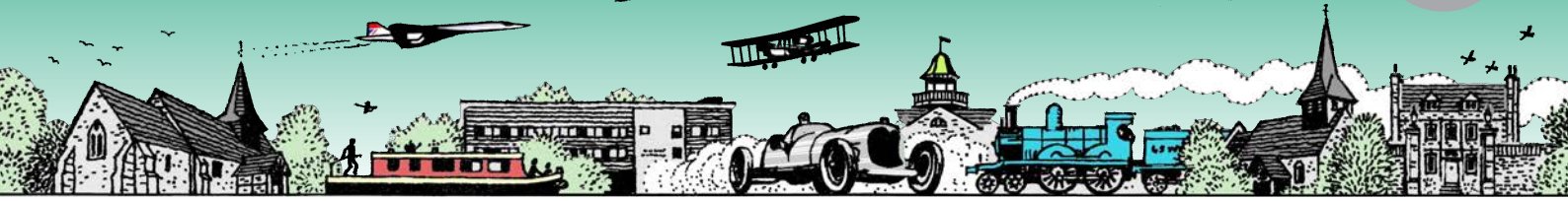


The RESIDENT

FEB 2024
Issue
175



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

OUR THREE VILLAGES - A VIDEO FOR THE MILLENNIUM

A century of local stories
told on video - made by the
RA in 1999 for 2000



See [pages 24-25](#) for more details

featured ARTICLES

West Byfleet
Bowls Club



P10

Byfleet Flagship
Sustainability Project



P12

Parish Rector
to Retire



P21

My Fight for Seema Misra
and for Justice



P26

Welcome to the latest issue (175) of The Resident Newsletter !!!



A special thanks to all the Street Reps for delivering issue 174 of the Newsletter and for collecting any outstanding subscriptions. This issue will also be available on the RA website, www.the-residents.org.

In this issue there are updates on Planning Applications, Village and Neighbourhood Forum reports and of course a challenging Sudoku Puzzle. There are a still changes going on at the West Byfleet Health Centre which impact all of us, so please make sure that you read the Health & Wellbeing section on [page 22](#).

There are several articles and photos capturing the various Xmas events that took place in the 3 villages. There is a 2 page spread covering 25th Anniversary of the making of the millennium video for the 3 villages with some great photos and stories.

We have articles from RVG and Higgins on the latest progress with the Botanical Place development. There is also an update from Octagon on the final phase of the Broadoaks development.

I have included a piece covering the retirement of Canon Reverend Nicholas Aitken after 30 years of dedicated service as the Rector of the Parish of Wisley with Pyrford. Jonathan Lord our local MP has written an interesting article covering his work in the community.

As residents, we are still concerned about crime in our villages so we have an update from the new Inspector for Woking.

Vacancies RA Committee

We have a number of vacancies at the RA these include – Membership Officer, Treasurer, Village Representative for West Byfleet and an Editor and Advertising Manager to replace me. We also need Volunteer Street Representatives in all villages. Please contact me if you are interested in any of these positions.

Your Street Reps will start collecting your 2024 Subs with this February edition. If your 2023 subs are still outstanding, they would be happy to receive both.

Subscriptions Increase 2024

Resident Association **subscription fees will increase from £5 to £8 per year** in 2024, this was approved at the last RA AGM and there has not been a price increase for 5 years. **Please remember to update your Standing Orders.**

I am sure that you will enjoy reading Issue 175 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. If any would like to advertise in the RA Newsletter, please feel free to contact me.

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 who 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.

Robert Munford
Editor and Advertising Manager

Annual General Meeting of Byfleet, West Byfleet & Pyrford Residents' Association

The Annual General Meeting of Byfleet, West Byfleet & Pyrford Residents' Association will be held at **7.30pm on Thursday, 25 April 2024 at Our Lady Help of Christians Roman Catholic church in Madeira Road, West Byfleet.**

The agenda, Treasurer's Report and any proposed policy changes will be made available on the website together with nomination forms for committee positions – www.the-residents.org.

Any proposals for an alteration to the constitution of the Association must be notified to the Secretary in writing, not less than 30 days before the AGM i.e. by **25th March 2024**.

Any additional agenda items, motions and / or proposals must be notified to the Secretary, in writing, not less than 14 days before the AGM i.e. by **11th April 2024**.

There are vacancies for a Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Advertising Manager, West Byfleet Village Representative. **Volunteers are being sought for all these positions.**

Volunteer street representatives are always welcome - more are particularly needed in West Byfleet and Byfleet. Please get in touch if you are interested.

Nomination forms for the vacant posts are available on the website, www.the-residents.org

Please note that nominations for Committee positions should be sent to secretary@the-residents.org by **10pm on 11 April 2024**.

We look forward to a full house! After the completion of the business for the AGM, there will be a talk (details to be confirmed) followed by refreshments and an opportunity to meet your committee.

Stewart Dick
Chair Residents' Association



Committee Vacancies

We urgently need local residents to fill vacancies within the Resident Association team. If these roles are not filled the RA may not be able to be as effective as we need to be in order to protect and represent residents' interests in local issues.

The following roles are available:

- Membership Secretary
- West Byfleet Village Representative
- Treasurer
- Editor RA Newsletter
- Advertising Manager

Please contact Robert Munford at email address editor@the-residents.org if you are interested in joining our enthusiastic committee and would like any more information.

RA Website www.the-residents.org.

Welcome to edition 175 of our Newsletter.



While somewhat late in the day may I offer you my best wishes for 2024.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will see reminders of our Christmas celebrations. All three Villages looked wonderful and how good to see festive lights in Marshall Parade, Pyrford - particular thanks to Councillor Chris Martin for his work in arranging this. Byfleet as always looked resplendent particularly with their illuminated Boat Procession. In West Byfleet we have to say a huge thank you to West Byfleet Together for all their hard work in arranging the lights etc and the switch on was a joyous occasion. We wish them well with their plans for the future. We also again thank the Wit Knits who bring smiles and cheer to West Byfleet Village centre. Thank you all who give up your time and work so hard to bring pleasure to others including of course Botanical Place for their financial help and logistical support. The RA was delighted to support both Pyrford and West Byfleet having previously supported St Mary's Church Steeple Appeal in Byfleet.

Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023

The Bill received Royal Assent on 26th October 2023 after becoming rather moribund in the House of Lords. However, bringing many of the provisions into effect will require a huge raft of further consultations, detailed technical work and secondary legislation.

Indeed the Consultation Orders ran for 6 weeks, ending on 2nd February 2024.

Prioritisation of Towns

SCC Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee - meeting 8th February 2023. SCC Cabinet Meeting 28th March 2023 - Delivery in Partnership Towns, the next Phase.

I wrote about this in Newsletters 173 and 174. Just to remind you the plan was that with effect from October 2023 "West Byfleet" (precise area to be defined) would be one of five towns identified as a "Priority Town". This is a Surrey County Council initiative and is part of an ongoing roll out programme.

SCC have confirmed that the current position is:- *"it is evident that the complex nature of the multi-agency work and the establishment of positive working relationships and the alignment of objectives, resources and activities on-the-ground is, in many cases, taking much more time and effort than was originally anticipated, as well as challenging the level of resources currently and forecast to be available to all partners. As a consequence, the next phase of this towns approach has been momentarily paused, while consideration is given with partners, such as the local NHS, to the best way forward and next steps"* Clearly this, combined with the inevitable cut back or indeed total removal of services provided by WBC, is disappointing news.

Woking Borough Council /Section 114 Notice - update and related matters

If we need reminding on 7 June 2023, the then interim Section 151 Officer issued WBC with a Section 114 Notice. The notice was required because the Council's expenditure was likely to exceed the financial resources available, and therefore it could

no longer balance its budget for the remainder of this financial year and subsequent years.

Also to remind you the three Government appointed Inspectors (now the Commissioners) produced a critical report on WBC concluding that the Council's historic investment and borrowing decisions are disproportionate to its ability to manage complex commercial activity and the Council lacks the commercial skills and capacity to identify a longer-term strategy to resolve its commercial arrangements. Internal processes were simply not fit for purpose and given the projects that were being undertaken, unreasonable demands were placed on employees. There was a serious lack of appropriate expertise and experience.

Commissioner changes and CEO change

- The Lead Commissioner, Jim Taylor, has announced that he will step down.
- Sir Tony Redmond has been nominated as Lead Commissioner with effect from 13th December 2023.
- Richard Carr will replace Julie Fisher but his title will be Managing Director Commissioner for the period from 13th December 2023 until 12th December 2025. He will fulfil the role of Chief Executive of WBC and be responsible for its day-to-day operations. So no conflict of interest?
- The total annual cost of the above will be around £786,000 plus expenses plus administrative support. Such is the price of failure.

The Commissioners' second Report dated 7th December

- Woking Borough Council remains in an extremely vulnerable position due to its overhanging debt and its historical lack of rigour in its commercial activity.
- The finance function within the Council is still not fit for purpose and not equipped to deliver the volume and complexity of the work required. There remains a significant gap in the skills and capacity required.
- A programme of asset disposals for the next three years is developing.
- Savings proposals have been identified and are currently out to public consultation. Delivery of the budget savings for 2024/25 is the most significant risk in the Financial Recovery Plan. £8.4 million of the £12 million savings have been identified. Little progress has been made on identifying the remaining c. £4 million balance and this remains a priority.
- In addition to the above there remains the problem of the overspend in the current year.
- WBC have a legal duty to produce a balanced budget. It is accepted that a legal budget cannot be set for 2024/25 without a significant and carefully structured government support package.

Lord Morse - Chairman of the Office for Local Government

- Lord Morse was a former head of the National Audit Office. He has recently stated that *"All of the failures that we've seen so far; all of the authorities that are in special measures are not primarily attributable to a shortage of money — they're to do with failures in management or failures in governance."* Woking with liabilities of £1.2 billion has annual core funding of only £16 million.
- He did not mention the totally irresponsible lending by the Public Works Loan Board which is another element in this sad financial equation.

Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy ("NCIL")

This is a most serious matter that rightly continues to give rise to great concern and dismay to the

Woking Borough community. To remind us all:

A proportion of CIL receipts from a development (NCIL) are allocated to the wards and neighbourhood areas where the development occurred. This amounts to 25% of receipts in areas where a Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted, and 15% of receipts in other areas. These funds are to be spent on local infrastructure projects required to support the consequences of the development. Until expenditure occurs these funds are held by WBC on behalf of the community; are required to be ring fenced and WBC have a statutory duty to pass these funds to the relevant local community. Ring fencing and identification has been confirmed by Council Officials and Councillors on many occasions.

It transpired that such assurances were totally fictitious.

At the time of the Section 114 Notice WBC was in theory holding circa £2 million on behalf of the community. All of these funds have been spent. The portfolio holder has confirmed that the community money was spent on *"general funds including debt repayment"*. There appears to be no interest in establishing culpability and responsibility.

As regards current and future receipts of NCIL monies the portfolio holder confirms that *"they are ring fenced in a separate budget"* whatever that means.

In the budget negotiations with the Minister for Local Government the reinstatement of £2 million of community money should be a priority. It does not appear to be so.

Councillors

While reflecting on this financial debacle, Woking is most certainly not alone and undoubtedly will be joined by other Councils in 2024. Nor should we ignore the reality that Councillors are elected to represent their community and to play a part in making and shaping policy. It is primarily a political role. The running of the Council is the responsibility of its management, including the chief executive and finance director - professional managers.

Come the May elections, as regards those Councillors standing for re-election residents may wish to focus on their contribution to date at Council meetings and the Committees that they sit on; their involvement with and support of community groups and their willingness to be available and to respond. For those standing for election residents may choose to focus on their professional background and experience as an indication of their likely ability to cope with at times quite complex and detailed financial presentations so that they may challenge and in doing so better exercise prudent governance.

Now that the Council is led by a government appointed Managing Director Commissioner and decisions sit with the Commissioners the relevance of party political allegiance (or none as the case may be) of Councillors is somewhat diminished and other considerations are of greater relevance. For example who on behalf of the community leads the negotiations with Government on the budget and the debt restructuring and what is their relevant experience?

