

WEST HORSLEY PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



April 2020



GUILDFORD ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

www.gefweb.org.uk

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH SAYS

that climate change is humanity's greatest threat in thousands of years, that could lead to the extinction of much of the natural world. Local communities need to help counter this threat.

HOW SHOULD GUILDFORD REACT TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY?

Guildford Environmental Forum (GEF) is offering a talk and discussion on this vital subject to all parish councils and Residents' Associations in the Borough.

Henrietta Stock, who trained with Al Gore in the US, has now helped to prepare our short presentation, which we trust will spark plenty of audience discussion. Members of GEF's Climate Crisis Group will attend the talks and answer questions.

See below your opportunity to attend one of these hugely important meetings. We look forward to seeing you.

This event is postponed due to Coronavirus.

We hope to hold it in July, public health considerations permitting.

WHPC's Annual Parish Meeting - Talk

Date: Tuesday 28th April, 2020

Time: Scheduled to start after the formal part of the meeting - c 8.15pm

Location: Main Hall, West Horsley Village Hall, 95 The Street, West Horsley, KT24 6DD

Subject: How should West Horsley react to the climate emergency?



Your Parish Council

THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council holds its meetings once a month (normally on the third Tuesday) at 7.30pm in the Cedar Room.
The Public are most welcome at all its meetings.

See www.westhorsley.info for more details.

CHAIRMAN Mr Charles Hope *, e-mail: chairman@westhorsley.info
VICE-CHAIRMAN Mrs Mel Beynon, cllrbeynon@westhorsley.info

COUNCILLORS

Ms Nicola Adams, cllradams@westhorsley.info **Miss Elaine Best**, cllrbest@westhorsley.info
Mrs Vanessa Buosi, cllrbuosi@westhorsley.info **Miss Frances King**, cllrking@westhorsley.info
Mrs Sally Newman, cllrnewman@westhorsley.info **Mr Tony Rogers**, cllrrogers@westhorsley.info
Mrs Catherine Young, cllryoung@westhorsley.info

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: Mrs Sam Pinder 01483 901905, clerk@westhorsley.info

All post should be sent to the Clerk at: West Horsley Village Hall, The Street, KT24 6DD
There is a letterbox on the wall in the passageway between the Main Hall & The Cedar Room

** Standing down in May*

This year, the Parish Council has undergone rather more changes than usual. The Council Elections in May left us with three vacancies, but an appeal on NextDoor found some willing to be co-opted. So, Nicola Adams, Vanessa Buosi and Mike Peters joined the Council at our May Annual Meeting. However, Mike Peters stood down in September. There is a long process needed at this stage, the vacancy needs to be advertised by the Borough Council in case there is a request from at least 10 electors to call an election; only after that is the Parish Council allowed to co-opt a new member. Then in October, very suddenly, Cllr Bob Mattock, died. (See page 18 for an obituary) Bob joined the Parish Council in 2015 and became a busy member of our team, Finance, Highways & Liaison with the Police were all in his portfolio. In November, Sally Newman offered to fill the vacancy left by Mike Peters. In February, another willing soul offered to join us - Tony Rogers. So we are back to nine councillors.

But then, it will happen all over again; Charles Hope has been on the Council for nearly 20 years, being elected unopposed at a by-election in 2000. He's also been Chairman for nearly 13 years and feels that with his 80th birthday in May, it's time to retire from the Parish Council. So, the Parish Council's Annual Meeting in May will elect a new Chairman and then there will be the need to look for another councillor. Volunteers for the rôle will be welcome.

Charles has also been involved in creating this Annual Newsletter since 2004 and it's likely that a new format will come into being; possibly by greater reliance on the website or by emails sent to those on our contact list. It is being suggested by some, that West Horsley should share a magazine with our neighbours in East Horsley. After all, some events in East Horsley do have an effect on West Horsley; such as the Farmer's Market mentioned on Page 6. Do you think it would be a good idea to share this?

Tell us by email or at our Annual Parish Meeting.

PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS

Every year, the Parish Council gives grants to organisations who provide services within West Horsley. If your organisation would like to be considered, please contact the Clerk for an application form.

clerk@westhorsley.info

Submissions to be sent back by the end of May.

YOUR COUNCILLORS

Nicola Adams

I live in West Horsley together with my partner Tom & our daughter who attends Footprints Nursery and will start school in September.

We moved here almost 5 years ago when we were looking for somewhere to put down roots, and feel that we found the perfect place, balanced between the beautiful Surrey Hills and access to our work, with great schools and a wonderful sense of community.

I became involved in the Neighbourhood Plan shortly after moving here as way of getting to know the village, but had to step back when my daughter was born. I started getting back to being involved in issues affecting the village this year and found myself co-opted onto the parish council as a result.

As a geoscientist by background and a keen cyclist and runner, I enjoy spending any spare time outdoors on the trails and in the hills that surround our village.

Mel Beynon

I have lived in West Horsley since 1977. Although a dyed in the Welsh wool, Welsh speaking Taffy, I have lived in England for the greater part of my life. I have also been a Parish Councillor for an embarrassingly long time.

The nature of Council work has changed out of all recognition , but I really love being part of a group that essentially cares for almost every aspect of Village life.

I am Lead Councillor of the

Community Task Group. Our most important responsibility is to make every effort to interact as much as possible with the community . One of the most direct ways of doing this, we think, is through various inclusive events for all ages that we arrange throughout the year.

See the PC website for details of what we are up to in 2020. I hope you will all consider coming to our Annual Parish meeting so that you too can have a say in what goes on in your village while enjoying a glass of wine and some nibbles

Elaine Best

Elaine was elected to the Parish Council in May 2015 and 2019. She has lived in West Horsley for over 25 years and was a regular commuter to London where she held Executive Director appointments in the NHS before being appointed Chief Executive of East Surrey Primary Care Trust. More recently she has been Chairman of a Community Interest Company providing adult community health services and childrens' services.

Elaine was appointed a magistrate on Brighton Bench in 1986, the youngest female to have been appointed to that bench at the time. She has a great interest on opera and ballet and is often seen walking around the Village with her norfolk terrier dog called Miss Teak.



Vanessa Buosi

Having travelled around the world since the age of 7 living in The Middle East, Holland and Africa, I finally settled in London. 30 years ago, I met my husband and had two lovely children, one in School and other at Exeter University. 8 years ago, we all moved to West Horsley for change of scene! And have loved being here ever since; meeting some amazing friends too.

My career has been within the same marketing industry for over 35 years and I continued my travels around America, Europe and Asia within my various roles. With all the travelling and my regular absences, I had always missed opportunities and being able to participate within my community and immediate surroundings.

An opportunity arose to join the West Horsley Parish Council and with a view to be more involved within the community and make positive changes in the village, I joined the busy team!

Whilst still working full time at an agency in Godalming, I hope that my experiences in management, buying, communications and marketing will be useful in this new rôle as Parish Councillor.

Frances King

Fran King, a retired accountant, was co-opted to the parish Council in March 2019 before being elected in May that year. Although only a resident of West Horsley for 10 years she has

been a resident in East or West for most of her life, her parents having come to East Horsley in 1945. Her teenage years were spent in The Netherlands while her father was working there.

Fran is a longstanding member of The Whips, the West Horsley drama group. Her other interests include archaeology, genealogy and horses. Although no longer an owner herself, she spends a good deal of time from March to October fence judging and dressage writing for British Eventing.

For many years she was a volunteer minibus driver for Cherry Trees in East Clandon until age caught up, she also volunteers at Grange Park Opera and has recently joined the volunteers at West Horsley Place. She is an active member of Horsley U3A and The Arts Society Horsley – Lovelace.

When not doing anything else she can be seen walking her dog, Ben.

Sally Newman

I'm one of the newest Parish Councillors and am delighted to have joined a dynamic and fun team.

I'm very happily married, we've lived in West Horsley for just under 17 years and we share our home with 3 amazing rescue cats.

