	Creation of separate annexe not suitable within existing plot
154 Old Woking Road	2 storey side extension (NB Single storey rear extension since approved)	Overdevelopment of site
21 Pine Tree Hill	Multiple extensions. NB (Second application received still under consideration)	Due to bulk, scale, massing, and design being out of character and appearance of the area
8 Townsend Cottages, Coldharbour Road	Erection of a front porch	Impact on visual appearance
Rivendell, Pyrford Road	Creation of 2 semi-detached dwellings	Incongruous development with narrow plots

PLANNING INSPECTOR APPEAL DECISIONS MADE

The following appeals against Woking Borough Council decision to refuse, are decided:

Beech Rise, Lock Lane	Bungalow in Green Belt	Dismissed
26 Boltons Lane	Extension	Dismissed
8 Townsend Cottages, Coldharbour Road	Erection of a front Porch	Dismissed

APPEALS LODGED

At the time of writing, the outcome from the following appeals against Woking Borough Council decisions, are still awaited:

Twisted Stone Golf Club, Pyrford Road	Temporary storage compound	Enforcement
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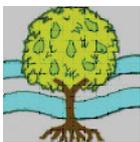
APPLICATIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION (at the time of writing):

45 Lincoln Drive	Insertion of 3No front, 1No side and 2No rear rooflights and 2No skylights (retrospective)
Old House, Pyrford Road (3 new applications in Green Belt and Grade 2 listed building)	Proposed Detached Oak Framed Boat House. Demolition of existing stables/storage building and replacement with detached oak framed garage/storage Barn. Listed Building Consent for a single storey oak framed home gym extension.
21 Pine Tree Hill (Second application)	Erection of a single storey rear extension, garage conversion, single storey side extensions, double storey front extension and single storey front extension. Replacement decking at rear and alterations to fenestration.

PYRFORD

Pyrford neighbourhood forum AGM finally held

Due to COVID, the Forum had not held an AGM since November 2019. It finally did so on 22 February 2022.



It was pleasing that around 60 people came along and, before the formal business began, listened to a talk from local farmer Steve Conisbee, who also spoke to the 2017 Forum AGM soon after commencing farming in Pyrford.

Steve farms many of the fields around Pyrford, including the two fields either side of Upshot Lane, to provide meat for F. Conisbee & Son, quality butchers since 1760 based in East Horsley. It is the oldest family butchers in Surrey and is run by the ninth generation of the Conisbee family.

Steve covered many of the challenges he and his 27 staff face in farming his many acres. These included:

- Impact of rights of way across fields and the tensions caused between walkers, dogs, and livestock. He mentioned that in one area the issues had become so bad, that one member of the public was prosecuted and fined.
- Financial; balancing rising costs and lower returns since Brexit and COVID. He was currently reviewing the implications for future activities
- Climate change and how best to respond. Steve mentioned that there were fewer ruminants now than 200 years ago.
- In Pyrford, the loss of around 1 in 15 newly planted trees, mainly due to the local soil type

The Chair thanked the Committee for all their support and hard work and the financial support from the Resident's Association, Cllr Liz Bowes, and members of the "200 Club".

He also reported on the key milestones since November 2019:

- The redesignation of the Forum in December 2020 for five years; approval of the site Allocations DPD in December 2020 and its consequences for the Forum Area;
- The Wild Side Tea Party (which was so popular that the fifty places available sold out within 48 hours);
- Transfer of ownership of 100 acres from Traditions Gold Course and
- Release of £14,000 of Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy to assist the Pyrford Cricket Club in refurbishing their pavilion.

Other activities reported on included; mending a bridge on footpath 81; a litter pick on Pyrford Common; Wild Pyrford episodes, Pyrford Portraits interviews and sale of the Heritage DVD.

The last topic was to report on proposed activities in 2022, such as: Another Litter Pick, Another Big Night Out, A second Wild Side Tea Party, A Heritage Walk around Pyrford led by Ian Wakeford and Nature Surveys.

The exact date & times of these events have yet to be agreed, but details will be published in the Monthly Newsletter. If you are interested and don't currently receive the Forum Newsletter, then go to <https://pyrfordforum.org/> and Register to Join the Forum.

Have your Say

The Forum monthly newsletter has, so far, been very much one way communication. Information and updates from the Forum were those felt to be of interest to its c 750 members.

The Committee were thinking it might be interesting to have some feedback from Pyrford Village residents about local issues that were "on your mind".

So, the January 2022 Newsletter asked about sending back thoughts anyone might have on local Pyrford Village topics. Even if you aren't receiving the Newsletter, in which case why not go to www.pyrfordforum.org and Register to Join the Forum, then email your topics to info@pyrfordforum.org.

IMPACT OF PYRFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Brambles, Pyrford Road	Outline application for 26 dwellings	Inappropriate development in Green Belt	REFUSED
Marchmont, Holly Bank Road	Demolition & rebuild	Out of character and over development of site	Yet to be decided
1 Lovelace Drive	(Second application) Demolition and rebuild of detached 2-storey house	Concern about overdevelopment of site (second application)	REFUSED
7 Bray Gardens	2-storey extension side and rear extension	Concern about overdevelopment of site	APPROVED

More detail on these and other planning applications in Pyrford can be found in a monthly update at www.pyrfordforum.org/planning-application-news. For the comments mentioned in Newsletter 168, the outcomes were:

1 Lovelace Drive	(First application) Concern about overdevelopment of site	WITHDRAWN
45 Lincoln Drive	(Retrospective) concern at being out of character	UNDER CONSIDERATION
Lee Place, Hazel Road	Lack of sympathy with the local listed building	APPROVED
Beech Rise, Lock Lane	(Vehicular Access only) Inappropriate development in Green Belt	REFUSED
Twisted Stone Club House, Pyrford Road	Removal of Golf Club use only condition	REFUSED

Pyrford and Wisley Village Show

The Pyrford and Wisley Village Show is celebrating its 75th year and I'm pleased to confirm that plans are well underway to hold the show on 9th July. This year's theme is 'Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee'. In addition to the arena events and dog show there will be live music as well as all the usual attractions on the show ground, including a selection of stalls, refreshments and of course displays in the Marquee staged by the Horticulture, Domestic and Junior sections. The exhibits will be linked to the show's theme.

Those who have supported the show over the years will notice a slight refresh as instead of having a break between the show and evening event, we will be having more live music to run through into the evening. Come and bring the family to be entertained by our arena events, listen to great live music, support our stall holders and be refreshed by our food and drink stalls.

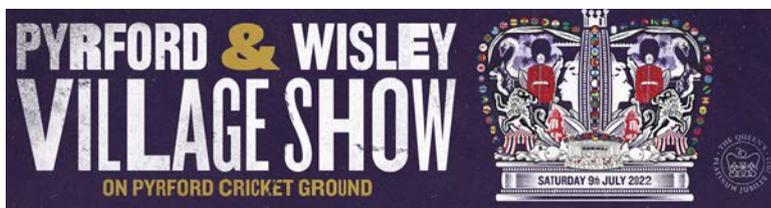
We have a wonderfully hard-working committee, but with such a large event, we always need more help. Please contact

me if you'd like to join in organising this fantastic event which aims to raise as much as possible for local charities and groups. Alternatively, please visit our website to see how you can sign up to help on the day. The show needs dozens of people to help, so if you can spare a couple of hours to help set up, support the running of the show or tidy away then please come and join our regular volunteers.

Full details of all of the events will be available from the beginning of May, and so please visit our website at www.pyrfordflowershow.org.uk or check for regular updates on the Pyrford and Wisley Village Show Facebook page www.facebook.com/pyrfordvillage.

Looking forward to a fantastic show in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year!

Article by John Attrill,
Chair of Pyrford and Wisley Village
Show Committee
Email: johnattrill@hotmail.com



BYFLEET

Following its re-designation in December 2021 Byfleet Residents Neighbourhood Forum (BRNF) held an AGM on 7th February 2022 at St Mary's Centre for the Community in Byfleet Village.



At the meeting Andrew Weiss welcomed all attendees and following an update to how much progress had been achieved since the Forum's inception, thanked all those who were stepping down from the existing committee. Special mention was made of Fiona Syrett's contribution as Chair, particularly during all the difficulties presented by Covid restrictions, and as a mark of appreciation for all she had contributed was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Councillor Amanda Boote.



A new committee was elected comprising: - Andrew Weiss, Chair, Tony Evans, Deputy Chair. Peter Ford, Treasurer and Lynn Cozens, Secretary.

Bruce Bovill, Krista Rooney, Claire Calder, Barry Jones, Paul Peters, Cllr Amanda Boote, Cllr Mary Bridgeman, Cllr Josh Brown were all elected as committee members.

Next steps will be to review the draft plan (completed in early 2020), address comments made by Woking Borough Council, commission consultants to assist with the final submission and manage the next stage of the process.