Thank you and take care.

Stewart Dick
Chair, Resident Association

BYFLEET

Byfleet Village Report

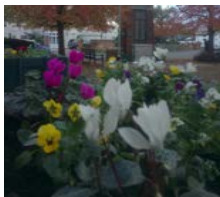
Our traditional cycle of autumn and winter village community life started with Remembrance Sunday and continued with the Illuminated Boat Procession, the Village Light-up, the Christmas Market, Father Christmas and his elves touring the village and the Snow-White pantomime in January. Other visual delights marking the calendar highlights were seen on the post box opposite the Old Fire Station.



Approximately 400 residents honoured those who died in past wars. Two new benches had been installed at the War Memorial thanks to our councillors. The benches

commemorate those who died in each of the two World Wars. You might like to read the inscriptions when walking past. Our councillors, Byfleet Amenities

Group and the Scouts met one cold Saturday morning to plant out the surrounding flower beds as you will see here.



St Mary's Centre for the Community and our Recreation Ground

The 'discretionary services' which include day care for the elderly remain at risk. The WBC consultation finished on 12th November 2023 and the outcome of the consultation and WBC's deliberations is likely to be known by 8th February 2024.

The online and hardcopy petition organised by a team of concerned residents was signed by 3181 people.

The future of St Mary's Centre for the Community will be discussed at the Woking Borough Council meeting on Thursday 8th February. Members of the public are encouraged to attend. The petition will also be discussed at the council meeting. Please remain alert for updates regarding the Centre's future and to what we as the community need to do to retain this critical resource.

The Art Café, which is a private venture, closed recently for different reasons. Councillors and the management of the Centre are hopeful that another lessee has been found to start it up again. Please support it when it does.

The Community Fridge at St Mary's Centre for the Community is in its planning stage. Organisers will have an update for residents

soon. Lots of volunteers have put their names forward. You can keep updated via www.facebook.com/ByfleetCommunityFridge or by emailing byfleetfridge@gmail.com.

We await news from WBC regarding other services and facilities such as the recreation ground and public lavatories.

Byfleet Residents Neighbourhood Plan was published for public consultation ending 1st January 2024. The BRN Forum hope that the plan will be adopted by the end of Q1 2024. Please see [page 8](#) for BRNF's report.

M25 Resurfacing Action Group update

The local M25 Action Group, which was set up in 2018 is very pleased to announce that their years of work invested to persuade National Highways to repair and improve the local J10 and J11 stretch of the M25, will result in improvement works starting in 2024. This will have an impact on local noise pollution caused by the concrete surface. Please see more detail on [page 20](#) of this newsletter or the press release in the Woking News and Mail of 7th December 2023 for fuller campaign and technical detail.

The Byfleet Heritage Society Events

Please see a list of events for 2024 on the society's website www.byfleetheritage.org.uk or ask at the library. The BHS was recently bequeathed a wonderful archive relating to the old parish of Byfleet by local resident and archivist, Mike Webber. These are available for anyone to view on the BHS's monthly Saturday morning heritage events at our library. The Byfleet Fire station Trust look forward to being able to update you all in our next issue of The Resident.

Quarterly Litter Pick

Do join us through 2024 when you can. Twenty-four volunteers, including scouts, joined the last one on 11th November 2023. The dates and times of the 2024 February, May, July and November litter picks are in the diary events section on [page 27](#).



Community Borders and Beds

We are starting a Byfleet Community Gardening Group in spring 2024. If you would like to join the volunteer group, please email vrb@the-residents.org or contact Eleanor Grady by post at the BWBPRA c/o the Byfleet Village Hall.

Sustainability Initiative being piloted in Byfleet

This is the brainchild of Byfleet author, Hansa Pankhania. Please see an article by the Sustainability Project Team on [page 12](#).

Sanway Byfleet Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Environment Agency met members of the

public in October 2023 for the next phase of the public consultation and gathered feedback and ideas from the community. The EA subsequently met with Eleanor Grady of the RA and Cllr Amanda Boote regarding the proposed community orchard and improvement of the M25 underpass at the end of Sanway Road. We hope to have more to share with you on this in our July issue.

Surrey Wildlife Trust

SWT manages the Manor Farm Nature Reserve in Byfleet. On 5th September 2023, SWT staff and volunteers trimmed Manor Farm hedgerows for us. If you would like to volunteer or are interested in the Belted Galloway cattle which play a vital role in preserving Surrey's unique habitats through their grazing, you can receive regular updates via www.surreywildlifetrust.org/how-you-can-help/volunteer.



Our local Co-op shops supporting Byfleet Care

During 2024 Co-op members have the opportunity, at no cost to themselves, to donate to Byfleet Care through the Co-op Community Fund every time they shop. Please see [page 11](#) for an update from Byfleet Care.

Old Scout Hut site

Walnut Tree Lane – The community and RA have expressed concern about the WBC proposal for the building of two houses on this site. The application status is 'Pending Consideration'. Anyone is at liberty to register a comment on the proposal with WBC.

Emerald House

30 - 38 High Road, KT14 7QN. Planning Application PLAN/2023/1051 for permitted development of 23 residential dwellings. Residents are encouraged to view this on the WBC Planning portal. Comments can be submitted even after the deadline.

And finally... one of our long-serving village postmen, Dave, has recently retired. His cheery greetings along and around High Road will be missed. Heaters Bakery has been taken over by Christmas Bakery.

Subscriptions and Street Representatives

Subscriptions for 2024 will be increasing to £8 for the year. We believe that this remains very good value and hope you feel so too. Your subscriptions go towards printing costs and local donation requests as well as Neighbourhood Forum initiatives for approved Neighbourhood Plans. Our Membership Officer explains more in this Issue.

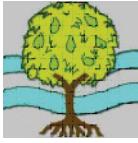
Thank you for your subscriptions and encouragement in 2023.

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

PYRFORD

Members Subscriptions from Pyrford Households

In 2023 £4,910 of household membership subscriptions has been collected which is slightly below that collected last year. This reduction is partly due to the Village Reps covering so many rounds. Thank you to all our Pyrford members who have paid their subscriptions and to all the Street Reps for collecting their monies and delivering the newsletters.



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.

Broomcroft Close, Broomcroft Drive, Floyds Lane, Longs Close, Lovelace Drive (Part), Norfolk Farm Close, Old Acre, Old Woking Road (Part), Pine Tree Hill, Pyrford Road from South of Dodds Lane to Lock Lane, Pyrian Close, Rosebriar Close, Rowley Close

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

Old Woking Road Average Speed Camera

Work has started on the infrastructure and a yellow pole and camera have been erected on the Old Woking Road close to the junction with Pyrford Common Road. It was a joint effort between the RA and the Forum to get the Average Speed Camera installed by Surrey County Council.



Inaugural Pyrford Christmas lights

It was wonderful that Pyrford Village had Christmas lights over the festive period from the switch-on December 2023 to early January 2024. Despite the rain several hundred people

turned up and everyone enjoyed hearing the Show Choir UK singing, eating sausage rolls and drinking mulled wine. It was wonderful that so many people braved the weather and supported this very happy community event. The Forum donated £250 towards the Xmas lights at Pyrford. See article by Chris Martin within this newsletter on [page 13](#).

Planning Applications

A detailed planning report can be found for all three villages in the planning report elsewhere in this newsletter, on the Residents Association website, attached to the relevant minutes, and just for Pyrford Village, on the Pyrford Forum website.

*Andy Grimshaw
Pyrford Village Representative
Gordon Brierley
Deputy Pyrford Village Representative*



Footpath 422 – Behind Arbor to Pyrford Common

Surrey County Council have informed the Forum that footpath 422 is about to be created but it has been a seven year plus journey. Carole Gale, a founding member of the Pyrford Forum had a vision to create “The Pyrford Loop” – a 10 kilometre walk inside the Pyrford Neighbourhood Area.



The loop was a vision included in the Pyrford Forum Plan approved in December 2016 and this section (Footpath 422) was described as “a traditional footpath in use in the area, running from Pyrford Common to Coldharbour Rd, emerging at the back of the Arbor Centre building, which would, if formalised, improve pedestrian access and add amenity value”.

The then Footpath Officer of the Residents’ Association took up the case and submitted all the necessary paperwork to Surrey County Council (SCC) on 4th July 2016.

Following a meeting of the Woking Joint Committee a footpath order was made on 6 November 2019, by SCC. This needed to be



confirmed but the landowner Burhill Estates objected to the order. The next step was a public hearing which has not happened due to the pandemic. SCC have recently informed the Forum that the landowner has withdrawn its objection.

The Footpath Order will now be confirmed. But, given that the path is completely overgrown and has in parts become a wildlife habitat, SCC need to arrange clearance works before SCC can publish the confirmation order which formally confirms the path as a public right of way footpath.

NO ONE SHOULD TRY TO WALK THE PATH JUST YET.

When this is possible, it will be advertised on the [SCC website](#) and the Forum website.

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Full day care for children aged from 12 months to 5 years in 5 separate classrooms.
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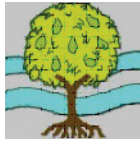
Jack Temple Building, Pyrford Road, Pyrford, Surrey, GU22 8UQ

WE ARE RECRUITING FOR Level 2 or 3 QUALIFIED STAFF
If you are interested in working in our small team please call us NOW!

PYRFORD

Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum celebrates 10 years

Pyrford Forum is 10 years old in February 2024.



Pyrford Forum was formally designated by Woking Borough Council on 13th February 2014.

The preparatory work actually started in early 2013.

The idea was floated at the Pyrford & Wisley Flower Show in July 2013. This was followed by a series of public meetings, the formation of a committee chaired by Martin Doyle, creation of a constitution, agreement of a Pyrford Neighbourhood Area and distribution of leaflet to all Pyrford households.

The Forum is producing a short history to mark the 10th anniversary.

Much has been achieved in the ten years, but the most important achievement is probably the adoption of the Pyrford Neighbourhood Plan on 9th February 2017 due to the hard work of a core group of around 20 residents of Pyrford. The Plan can be found on the Forum website at www.pyrfordforum.org.

The current Neighbourhood Plan expires on 31st March 2027, and as the process for the last Plan, from start to finish, took just over three years, the work for the next Plan has to start now.

If you are interested in helping the Forum produce the next Plan, please contact the Chair by emailing Chair@pyrfordforum.org.

Neighbourhood community infrastructure levy (NCIL) debacle

Last time I wrote about the problems of Woking Borough Council impacting the availability of NCIL in Pyrford.

I said, "As a result, the decision made in April 2023 to support the use of some of the funds to assist a Pyrford Village War Memorial Hall project to the value of just under £10,000 is no longer possible."

I am delighted to report that matters have changed, and the application from Pyrford Village War Memorial Hall for part of the costs of external cladding was approved at the December meeting of the CLIL Task Group. The Village Hall now awaits the receipt of the funds.

Report on AGM held November 2023

The Forum held its AGM on 27th November 2023.

At the meeting, attended by around 50 residents, the annual accounts were approved, the new committee appointed, and the constitution amended to hold AGM's as close to June as possible, to reflect the change in year end from 30th September to 31st March.

The Forum is delighted to welcome a new Committee Member - Gillian McCalden but sad that Ruth Heywood has decided to stand down. The Forum is very grateful for Ruth's invaluable input & support over the years.

There were three presentations - the Chairman's report on the year just ended, an update on the progress on the Heritage Conservation Assessment by Geoff Geaves and "A celebration of Pyrford Wildlife" by Mike Tibbotts.

All the documents and presentations can be found on the Forum website under 2023 AGM.

The Forum sends out regular newsletters about its activities to members.

The Forum is free to join, so if you live or work in the Forum Area, and you are not already a member, please complete the "Join Form" at the Forum website www.pyrfordforum.org. Non-residents can join, but they would become Associate Members who can participate but are not entitled to vote at any AGM.

The Forum has a few 2024 calendars left for sale for £6.00. If you would like one, please contact Clifford Bolton at cliff.bolton@gmail.com.