I wanted to become a parish councillor for several reasons:

We really enjoy living in West Horsley and felt at home as soon as we moved here from Richmond-upon-Thames. So, I want to give something back to this wonderful community.

I'm keen to support community activities where possible, so our village atmosphere is maintained for now and in the future.

I understand the need for evolution of our village, however I do want to preserve the many features of West Horsley for us and future generations.

We're keen MX5 owners and enjoy visiting places of historical interest, natural beauty and gardens.

I'm a member of West Horsley WI, a keen reader and enjoy listening to a wide variety of music.

On a professional perspective I started out as a Healthcare Professional and then successfully moved into the corporate world.

Tony Rogers

Tony Rogers is a retired Chartered Surveyor who was a partner in a London practice and whose background is in commercial property development and investment.

He is married with one daughter and two very loud dogs. He has lived in Surrey all his life, principally in Walton on Thames but only moved to West Horsley 2 years ago after many years of commuting to London.

He relishes the rural charm and character that West Horsley offers and is eager to engage in village life. His main interests on the Council are centred around the built environment and protection of countryside matters. He is a keen golfer and is also President of the Old Cranleigh Hockey Club which is based at Thames Ditton.

Catherine Young

Having lived in Surrey all my life, I moved to West Horsley 15 years ago when my son started school at The Raleigh.

My background is mostly in the field of HR, Training and Development, where I enjoyed a long and varied career with Marks and Spencer, including a very exciting secondment to Hong Kong, and also worked for BAA as their Learning & Development Manager.

Following a career break to start my family, I joined the local primary school as a Teaching Assistant, a job I found particularly rewarding and challenging as I had the opportunity to work with some fantastic teachers, and the most amazing children.

When my son started at the Howard of Effingham Sixth Form, I was keen to join the Parish Council in order to become more involved in the local community and get to know more about our village. With a keen interest in planning and the environment, it seemed only natural to join this group - little did I realise how involved I would become!

The knowledge and experience I have gained whilst working alongside others in the defence of our village against the Local Plan, and the potential impact of that plan's adoption, led me to stand for election last May as a Ward Councillor for Clandon & Horsley and I am now nearly a year into that role.

Wearing 'two hats' as a Parish and Ward Councillor is certainly proving a challenge - it's just as well my son is now at University, although I still find time to walk across the local fields (not just for site visits!) and spend time in the garden.



WEST HORSLEY WHEEL OF CARE



Back in 1999, Gina Isaac and several like-minded residents of the Horsleys identified a need to offer support to the residents of West Horsley to help them lead independent, fuller and richer lives and prevent social isolation.

They booked the village hall, produced some leaflets and invited local residents to come to a meeting to discuss how they could help. From this, the following year, the West Horsley Wheel of Care began with over 100 volunteers. It has the amazing record of never falling below that number and this year it celebrates its 20th year in operation as a Volunteer Driver and Good Neighbour Scheme.

In 2015, the 'Wheel' was recognised for the services it provides to the residents of West Horsley and surrounding villages by being awarded The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the equivalent of an MBE within the voluntary sector. This was a great honour and reflects the wonderful service available to our clients.

The Wheel provides transport to residents, for example to hospital and other medical appointments, to take them shopping, or to the hairdresser. We will sit with clients while a carer takes a short, well-deserved break or help with basic household chores



such as changing a lightbulb. Small things but which can make a huge difference to some of our elderly and not so elderly.

There is no age limit to whom we try to help. In the summer months, in conjunction with Grace and Flavour, the community garden, we deliver small boxes of fresh vegetables and herbs to a number of residents in West Horsley.



What makes the 'Wheel' stand out from other similar schemes are our clubs?

We run four clubs where our clients have the opportunity to socialise, make friends and enjoy time with others. The clubs - Scrabble, Film, Seated Dance and Movement to Music - are open to all in West Horsley and neighbouring villages, there is no

need to book and free transport is available to those living in the Horsleys, Effingham and Ockham.