Andrew Weiss commented "I am delighted that we have been able to attract a really strong committee. There is a genuine enthusiasm to get the Neighbourhood Plan finalised and to deliver the best result for our community to be able to influence its development. We will also continue to work closely with both West Byfleet and Pyrford forums to provide a united

stance on wider issues that affect all of our communities as well as focussing on more local issues such as flood defence plans, renovation of the Fire Station and green belt protection."

By Andrew Weiss,
Chair of the Byfleet Residents
Neighbourhood Forum



New Byfleet Street trees

During the 2021/2022 winter planting season, Serco have planted/will have planted 88 new street trees in Byfleet.

Of the 88 trees planted:

- 40% are ornamental cherries (6 varieties)
- 30% are ornamental pear trees
- 14% are hawthorn (may trees)
- 11% are field maples
- 2% are hazel
- 2% are tulip trees (magnolia family)

Please water us if you can!

Article by Eleanor Grady
Data courtesy of WBC/Serco

Byfleet Bowls Club

Byfleet bowls club are having open days for anyone interested in taking up the sport of bowls and so come along and have a go!



The open days on Sunday 1st May and Monday 2nd May. There is big bowls weekend on Sunday 29th May.

The club address is:
Stream Close, Byfleet,
Surrey KT14 7LZ

www.byfleetbowlsclub.co.uk



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WEST BYFLEET



There is a plenty of building activity taking place in West Byfleet now. Some of it is nearing completion whilst other projects are primed for action. By the entrance to the Station car park the new apartment block is virtually completed and one retailer, Kutchenhaus kitchens has recently opened. At Broadoaks Park the new care Home Charrington Manor opens in February. The name "Charrington" was the family name of the owners of Broadoaks in the 19th century. The family made their money in brewing. The residents of West Byfleet have a lot to be thankful for from this family and the Stoop family who lived at West Hall, further down Parvis Road. They jointly purchased and gave us the land which is now our Recreation Ground. The centenary of the opening, which took place at 7.00pm on the 21st of July 1921, was last year. We forgot to mark it. We should do so this year. Perhaps a plaque and a tree would be suitable.

Within Broadoaks Park, homes continue to be built and occupied. A warm welcome to our new residents there and to those who have moved in elsewhere in the village. Construction will continue for at least two more years.

The village centre redevelopment is progressing. Like a swan gliding on water there is lots of action which is not visible. We are at the stage where lots of conditions must be satisfied for the Council to allow construction. The appointment of a contractor is close but as they say the devil is in the detail. The development has a new name, "Botanical Place". There are notices on the hoardings giving information and these will be updated as progress is made. Construction will take three years and so is likely to open in the summer of 2025.

Botanical Place also has a website and Facebook page to keep you updated. The Forum also has these. We try to keep our Facebook posts pertinent to our purpose "shaping the future of West Byfleet". We do though allow posts for lost cats and found keys etc... For those seeking to post wider topics, "West Byfleet Families" is a great Facebook site.

There is nothing to report on the land which has been taken out of Green Belt surrounding West Hall. The Council has indicated that up to 600 homes could be built there. These things always take longer than one expects.

The new benches installed on Birch Green look wonderful. Funding for them came from the funds the Forum receives on new housing development. We have more of this money to spend. We want to make more improvements to the Recreation Ground. These include fencing around our tennis court and putting in exercise equipment.



New bench on Birch Green West Byfleet

You may have noticed that the Council have repaired the pavilion in the Recreation Ground, replacing the broken cladding. It looks much better and our thanks to them.

When we put together our Plan, we conducted surveys and many residents want us to build a Community Centre. This is not easy in West Byfleet when land values and space are at a premium. We are making progress and I had a meeting with Julie Fisher, Chief Executive of Woking Council, at the end of February. Our local population is expanding rapidly with the new homes being built and we need to improve our social infrastructure to help our youngsters.

A big thanks to our Community Gardening Group. They are doing a great job clearing borders and verges around the Station and planting bulbs and shrubs and putting in native hedging on Birch Green. As Spring arrives their hard work is about to be rewarded with emerging growth for all of us to enjoy.

West Byfleet is still a thriving village even though its centre is an empty building site. Most of our retail units are occupied and we have new arrivals; Ciccio's Café, Kutchenhaus Kitchens and Surrey Laser Clinic. Our Health Centre is undergoing some refurbishment to allow for our increasing population but remains open. There is also a Botanical Place office coming this summer allowing residents to see models of the scheme, images and the opportunity to make a deposit on an apartment!

There has been another delay on the decision about an upgrade to the M25/A3 Junction until this May. When finished this will improve flows and allow local road users to make their journeys more easily. It also involves remodelling the A3 junction at Painshill,

Cobham. This will have an impact on traffic flows whilst it is being done. The Highways Agency are still testing various solutions to the noise problem caused by the concrete section of the M25 nearest us.

I have noticed that there is more litter around the centre of West Byfleet. I am not sure if we need more bins or a dedicated Council litter picker. I will have a chat with them. Serco do a great job keeping our Recreation Ground clean. Please thank them when you see them.

By the way my wife and I recently took a walk around Brookwood Cemetery. We were prompted by the BBC drama shown after Christmas about the divorce of the Duchess of Argyll. She is buried there. It is well worth visit. It is a great open space with huge mature trees and wonderful gravestones. There have been over 200,000 burials. Many famous and interesting people are buried there, including poets, writers, scientists, politicians and soldiers all many nationalities and even an English king! It should be a World Heritage Site.

The Forum membership continues to rise and we are grateful for your support. It is free and you can join at www.wbnf.org.

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



LIVE IN WEST BYFLEET?
PROUD OF WHERE YOU LIVE ...
OR WANT TO IMPROVE THINGS??

**THE RA NEEDS A VILLAGE
REPRESENTATIVE FOR**

WEST BYFLEET

Contact
members@the-residents.org
for more details

Byfleet Fire Station Trust

Our vibrant stall at the Christmas Market raised £577.63! The competition to name the 'Fireman Francis' on the post-box topper, was entered by 65 people and was won by Theo Purssey. Francis was the name of several Byfleet firemen who operated out of the Old Fire Station. Theo won a knitted replica of Fireman Francis as his prize. Fireman Francis made the front page of The Woking News & Mail on 16th December under the headline 'Knitted firefighter now has a name!'



We also sold Byfleet Fire Station-themed Christmas cards, lapel pins and mugs. Over 200



mugs were sold, one going as far as Cornwall. Our vision is for every kitchen in the village to have a Byfleet Fire Station mug! The Trust will soon be able to let residents know where these can be purchased in the village throughout the year.

'One Man's Junk' near the Fire Station kindly sold the left-over reindeer food just before Christmas making an extra £24!

Our stall was enhanced by our ice-cream bike in BFST colours and logo. The logo was created and added by James at Binfield Printers in Byfleet.

As you will see on the thermometer, our total now stands at £34,655 - this includes some pro bono services which have already been carried out. Our next update will include information about the next stage of the project to save our Byfleet Fire Station.

Our BFS Goal



Thank you for all your support!

Article by Krista Rooney on behalf of BFST

West Byfleet Library Is Open For Use

As was mentioned in the Newsletter 168, West Byfleet Library moved to a temporary address in October 2021. It is in The Old Sorting Office in Rosemount Avenue, KT14 6LB.

Rosemount Avenue is the road from Pyrford Road to the Esso/Tesco Garage. Its opening hours are:

Mon	2-5
Tuesday	10-5
Wed	CLOSED
Thursday	10-5
Friday	10-5
Saturday	10-4

Please do try to make use of the temporary facility in Rosemount Avenue. This will help show the continuing need for a Library in the replacement Sheer House Development, now called Botanical Place.



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Tel: 01932 344004

The RA Orchard Project – ‘Our gardens – our virtual orchard’

The RA is starting a long-term fruit tree initiative for our villages. The initiative, which will include the involvement of residents, has three aspects:



-  to research our local fruit tree heritage and share this with residents
-  to find out which fruit tree varieties resident have (or had) in their gardens
-  to encourage the succession planting of more fruit trees and to discourage the removal of older, viable fruit trees.

Many of us will have seen articles about the rapid loss of traditional orchards across Britain. There is research by a national orchard project which suggests that ‘90% of traditional orchards have been lost since the 1950s due to neglect, development or conversion to intensive modern orchards. Remaining orchards are often found to be in declining condition as a habitat – often due to the lack of replacement tree replanting.’

Old fruit trees and orchards are critical to biodiversity and wildlife. They provide rich habitat for our pollinators, without which nearby crops and agricultural production suffer. Fruit trees, like many other species of tree, are playing an increasingly important role taking up excess rainfall and providing cooling shade, in our gardens and communal spaces, as we face climate change.

We may not have many of our traditional orchards left in Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford, but if we think like a pollinator, which ignores fences and boundaries when the lure of nectar and pollen calls, we do have village orchards. They are just spread across our gardens! It is within our power to add to our ‘virtual orchard’ one garden at a time!

1. Knowing our fruit tree heritage

We have a rich heritage in fruit tree growing in this area. Residents of our villages have counted among propagators of new, renowned varieties of apple, head-gardeners at West Hall and top Fruit Tree specialists at RHS Wisley. We have started our research into this and will update

you in future Issues.