Forum relaunches Facebook page

With the assistance of Gillian McCalden, the Forum is pleased to announce the re-ignition of its Facebook Group. Search for "Pyrford Forum Facebook" in Google or in the Facebook Pyrford Forum, www.facebook.com/PyrfordForum.

Impact of Pyrford Neighbourhood Plan

There are over 200 planning applications per annum in the Forum area and the Forum does, on occasions, make formal comments.

Since Newsletter 174, the Forum did so on three applications in Pyrford Forum area.

| Property | Application | Forum Comments (Summary) |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Avens Court 1 Broomcroft Drive | Change of use from care home (Use Class C2) to residential (Use Class C3) comprising 13 flats and alterations to fenestration, with car parking, cycle parking and bin store. | Concerns about development creating significant on-street parking |
| 2 Lady Place Barns Church Hill | Erection of a two storey side extension and single storey rear extension | Impact on local setting (REFUSED) |
| Milestones Pyrford Road | Enlargement of a dwelling house by construction of an additional storey and alterations to fenestration | Impact on bungalow neighbours (APPROVED) |

To be kept up to date, then why not register for free to join the Forum at www.pyrfordforum.org/ to receive the more regular newsletter.

The Forum is always happy to welcome new members and is always seeking new committee members.

More detail on these and other planning applications in Pyrford can be found in this newsletter or at www.pyrfordforum.org/planning-application-news.

Pyrford Village Queen Elizabeth Memorial Garden (space between Coldharbour Lane & Hacketts Lane)

Work continues.

Two small Blue Hearts signs have been erected. The Forum was delighted that the trees were lit up as part of the Pyrford Christmas Village lights.

Pyrford Forum was grateful to receive £1,900 from the Co-op Local Community Fund in November 2023.



A big thank you to all those Co-op members who supported the Forum and to Cllr Peter Graves who started the process.

Andy Grimshaw, Chair
Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum

WEST BYFLEET



“Looking back and looking forward”

Our aim is to try to make improvements to West Byfleet. We want all our residents to enjoy living here. We had some good successes in 2023. We are delighted to be able to support the Community Gardening Group and West Byfleet Together. To do that we have to run our organisation efficiently, ensuring a proper legal and financial framework exists to benefit them. We are a statutory organisation and have a right and duty to do so. This is not very glamorous but essential and I am grateful to my fellow committee members for their help with this.

The Recreation Ground

We worked hard to move forward plans for new community facilities on the Recreation Ground. We had several meetings with Council officials about this. These plans have been derailed by the bombshell news of the bankruptcy of Woking Council. Approval was given for new tennis courts but this like other projects has now stalled as the Council has “paused” our ability to spend the money owed to us by it. We are not hopeful that this situation will change in 2024. The situation has recently got worse. The council had to have a consultation over the potential closure of the 13 pavilions they manage across the borough. We have not had the result of this. We will do our best to save ours.

I feel we need to take back control of our recreation ground. It was given to us over a hundred years ago and the community let the council take over its management on the basis it would look after it for us. The council is a remote bureaucracy which has failed us. Some of you may remember that the council tried to sell a large chunk of it to a developer which wanted to build a pub. We fought that and won. For 2024 we will work on getting back the recreation ground. The land is owned by a charity of which the council is the sole trustee. It would make sense for local residents to become trustees. I am sure there will be sufficient support for this to be the way forward. It is not a complex project and many recreation grounds are run by local communities.

New Housing

In 2024 we may need to spend time on the land around West Hall care home which has been allocated by the council for up to 600 new homes and 19 travellers pitches. The developer, Barratt Homes, is liaising with the council about the scheme. At the moment these discussions are confidential and we are not permitted to know what they are. We have been assured that when announced the plans will not be “set in stone” and we and all our residents will be able to suggest changes to benefit us. I am sure that a developer who does not know our area will need help. We have a much better understanding of local housing

needs and what community assets would enhance the scheme. We know how traffic movements would change, both vehicular and on foot. Developers want to sell their product as quickly as they can. Good design and facilities will attract buyers. This will be the largest residential development in the borough for many years, probably since the establishment of Goldsworth Park in the 1970’s, which has fabulous community facilities. We deserve the same here.

Botanical Place

Local social media has recently been full of acidic comments about the redevelopment taking place in the centre of West Byfleet. I know it is a shock to see eight storeys of concrete appear almost overnight and for it to nestle right up to our pavements. We pointed this out when we opposed the planning application. However, Woking councillors ignored our concerns and approved the scheme. We have to move on and work with the developer to make it enhance West Byfleet as much as possible. We have monthly meetings and try to solve the small issues which come up. We also want to build a long-term relationship with them as operator of the scheme. We have a mutual interest in seeing West Byfleet become a more desirable place to live. The buildings will look much better when their appearance is softened by the facing bricks of differing hues, by windows and balconies and the removal of the cranes and scaffolding. Mature trees will be planted around two sides of the buildings. The scheme is still on track to be completed in 2025.

Community Gardening Group

The individuals in this group have made a real difference to the appearance of West Byfleet in 2023. More plants have gone in at the Station together with four new planters on the platforms. The group has taken over the planters along by the shops on Old Woking Road and on the corner of Camphill Road as the council cannot no longer afford to do so. The council planters are on their last legs (a metaphor for the state of council finances?). It is hoped to replace them in 2024. Many bulbs have been planted on Birch Green for Spring

2024 and more hedging was planted. There is room for many more planters in West Byfleet. When installed they will help to take the eye away from the height of the new buildings. They need to be durable and to blend in with the design of the new buildings. We hope the Botanical Place developers will assist us with this project. We are very grateful to the contractors, Higgins Group, who kindly installed the murals on the Station hoardings for us.

West Byfleet Together

The new team did a wonderful job with the Christmas trees and lights, bringing back a strong sense of community to West Byfleet. I look forward to their next event.

New Buildings in West Byfleet Centre

The Forum can influence what is built here and we intend to work hard to ensure that no new buildings in West Byfleet are higher than Botanical Place. Woking Council has failed to prevent ever taller buildings getting approval in their town centre. Many residents are very unhappy with this. Your committee will work to ensure that West Byfleet is protected from this. A new Local Plan for the Borough of Woking will be required from 2027 and likewise the Forum should review and update its Plan. Your committee will make every effort to work with the Council to achieve a satisfactory outcome for our residents.

It looks as if 2024 will be a busy year for us. We will keep you up to date with progress.

Wade Pollard
Chairman of West Byfleet
Neighbourhood Forum



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BYFLEET

Neighbourhood Plan

In December we were informed by Woking Borough Council that it would be very unlikely that we would be requested to complete an Strategic Environmental Assessment and that we should now proceed to a village consultation process. This commenced in late November and printed draft copies were made available to read at the library, St Mary's Centre for the Community and the village hall. Posters with QR codes linking to our website, where an electronic copy could be downloaded, were placed on all village notice boards. In addition, we held a 'drop in' consultation at the village christmas fair where again, printed copies and download QR codes were available.



Since the start of the consultation period, we have added approaching 50 new households to the Forum. Following the consultation, a committee meeting took place on 10th January to consider comments and to move forward with the next stage. The plan will now be submitted to Woking Borough Council for the next stages of the adoption process which will include a village referendum. Details of when and how this will happen will be posted on the Forum website, social media outlets and village notice boards, as well as communication by email to all members of the Forum.

We are also very pleased to welcome two new members to the committee; Laura Turner and Abeer Qayuum, both of whom have made a significant contribution to our communication and website capability.

Update on St Mary's Centre for the Community

As part of Woking Borough Council's proposed savings, St Mary's Centre for the Community has been placed at risk in terms of the provision of its elderly day care services. At present, approximately 50 elderly people visit the centre on a daily basis for a hot meal and social activities. As a result of this threat, Councillor Amanda Boote set up an action group to fight to keep these services at St. Mary's. The group has met on a weekly basis for several months now and in January they hosted a visit to Ann Marie Barker, the Leader of the council, with a view to better engaging with the Council's Executive team on this critical issue. The action group consists of members of local church groups and local residents.

The team also set up a petition asking people to sign and support saving the elderly day care

service. This petition was recently submitted to Woking Borough Council and it contained 2,756 online signatures, as well as a significant number of offline signatures. This petition will now be brought before the February full council meeting.

Separately, the Art Café at St. Mary's closed at the end of December. This was a completely separate business decision taken by the people who leased this Café from Woking Borough Council and it is very unfortunate that this happened. We have now found someone new to take over this Café and we have an interim solution until the new person takes over, so that hot meals can still be provided to our elderly customers.

Longer term, the plan is to undertake a community asset transfer of the St. Mary's building and a team has been put in place for this. Woking Borough Council aim to transfer 36 buildings across the borough in this way and the application packs will be released in January 2024. A robust business plan is being developed in addition to a proposed organisational structure for this. Essentially this will mean that the building and its services can continue, and it will be run by local residents for local residents (much in the same way as Byfleet Village Hall). We aim to retain as many of the current staff as we can do.

The only other critical issue is that of transport provision for the elderly with the current threat to the Bustler bus service. Councillor Boote has put forward a proposal to the Leader of the Council on this and pro-active discussions continue. It is also essential that we either save this service or come up with a new solution, as we also need to be able to arrange safe transport for our elderly/service users to and from St. Mary's.

Planning Issues

The committee continues to maintain a watch over all relevant planning applications. Of current interest, and high up on the radar, are developments at Walnut Tree Close, the former Manor School site and Emerald House, which has now been purchased by Picture Property Developments who will be seeking planning permission for a residential apartment scheme (with an extra floor at roof level!).

All of these developments are reviewed in liaison with the RA planning team.

General

We remain open to new members joining the group and especially from those with younger families and long-term plans to remain in the village. If you are interested please contact either Andrew Weiss or Amanda Boote and we will talk you through how it all works.

Andrew Weiss
Chairman Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum



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Planning applications are discussed by the RA at their monthly meetings. Compliance with Neighbourhood Forum Plan Policies is fundamental. Our preference is, if possible, not to raise major objections.

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

Woking Borough Council Planning Department are currently understaffed (unlikely to change) and this combined with the volume of applications is causing certain delays.

Since the report in Newsletter number 174 the following are of significance as at 8th January 2024:

Byfleet

(a) PLAN/2023/0823 - Allenbuild House Oyster Lane Byfleet. Prior approval under the provisions of Schedule 2, Part 20, Class ZA of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for the demolition of existing two storey detached building together with the construction of a replacement four storey building providing x32 flats together with associated works permitted by Part 20, Class ZA. The RA wrote a strong letter of objection. REFUSED.

The previous application PLAN/2023/0342 was also Refused

(b) PLAN/2022/1016 - Boyds Farm - Section 73 to vary Condition 2 (Occupants and 5 year period) of PLAN/2018/0940 (Change of use of land to 2 No. Gypsy / Traveller pitches including 2 No. mobile homes, 2 No. semi-detached dayrooms, 1 No. package treatment plant, 2 No. touring caravans, hardstanding, and associated works) to vary the occupants listed and remove the time period. PENDING CONSIDERATION. The RA have written with a proposal. Still pending

(c) PLAN/2023/0827 - 25 Summer Close Byfleet - Addition of a rear balcony with sliding patio door and 1.1m high glass railing. REFUSED

(d) PLAN/2023/0633 AND 0644 - Hoodsfield House 18 Rectory Lane Byfleet - Erection of 1.8m high boundary wall and pillars, new 1.5m high metal gates and sliding gates, formation of new vehicular access and creation of hardstanding. Listed Building Consent for the erection of 1.8m high boundary wall and pillars, new 1.5m high metal gates and sliding gates, formation of new vehicular access and creation of hardstanding. PENDING CONSIDERATION

(e) PLAN/2023/0867 -72 Rectory Lane Byfleet - Erection of a two storey side extension and single storey side and rear extension to incorporate a flat roof. Erection of front porch and alterations to fenestration (amended description). PERMITTED

(f) PLAN/2023/0600 - former Scout Hut, Walnut Tree Lane, Byfleet. Erection of a pair of three storey semi-detached dwellings following upon demolition. the RA have written

a strong letter of objection as have Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum and many residents. Amended applications have now been submitted.