Last year we celebrated the 100th birthday of June Brocksom, one of our founding volunteers. June set up our Scrabble Club and still plays every Tuesday afternoon, when she is not working!



And the celebrations continue this July. We will mark our birthday with a special tea party to be held in the recently restored South Barn at West Horsley Place when we look forward to welcoming many clients, volunteers and friends of the 'Wheel of Care'.

If you would like some help, further information about our clubs or are interested in helping as a volunteer please phone the Duty Officer on 01483 281703 between 10am and noon (Monday to Friday) or contact via our website,

www.westhorsleywheelofcare.co.uk





Watch Your Speed!!

The Community Speed Watch team currently consists of a team of eleven volunteers. All volunteers are trained by the Police and three more are waiting for the opportunity to be trained to use the Police equipment. The CSW teams use the Police approved test sites and record vehicles that are observed exceeding the speed limits at these places. We understand that people who are reported to the Police for excessive speeding receive, on first being reported, a letter from Surrey Police. Repeated reports lead to further Police action.

Obviously many people seem to be unaware of the fact that they do exceed the speed limits, and not by just one or two mph. Since November we, in West Horsley, have reported well over a hundred vehicles!! Surrey Police send out about a thousand letters EVERY month!!

You have been warned.

We, the local community, are not prepared to put up with such anti-social and possibly dangerous driving in and through our village. There's no point in being sorry when someone gets seriously hurt or killed!! If you feel equally strongly about this, why not join our Speed Watch team?

If, on the other hand, you feel the traffic laws restrict your freedom to race around the village like an idiot, why not write to your MP asking for special permission to break these laws! Maybe you think you are one of the privileged group to whom laws do not apply!!

Rhys Beynon - West Horsley
Community Speedwatch Coordinator



Car display at the 2019 Village Fete

NOTES FROM EAST HORSLEY THESE EVENTS ARE POSTPONED



Our Horsley Farmers Market is getting closer!

The rationale behind holding a Farmers Market in Horsley was to create a feeling of real community within the village. The planning for the Horsley Farmers Market is gathering speed and the inaugural market will kick off on 18 April from 9am - 1pm and thereafter on the third Saturday of every month. The stalls will be situated along Station Parade, so parking will be suspended for the duration of the market.

Work is well underway to recruit local businesses to take stalls - we will start with around twenty and grow from there. Our aim is to choose local artisan producers that will complement the range of goods already on offer in the village, as well as including local charities. One of the first to take a stall was Mr Topsy Ice Cream run and owned by Tom Gathercole who lives in Horsley. Tom said, "I am very excited to launch my new business venture at such a local event." Other signed up stallholders include Silent Pool Gin, Plant Passion, Afro Caribbean food from Maya Sparkles, Tillingbourne Brewery and many more!



Parking for the market will be available at the Village Hall and Medical Centre on Kingston Avenue and in the car park behind Woking Hospice charity shop, however, if you are able to walk into the village please do!

We are looking for volunteers to help on market days so if you are interested in getting involved, do get in touch. For more information, please contact either Colin Carmichael, clc@easthorsleypc.org or Terri Wood, terri_wood5@hotmail.com
See you on the 18 April!
Cllr Colin Carmichael

East Horsley's Annual Parish Meeting – New Housing Focus

At 8.30pm on 13 May at the East Horsley Village Hall, the EH Annual Parish Meeting will be hosting a discussion on "New Housing in and around the Horsleys". With several new developments looming in the Horsleys the meeting will be an essential update in which an expert panel, moderated by East Horsley resident questionmaster Steve Harvey, will be there to help on key facts, timings, numbers and infrastructure analysis.

At the time of going to press the following guest panellists have been confirmed:

- Jan Harwood** – GBC Councillor and Lead Councillor for Planning, Regeneration & Housing Delivery
- Kirsty Wilkinson** – SCC Senior Transport Development Planning Officer
- Matt Strong** – SCC Assistant Transport Development Planning Officer
- Robert Taylor** – EHPC Deputy Chair and Planning & Environment Lead
- Julie Iles** – S CC Councillor (Horsleys) & Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning
- Dr Joe Murtagh** – Partner, Horsley Medical Practice

The evening's programme:

- 7.30pm East Horsley Parish Council Annual Report
- 8.10pm Interval & Refreshments
- 8.30pm Expert Panel



This event will pass through West Horsley on Sunday 16th August.