As appetisers, did you know that George Carpenter, the former head gardener at West Hall, developed five new apple varieties? These are called ‘George Carpenter’, ‘Byfleet Seedling’, ‘Victory’, ‘Shoemith’ and ‘Comrade’ – four of which are held at RHS Wisley. In 2018, West Hall planted a specially commissioned ‘Byfleet Seedling’ to mark the centenary of Armistice Day.

2. Profiling our ‘virtual’ Orchard

We plan to ask as many residents as possible how many and which variety of fruit tree they have in their gardens. We have apple and pear in mind as the most likely but would love to know about others such as damson, mulberry etc. If you know of a tree which is no longer there but you remember having had in your garden or hearing past generations speak about, we are equally interested. In this way we can build a profile of past varieties which may inform our future planting choices. We will be recording what we find out and making this available to RA members and other residents. RHS Wisley will help us with identification of fruit trees we inherited when we moved into our houses!

Byfleet, West Byfleet & Pyrford Residents' Association

QUESTIONNAIRE - 'Our gardens - our orchard'

Please:

- Tell us which fruit trees have been in your garden.
- Return this questionnaire to your RA Street Representative (or by contacting rb@the-residents.org or by going to The RA Orchard Project, c/o Byfleet Village Hall, 54 High Road, Byfleet, KT14 7QL.)

All data, including your name, will be collated and entered into a database for analysis and may be shared with other organisations.

Address:
(including postcode and village name)

Fruit tree type	Name of variety	How many do you have?	Approx age of tree, if known?

If you would like to add anything else of interest to the project, please use the envelope.

Thank you for taking part!
www.the-residents.org

To gather this information we are starting with a Questionnaire which is included in this issue. We would love you to complete it and return it to your RA Street Representative. You can

also return the completed questionnaire via our postal address, details of which are on the questionnaire. Please feel free to tell your neighbours about this if they also have fruit trees. In time, we will make the questionnaires available to non-members so that we can get as full a picture as possible. Please note that all the data that we gather, excluding your name, will be collated and entered into a database for analysis and may be shared with other organisations.

3. Increasing our ‘virtual orchard’ footprint

As the project progresses, we will offer suggestions regarding variety choice for residents who would like to plant a tree in their garden. This guidance will come from RHS Wisley with whom we have already met regarding the project. We will have guidance for residents on where George Carpenter’s apple varieties can be seen and purchased. Residents will also be able to refer to a gallery of local varieties we will make available on our website. We will work with WBC and our Councillors to investigate the possibility of planting traditional fruit trees in public spaces. We will ask residents to let us know when they plant new fruit trees so that we can keep our records up to date.

Community involvement and the future

We envisage this being a long-lived initiative. Once we have the data about our past and present ‘virtual orchard’ profile we would hope to arrange exhibitions, involve local schools in related art, science and environmental projects and even arrange a Fruit Fair Day in the villages in the years to come - the possibilities are endless!

If you would like to be involved in the project, we would love to hear from you. The same applies if you simply have ideas or memories relevant to the project- all would be valued. Contact rb@the-residents.org or write to the Residents’ Association, c/o Byfleet Village Hall, 54 High Road, Byfleet, KT14 7QL. Thank you. Rich pickings ahead!

Article by Eleanor Grady and Jean-Pierre Frossard

FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND MEMORIAL STONEMASONS



Robert, Chris, Andrew & Michael Lodge

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Getting Your Garden ready for Spring

After the dark days of winter, the days are slowly getting lighter and longer. March is a perfect time to get outside and start to get your garden ready for the year ahead.

A great way to warm up on a chilly March day is to give your lawn a rake to remove any moss. Use a wide pronged garden leaf rake to remove the moss then go over the lawn with a garden fork making holes. This helps with drainage and stops the grass getting compacted. A good organic lawn feed sprinkled over the lawn afterwards is a good idea to put some goodness into your lawn too.

There are many jobs to get on with and one of my favourites must be planting spring bulbs. dahlias and lilies are some of the most varied with an enormous range of colours and shape with



colours to suit every taste all readily available. They can be planted in pots for the patio or direct into the ground. They will flower again year after year and can remain in the ground if covered with a mulch over winter.



March is also the best time to prune Roses, Buddlea (also known as The Butterfly Bush) and Hydrangeas.

When pruning roses and hydrangeas aim to reduce by a third. There are some helpful videos online that will take you through pruning step by step to ensure you get the best showing of blooms for the Summer. Buddlea could not be easier, just cut all the stems back to about 15 cm above the ground and you will be rewarded with new growth and flowers that attract butterflies into your garden over the coming months.

As the soil warms up unfortunately this attracts pests such as slugs so make sure you protect delicate shoots that start to appear out of the soil. Delphiniums, Lupins and Hostas are all slug magnets! I use clean crushed eggshells around the emerging shoots or used coffee grounds work well too. Local coffee shops are more than happy to give away their used coffee grounds for free. It is a great way to deter pests organically and cheaply in the garden.

Another quick gardening job is to cut back the old growth on Sedums and let the new green

growth that will have started to appear get some light and air. If you have existing pots, then March is also the ideal time to refresh the compost. To do this simply remove the top 5-7 cm of old compost and top up with some new. The old compost you have removed can be spread around the garden.

March is the time in the gardening calendar to get some Sweet Peas sown too. A highly scented prolific climbing flower is a must for any summer garden. I tend to soak my seeds overnight to soften the outer seed shell and sow them 10cm deep in rows. Make sure they have something to climb up as they grow. The more you pick the more flowers will appear.



In the veg patch you can now plant seed potatoes, these are specially selected disease-free potatoes available from garden centres. If you don't have much space, you could pop two potatoes in an old compost bag with some holes in and cover with compost as they start to grow.

Happy Gardening!

Article by Claire Crawford



Report On 2021 And Update On Plans For 2022

The Garden Seed Share Scheme started in March 2021. It is one of the RA's community-enhancing initiatives to harvest and share garden seeds for free. The initiative brings 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. To avoid wastage, we are also

collecting and making available part-packets of opened 'bought' seeds which contained too many seeds for individual residents to use.

Results of the scheme pilot in 2021

The scheme pilot was very successful. Feedback was positive.

Approximately 35 varieties of flower and 35 types of vegetable seed were made available to the community for free during the 2021 growing season. Several hundred packets of seeds were made available to residents. The scheme was open to any resident of Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford although the pilot collection sites were in Byfleet only in 2021.

The Byfleet Community Library and St Mary's Centre for the Community housed the seed share stocks, making attractive and accessible displays of the seed boxes on behalf of the RA. Residents popped in to select any seeds they wanted.

Allotment holders and other residents kindly contributed unwanted commercially produced seed packets and seeds/seed-heads from plants they had grown.

Plans for the scheme in 2022

We have a new scheme logo and artwork thanks to our Duke of Edinburgh Award student! Seeds will be made available for free. We will be inside if it is raining or windy! Come and select seeds you would like for free!

The Byfleet Community Library and St Mary's Centre for the Community will again house the seed share stocks from March 2022 until September/October 2022. We hope to make a seed box available in West Byfleet and Pyrford once arrangements have been made with suitable venues. Until then, West Byfleet and Pyrford residents are very welcome to collect seeds from the Byfleet locations.

How will I know which seeds are available?

A list of available seeds (while stocks last!) will be available on the RA website. Alternatively, just pop into the Library or the Centre for the Community after the beginning of March 2022 to see what is available.

How can I contribute seeds from my garden or spare bought seeds I have?

Please drop these off at the Library or the Centre for the Community in Byfleet when open or contact vrb@the-residents.org. We can collect seeds from you if you cannot get out and about. Thank you and happy growing!

Article by Eleanor Grady and Jean-Pierre Frossard

Woking Rugby Football Club News - A fitting tribute to a treasured friend and club legend....

A new memorial bench has been erected at Byfleet

Recreation Ground in honour of Richard 'Dickie' Grady who sadly passed away in 2019. Dickie was a founding member and the driving force behind Woking Rugby Football Club ('WRFC'). Having returned to Byfleet after his student days at Southampton University, he was desperate to see his local Rugby Club thrive.

As with many local community clubs, it comes down to a select few to keep them running and in existence to benefit wider society. Dickie was one of those passionate individuals whose love for the game, compassion for people, and desire to see his local Club go from strength to strength informed all his involvement in



the Club over decades. WRFC Committee and President Stanley Fisher recognised that there needed to be a more permanent memorial to mark these contributions and the positive impact Dickie had on so many people over the years. Nothing seemed more fitting than a bench on the halfway line of the first XV pitch at the ground. WRFC President commented "I am really pleased with the bench and it's nice to be able to reflect on the past while looking to build on the ethos and foundations, set in stone by Dickie, as WRFC looks to build for the future. We are always looking to see how we can develop the Club to benefit the community and continue to offer grassroots rugby for all."

WRFC are always keen to welcome support to the pitch and actively seek new players. At WRFC no experience is necessary, it's about friendship, community and passion for the game of rugby.