(g) COND/2023/0125 - 30-38 High Road Byfleet - Approval of details pursuant to Conditions 3 (Waste Management) and 4 (Cycle Storage) of Prior Approval ref: PLAN/2021/0870 (Prior notification for a change of use from offices to 23x residential units (Use Class C3) on ground, first and second floors) PERMITTED

(h) PLAN/2023/1051 - 30-38 High Road Byfleet - Prior notification for a change of use from offices to 23no residential units (Use Class C3) on ground, first and second floors. PENDING CONSIDERATION

(i) PLAN/2023/1011 - 25 Queens Avenue Byfleet - Erection of a single storey side and rear extension and alterations to roof with an increase in ridge height. PENDING CONSIDERATION

Pyrford

(j) PLAN/2023/0280 - Milestones Pyrford Road - Erection of a first floor side extension and single storey rear extension and change of use to a 6x bedroom, 10x person House of Multiple Occupation. The RA have objected. PENDING CONSIDERATION

(k) PLAN/2022/0393 - Cherrywood Blackdown Avenue. Subdivision of plot of Cherrywood, retention of existing dwelling and erection of new attached dwelling two storey dwelling with accommodation in the roof space with associated parking and amenity space. RA and PNF objected. Also PLAN/2023/0388. APPROVED

(l) PLAN/2023/0431 and 0591 - Prospect Cottage Pyrford Road. Subdivision of existing dwelling into two dwellings including internal alterations and use of land for private equestrian purposes together with the erection of a replacement stables and storage building. Plan 0431 (subdivision) APPROVED subject to S106 and Plan 0591 (equestrian use) PENDING CONSIDERATION

(m) PLAN/2023/0791 - Avens Court 1 Broomcroft Drive Pyrford - Change of use from care home (Use Class C2) to residential (Use Class C3) comprising 13 flats and alterations to fenestration, with car parking, cycle parking and bin store. Both the RA and PNF have objected. PENDING CONSIDERATION

(n) PLAN/2023/0033 - Qaro Pyrford Heath Pyrford - Construction of an additional storey and associated hipped roof and the installation of external insulation, increase in height of ridge, changes to external materials, changes to fenestration, front porch addition and installation of solar panels. REFUSED. The RA strongly objected. Applicant appealed - Appeal DISMISSED

(o) PLAN/2023/0779 - Qaro Pyrford Heath Pyrford - Enlargement of a dwelling house by construction of an additional storey and

alterations to fenestration. The RA and PNF both objected. This Application was called in by Councillor Graves and the debate opposition was led by Councillor Dorsett. It was APPROVED by a vote of 5:4. This in my opinion is an unsafe decision particularly in view of the above Appeal decision. This was a full planning application and there was no direction from the Chair. The Application conflicts with Woking Core Strategy; with the NPPF and with PNF policies. The Planning Committee is a quasi judicial committee and as such should receive appropriate direction.

West Byfleet

(p) PLAN/2023/0311 - Westby Lodge, 90 Old Woking Road - Erection of four detached, self-build dwellings with garaging and associated works on land to the rear of Westby Lodge, No.90 Old Woking Road. Installation of new vehicular access and cessation of use of existing access. PENDING CONSIDERATION. The RA have objected,

(q) PLAN/2023/0128 - 25, 29 And 31 Old Woking Road - Conversion of 6 x existing flats into 7 x flats - creating an additional 1 x unit with a commercial unit at ground floor (Class E), part two storey, part single storey extension to south elevation, 8x dormer windows to replace existing flat roofed dormer windows and associated external alterations (including fenestration alterations) (amended description). As this building is in a conservation area there are certain concerns. WBNF have objected. The RA discussed with the Applicant. APPROVED subject to conditions.

(r) COND/2023/0145 - Rosemount House Rosemount Avenue West Byfleet - a condition addressing the removal of contamination from the land. The proposed solution was approved. One to monitor.

*Article by Stewart Dick,
RA Chairman and Planning Coordinator*



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West Byfleet Bowls Club

Ever fancied playing lawn bowls? Then come along to **West Byfleet Bowls Club's Open Day on Saturday 27 April between 2.00pm and 4.00pm**. Founded in 1967, we are a friendly, sociable bowls club with an excellent green and a well-stocked bar in our clubhouse. Whether you want to play competitively, just for fun or somewhere in between, then West Byfleet Bowls Club is the place for you.



We are not just about the bowls, however. We also run great social events such as quiz or fish and chip nights, providing excellent opportunities to meet with other people in the area.



So, if you feel like giving bowls a go, then come along to our Open Day. All you need to bring are flat shoes and a smile; the rest will be free.

Article by Wendy Russell,
Club Secretary



Sanway-Byfleet Flood Alleviation Scheme January 2024 update

We are working with our partners to reduce flooding to properties in the Sanway area. Our plans include new flood defences, storage areas for displaced flood water and environmental and community enhancements.

Since our last update in The Resident, we have been busy holding engagement events and carrying out ground investigation surveys.

Recent Engagement

In October, we held 2 public engagement drop-ins and 1 online event to provide a scheme update and gather feedback. A total of 50 people attended the engagement events. During these events we provided updates on the flood defence proposals, environmental enhancements and construction plans. We captured questions and comments using feedback forms and received a total of 26 responses.

We will publish the feedback report detailing the questions and comments received and our response to them on our web page soon. We answered questions about noise and



disruption during the works. Unfortunately for a construction project of this size close to residential properties, noise cannot be eliminated completely. However, we will be tightly controlling this to minimise the impact on the community.

Control measures may include acoustic blankets around noisy construction plant machinery and all plant will have the most up to date engine technology. Noisy works will take place between the hours of 08:00-18:00 Monday to Friday and noise assessments and monitoring will be regularly carried out.

If you couldn't join us at our recent engagement events and would like to find out more about the scheme, please go to our web page via the link or QR code at the end of this article.

Upcoming Engagement

We will hold one final drop in and online event in spring 2024 before we submit the planning application summer 2024.

If you would like to be kept up to date with the scheme or represent a community group and would like to get involved with the scheme as it progresses, please register your interest. Email: thm.schemes@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Ground Investigations

Since September 2023 our team has been carrying out ground investigation works, and



we are awaiting the outputs. These works are vital to understanding the underlying ground conditions, the soil composition and the height of the water table near the proposed location for the flood defences and flood water storage areas.

As part of the ground investigation works, we have carried out careful vegetation clearance to ensure as little disruption to the local environment as possible.

What's Next?

By Spring 2024 the project team will have finalised the detailed design for the Flood Alleviation Scheme. In addition, we will begin trial trenches across Common Meadows with archaeologists from Surrey County Council. This is to find out if there is anything of archaeological significance in the ground.

How to get in touch:

You can call us on 03708 506 506
Or email us at: thm.schemes@environment-agency.gov.uk

To find out more about the scheme, go to www.consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/thames/sanway-byfleet-flood-alleviation-scheme or scan this QR code:



Help Raise Fund for Byfleet Care

Wonderful news for Byfleet Care! For the next year Co-op Members have the opportunity at no cost to themselves to donate to Byfleet Care through the Co-op Community Fund every time they shop.

To take part, first make sure you are a Co-op Member and then either download the Co-op App or go to the Co-op Website to select Byfleet Community Action (Byfleet Care) as your chosen charity.

Most people in Byfleet and West Byfleet know Byfleet Care for our wonderful Volunteer Drivers who use their own cars to take elderly, and housebound people shopping as well as to hospitals and doctors and other places that they need to go. There is no charge for this service, but we do encourage donations.

Please follow the link to learn more.

<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/81713>

Wit Knits Strike Again in West Byfleet!!



Shepherds Market Charity Fair - Pyrford

The annual Shepherds Market Charity Fair on 11th November, run by the Parish of Wisley with Pyrford, produced a remarkable result. The various stalls and activities at the Church of the Good Shepherd yielded an amazing amount of **£18,213.69** which will be distributed to the charities supported by the church, including Woking Besom and Amaha We Uganda.

In a busy event which attracted a large crowd the stalls and stallholders picked up the Market's theme of 'The Movies' with music from the movies played throughout the day. To raise this amount of money – possibly the best ever result - is a tribute to everyone who took part or came along to enjoy and support the day.

Article by Eldon Sandys



Christmas 2023 in Byfleet



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Byfleet Flagship Sustainability Project – Everyone is welcome!

What is this project?

This project is the brainchild of author Hansa Pankhania, who recently published her book on living sustainably. Her book is called “BEST OF ONE WORLD- 60 STEPS TO LIVING A SUSTAINABLE, MEANINGFUL AND JOYFUL LIFE” in which she shares ways of living an eco-friendly life as well as her vision to make Byfleet a flagship sustainability village.



Hansa used her book launch on 28th October to recruit volunteers for the project. The launch event held in Byfleet Community Library was supported by Jonathon Lord MP, as well as Councillors Amanda Boote and Josh Brown.

Project team and volunteers

Hansa is pleased to say that 10 volunteers have already expressed a keen interest in being involved in the Sustainability Project and Hansa and her team held their first meeting on 28th November in the Byfleet Community Library. The team are aiming high... their ambition is to develop a unique sustainable-living project that will put Byfleet on the national map! The hope is to involve neighbouring villages once the pilot initiative has been established.

The aim of this project is to recruit dedicated volunteers with a passion for sustainable living who can help to grow existing schemes as well as to develop some exciting new projects.

Byfleet sustainability initiatives



Hansa's vision is that residents are supported in their desire to live more sustainably by ensuring that relevant existing and planned initiatives are made more visible and that new initiatives evolve.



Existing projects in the village include, the recycling of scrunchable plastic by the Co-op and the quarterly village litter picks organised jointly by a number of village groups. These litter picks compliment the regular litter pick done by the Byfleet Angling Association along parts of the River Wey in Byfleet.

The Residents' Association's Free Seed Share Scheme and Orchard Project as well as the Community Gardening Group starting in 2024 fit well with the nature of this Sustainability Project. The village has two thriving allotment communities, as well as 'Pretty and Pre-loved' (The Matthew Hackney Foundation's 'good as new' shop). A Community Fridge is being planned and volunteers sought. The plan is to set up the Community Fridge in St Mary's Centre for the Community and it will be open to all residents in the interests of reducing food waste in our village.

Examples of new projects which were discussed at Hansa's first project meeting, include:

- A Repair Café: www.wokingenvironmentaction.com/events/woking-repair-cafe
- Zero Waste and Refill Outlet
- Incredible Edible: www.incredibleedible.org.uk. Turning disused land into sources of healthy food
- Byfleet Sustainability Hub (an aspiration for physical premises in which information about sustainability-related projects would be available and where volunteers could meet)
- Byfleet podcast on eco-friendly living

How can you get involved?

Anyone who is interested in being part of the project is warmly welcome and invited to contact Hansa Pankhania www.hansapankhania.com/about-me. She looks forward to hearing from you.

Article by The Byfleet Sustainability Initiative Team



FREE SEEDS FROM MARCH 2024 PLEASE DONATE YOUR UNWANTED SEEDS TOO!



FREE SEEDS AVAILABLE TO COLLECT FROM AND DONATE AT:

- The Byfleet Community Library, Plough Green, Byfleet
- St Mary's Centre for the Community, Stream Close, Byfleet
- The West Byfleet Community Library, Rosemount Avenue, West Byfleet

Village children enjoyed packeting harvested seeds for planting in the spring at the Christmas Market at the Byfleet Village Hall.



If you would like to be involved in the scheme, please contact vrb@the-residents.org.

Article by Eleanor Grady



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Illuminating Pyrford: A Festive Night to Remember



The rain couldn't dampen the community spirit in Pyrford on 7th December as crowds gathered at Marshall Parade to witness the inaugural switch-on event of the Christmas lights. The air was filled with the spiced scent of mulled wine (supplied by [Village Vintners](#)), delicious sausage rolls (supplied by Graham Taylor Butchers), and the enchanting voices of the Show Choir creating a magical atmosphere that lifted spirits despite the wet weather.



By the time the trees twinkled to life at 7pm, approximately 200 Pyrford residents had braved the cold to be a part of this community event. The Pear Tree café, which had opened late especially, sold out of mince pies, and made more hot chocolates than ever before, the mulled wine sadly also ran out as the scale of support for the event extended far beyond our expectations.