FRIENDS OF HORSLEY LIBRARY



Everyone uses the library in different ways and now especially, with the internet, the nature of use has changed considerably. Because we may not now pop in as often as in the past, it leads us all to wonder whether it can survive. Well, it can, and it will. We have been assured that there is no plan to close our library. There is a consultation period of 18 months to decide, amongst other things perhaps whether this will become a volunteer-run library, or, on the extreme edge of possibility, whether it should move site. This is not an option to even consider as far as we are concerned. The library is where it should be, in the heart of the village and amongst the thriving local businesses.

The talks by visiting authors have been a feature of library activity that has dropped off a little in recent years. We are now reviving these events with some vigour. Our first "author event" will be happening around Easter time. It is still in the planning stage, so look out for notices in the library, on Nextdoor and in the shops around. Are you an author or local celebrity who would come and talk to a small gathering in the library? Are you a published author or someone who is about to publish? If so, we would like to hear from you.

We have a new coffee machine kindly donated by a previous library manager. At £1 a go, it seems a nice way to tempt people to browse, to sit and flick through the range of newspapers and/or pick up a book and lounge around a bit in pleasant surroundings.

We are anxious to recruit as many new Friends of Horsley Library as possible, not so much to be doing anything in particular so much as contributing ideas

that will help us maintain an interesting and vibrant library community. Our librarians are eager to work with us on this and have some great ideas which are already in place.

One idea we are working on is the use of the library out of hours. So, if you have a small group of knitters, book club members or indeed a small group of people of any shared interest, do consider finding out whether you can use the library as a meeting place.

Did you know that the library has lots of free services? You can research your family tree, you can access Which? reports, you can access research journals or the John Johnson collection from the Bodleian library, or simply use the computer if you don't have one at home. Through the Horsley Library you can also order books, CDs and DVDs.

If you would like to join us in trying to ensure that our library remains relevant to our community, please contact Rhys Beynon on rbeynon1@btinternet.com

We look forward to hearing from you.

KEEP UP TO DATE!

If you would like to be added to our email circulation list, please email clerk@westhorsley.info.

Email addresses will be held for the purpose of keeping residents up to date with our activities, local events and significant locally relevant news items e.g. the Local Plan. Data will be updated annually.

The Methodist Church

This past year has seen a return to normal operations, after the project dealing with the ingress of damp was concluded, with Sunday Services and Coffee Mornings open to everyone.

At times over the years local people and visitors have had difficulty finding the Methodist Church, partly because being next to and painted a similar colour to the Village Hall, it can appear to be just another part of the Village Hall complex. Steps have been taken to dispel the problem and the first part has now been carried out with the installation of signs on the A246, directing drivers north down The Street, at the east and west approaches to the Window Box Roundabout by Bell & Colvil.

The second part of the plan is the installation of lettering on the front elevation of the church above the porch which will clearly identify it as being separate from the Village Hall next door. Since the church is in the West Horsley Conservation Area, planning permission had to be sought from Guildford Borough Council, and this has now been granted.

Services are held every Sunday morning at 10.30am, sometimes taken by our Minister, Revd Asif Das, and other times by visiting Lay preachers. Our annual 'Songs of Praise' will be held on Saturday 30th May this year, a little later than usual. Everyone is invited to come and sing their favourite hymns, there will be more publicity nearer the time of the event.

Every Thursday from 10.30am - 12 noon we open our doors to all for our Coffee Morning. Numbers have been increasing recently and the exchange of views and news in convivial company is enjoyed and appreciated by all present. If you would like to come and join us, just turn up on any Thursday, no invitation necessary.

Our church hall, The Wesley Room, continues to be hired by local community groups, particularly by the various Horsley U3A groups, who find the warm atmosphere and modern refreshment facilities suit their needs.