For more information on how to join or when the home fixtures are taking place visit wokingrugby.com.

Article by Jason Williams on behalf of WRFC 'The Friendliest Club in Surrey'



The Matthew Hackney Foundation – featuring 'Pretty and Pre-loved!'

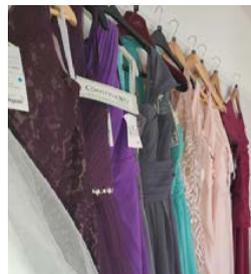
Byfleet is proud that Penny and Richard Hackney have chosen the village as the home of their Foundation and Charity Shop. Their Foundation was set up in November 2011 in memory of their son Matthew.

The Foundation offers counselling services for both children and adults and has grown significantly over the past ten years due to its professionalism of approach. Volunteer counsellors' qualifications are vetted and safeguarding and insurance checks undertaken by the Foundation. The Matthew Hackney Foundation (MHF) is on Surrey County Council's Recommended Children's Services list. MHF already has working agreements with 25 Surrey schools for which the Foundation provides qualified counsellors. MHF counsellors are qualified to work in partnership with the school to help children with many aspects of well-being and resilience including aspects of low self-worth, self-image or other anxieties.

The Foundation's counsellors are also qualified in therapy for adults, who can self-refer online. MHF is pleased to announce the availability of their new child and adult therapy rooms above their premises at 'Pretty and Preloved', 21 High Road, Byfleet. These provide a confidential facility, bookable by the volunteer counsellors, as required, for appointments.

As for the other cause of celebration- the Foundation's 'Pretty and Pre-loved' shop opened on 4th November 2021! The journey to this premises was via The Byfleet Cricket Club and The Byfleet Village Hall which, since August 2020, generously provided pop-up locations for the evolving charity shop between Covid lockdowns.

The shop manager, Anne Harrison, brings her retail expertise to the appearance and style of the shop which is a feast for the eyes with its frequent stock rotation. They have recently been chosen by a generous donor, as the right outlet for 200 new bridesmaids, summer ball and dinner-dance dresses!



Through their vision, Anne and Penny are creating a new style of charity shop in which visitors are welcome to browse and chat in bright surroundings – to feel free to pop in to enjoy the 'look and feel' of the shop even if nothing catches the eye to purchase. Their vision extends to their 'green' ambition, meaning that they are scrupulous about the environmentally-sound disposal of donated items which they cannot sell. They also work



closely with Byfleet's other two wonderfully different and vintage shops 'Alchemy' and 'One Man's Junk' to guide enquiries their way too. Do call in to browse at Pretty and Pre-loved, 21 High Road Byfleet! The shop is open from 10-4 Tuesday to Saturday. www.prettyandpreloved.co.uk.

Article by Eleanor Grady
with content from Penny Hackney

RA Queen's Jubilee photo competition – The Resident Newsletter

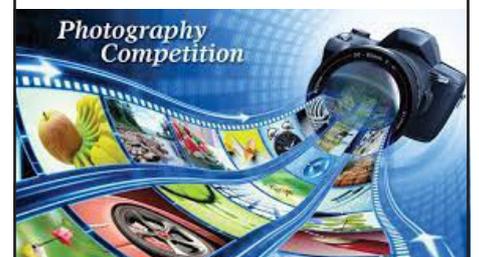
Get your cameras and mobile phones focused so that you can enter the RA Queen's Jubilee photo competition.

We are looking for photographs of your Jubilee celebrations, these could include:
- street parties, people in fancy dress, how your house or street is decorated, images of the Queen or the royal family, etc....

Photos need to be emailed to the editor of The Resident Newsletter at the following email address editor@the-residents.org.

The closing date for entries is 16th July 2022. The entries will be judged by Bob Holmes who is one of the photographers for the Woking News and Mail.

The winning entry will be on the front cover of issue 170 of The Resident Newsletter, which will be published in mid-July. We will also feature some of the entries within the pages of issue 170.



A love Christmas, Love Your Neighbour story demonstrating a desire to give, overcoming challenging obstacles with an amazing outcome

In 2020 a network of churches across the nation set out to support those in need at Christmas. The intention: a united message – one of kindness-in-action and practical love. Thus, the Love Christmas, Love Your Neighbour movement started. Connections were strengthened within communities by partnering with schools, groups and businesses. St Mary's Church, Byfleet participated with 250 Christmas food parcels being delivered to homes within the community.



Receiving Amazon donations (L to R) Claire Calder Nikki Mathias, Pippa Ross-McCabe & Amanda Boote.

In 2021, for the second consecutive year, St Mary's Church Project Co-ordinator, Claire Calder, inspired a broad range of people within Byfleet to get involved: asking companies to donate, recruiting volunteers & distributing boxes of food within Byfleet. She says: "We were able to start thinking about this in September. There was a huge wave of kindness and love from the community".



Left, Donor Tom Severn, handing over to Rector John McCabe

Ideas were shared in a brain-storming group and suppliers were sought who would be willing to donate. "By early October volunteers had already signed up for various tasks and more than fifty percent of donations were pledged... for which we were so grateful when you consider the reduction in many company budgets due to the pandemic and problems with the supply-chain." With sustainability in mind, Claire collected good quality used boxes into which the donations would be packed. By mid-November the target quantity of boxes had been reached and her garden shed was over-



Packing team finished: Merry Christmas!

flowing!

Collation of donations started in early December. The bulk being delivered on 20th as preparations commenced. Full consideration was given to social distancing, the wearing of masks, the provision of hand sanitisers and plenty of open windows allowed for circulation of air.

"The final part of the project arrived quickly. On each of the days which followed, between fifteen to twenty-five members of the community came together to give, pack, deliver or share. We were thrilled with the call to action". A volunteer photographed key moments on each day. In keeping with the spirit of the season, each day's tasks were accompanied by the sound of Christmas carols and festive popular music. There was a dedicated day for box construction; followed by a day for packing the donations and on 23rd December distribution of the "Boxes of Kindness" took place. A volunteer filmed the project and included the moment when two of the recipients opened their doors to the gift delivery. Claire says: "Given the uncertainty around the Omicron strain of the Covid-19 virus, a few volunteers were unable to join in at the last minute, whilst others helpfully came forward. Grateful thanks go out once more to our amazing Byfleet community." Door-step volunteers were met with a fair number of emotional moments and a few heart-rending stories, most too private to mention but the overwhelming response by recipients was one of delighted surprise.

Thanks to the generous donations and support from: Amazon.co.uk, Booker Wholesale UK, Foodwise (TLC) Limited, Lindt and Sprungli UK, The Co-op, The Trussell Trust Foodbank, Waitrose PLC and Byfleet United Charity.

Recycled boxes were kindly donated by:

Bourne Valley Garden Centre, Halfords, Wine to Dine, The Plough, Wingate & Withers, LG Electronics, and individual residents.

Written by Claire Calder, photos (all permissions granted) by Andy Carter, John McCabe & Bob Holmes

Article by Eleanor Grady

Memories of Sheer House 2

I joined McLellan and Partners at Sheer House in October 1973 on my return from a three-year assignment working overseas with my family and felt like a stranger in my own country. McLellan occupied floors from the 3rd to the 6th and I was located on the 5th floor where there were up to 50 draughtsmen at drawing boards on the north of the building to get the good light and I was among 20 engineers on the south side. It was all open plan except for small offices for directors and the head draughtsman. Smoking was allowed and that, plus the noise level, drove me to find an empty conference room in which to work quietly most days.

There was a tea lady on each floor who wheeled a trolley laden with ready milked tea or coffee in large silver pots as in the photo.

All the tea ladies were real characters and one I remember particularly was a lady of military bearing who could often be found sitting on the stairs smoking a cigar. She lived locally and several of the young engineers had digs with her and told of "Tink", as she was known, getting involved in late night card games.

All the tea ladies baked mince pies for us on Christmas Eve but one from Spain also made us little squares of pizza most weeks. It was a sad day when the council advised that our kitchens needed expensive changes to comply with modern legislation, so the firm introduced coffee machines and tea ladies were no more.



Bob, the doorman, looked after the building and played accordion for our Christmas parties at the Station Hotel. This was before the days of farm shops, but Bob had a contact and toured the office before Christmas taking orders for turkeys, hams and sausages.

Article by Derek Berriman

Byfleet Art Group - Up and running again and welcoming new-joiners!

We weathered the storm that Covid threw at us. We were disappointed to have to cancel several exhibitions and demonstrations. Although the Art Group was unable to meet up during Covid lockdowns, we, kept in touch by having online competitions amongst members. The winners received prizes of art materials. We adapted to run our exhibitions online.



We were eager to return to group meetings at St Marys School, Byfleet but had to wait until September 2021. With doors and windows wide open, all wearing masks, paint and brushes at the ready, it is good to be back!

We are all getting ready for our Spring Art Exhibition on April 23rd. If you like art but have never tried it yourself or are worried about being a beginner, now is the chance! Join our very friendly group - we will give you all the help you need.