This heartwarming celebration was made possible by the dedicated efforts of various community entities. I had the initial concept for the Christmas lights about a year ago when talking to residents ahead of local elections, but it wasn't until around September this year that I began to put the plan into motion together with Cllr Peter Graves.

Our Residents' Association played a pivotal role in turning this vision into reality. Their generosity and commitment to enhancing the quality of life in Pyrford were evident in their substantial donation towards the Christmas lights project. Their contribution, along with support from Pyrford & Wisley Village Show, Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum, The Parish of Wisley with Pyrford, The Pear Tree, Village

Vintners, Direct Electric, Graham Turner Pyrford Butcher, and Suzanne's Hair and Beauty, formed the backbone of this memorable event. I'd also



like to thank all those who donated personally towards the event via our Just Giving page. The success of this event serves as a testament to what can be achieved when a community is led in a shared purpose. Looking ahead, I am eager to make this an annual tradition, and urge residents to join the newly established



Facebook group ([@PyrfordChristmasLights](#)) for future updates.

In reflecting on the event, I'd like to share a poignant moment when a long-time resident saw me at the event, she said "I've lived here for 50 years, and it has never looked so nice."

Article by Chris Martin,
Local Councillor



Sinfonia event in St Mary's Church Hall



Sinfonia event in St Mary's Church Hall



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Suspicious Activity Portal

Surrey residents can submit any video footage (e.g., CCTV, dashcam, doorbell footage) and photographs which show suspicious activity e.g., someone seems to be scoping out properties/looking in cars. The portal is for local incidents where no crime has been reported but which could potentially be related to a burglary or vehicle theft. Surrey Police will review the footage.

Please click on the relevant borough in which the video or photography was captured to submit your footage.

www.surrey.police.uk/police-forces/surrey-police/areas/campaigns/suspicious-activity-portal

Crime Update

Woking Police remains committed to addressing key issues within the community, focusing on strategic priorities aimed at enhancing public safety and fostering collaboration to problem-solve the issues that cause the greatest harm in our communities.



In 2023, several noteworthy initiatives have been undertaken, showcasing our proactive approach to policing.

We identified anti-social behaviour, particularly in Byfleet and West Byfleet as a significant concern for residents. As a result, we took intelligence-led action against 18-year-old Bradley Austin. Austin was involved in multiple vehicle thefts and burglaries, highlighting the police's commitment to addressing both symptoms and root causes of anti-social behaviour.



The arrest showcases the efficacy of intelligence-led strategies in creating a safer community environment. He was sentenced to three and a half years in prison in November 2023.

To combat vehicle anti-social behaviour, we worked with the Vanguard Team to organise a campaign to target this issue. This specialized unit focuses on high-impact interventions, utilizing their expertise to address emerging issues swiftly. These interventions resulted in several positive outcomes across two nights, including the seizure of three mopeds and one e-scooter, two arrests, and two section 59 warnings which are issued when a vehicle is driven in an anti-social manner. If the vehicle or driver offends again this means their vehicle can be seized. By dedicating resources to address anti-social behaviour, we aim to send a clear message that such behaviour will not be tolerated.

Introduced this year, the Positive Futures project focuses on crime prevention through collaborative problem-solving. Aimed at building trust between police and young people, the project empowers them to develop strategies to prevent low-level crime. The project involves a cohort of young people working with local partners to identify and solve local problems. Supported by mentors, the project includes a learning consolidation process and academic evaluation by Surrey University, measuring success in terms of responses, implementation and effectiveness, as well as their impact on young people's views and trust in the police.

Eleven students from Bishop David Brown School worked for eleven weeks, addressing anti-social behaviour issues in Alpha Road Playing Fields. Solutions proposed include new signage with clear rules, defensive planting to deter trespassing, new bins with voting cigarette butt bins to discourage littering, and consideration for benches to encourage community use. The project incorporates collaboration between Woking Police, Woking Borough Council and Maybury and Sheerwater community.

Another notable community engagement initiative is the introduction of the Shop Watch program. Encouraging collaboration between police and local businesses, this initiative urges shops to enhance security measures. By signing up for Shop Watch, businesses demonstrate a commitment to working collectively to prevent and address criminal activities. This initiative contributes to creating a more connected and vigilant community, benefitting individual businesses, and strengthening overall security.

Other local successes include the arrest of an individual responsible for widespread graffiti across West Surrey. He has been bailed pending further investigation. The graffiti caused permanent damage to shop windows and walls. This proactive approach demonstrates the police's commitment to preserving the community's aesthetics and discouraging criminal activities.

We have also conducted several warrants this year including drugs, firearms, and chemical warrants. A warrant conducted earlier in December led to the arrest of a male for possession with intent to supply class A and B drugs, possession of an offensive weapon and possession of an imitation firearm.

Another success is the successful closure of approximately ten properties this year due to the impact the anti-social behaviour was having on the residents in the community.

There are two stages. The first is a Closure Notice- for up to 24 hours, issued by the council or police. The second is a Closure Order- for up to 6 months, issued by a court.

It is a criminal offence to enter or remain on the premises without reasonable excuse. Closures can be partial (where the resident/s can still attend the address) or full (where no one can attend the address).

We are also actively addressing the critical issue of violence against women through targeted initiatives and community engagement. We have been working to enhance street-level safety through increased patrols in vulnerable areas. By combining proactive law enforcement measures with community collaboration, we are dedicated to fostering an environment where women feel safer and more protected from violence.

In summary, our various policing initiatives in 2023 reflect a commitment to proactive, intelligence-led policing, addressing various community concerns. The success in apprehending Bradley Austin, the positive outcomes of targeted operations against anti-social behaviour, and collaborative projects like Shop Watch and Positive Futures contribute to creating a safer and more secure community in Woking.



Our priorities for 2024 are to continue to build trust and confidence in the community, to work effectively and efficiently internally, to ensure residents feel safe in their own homes, to continue to engage with our communities, to maintain Woking as a safe area for women and girls, to continue problem solving the issues that matter most to our communities, to continue to target anti-social behaviour and to work to prevent residential burglaries.

*Article by Borough Commander
Inspector Sandra Carlier*



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Fitness, Fun and Friendship at LCA Fitness & Dance!

Building a Career with Higgins at Botanical Place, West Byfleet

Higgins Partnerships has been appointed by Retirement Villages Group (RVG) for the design and build of Botanical Place in West Byfleet, a flagship integrated retirement community. The development consists of 197 retirement apartments plus a cinema screening room, a fully equipped gym and a wellness centre, and other amenities for the wider community to enjoy. Botanical Place will also offer a new community space and a multi-level public car park.

Higgins Partnerships is pleased with the progress so far. Although the weather is always a challenge, we are well underway and on track with our revised programme. Like many in West Byfleet, we are looking forward to completing the next phases when other exciting elements of the integrated retirement community, such as the terraced gardens and landscaped green spaces, the shops, cafés, and restaurant, as well as the public square, all start to take shape.

Of course, as a community developer we are also committed to creating local employment and training opportunities. We recruited



George, a local resident, in November 2023. He is now a Bricklaying Level 3 Apprentice. He is supported by our partnership with CoTrain, a local apprenticeship training agency.

George grew up near Thames Ditton in Surrey and obtained GCSE qualifications at Hinchley Wood Secondary School, always wanted a trade-based job in the construction industry. An enthusiastic self-starter, he made sure he had the right qualifications to progress into a managerial position in the near future. George has this to say, *“The construction industry is always expanding. It provides job security and gives me a sense of purpose with responsibility. I enjoy being a bricklayer.”*

George’s experiences in retail as a sales assistant and selling LPG cylinders for a gas company supported him while studying at Brooklands College, where he obtained his Level 1 and 2 Diploma in Bricklaying. He is now well on his way to a Level 3 apprenticeship, attending East Surrey College once a week. George earns the National Living Wage and gets real-life work experience as part of the team at Botanical Place. In two years’, he will be a fully qualified bricklayer.

Off-site supervisors give George valuable mentoring while the Botanical Place site team oversee his career and skills progression. George already acknowledges his progress, highlighting *“working as part of a team, listening, communicating and being efficient at work”*. These are key, transferrable skills, the foundations of a successful career and the first steps in our training programme.

Communication is key to working effectively on site. This is where George’s mentors help. As George says, *“my mentors have been very helpful, encouraging me to ask questions to better understand tasks. They are mentoring me throughout the process.”*

Richie Bolton, senior projects manager and Hayley Hussey, site administrator shared, *“It feels so energizing to have young, up and coming, keen-to-learn apprentices onsite. This approach also means our site team has the opportunity to pass on their vast wisdom, knowledge and experience, which is so*



important for the whole construction sector.

“We are delighted to be providing George with this apprenticeship opportunity and look forward to seeing him continue to develop as a bricklayer.”

Higgins Partnership has work experience opportunities available and will also be recruiting more local West Byfleet residents into trade apprenticeship opportunities throughout the development including carpentry, dry lining, plumbing, electrical and painting and decorating. If you know anyone interested in any of these opportunities, please enquire now by emailing: CSR@higginspartnerships.co.uk.

For more information about Higgins please visit: www.higginspartnerships.co.uk

Article by Devia Barker, Senior Social Value Coordinator at Higgins Partnerships



And Also The Trees

Once completed, Botanical Place will be home to 50% more mature trees than before. Aside from the new homes, the shops, public square and community spaces, Botanical Place will provide a natural habitat for a variety of trees, shrubs, bushes and other plants as well as many species of fauna.

Sustainability is key. The aesthetic objectives must survive today's climate. Trees will frame the development, creating an instant dominance of green which appears established. The tree layout strategy reinforces the concept and discrete spaces created across the site. The new trees will be semi mature and robust on planting and then carefully nurtured to ensure they grow and thrive.

We have opted for mostly native and indigenous species including fruit trees, flower-bearing species and those that benefit on-site fauna, creating a wildlife corridor with nesting, foraging and roosting opportunities.

Perhaps inspired by Albert Camus, who said, "Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower" many of our trees will bring vibrant joy through the seasons.

Style and Substance

The public square boasts a 'coppice' of deciduous *Carpinus Betulus* (Common



Liquidambar Styraciflua Tree

Hornbeam), creating a woodland style setting with leaves turning yellow in the autumn followed by hop-like fruiting catkins. Making a statement, an elegant *Acer Freemanii* (Freeman maple Autumn Blaze) will be a point of focus. A fast-growing, large tree turning bright orange-red in autumn, its silvery-grey bark contrasts wonderfully with the foliage and provides winter interest.

Raised planters on either side of the square

will hold the smaller *Amelanchier lamarckii* (snowy mespilus). Their attractive white flowers become bird-friendly berries that are red to dark purple to black and their leaves turn orange and red in autumn.

A row of *Ginkgo biloba 'Fastigiata'* (maidenhair tree) will decorate Old Woking Road. This conical, deciduous tree has unique green fan-shaped leaves emerging in March that turn yellow in autumn. Referred to as the 'Fossil Tree', it dates back to the Jurassic period. They are very pollution resistant: ideal for busy roads. Station Approach will be animated by a row of *Prunus avium 'Plena'* (Double gean), a deciduous tree with profuse pure white double flowers in pendulous clusters and its green leaves turn red and orange in autumn, while the bark provides a year-round interest.

People arriving via Station Approach, or the corner of Old Woking Road and Lavender Park Road will be greeted by the amazing *Liquidambar styraciflua* (Sweet Gum), one at each corner. A grand tree, conical in nature with glossy leaves turning from shades of orange, crimson and purple in autumn, this flamboyant tree will brighten West Byfleet.

Beneath the Canopy

The shrub planting strategy will create a sense of place for people and wildlife. Naturally low maintenance, and robust, the plants will be low growing, wildlife-friendly species improving biodiversity and significantly softening the aspect of the development.

Chosen for movement and flow, the plants provide a softened, green and colourful palette for all year-round interest. Simple linear bands of grasses, shrubs and ferns will be interspersed with perennials and bulbs picked based on scent and colour through the seasons.