Enquiries to byfleetartgroup@gmail.com.
Check out the Byfleet Art Group on the URL link below:

[Byfleet art group |](#)
[Painting And Drawing | Byfleet](#)

Philip Riesebeck R.I.P. Old-fashioned courtesy and outdoor living

On 25th November 2021 the village marked the death of Philip Riesebeck. His funeral took place at 2p.m. at St Mary's Church, Byfleet. Residents gathered at his bench on Plough Green, on which sat his Order of Service, as the hearse went past on its long tour of Byfleet. Lodge and Boutell Funeral Directors honoured him by walking in front of the hearse the length of High Road. Other mourners waited at the lychgate at St Mary's Church.

Philip had lived in Byfleet, near Plough Green, for many decades. He was 'village-proud' and 'Plough Green-proud.' You may have seen Philip walking back to Byfleet along Parvis Road or around the village with his broom over his shoulder or sweeping rainwater off a flooded pavement. After sweeping up litter daily, he then settled-in on his bench, in his outdoor lounge - which was Plough Green. We were all welcome to join the master of outdoor living for a chat. When the library was open in the evening, Philip enjoyed a quiet hour reading the papers there.

In his working life, Philip had been a butcher in Byfleet. For years he had been a warmly welcomed, unassuming visitor to many shops along High Road, popping in to give someone a cup of coffee or to say hello. Many of the staff of the shops and businesses he greeted daily, returned the courtesy by attending his funeral. 'Mister and Master and William Hill staff' and 'Wingate and Withers' were among Philip's friends who were present and spoke of their memories and offered tributes during the service.



Philip Riesebeck

The service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for Philip's life was arranged by his beloved niece Hayley and Reverend McCabe. The choice of music was as unconventional and memorable as Philip was and fittingly included 'Free Bird' by Lynyrd Skynyrd; 'Thank you for being a friend' by Andrew Gold and 'Where Everybody Knows Your Name' by Gary Portnoy.

Philip Riesebeck (1950-2021) - a gentle, private and unjudgmental man who contributed so much to our communal living. Sadly missed by family and friends.



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55a Station Approach, West Byfleet

New RA Committee Members

It is great news that we have some new people that have joined the RA Committee to help support the residents of our 3 villages. These people bring along many new skills and experience to the committee. Just so that you can put a face to a name, please see their photographs and committee roles below:



David Bell
Village Membership Officer,
VMO, West Byfleet



John Tiller
Village Membership Officer,
VMO, Pyrford



Carole Leon-Son
Health and Well Being Officer



Sheila Carroll
Committee Member

Puzzle Corner

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Answers
on Page 23

West Byfleet Health Centre

Although spring is round the corner, unfortunately Covid-19 continues to be a big factor in how we manage at the Health Centre. We continue to be challenged with infection amongst the staff leading to staff shortages. Therefore, we continue to demand that all visitors wear a face mask and why patients with any Covid symptoms are triaged and often sent to a Covid 'hot' clinic in Woking.

As we wish to expand our services, we are currently in negotiations to increase our clinical rooms on the second floor of the Health Centre. Once these plans are finalised, we can provide a more detailed update. We are continuing to expand our workforce to meet the needs of the community and this includes a Mental Health Practitioner, a spirometry service for our Asthmatics and more phlebotomists to reduce the waiting times for blood tests.

We understand that there continues to be concerns over the charges that have been put in place to cover car parking. Can I reiterate that the Practices have no control over these restrictions. If all visitors can enter their car registration into one of the terminals there will

be no charge up to 2 hours. However, the 'drop off' time has been extended from 10 minutes to 20 minutes to give plenty of time to add registration details.

As many of you will be aware 'The Friends of West Byfleet Health Centre' is a charity that raises money for the health centre to provide

ancillary medical equipment, services and facilities for the 30,000 patients registered (details of ways to donate can be found on your practice website). The Wit Knits are members of St John's church who produce lovely knitted soft toys to raise funds for the charity. They will be in our foyer from 21st March selling lovely Easter present ideas so please come and have a look.

Liz Reynolds
Practice Manager Wey Family Practice



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Green shoots at Botanical Place

Meeting the local need for retirement living shows it is never too late to blossom

Ever since Retirement Villages acquired Botanical Place, formerly known as the Sheer House site, people have asked about the benefits of developing a dedicated, integrated retirement community in West Byfleet. Of course, as one of the longest established operators of retirement communities in the UK, Retirement Villages started out in 1984, this is a question that we have studied a great deal.

Retirement Villages is fortunate in having sixteen thriving and distinctive communities located in different parts of the country. No two are the same, but each one is home to some of the most interesting, thoughtful and insightful people I have had the good fortune to meet.

This means that when asked about Botanical Place, we have a lot of data to back up our answer. In addition to the data drawn from the sector, local authorities and the Office for National Statistics, we can draw on the insights of our residents up and down the country, including in other parts of Surrey.

Creating an integrated retirement community in West Byfleet helps meet several needs. The first of course, is the need to provide more and better housing options for local older people. West Byfleet, like other parts of the Borough of Woking, has a large and growing population of older people. Surrey's charming natural beauty, rich history and excellent transport connections help make Surrey not only a great place to live, but, importantly for us, a great place to retire. It is therefore no surprise that Surrey's ageing population is well above the national average, and the Borough of Woking is no exception to the statistic. The fastest growing age category in Woking and surrounding villages is the over 60s, and there is currently insufficient accommodation to support them.

The other benefit is that Botanical Place will help free up much needed family homes in the local area. By giving older people the chance to live somewhere as desirable as Botanical Place, the evidence shows, that existing family homes become available. In its own way, Botanical Place will help ease some of the pressure on scarce developable land. Increasingly, neighbourhoods and communities are seeing the benefits of increasing the availability of housing options as a way of taking the pressure off general housing demand, especially for family homes.

The positive response from the local community is attestation of local need for specialist retirement accommodation. While completion is not expected until 2024, we have already received considerable residential interest. Locals have registered interest



themselves, or on behalf of their parents who wish to be located nearer to family.

As readers will know, Retirement Villages build their communities on the principles of flexibility, independence and wellbeing. They are designed for longevity, to be a 'forever home'. Situated in the heart of the thriving local community, Botanical Place offers just that. The integrated in-town development enables residents to stay social, active and connected to the wider community.

People in West Byfleet continue to tell us how excited they are about Botanical Place and the new shops and community facilities it will bring to the heart of the village. These days everyone knows that wellbeing is about lifestyle and socialising as well as medical care, so Botanical Place will have a restaurant and places to meet up and 'hang out'. The public square, for example, is designed to be a focal point for the whole community. We are delighted by the number of retailers who have already expressed their interest setting up shop. Continuing to engage with retailers, our specialist retail advisors and the local community will support the retail offer to align with the appetite of West Byfleet residents.

Much like the development itself, it was important that the name of the site assimilated with the experience of West Byfleet. In some ways, the name Botanical Place chose us. Our initial research into the area's heritage made clear the prominence of essential oil production in West Byfleet, Pyrford and Byfleet. Agricultural production of essential oils is a vital part of the area's industrial history and was one of the reasons why the villages came to exist.

While botanicals are now perhaps more synonymous with gin, the botanical oils distilled in West Byfleet were used in soaps and perfumed cosmetics, as well as herbal treatments. The large mural that decorates the hoardings celebrates this history. From the

moment we revealed the mural we have been approached by many people familiar with this rich heritage, when old botanical fields once bloomed with roses and lavenders destined for the distillery.

We are keen to ensure that Botanical Place becomes an equally flourishing part of the community upon completion in 2024 and are delighted by the progress made on site so far. The demolition phase, which began in March 2021, has recently been completed and preparations for the construction phase are continuing to schedule.

While the journey of Botanical Place is in its infancy, we are increasingly excited about the opportunities the development will provide for both future residents and the wider West Byfleet community.

*Article written by Guy Flintoft,
Planning and Design Director at
Retirement Villages*

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BYFLEET, WEST BYFLEET & PYRFORD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church Hall, West Byfleet on Wednesday, 12 January 2022. As a result of Covid restrictions the 2020 AGM had been cancelled. Retrospective approval of that cancellation after the meeting notice had been issued was granted at the meeting.

The meeting was attended by 70 members from across the villages.

The Treasurer presented the accounts for the 12 months to 31 December 2020 together with his report.

The accounts showed a deficit of £1,915 which had arisen due to the lower subscription and advertisement revenues caused by the Covid 19 pandemic. Subscriptions were traditionally collected by Street Representatives when delivering newsletters, an activity which had been curtailed by the pandemic. To offset the loss of this revenue three online issues of The Resident had been provided on the RA website and via member emails. These issues had been well received but with the easing of restrictions the autumn edition had been hardcopy. As a result of a sterling effort by Street Reps the level of subscriptions at the end of 2021 had risen to pre-pandemic levels. The accounts were agreed and Alan Fairlie, the Examiner, was re-appointed for the following year.

The Membership Secretary, Isabelle David, reported that whilst subscription income had recovered total membership numbers were still slightly down and steps would be taken towards increasing this during 2022.

The Constitution of the Association had been reviewed and amended to improve the way the RA worked including the ability to hold virtual meetings, the right to postpone an AGM after the notice of such meeting has been published, proxy voting arrangements and reduction of membership age from 18 to 16. These changes were proposed and agreed.

Each of the Neighbourhood Forum Chairs addressed the meeting reporting on activity within their Area. Both Pyrford and West Byfleet Neighbourhood Forums had their Plans adopted by WBC in 2016 and 2017 respectively and thus in 2020 were required to apply for re-designation for a further period of five years. This was successful. Byfleet Forum is hoping to submit their plan to WBC by the end of 2022. PNF remains particularly focused on documenting and protecting its heritage as part of a conservation assessment including green belt and escarpment. Also reviewing its key purpose and objectives in the years ahead. WBNF will continue to monitor the several actual and potential developments within its Plan Area and will, with the support of the community, invest its share of CIL funds in community projects including the Recreation Ground and hopefully a Community Centre.

All three Forums in collaboration with the RA will continue to assess and monitor the infrastructure requirements and strains that new developments impose on the Three Villages. Flooding in Byfleet remains a concern. As required by the constitution, the committee members were elected for the following year. New members were welcomed but several posts remain vacant – Village Representative for West Byfleet, Village Membership Officer for Byfleet, Advertising Manager, Environment Communication Officer. Volunteer Street Representatives in all villages are also being sought.

The meeting closed with an interesting talk by Julie Fisher CEO WBC on a range of issues including the green belt, waste, finances, developments, town centre masterplan, climate and regeneration projects.

Article by Lynette Davies – RA Secretary

Planning Coordinator's Report

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 if so on what grounds. Compliance with Neighbourhood Forum Plans is fundamental. Our preference is not to raise major objections.

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

Since the report in Newsletter number 168 the following are of significance:

Byfleet

(a) Manor House Mill Lane Byfleet - Erection of an outbuilding including an indoor swimming pool and gym and associated landscaping works and pergolas, following demolition of existing outbuilding. and (PLAN/2021/1110) and Construction of a 9-bay garage building and a 6 bay Estate management building and hardstanding yard area with associated fencing and landscaping, following demolition of an existing stables building (PLAN/2021/1104). **Under consideration**

(b) 101 Fullerton Road - Erection of two storey front and side extensions as well as single storey rear extension (PLAN/2021/1178). **Permitted**

(c) Wey Retail Park - consolidation of two units to make a single food retail unit. Changes to car park lay out. RA has written expressing concern. No Progress. (PLAN/2021/0793).

(d) Land west of Byfleet Road (rear of 98-138 Byfleet Road). This is in Runnymede Borough, but the RA has objected on the grounds of traffic and loss of Green Space.

(e) 214 High Road Byfleet - Erection of two-storey side and rear extension with front dormer, insertion of rooflights and

alterations to fenestration (amended plans) (PLAN/2021/1119). **Approved**

Pyrford

(a) 154 Old Woking Road. The RA objected to the original application as not in accord with Pyrford Neighbourhood Plan. Refused. The subsequent application for a single storey rear extension has been granted a conditional approval under General Permitted Development.

(b) Pyrford Place, Pyrford Road. Construction of a replacement boathouse. **Approved**

(c) Cobbetts Pyrford Woods - Erection of a two-storey rear extension, single storey rear extension and front porch extension following demolition of existing rear conservatory (PLAN/2021/1165). **Approved**

(d) Beech Rise Lock Lane - Formation of vehicular access onto Lock Lane. (PLAN/2021/1107). **Refused**

(e) The Brambles Pyrford Road - Outline application (all matters reserved) for a new residential development of 26 dwellings, with associated access, parking and landscaping. PLAN/2021/0756). Under consideration. The RA have strongly opposed on several grounds including Green Belt. **Refused**

(f) 1 Lovelace Drive - Erection of a detached two-storey house with rooms in the roof space, dormer windows and integral garage following demolition of existing house (amended description). PLAN/2021/1308. **Refused**

(f) Cherrywood Blackdown Avenue Pyrford. Erection of part two storey and part single storey side extension to existing dwelling (planning permission PLAN/2020/0863 granted 25/02/2021) and creation of new dwelling with associated parking and amenity space. **Approved subject to a legal agreement**

West Byfleet

(a) Marchmont, Hollybank Road - Erection of a new dwelling following the demolition of the existing dwelling. PLAN/2021/1355. Under Consideration - The RA supports the positive view of the Hollybank Road Trustees

(b) Public Footway O/S 49 Old Woking Road - Relocation of a telephone kiosk. PLAN/2021/1136. **Refused**

(c) Hawthorn, Elmstead Road West Byfleet - Erection of first floor extension, two storey rear extension and single storey front extension to create a two-storey dwelling. Erection of car port and external alterations. PLAN/2021/0654. **Under consideration**

Other Planning matters are dealt with in the Chairman's message and the individual Forum reports.

*By Stewart Dick
RA Chairman*

Activity and Vibrancy

For my article in this Issue of the RA Newsletter I thought that I would give some focus to the restaurant and food offerings in our three villages and to say a little about the local housing market. I am also delighted to report since my last editorial that we have some new cafes and local businesses that have opened, I will report on their progress in the next issue and I warmly welcome them to our communities.



Cafe Carlo, Byfleet

One of the things that you can't help but notice as you walk around Byfleet and West Byfleet is the vast array of restaurants and take-out food outlets which have become established and populate our village centres.

Italian, Japanese, Traditional English, Fish and Chips, Chinese, Vietnamese, Indian, Thai, Lebanese, Persian and others, how's that for variety!

On my last count there are nearly 40 in total, not only providing good quality food and service to our residents but increasingly to people who do not live in Byfleet and West Byfleet.



Ciccios Cafe, West Byfleet

Some residents say that we have 'too many restaurants already, how about some more independent shops?' which is easier said than done. The way we buy our goods and services has changed dramatically in recent years and Covid has of course had an enormous impact not only on our personal lives but also in the way that we acquire services / goods, how we shop and buy our food.

These patterns will continue to emerge and change the face of our high streets in the future. Coupled with the expansion and influence of the major supermarkets many of whom now have outlets in places like fuel stations and the increasing influence of Internet shopping, this environment means that opening a traditional

new shop or enterprise, like a bakers, butchers, fishmongers, greengrocers, stationers or florists business for instance takes much thought as the financial risks are considerable.

My personal belief is that our restaurants and take-away food outlets bring vitality and life to all villages and provide employment opportunities for local people, they help bring in new visitors and customers who then get the opportunity to see what other shops and local businesses have to offer, they may even choose a Chinese meal one week, take an Indian or Japanese the next, or even stop to pick up some fish and chips or a bacon sandwich and a cup of coffee.

All this brings vitality and life to each of the villages and just remember there is always a lunch venue available to be had once the shopping is done or the hair has been fixed!

I am often asked about the local housing market and how Covid has affected the property market generally.



Kutschenhaus, West Byfleet

Let me start by saying that at the last count there were 10 Estate / Letting Agents in Byfleet and West Byfleet and none in Pyrford. Surprisingly except for the initial 'total lock down' periods at the beginning of the Covid pandemic, property sales were brisk with many agents enjoying high volumes of sales and lettings, in some cases above the norm.



Synergy Dental Centre, Pyrford

In August 2021 the average house price of all property types in Woking Borough was £445,087, this was a 5.8% increase on the previous year and this is significantly higher than the average UK price.

The typical price of an average semi-detached house within the Borough was £482,206. The average Rental Index showed an increase of 6.1% with the average cost of renting a privately owned 2-bedroom flat in the Borough as £1315.00pm and a 2-bedroom house £1827.00pm.

The volume of sales is now levelling off as the number of available properties coming to market has reduced. However there are plenty of willing buyers looking for their next home and we expect to see an invigorated market this springtime.

Final word, our village shops and businesses are progressively transforming into specialised and unique outlets that offer high quality merchandise and give superior personal and local services that are not always available in the major High Streets. **Please do give them your support!!!**

Wishing you all a Healthy and Happy Springtime, can't wait!

Article by Gary Elson
Chair of the West Byfleet Business Association
and Local Councillor for Pyrford Ward



Learn to sew classes with Claire Watson.

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

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You spoke, we listened

As part of Woking Borough Council's commitment to establishing effective, ongoing, two-way communication and give a voice to residents, a consultation was held to gather your views on key issues to inform and influence the Council's future corporate priorities. Here's what you told us.



Eight roadshows open to all members of the community were hosted at key community-based locations between October and December, led by the Leader of the Council, Cllr Ayesha Azad, and Chief Executive, Julie Fisher.

The roadshows were complemented by a comprehensive questionnaire open to all residents. In addition, 3,000 paper copies were sent randomly to selected households across the borough.

A total of 161 residents attended the roadshows and 979 questionnaire responses received during the consultation period. Your feedback will go towards shaping the Council's five-year Corporate Plan for 2022 to 2027.

Your Key Priorities

Climate change and sustainability was a strong and consistent feature raised at the engagement roadshows, whilst questionnaire responses suggested it was 'more important' than many other issues but is not seen as being in most need of improvement.