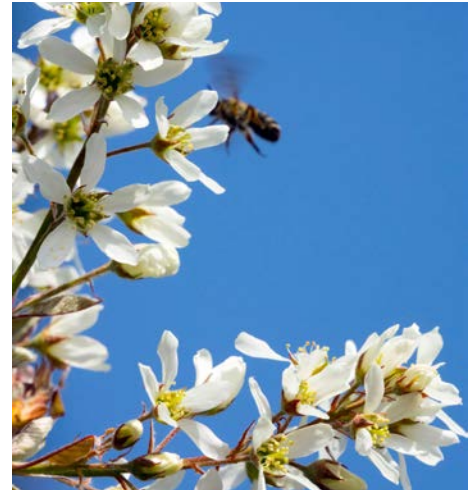
Biophilia in Practice

Research has shown that exposure to trees can also provide a multitude of physical and mental health benefits. There is science to back this up. Angeli Ganoo-Fletcher, director of landscape at PRP Architects explained, "The answer lies in airborne chemicals, called phytoncides, which plants emit to fend off insects. When we breathe in the phytoncides, we produce a type of white blood cells which kill tumour and virus-infected cells in our bodies and strengthen our immune system."

"Other studies show how exposure to trees reduces stress-related hormones such as cortisol and adrenaline, resulting in a more balanced, positive mood."

Improving Biodiversity

Of course, while the trees will be good for people, tree-planting will also lead to increased biodiversity and wildlife conservation in West Byfleet. Botanical Place will become a mosaic of vibrant new habitats for a more bio-diverse



Snowy Mespilus Tree

community, including migratory birds, bats and pollinating species such as moths and bees. This approach is a real boost for West Byfleet's contribution to efforts to tackle existential concerns such as food security, climate change and air quality.

Visit Retirement Village West Byfleet | Botanical Place (retirementvillages.co.uk), email info@sheerhousedevlopment.co.uk or scan the QR code for more information.

Article by Terry Unitt,
Senior Project Manager at Retirement Villages Group




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Noel Richardson
Director

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Launching
Spring
2024



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Modern one & two bedroom apartments and terraced gardens live alongside shops, cafés and restaurants, all anchored around a central public square in the heart of West Byfleet.

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Thrive Living
by Retirement Villages

A Bright Year Ahead at Broadoaks Park

With the new year in full swing, the Octagon team are feeling refreshed, with the final stretch of works now underway at Broadoaks Park. The rapid progression of the parkland estate means only a small number of homes are still under construction and available to purchase, with a fantastic community now thriving.

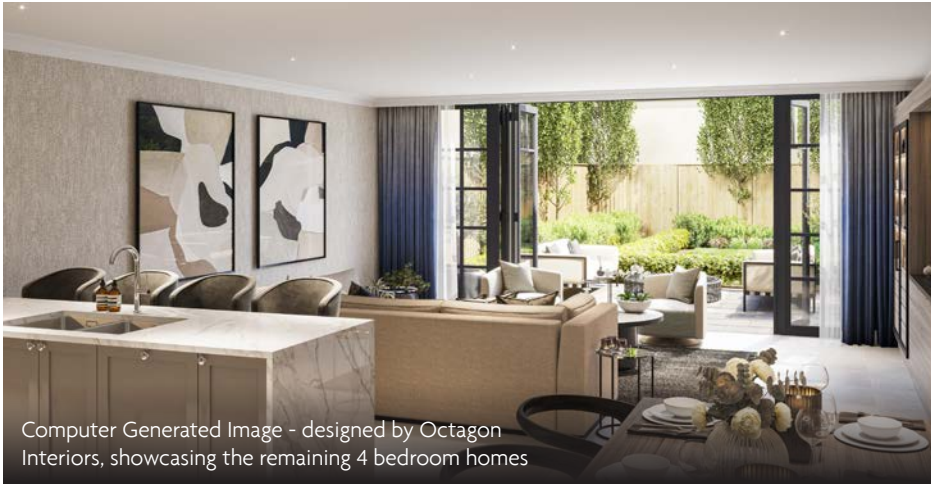
Comprising beautifully restored and converted homes alongside stunning new build houses and apartments, Broadoaks Park is set in 25 acres, with vast areas of communal green spaces for residents to enjoy. Coupled with West Byfleet's efficient links into the capital, it is no surprise the development has ignited excitement with prospective clients.

The luxury developer is delighted to announce that this year will see the launch of the Grade II Listed Mansion House, a significant landmark within the development. Thanks to the extensive expertise of Octagon's in-house



both the public and Broadoaks Park residents. We are working to restore and replicate the property in a way that reflects and enhances its impressive past yet provide all the essentials for modern day living.

we look forward to welcoming future clients to Broadoaks Park. The overwhelming popularity for properties has been great to see, and with the last remaining homes available to purchase, it is the final opportunity for buyers to secure a home here."



Computer Generated Image - designed by Octagon Interiors, showcasing the remaining 4 bedroom homes

Community living is at the core of Broadoaks Park; from the picturesque 'village green' to communal lawns and a children's LEAP play area.

Offering some festive fun in December, Octagon created a 'Festive Foragers' event for the families at Broadoaks Park. With a map of the development and hidden figures to find, children were tasked with locating them all, to receive a gift from under the Christmas from the Sales Suite.

Guide prices for the final homes at Broadoaks Park start from £750,000 for a two-bedroom apartment. The Sales Suite is open Monday – Friday 10am – 4pm.

team, the historic building, dating back to 1876, will now house two expansive five and six-bedroom homes, retaining and meticulously restoring as much of its 19th-century charm as possible. Octagon is working to preserve original features, while modernising to offer open-plan living spaces and high-quality specification, seamlessly blending classic and contemporary design.

Alongside the completion of the Mansion House, a limited number of two-to-six-bedroom homes are available, with guide prices starting from £750,000 - the last chance for prospective buyers to purchase a home at this exclusive Surrey estate.

Tim Banks, CEO of The Octagon Group comments, "The Octagon team is looking forward to revealing the Mansion House, a remarkable project that has generated significant interest and enthusiasm among

It has been great to see the community that has formed at the development already, and

Article by Kate Geraghty, Octagon's Group Marketing Manager



Computer Generated Image - Plots 23-29



BROADOAKS PARK

WEST BYFLEET



Computer Generated Image - Plots 16-20

SURREY'S EXCLUSIVE COUNTRY ESTATE

FINAL PHASE NOW AVAILABLE

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, with the final remaining homes offering a collection of 2-bedroom apartments and 3, 4 and 5 bedroom houses.

SALES SUITE OPEN - VIEWING BY APPOINTMENT

Guide Prices from £750,000

BROADOAKSPARK.CO.UK



020 8481 7500 | OCTAGON.CO.UK

M25 J10-11 Resurfacing Action Group

The M25 J10-11 resurfacing action group held a meeting last November with National Highways, Connect Plus and our Woking MP Jonathan Lord to discuss the current M25 Southwest Quadrant Pavement Strategy progress.

The committee, chaired by Councillor Amanda Boote, were excited to hear that the latest trial between junction 8-9 on the M25 to test



how well the new techniques would work had begun and was proving successful in reducing the noise levels.

The trial involves removing the old damaged concrete edges with a specialised machine, filling the gaps with a new bespoke epoxy-based concrete which is a newly developed hardened concrete manufactured in the US and then using a grinding machine to provide a new quieter surface, (this new grinding technique was trialled on the M1 from 2018 to 2022).

Representatives from National Highways and Connect Plus talked the committee through the working stages of the M25 trial explaining the difficulties, the testing to be carried out and the hopeful timescales in which they wish to achieve the work. They said that they were working in collaboration with the M25 Junction 10/A3 Wisley Interchange project team to both utilise planned closures on the network where possible and were hopeful to start the work in 2024 moving into 2025. The work would be carried out at night to cause the least disruption to commuters and residents.

*Article by the M25 Action Group Team
The full article can be seen published in the Woking News and Mail of 7th December 2023.*

Councillors are scrutinising council plans seriously

On top of being a proud local councillor for Byfleet and West Byfleet, I am also the current Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Woking Council.

I want to give a brief insight and more importantly, reassurance, that I along with other members of the council are working to ensure that the council's current proposals are efficiently and successfully challenged and scrutinised.

The main objective of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to hold the Executive to account by enhancing accountability and transparency of decision-making. This is done through unique powers with the power to challenge, scrutinise and review all decisions of the council. The committee has met every month following the council's Section 114 Notice (unable to balance the books) and has extensively dived into the detail of the council's plans to cut services delivered by the council.

I was very pleased to welcome officials from Citizens Advice Woking and Woking Community Transport to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, where councillors had the opportunity to highlight and ensure that the Council had considered the very real impact of service cuts to these very important organisations to residents in Byfleet, West Byfleet, Pyrford and across Woking.

Woking Council has never faced such challenging times, which makes the importance of scrutinising and constructively challenging proposals never more important. Together with the committee of ten, we are continually forensically looking at proposals presented by the council and acting as a 'critical friend' to the council and committed to ensuring that council policies are fit-for-purpose.

In past years, the council failed in providing effective scrutiny, and with the council formulating new proposals and cuts to our services, it is absolutely vital that the Overview and Scrutiny, alongside councillors from all parties work together and ensure that in coming months and years, the Council and its policies are scrutinised effectively and transparently, as WBC works to put itself back onto the right path.

If you have any questions or suggestions for items to be scrutinised you can contact me at cllrjosh.brown@woking.gov.uk.

*Councillor Josh Brown,
Byfleet and West Byfleet*



77th Pyrford and Wisley Village Show, Saturday 13th July

Happy New Year everyone. I hope you all had a great time over the holiday season.

It doesn't seem possible that in less than 6 months we will be holding our 77th Pyrford and

Wisley Village Show on Saturday 13th July at the Pyrford Cricket Ground. This year's theme is 'The Big Top', which we are sure will generate lots of creative entries in our Junior, Domestic & Handicraft and Horticulture sections.

As well as providing the community with a fantastic day of entertainment and fun, the show aims to raise funds for local groups. On behalf of the committee, Jonathan Lord MP presented donations during our AGM held at The Church of the Good Shepherd on Thursday 30th November to:- the Woking Mayor's charity The Friends of Woking Community, Woking Foodbank in Byfleet, Pyrford Little Theatre and Pyrford Christmas Lights.

We have lots planned for you this year! In the Show Arena 'The Black Eagles' will headline, an exciting African acrobatic display team. We are also excited to welcome back Prime Acrobatics, Julie Sianne Theatre Art and Pyrford Little Theatre.

In addition to the arena events there will be live music throughout the day and into the evening, as well as the usual attractions on the show ground, including a wide range of stalls and refreshments. Our headline act for the evening is a tribute to Queen. As we finalise our plans for the show more details will be added to our website, and so please check-in regularly or alternatively follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pyrfordvillage.

Although our 2023 show was a great success we did struggle with volunteers to help with the setup on the day and take down after the show. I am concerned that it will again be difficult to run this year's show without more people stepping forward. There are lots of tasks that we need help with, such as parking coordination, gate takings, setting up tables and chairs etc. If you are able to spare a couple of hours then please either contact our volunteers organiser, Devon Coutts (devoncoutts01@gmail.com), please sign up on our website www.pyrfordvillageshow.com. We also still have a couple of vacancies on our committee and so if you would like to join this energetic and enthusiastic team then please contact me.

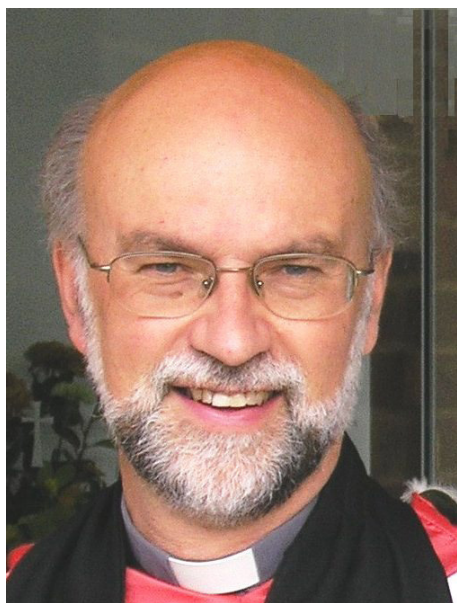
Looking forward to seeing you all again in July, and so please save the date.