Building on climate change, your key priorities were.

- Keep the borough a safe place for everyone.
- Act where required, to deal with anti-social behaviour.
- Have a council that listens to residents and here everyone can 'have their say'.
- Provide support for older, vulnerable people.
- Take steps to improve traffic flows across the borough.
- Make it easier to travel around Woking Borough and the surrounding areas.
- Encourage vibrant village high streets by supporting local business.

There were a further three corporate priorities that a significant number of respondents said need improvement, which were also mentioned as priorities, but were less important than the seven above.

- Tackling homelessness and its causes.
- Supporting new and established local businesses and shops.
- Providing more high-quality affordable and

key worker homes, to meet the needs of local people.

Engagement from communities was largely on matters that affected them day-to-day. Key themes included:

- Availability of affordable housing
- Volume and speed of traffic and condition of roads
- The Council's investment strategy, financial stability, commitment to consultation
- Climate Change and Sustainability: how the council are supporting this, how can it adapt its policies, encouraging people to use their cars less, electric vehicle charging
- Woking Town Centre: redevelopment, town centre economy, traffic congestion.
- Sustainable Transport: enhancement of cycleways, footpaths, public bus services.
- Support services for vulnerable people: mental health, homelessness.
- Local villages: how the council are supporting these local economies.
- Parking: lack of provision, lack of enforcement, new homes and parking spaces.
- Partnership working with Surrey County Council, Surrey Police, the NHS, developers and others.

Next Steps

We'd like to thank those of you who took the time to attend a roadshow or complete the questionnaire. Your feedback is invaluable. The key priorities identified by communities will go towards informing the Council's five-year Corporate Strategy.

To review the corporate priorities engagement feedback in full, please visit www.communityforum.woking.gov.uk.

Article by Lynette Lawson-Tyers, Lead Engagement Officer at Woking Borough Council

The Fabulosos Big Band

The Fabulosos Big Band was formed by Simon Phipps in 2014 and meets at Byfleet Village Hall every Wednesday



morning. It was set up to give retired people a musical activity during the week. It is an amateur band and the main aim is to have fun. There are nineteen players and three singers, playing a wide variety of music from the twenties through to present day. The Fabulosos performs at bandstands, parties, day centres, charity and private events as well as regular free concerts at Byfleet Village Hall.

The players come from a variety of

backgrounds including ex-professional musicians. The music is based on well-known pieces but frequently re-arranged to suit their style. For further information please contact Simon Phipps (email: phippypsy@gmail.com).



You can see the band in action on its Facebook page and YouTube channel. www.facebook.com/Fabulososbigband.

Are you sometimes frustrated with something in your local area, but don't know who to tell?

I recently met with Seanne Hunter Hill, our Neighbourhood Officer from WBC ... this is her role and how she can help us...

The neighbourhood officer supports, listens to and engages with the local community. I can help with pressing issues and facilitate any changes that residents would like to see in the area.

In the Neighbourhood team we deal with issues such as:

- street cleaning,
- litter (including overflowing general litter bins),
- graffiti
- vandalism
- abandoned and untaxed vehicles
- grounds maintenance
- trees and vegetation
- fly tipping
- fly posting, and
- issues with street name plates

Please see below links to the SCC websites for reporting issues on a rights of way or highway

www.rightsofway.surreycc.gov.uk

www.surreycc.gov.uk/do-it-online/report-it-online

And these are her contact details...

Seanne Hunter Hill
Neighbourhood Officer |
Neighbourhood Services
Woking Borough Council, Civic Offices,
Gloucester Square, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6YL
Phone: 01483 743702 | Fax: 01483 776335 | Web:
www.woking.gov.uk for general enquiries,
please call Woking Borough Council's Contact
Centre on 01483 755855.

Article by Isabelle David

Marking the next major milestone at Broadoaks Park, a new development of 125 homes moments from West Byfleet village centre, Octagon has launched the fourth phase of properties at this prestigious country estate.

Comprising 20 expansive family homes, each offering in excess of 3,497 sq. ft of living space, the detached properties are set across three storeys with six/seven bedrooms, spacious reception areas and lavish front and rear gardens.

The fourth phase follows a highly successful string of earlier releases, with all of phases I, II and III fully reserved and many residents now moved in.

Featuring both new-build and restored properties, Broadoaks Park is one of Surrey's most sought-after new developments, creating a low-density neighbourhood characterised by greenery. Through the front gates, an expansive green with 150-year-old Oak trees sets the scene for the estate, whilst pockets of rich landscaping are interspersed throughout the 25-acre site.

New residents Angelique and Ameer reflect on their reasons for buying at Broadoaks Park. Ameer comments, "We started our British life over six years ago, descending from the States into leafy Barnes in Southwest London where we rented a flat and discovered the English 'village lifestyle' was rather to our liking. As we started looking for a new home, we realised that we could get a lot more property for our money outside Greater London, so our property search began, ending happily in Surrey."

He continues, "At the beginning of our search we spotted Octagon's Bishops Row



development in Fulham, just across the River Thames from our Barnes home. We liked what we saw, both in terms of style and quality, and it was there we met Octagon Sales Manager Sandra Casali."

Fast forward 18 months and we came across the new Broadoaks Park development in early 2019. It was meant to be - we met up with Sandra again as she was the lead sales agent at the development. She suggested we consider West Byfleet, where the train service into Waterloo was speedy and frequent and there is a first-class Waitrose alongside plenty of other local shops.

Quickly sold on the location, Angelique and Ameer wasted no time finding out more information on Broadoaks Park, and soon settled on a detached six-bedroom home. One year later and they couldn't be happier. Angelique comments, "We are already utilising practically all of the rooms, so this house and layout really does suit us. The ground floor

office/study is essential for Ameer, as his base is here at home. Then we have created a yoga and fitness room which we use every day and upstairs we have our cinema/TV room, as we love movies. The super large open plan living, dining and kitchen is perfect for our style of entertain in and along with our own Principal Suite we still have enough bedrooms and bathrooms for friends and family."

The large garden was a major draw too. "I am already heavily into serious garden planning", comments Angelique. "We have a large plot, so there is plenty of scope for my rather ambitious design. Meanwhile we are taking our time on furnishing and embellishing the interiors; we've enjoyed working with the Octagon Interiors team led by Rachel Hall." Ameer concludes, "very month a new tranche of residents moves into Broadoaks Park, and it is becoming a great village community. It attracts a wide range of individuals, some with families, some retired, and some like us, professional couples, settling into a home where we expect to be spending a major part of our lifetime."

"All in all, buying a new home at Broadoaks Park has been a really good experience, masterfully led and supported by Sandra. Her confidence in Octagon's build and design quality is so evident, it took very little persuasion and time for us to commit to reserving our house - so this was a good move from everyone's point of view, but especially ours."

Phase Four at Broadoaks Park has now launched with prices from £1,785,000. For more information, visit: www.broadoakspark.co.uk.

Article by Kate Geraghty
Octagon's Group Marketing Manager





BROADOAKS PARK

WEST BYFLEET



Property shown is from Phase 2 of the development

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**PHASE FOUR NOW LAUNCHED
A COLLECTION OF SIX & SEVEN BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOMES.**

Set within 25 acres of landscaped grounds, Broadoaks Park offers brand new and beautifully restored homes.

Finished to Octagon's renowned high level of specification, all homes are designed to enhance the private parkland setting and surrounding listed buildings. West Byfleet village and train station are less than one mile away, with regular train services to London Waterloo taking from 30 minutes.

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Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations

The 6th of February marked Her Majesty the Queen's Official 70th Anniversary of service. There will be a host of Platinum Jubilee celebrations taking place in and around Woking throughout the year. Celebrations include street parties, community activities, big screen showings and more. For more information visit www.celebratewoking.info.



Highlights include a replica of the Crown Jewels on display in Woking Shopping centre from the end of May until the end of June. The Lightbox will be displaying Coronation memorabilia in the Woking section of the Lightbox. The Basingstoke Canal Society will be inviting a group of boats dressed in Jubilee colours to gather by the Town Wharf and offer boat rides on "Kitty".

On the Platinum Jubilee weekend itself:

Thursday 2nd June

The lighting of a beacon in the evening by the Mayor in Jubilee Square, in conjunction with over 1500 beacons being lit across the country, with choirs and pipers present.

Highlights of the Official Royal Programme showing on the big screen during the day, including the Trooping of the Colours.

Friday 3rd June

The official service of Thanksgiving in St. Paul's will be screened.

Hospitality sector joining in the celebrations with tables and chairs on Mercia Walk and Commercial Way – sharing friendship, food and fun (3rd to 5th June).

Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday Celebration
Friday 3rd June - Plough Green, Byfleet,
organised by Green & Perry

Saturday 4th June

Highlights of Official Royal Jubilee Program on the Big Screen.

Sunday 5th June

Town Square Event will start with a live service by Christ Church delivering service of Thanksgiving, followed by an event in the Church Garden.

Across the nation, the public will join in The Big Jubilee Lunch Celebrations by hosting street parties.

Then the following month:

Saturday 9th July

The Pyrford and Wisley Village Show! The show is returning after a 2-year absence with the theme of "Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee"

Article by Steve Dorsett – Woking Borough Councillor – Pyrford Ward

Some Key Decisions and Updates from the Woking Council Chamber

Infrastructure Capacity Study and Delivery Plan

At the meeting of Council on 10th February I presented members with the draft version of Phase 2 / Part 2 of the Infrastructure Capacity Study and Delivery Plan with extracts from the East of the Borough and Borough wide.



The Infrastructure Study identifies the nature and type of infrastructure that will be needed to enable the ongoing delivery of the Core Strategy and the recently adopted Site Allocations DPD, how it will be delivered, by whom and if known at what cost.

These documents are regularly reviewed and updated as and when new information becomes available, Parts 1 and 2 will now be combined and will be published as one single document.

Financial Plans and Council Tax

Woking Borough Council's financial plans for 2022/23 have been approved following a decision by elected members at the Council meeting held on 10th February. As part of the

balanced budget, Woking Borough Council's share of the annual Council Tax charge will rise by £5 (2%) for 2022/23.

The increase means that those living in a Band D property will pay £255.46 a year for borough council services such as refuse collections, environmental maintenance, planning services and leisure facilities. The increase is equivalent to £5 a year - less than 10 pence a week. The borough's Council Tax charge will be added to Surrey County Council's Band D charge of £1,626.39 (4.99% increase) that includes the Adult Social Care precept, and Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner's Band D charge of £295.57 (3.5% increase). The total Council Tax charge for a Band D property will therefore be £2,177.42 for 2022/23

And finally.... The Town Centre Masterplan

The Council has committed to prepare a newly defined Town Centre Masterplan to help guide future sustainable development within the Town Centre. As highlighted in the Corporate Plan, the Council is establishing a stronger commitment to embedding a culture of consultation into the decision-making process. The Town Centre Masterplan has arisen out of this commitment and is further supported by concerns expressed by Members, residents and developers about the lack of a single planning document that sets out a positive framework to guide development and investment in the Town Centre, including guidance on heights for tall buildings.

With local elections in May, there will one more meeting of the Executive (24th March) and one of Council (31st March).

Stay well and keep safe.

Article by Gary Elson
and Local Councillor for Pyrford Ward

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WOKING BOROUGH COUNCILLORS					
Ward	Councillor	Party	Phone	Email	Surgeries
Byfleet & West Byfleet	Josh BROWN	Conservative	07340 102891	cllrjosh.brown@woking.gov.uk	Residents can contact Josh to arrange a online or a face-to-face meeting regarding concerns
	Amanda BOOTE	Independent	01932 344811	cllramanda.boote@woking.gov.uk	Byfleet Library on the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10am to 11am. They are also available to meet any of our residents on a 1:1 basis at all times if they contact us.
	Mary BRIDGEMAN	Independent	07890 045375	cllmary.bridgeman@woking.gov.uk	
Pyrford	Steve DORSETT	Conservative	07729 829658	cllrsteve.dorsett@woking.gov.uk www.facebook.com/CllrSteveDorsett	Surgery 1st Friday of each month from 09.00am until 11.00am Church of the Good Shepherd
	Gary ELSON	Conservative	01932 340649 07824 628422	cllrgary.elson@woking.gov.uk	
	Rashid MOHAMMED	Conservative	07897 532823	cllrashid.mohammed@woking.gov.uk	

SURREY COUNTY COUNCILLORS					
Ward	Councillor	Party	Phone	Email	Surgeries
The Byfleets	Amanda BOOTE	Independent	07824 776961	amanda.boote@surreycc.gov.uk	
Woking SE	Liz BOWES	Conservative	01483 768257	liz.bowes@surreycc.gov.uk	

Further details of elected Councillors can be found at www.woking.gov.uk and www.surreycc.gov.uk.

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER					
Ward	Councillor	Party	Phone	Email	Surgeries
Surrey	Lisa TOWNSEND	Conservative	01483 630200	SurreyPCC@surrey.pnn.police.uk	

NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS			
Contacts	Byfleet	Pyrford	West Byfleet
Chairperson	Andrew WEISS	Andy Grimshaw	Wade Pollard
Secretary	Lynn Cozens	Andy Grimshaw	VACANT
Email	info@ByfleetForum.org	info@pyrfordforum.org	Contact via website
Website	www.ByfleetForum.org	www.pyrfordforum.org	www.wbnf.org
Facebook/Twitter	www.facebook.com/Byfleet Forum	www.facebook.com/Pyrford Forum www.twitter.com/Pyrford Forum	www.facebook.com/groups/2004486373140529
Postal Address	The Secretary, Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum, 32 Magdalen Crescent , Byfleet, KT14 7QL	The Secretary, Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum, Pyrford Village War Memorial Hall, Coldharbour Road, Pyrford, GU22 8SP	N/A

“The Resident” Newsletter

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

RATES		
Size	1 issue (£)	3 issues (£)
SINGLE (50x58mm)	30	80
DOUBLE (either option) (D1 - 50x124mm) (D2 - 85x58mm)	55	150
TREBLE (either option) (T1 - 50x189mm) (T2 - 85x124mm)	80	220

- Newsletter produced 3 times a year (under normal circumstances)
- 24 page, full colour, A4 publication
- 3200 copies printed
- distributed across three villages using network of volunteer street representatives
- lodged in libraries, health centres, local shops, etc

If interested, contact: advertising@the-residents.org

Sudoku Puzzle Answers from Page 15

5	9	2	8	1	4	7	3	6
1	7	3	9	2	6	8	5	4
4	8	6	5	7	3	9	1	2
6	1	4	3	9	7	2	8	5
7	2	9	4	5	8	1	6	3
8	3	5	2	6	1	4	7	9
9	5	1	6	8	2	3	4	7
2	4	8	7	3	5	6	9	1
3	6	7	1	4	9	5	2	8

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

Date & time	Event	Details
Saturday 2nd April 2022, 10-12 noon	Easter Eggstravaganza	Byfleet Community Library
Saturday 23rd April, 10am to 4pm	Byfleet Art Group Exhibition, Free entry	Catholic Church Madeira Road, West Byfleet
Sunday 1st May, 10am to 2pm	Byfleet Bowls Open Day	Byfleet Bowls Club, Stream Close, Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 7LZ
Monday 2nd May, 10am to 2pm	Byfleet Bowls Open Day	Byfleet Bowls Club, Stream Close, Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 7LZ
Sunday 29th May, 10am to 4pm	Big Bowls Weekend	See above
Friday 3rd June 2022, time tbc	Platinum Jubilee Village Picnic	Plough Green, see posters around village
Saturday 11th June, 11am to 3pm	Summer Fair	St John the Baptist, West Byfleet
Saturday 9th July, 1pm	Pyrford and Wisley Village Show	Pyrford Village Green
Saturday 16th July, 12:30pm	Byfleet Parish Day	Byfleet Recreation Ground, Stream Close

The Committee 2022

Chairman	Stewart Dick	chairman@the-residents.org
Deputy Chairman	Ian Mason	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
Rights of Way Officer	Marion Malcher	footpath@the-residents.org
Events Coordinator	VACANT	events@the-residents.org
Newsletter Editor	Robert Munford	editor@the-residents.org
Advertising Manager	VACANT	advertising@the-residents.org
Website	Anita Flavell	web@the-residents.org
Committee Member	Sheila Carroll	
Health & WellBeing Officer	Carol Leon-Son	hwo@the-residents.org
Environment Officer	VACANT	environment@the-residents.org

VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES (VRs)		
Byfleet VR	Eleanor Grady	vrb@the-residents.org
Deputy	Jean-Pierre Frossard	depvrb@the-residents.org
West Byfleet VR	VACANT	vrwb@the-residents.org
Deputy	Emma Slaymaker/Liz Leese	depvrwb@the-residents.org
Pyrford VR	Andy Grimshaw	vrp@the-residents.org
Deputy	Ernie Elliott	depvrp@the-residents.org
NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM REPRESENTATIVES		
Byfleet	Andrew Weiss	See previous page for contact details
West Byfleet	Wade Pollard	
Pyrford	Andy Grimshaw	

How to pay your subscriptions

The annual subscription remains at £5. If you have not yet paid your annual subscription, there are a number of ways to do so.

1. **The preferred method is to make a direct online payment.** We have a separate bank account for each of the 3 villages, so 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

Position Vacant,
West Byfleet Village Representative
vrwb@the-residents.org

Andy Grimshaw,
Pyrford Village Representative
vrp@the-residents.org

2. **Alternatively, you can contact your Street Rep** to provide you with a subscription envelope in which to place your cash/cheque* and return the completed envelope to your Street Rep.

3. Finally, if you don't know who your Street Rep is, or perhaps the position is vacant, you may **send a cheque*** to The Residents' Association c/o Byfleet Village Hall, 54 High Road, Byfleet KT14 7QL.

***CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO "BWBPR".**