*John Attrill,
Chair, Pyrford & Wisley Village Show
Email: johnattrill@hotmail.com
Telephone: 07900 145783*



Parish Rector to Retire

After 30 years' service as the Rector of the Parish of Wisley with Pyrford the Reverend Canon Nicholas Aiken BA MA will shortly retire from the ministry. His last service will be at 10am on 14 April in the Church of the Good Shepherd, Pyrford.



Nicholas trained for the ministry at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford and following his ordination in June 1982 at Guildford Cathedral, his first appointment was as a Curate for 4 years in St George's and St Giles's churches in Ashted. This was followed by serving as the Diocesan Youth Officer in the Diocese of Guildford between 1986 and 1993 after which he took charge of the Parish of Wisley with Pyrford which comprises three churches, The Church of the Good Shepherd and St Nicholas' in Pyrford, and the church in Wisley.

His time in the parish has seen many changes. Pyrford Primary School became a church aided school which helped to forge a close relationship between the church and the school. The facilities in the Church of the Good Shepherd have been extended and modernised, helping to make the church a home for many community groups and organisations. Adjacent to St Nicholas', The Old School Room - which was the first school in the village - was restored

and is now a valuable community asset.

Nicholas oversees the many community services provided by the parish including, amongst other events, the Friday morning Coffee Shop at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Helping Others which provides drivers for those needing transport to hospital appointments, Sunday lunches and Down Memory Lane, a monthly service which includes tea - a forum for anyone and everyone but it is particularly suitable for those who are elderly or coping with dementia. There are regular meetings for Women's Forum and God's Girls. For men there is the Newark Group and a Men's Curry Night (both dinners with guest speakers); there are also many and varied activities for the young people of all ages in the parish.

Nicholas has guided the selection of the charities supported by the parish including the Shepherds Market, a fund - raising charity fair

which takes place every November.

As a large parish Wisley with Pyrford is a useful training environment for Curates before they move on to lead their own parishes. During his 30 years here, Nicholas has been responsible for training and developing ten Curates. He also has found time to write a number of books.

Able supported by his wife Hilary, Nicholas has made an invaluable contribution to the church and the community over 30 years. He will be greatly missed by all.

In consultation with the parish's Parochial Church Counsel, his successor will be appointed by the Diocese of Guildford in due course.

Article by Eldon Sandys

Puzzle Corner

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West Byfleet Health Centre

There still appears to be confusion over our use of clinics located at the Woking Community Hospital. I wanted to reassure our patients that these clinics are not part of the Woking Walk-In service. We have commissioned extra capacity at the Community Hospital for GP, physio and respiratory appointments as part of our extended access programme.

As a patient, if you are offered an appointment in one of these clinics, please be aware we are not sending you there to sit and wait. The appointment given to you is a timed appointment with a GP who has access to your clinical record and is there to help with any acute problem.

Although we are accessing some additional GP capacity in Woking, I would also like to highlight that a number of new clinics have been added in the Health Centre to

accommodate our patients locally and these include an Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Clinical pharmacists, a dietician service as well as long-running services including Echocardiograms, Pelvic ultrasound and Pelvic Physiotherapy.

I also wanted to continue to promote the use of the NHS App for access to our services. NHS Digital are constantly working to make this App more user friendly and there has been numerous updates over the last few months. The App can be used for your prescriptions, appointment requests, trusted NHS advice and to view your medical records. Of course, if you do not want to use such technology you can find information through your practice website or by telephone.

Lastly, just in case some of our patients were not aware but Cohens, the only Chemist in West Byfleet, has moved out of the Health Centre. They are now located in Unit 1, Lodge House, Station Approach (next to the exit of

our car park). They will continue to be open Mondays to Fridays 8.30am to 6.00pm.


Liz Reynolds,
Practice Manager

WBHC 3 GP Practices have updated the ways Patients can request a GP appointment.

The changes are in response to the latest Government NHS directive and NHS APP upgrade to ensure patients are directed to the most appropriate healthcare professional and appointments for those with the highest/most complex needs are prioritised by GPs.

Below is a step by step guide to 4 different options available to request a GP appointment including a set of top tips.

Carol Leong-Son
RA Health and Wellbeing Officer



4 ways to request a GP appointment at WBHC

Monday - Friday

| NHS App | GP Website | Phone | In person |
|--|--|--|--|
| WF 08:30 - 18:00 MM 08:00 - 12:00 PB 08:00 - 17:00 | WF 08:00 - 18:00 MM 08:00 - 12:00 PB 08:00 - 17:00 | 08:30 - 18:30 | 08:30 - 18:30 |
| Login | Load your GP Website | Ring your GP Practice | Visit your GP Practice |
| Click Services (blue banner at bottom of screen) | Click Request or cancel an appointment | The receptionist will fill in your request form for you. (You will be asked the same medical and personal questions as the on-line request forms) | The receptionist will fill in your request form for you. (You will be asked the same medical and personal questions as the on-line request forms) |
| Click Contact your GP about a health problem | Click Request an appointment | | |
| Scroll past all the emergency messages. Click I confirm, none of these are present | Scroll down. Click Request an appointment using an online form | | |
| Complete the medical request form. Press Continue. Click Myself. Press Continue. | Click Medical request | | |
| Check your details are correct. Fill in missing items | Scroll past the emergency messages. Click None of these are present | | |
| Review. Click Submit Request | Complete the medical issue form. Press Continue. Click Myself. Press Continue. | | |
| | Add your personal details. Press Continue | | |
| | Review. Click Submit Request | | |


Please use the NHS App or GP website to request appointments if you are able.

This frees the telephone lines for those who genuinely can't use technology or don't have access to it.


Updated January 2024

KEY

PB - Parish Bridges
WF - Wey Family
MM - Madeira Medical



Appointments at WBHC - Useful information and tips



GP Practice website addresses / phone numbers

| | Website | Phone |
|-----------------|--|--------------|
| Madeira Medical | madeirammedical.nhs.uk | 01932 340484 |
| Parishes Bridge | parishesbridgemedicalpractice.nhs.uk | 01932 336933 |
| Wey Family | weyfamilypractice.nhs.uk | 01932 336880 |

Appointment requests outside of your GP's hours of operation can not be actioned. Please either:

- Submit your request on the following day
- Visit Woking Walk in Centre
- Call 111
- Visit the Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) at St Peter's hospital
- Go to A&E (if your issue is an emergency)

Non urgent / routine / regular appointment requests can be requested in advance. Please indicate:

- By when you need the appointment,
- What the appointment is for,
- Which healthcare professional advised you to request it (if appropriate).

What happens after you have requested a GP appointment?

- A GP will triage your request. You will be sent a text link to book an appointment slot.
- Your appointment may be face to face or telephone, with a GP or another healthcare professional
- If you need to be seen on the same day, you may receive a phone call (may show as 'no caller id, withheld or private')

Telephone appointments

- If you've been offered a telephone appointment, you can choose a morning (08:30 - 13:00) or afternoon slot (14:00 - 18:00). You may be called at anytime within your slot.
- If you miss a call twice, you will be asked to rebook the appointment.

NHS App login advice

- If your device supports it, set up fingerprint or facial recognition on the app.
- This removes the need to login with your email address and password (and sometimes a code sent to your device). To set up:
 - In the NHS app click more (three dots top right hand side of the screen)
 - Click account and settings,
 - For Face ID, Click Face ID
 - Use the "log in with Face ID" toggle button and follow instructions.
- If you prefer to use a laptop or desktop computer:
 - Type NHS login into your browser. In the drop down menu click on <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/online-services/nhs-login>
 - Click login at the 'access your NHS account' message.
 - Use this as you would your NHS app

Page 2 of 2
Updated January 2024

As your Member of Parliament, I want to take this opportunity to give an update on my work to support Woking and, more specifically, Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford.

First, I share the continued priorities of local residents wanting to ensure that we see the return of another pharmacy and another Post Office at the Botanical Place redevelopment. I was pleased to hear that Cohen's pharmacy have recently expanded into new premises along Station Approach, West Byfleet, which should allow for greater capacity and I hope this will mean an increase in opening hours too. I continue to be in close contact with the redevelopment team for Botanical Place and if any resident has any question or concerns, please do email me.



Jonathan Lord MP with Stewart Dick, Chair of the RA and Sandra Smook of Silver Friends

It is always a pleasure to join resident groups from across the three villages and I would like to mention just a couple of stand-out occasions that I attended recently.

I was delighted to join Silver Friends, a local not-for-profit charity that was born out of a passion to serve the older community and to ensure that no one should have to suffer through loneliness and isolation, for a well-being event in West Byfleet. It was great to chat with members of this amazing charity.



Jonathan Lord MP with the Pyrford Brownies

It was also a pleasure to visit the 2nd Pyrford Brownies at the Abor Centre and meet many lively Brownies. We discussed my role as Woking's Member of Parliament and the girls put forward several important issues that they want me to focus on going forward! The girls were particularly interested which celebrities

and members of the Royal Family I have met, and it was clear that several of them would make excellent MPs in about 30 years' time! More widely, residents across Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford will hopefully be pleased to hear that I have delivered on my campaign to deliver a NEW direct bus service to Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals, with a new 446 service direct from Woking.



Jonathan outside the new 446 Bus Service from Woking to Ashford Hospital

I want to say a massive thank you and well done to Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and to White Bus for listening to residents and for delivering this revised route. I have no doubt that it will be a great success.

Over 3,000 local people backed my petition and campaign for this service and it will be of huge benefit to thousands more. It is particularly important given the increasing numbers of medical appointments that have been taking place at Ashford Hospital since Covid.

There has never been a more pressing time to improve the public transport network to our main local hospitals. Taxis to Ashford Hospital can be as expensive as £30 each way – so just one hospital appointment can cost upwards of £60 in terms of travel expense. For many, this cost is simply not affordable, and yet the previous public transport journey could take well over an hour.

This new 446 service is already working extremely well and of course I will be on the lookout for any chance to extend this service, or a similar service, to each of our villages here in the east of the borough.

Many will be aware that I have also recently helped to secure, and to double the funding for, a new state-of-the-art diagnostic hub at Woking Community Hospital. I am pleased to say that work is well underway to get this brand new facility opened this year. This new diagnostic centre will save residents more than 30,000 trips a year to St. Peter's and Ashford Hospitals for a range of diagnostic tests, including CT, MRI, bone density, ultrasound and audiology.

In the meantime, I will also keep working very closely with key members of this Residents' Association as we seek better and easier access to our local GPs. Further meetings are being planned at the West Byfleet Health Centre.

I wish everyone well for the rest of 2024 and I look forward to attending many events across

Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford in the weeks and months ahead.

And as always, you can contact me with any issue or concern at jonathan.lord.mp@parliament.uk



Jonathan Lord at the Botanical Place construction site

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A century of local stories told on video - made by the RA in 1999 for 2000

In the year of the 25th Anniversary of the making of the millennium video, we thought our readers might like to be reminded of how the video came about and its content.



The BWPRA produced the 'Our Three Villages' video in 1999 to celebrate the new Millennium. The project was supported by Woking Borough Council.

It was a year's work in 1999 by a small team. It was a labour of love of our villages and a desire to document and pass on this love to future generations.

The result of the RA's project was, as the video sleeve says, 'to See life in OUR THREE VILLAGES captured by the camera. Watch people today approaching the new millennium in their work and play. Share an affectionate miscellany of memories and events of bygone days in Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford that touch our heritage and have made our part of Surrey famous. [...] This unique video portrays the dramatic transformation of a rural area into a centre of excellence in engineering, orthopaedic treatment and communications (Heathrow and M25) within the Twentieth Century.'

The Residents' Association set up a 'Millennium Sub-committee' which comprised the following volunteers:

Joint Producers – Jackie Sotheran and Maurice Goddard (Chairman)

Directors and camera team – Barbara and Arthur Provis

Scriptwriter – Jane Pearce

Joint secretaries – Annabelle and Richard Peters

Narrators – Gill Mills and Ronald Paine

Artwork- Ian Adam

Financial Director – Lloyd Koch

Sales Director – Donald Fox

RA Village Representatives also supported the team. These were Howard Cook, Canon Philip Gardner, Gill Mills, Ron Summers, Ruth Minett and Dr Bryn Morgan. Our readers will recognise many of these names.

How did those involved go about producing the video?

Jane Pearce, Barbara and Arthur Provis formed a close team to research archives, interview

residents, film our villages and script the narration for the video. They made the video themselves in the Provis' workshop at home.



They interviewed village men and women from all walks of life and gathered recollections from the previous 100 years and residents' photographs of their childhood or that of previous generations.

Jane and Barbara said 'The Association presented us with a blank sheet- a video of 60 minutes [...] There was no easy route to achieve an exact balance of past and present in the three villages. We prophesied that the problem would not be what to put in the hour's video, but what we would have to leave out.' 'For nearly a year, life has been full of surprises- to learn more about the area we live in and making new friends.'

They wrote 'The ways of life are changing and it is believed that a year's filming and script will become a visual part of our heritage [...] showing that our villages retained stability and [...] demonstrating by film and script some habitual events that go back to the early days of this century.'

They were invited to television studios and radio stations to be interviewed about the project.

What was captured on film and in voice?



Among much more, the following are included:

- A walkabout around each village showing important features including each of our churches and many little-known facts about them
- The importance of our waterways
- A brief history of some of our large, previously family-owned houses and of land donated by wealthy landowners for the benefit of our communities.
- A brief history of local annual events such as the Pyrford Flower Show and Byfleet Parish Day
- Samples of village-based activities such as the Pyrford Little Theatre, the Dolls House Club.



Gemini Chorale and the Byfleet Art Group

- The importance of our Village Halls and Church Halls and annual fundraising events
- The provision of sports facilities for the younger generation, especially in the designated areas of the recreation grounds
- A visit to West Byfleet Junior School enacting a Victorian school day
- The essential role played by parish magazines, notice boards and libraries, the unique Heritage Centre in Byfleet Library
- The vision of Mr Locke-King in building the world famous Brooklands racetrack
- Vickers, its workers and their lives and the development of post-war aircraft culminating in Concorde, Brooklands Museum and retail and warehousing usage
- The story of the Tarrant Tabor Bomber - with previously unseen photographs.
- Broadoaks past and future
- The rise and evolution of the world famous Rowley Bristow Hospital, and an extraordinary cricket match played by patients with hips and elbows affected by tuberculosis
- The revolutionary collaboration between Barnes Wallis of Vickers and Rowley Bristow of the local orthopaedic hospital to design and make callipers from light-weight metal such as that used in aircraft design.
- Byfleet United Charities' successful sheltered housing project, Stoop Court.
- An epilogue by Canon Philip Gardener with footage of the Dawn Service on Easter Morning around the ruins of Newark Priory



Producers saw three items as putting our villages on the national, if not global map over the Twentieth Century. Firstly, the link between Vickers Engineering at Brooklands and The Rowley Bristow Orthopaedic Hospital – a centre of excellence previously in Pyrford. Secondly, the development of motorcycles and cars and aeroplanes at Brooklands. Thirdly, the continuation of village life and the criss-cross of local roads and waterways despite the 'overlying' of the M25.



SCHOOL IN OPEN AIR WARD, St. NICHOLAS ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL, PYRFORD, SURREY

As the ancient parish of Byfleet includes Brooklands and as 'Wisley cum Pyrford', the gems that are Brooklands and Wisley Gardens are referenced.

The project team wrote, at the time, 'At the great milestone of the Millennium we explore the day-to-day heritage that we bring to future generations including the rich history of our local churches, the timeless River Wey and [...] the patronage of Victorian landowners who helped establish some of the ways of life we now take for granted. Villagers of Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford look forward to the challenge of the 21st Century, with the inherited knowledge of past and present.' In the Epilogue, Canon Philip Gardner also focusses on the handing down of our local heritage and of the sense of hope to future generations.



1804

ST. NICHOLAS & ST. MARTIN'S ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL, PYRFORD, SURREY

PAN-AERO PICTURES KINGSTON-ON-THAMES

Whether you have seen this video or not, we hope that this article will renew your interest and pride in our villages, both past and present. We hope that we are doing justice to the generations to come as Canon Gardner suggested.

If you have a dusty copy of the 'Our Three Villages' video and wish to hand it on, the RA would be overjoyed to add your copy to its archive! If you are interested in the written records of the research done by those who made the video, we can make this available to you.

Article by Eleanor Grady
(using quotations and material by kind permission of Mrs Barbara Provis of the RA Millenium Sub-committee)

My Fight for Seema Misra and for Justice

Like so many, I have been outraged by the Post Office scandal – and I welcome the mass public outcry, and the outpourings of support for those affected sub-postmasters, since the airing of the excellent TV drama 'Mr Bates vs The Post Office'.



My own support for the sub-postmasters dates back to October 2010, when I was first contacted by Seema Misra and her husband, Davinder, shortly after Seema had been found (wrongfully!) guilty of theft. Seema was the sub-postmistress of her post office branch in West Byfleet and she had an outstanding and unblemished record of service in her local community. However, she was accused of stealing £75,000 from her own branch and was

taken to court by the Post Office.

I immediately wrote to the then Post Office Minister, Ed Davey, and went on the airwaves demanding a proper independent investigation into Horizon, the Post Office's computer system, to find out whether it might be at fault.

We now know that such an investigation would have found the Horizon system to be defective and such a finding would, in turn, have stopped this massive miscarriage of justice in its tracks. Unfortunately, my demand for such an inquiry was rebuffed by the Minister.

Over 13 subsequent years, I have accumulated an enormous file of correspondence fighting for justice for Seema Misra and from working alongside a small number of other backbench MPs to raise the alarm about the wider unfolding scandal. I pay tribute to the astonishing dignity, fortitude and resilience of both Seema and Davinder during this time.

I am pleased that the government has now announced that it intends to bring forward legislation to overturn the convictions of all those found guilty during the course of this scandal and to speed up full and proper compensation for all those affected - for me, these actions cannot come fast enough.

So let's get our sub-postmistresses properly sorted out as a matter of urgency and then

let's make sure that the key perpetrators of this scandal face the justice that they deserve. And, above all, let's make sure that a scandal like this can never happen again. As always, you can contact me with any issue or concern at jonathan.lord.mp@parliament.uk

Unusal Photos

Is Slug drinking water bubble?



Blue butterflies in the Amazon rainforest in Brazil



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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 |
|---|---|---|
| Last Saturday in the month | Return of the West Byfleet Farmers Market | Car park of 'Our Lady Help of Christians RC Church', Madeira Road |
| Saturday 24th Feb, 11am to 12.30pm | Village Litterpick | Meet on Plough Green, Byfleet |
| Saturday 20th April | Pyrford Saddle Club | Recreation ground Pyrford Common Road |
| Saturday 11th May, 11am to 12.30pm | Village Litterpick | Meet on Plough Green, Byfleet |
| Sunday 2nd June | Pyrford Saddle Club | Recreation ground Pyrford Common Road |
| Saturday 15th June | Issue 176 Publication and Drop in Byfleet Village Hall | Byfleet Village Hall |
| Saturday 13th July | Pyrford Village Show | Theme 'The Big Top' on Pyrford Cricket Field, Coldharbour Road, GU22 8ST |
| Saturday 20th July, 12.30pm | Byfleet Parish Day | Recreation Ground, Rectory Lane, KT14 7LS |
| Saturday 27th July, 11am to 12.30pm | Village Litterpick | Meet on Plough Green, Byfleet |
| Sunday 1st September | Pyrford Saddle Club | Recreation ground Pyrford Common Road |
| Saturday 19th October | Issue 177 Publication and Drop in Pyrford Arbour Centre | Pyrford Arbour Centre |
| Sunday 3rd November | Fireworks | Pyrford Lakes (Chargeable) |
| Saturday 9th November | Shepherd's Market | Church of Good Shepherd |
| Thursday 14th November, 6.30pm | Byfleet Lights Switch on | Byfleet Village Green. |
| Saturday 16th November, 11am to 12.30pm | Village Litterpick | Meet on Plough Green, Byfleet |
| Saturday 4th December, 10am to 4pm | Byfleet Village Christmas Market, Christmas gift and decoration stalls | Plough Green, Byfleet Village |
| Wednesday 4th – Saturday 7th December, 4pm to 8pm | Community Christmas Tree Festival Christmas trees decorated by local organisations including RA | St John's Church West Byfleet The Trees are being judged the day before by the Mayor of Woking |
| Saturday 7th December 10.30am | Byfleet Christmas Market | Byfleet Village Hall |
| Saturday 18th December, 12 noon to 4pm | Farmers Christmas Market A wide variety of produce and gift stalls from local, independent businesses in our community | Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Madeira Road, West Byfleet, KT14 6BH |

The Committee 2024

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Chairman | Stewart Dick | chairman@the-residents.org |
| Deputy Chairman | Ian Mason | deputychairman@the-residents.org |
| Treasurer | VACANT | treasurer@the-residents.org |
| Secretary | Lynette Davies | secretary@the-residents.org |
| Membership Secretary | VACANT | members@the-residents.org |
| Planning Coordinator | Stewart Dick | planning@the-residents.org |
| Rights of Way Officer | VACANT | footpath@the-residents.org |
| Events Coordinator | Gary Elson | events@the-residents.org |
| Newsletter Editor | Robert Munford | editor@the-residents.org |
| Advertising Manager | Robert Munford | advertising@the-residents.org |
| Website | Anita Flavell | web@the-residents.org |
| Committee Member | Sheila Carroll, David Bell | |
| Health & WellBeing Officer | Carol Leong-Son | hwo@the-residents.org |
| Environment Officer | Helen Orledge | environment@the-residents.org |

How to pay your subscriptions
The annual subscription will be £8 from 2024. If you have not yet paid your annual subscription, there are a number of ways to do so. **Please update your Standing Order to cover the increase.**

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

Andy Grimshaw,
 Pyrford Village Representative
vrb@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 "BWBPPRA".**

| 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 | Gordon Brierley | depvrp@the-residents.org |
| NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM REPRESENTATIVES | | |
| Byfleet | Andrew Weiss | See page 28 for Contact Details |
| West Byfleet | Wade Pollard | |
| Pyrford | Andy Grimshaw | |

Contacts & Information

| WOKING BOROUGH COUNCILLORS | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|--|--|
| Ward | Councillor | Party | Phone | Email | Surgeries |
| Byfleet & West Byfleet | Josh BROWN | Conservative | 07340 102891 | cldrjosh.brown@woking.gov.uk | Residents can contact Josh to arrange an 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. |
| | Daryl JORDAN | Independent | | cldraryl.jordan@woking.gov.uk | |
| Pyrford | Steve DORSETT | Conservative | 07729 829658 | cllrsteve.dorsett@woking.gov.uk www.facebook.com/CllrSteveDorsett | 1st Saturday of every month 12 noon - 2pm in the Pyrford Social Club |
| | Chris MARTIN | Liberal Democrat | 01483 363224 | CllrChris.Martin@woking.gov.uk | Last Friday of every month 9am - 11am |
| | Peter GRAVES | Liberal Democrat | 07398 596895 | cllrpeter.graves@woking.gov.uk | Church of the Good Shepherd No appointment necessary. |

| SURREY COUNTY COUNCILLORS | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| Ward | Councillor | Party | Phone | Email |
| 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 |
| 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 172, February 2023)

| RATES | | |
|--|-------------|--------------|
| Size | 1 issue (£) | 3 issues (£) |
| SINGLE (50x58mm) | 35 | 95 |
| DOUBLE (either option) (D1 - 50x124mm) (D2 - 85x58mm) | 65 | 165 |
| TREBLE (either option) (T1 - 50x189mm) (T2 - 85x124mm) | 90 | 250 |
| Full page advert | 250 | 700 |

- Newsletter produced 3 times a year (under normal circumstances)
- 28 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 18

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