We hope to see you at some time during the year.

West Horsley Methodist Church, 97 The Street, West Horsley or www.westhorsleymethodistchurch.org.uk

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE REPORT

West Horsley Parish Council's precept & grant from Guildford Borough Council for the financial year that has just ended was £90,517, an increase on the previous year's budget.

Once again, one of our significant areas of spend has been planning, allowing the Parish Council to access specialist planning expertise to enhance the work carried out by our Planning Task Group in responding to the many West Horsley planning applications submitted this year.

The Parish Council also made a significant donation last year to two local campaigns seeking to challenge the Local Plan via judicial review, approving a resolution to donate £8,000 to the JR challenge launched by a West Horsley resident and £2,000 to the JR challenge by the Wisley Action Group / Ockham Parish Council. Unfortunately, both challenges were ultimately unsuccessful and Guildford Borough Council's Local Plan stands, which will result in many new houses in the Horsleys.

One of the main reasons for our increased precept was to allow the Parish Council to construct an outside toilet at the Village Hall for use by residents & users of the Village Hall playground. Unfortunately, the work on the toilet has yet to begin, but watch this space as we hope to deliver this project in the current financial year. Also at the Village Hall, we provided funds to allow the Village Hall Management Committee to make improvements to the playground, including replacing the wet pour surfaces around the playground equipment and the installation of the new kickwall.

The Parish Council is keen to provide more events for the community and that was reflected in some additional expenditure on events in the year just completed, with our Community Task Group running events ranging from the Teddy Bear's Picnic in September, to the Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Bonnet Competition & Walk and Christmas Lantern Procession & Carol Singing in the Orchard. The Parish Council also spent a small amount of its budget on Christmas trees & lights in the village.

Our precept & grant for the current financial year represents a reduction compared to the previous year, at £84,217. We will be providing further funds for the Village Hall Management Committee to continue to make improvements in the playground and we will also be investing in refurbishing and where appropriate, purchasing new noticeboards for the village. We will once again be inviting applications from village organisations and charities for small grants – if you would like more information, please contact clerk@westhorsley.info for details.

THE HENRY SMITH CHARITY

West Horsley is fortunate to be a beneficiary of the Henry Smith Charity's Parish Grant programme, whereby each year the Henry Smith charity makes funds available to West Horsley to be used to support those experiencing financial and social hardship in the village.

Henry Smith was born in Wandsworth in the 16th century and, having accumulated significant wealth during his lifetime from trade and property deals, established a charity for the relief of the poor. Nearly 400

years after his death, the fund established in his will is still helping people in over 150 parishes. In West Horsley, the charity is run by a group of local individuals who give out small grants in times of need to those who are resident in the village, for example, for the repair of white goods, help with winter heating bills etc.

The West Horsley arm of the charity also makes larger grants to local schools to provide financial support to children attending those schools who are

resident in West Horsley, to assist with, for example, the cost of school uniform or school trips. The charity can also support organisations making changes to accommodate local people with specific needs.

If you feel that you qualify for financial assistance or know of someone who would benefit from a grant from the charity, please contact the West Horsley Parish Clerk:

clerk@westhorsley.info

01483 901 905 in confidence.

WEST HORSLEY CONSERVATION AREA REVIEW

Guildford Borough Council is carrying out a review of the Conservation Areas in the borough.

It was West Horsley's turn in Spring last year which started with 2 members of the Guildford Conservation and Design Team and 4 representatives from West Horsley walking the village to establish whether the West Horsley Conservation Area should be redrawn and if so how.

A draft document was produced late last year and was put out to consultation between 27th January 2020 and 24th February 2020. West Horsley Parish Council made various comments on the document, particularly with reference to the misidentification of a few properties but did not make any representations concerning the suggested new boundaries.

The map below shows the new boundary:



The draft document can be found at: <https://guildford.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/WHCAA/consultationHome>
Fran King

It's becoming a tradition at Christmas...

On the 14th December our annual lantern parade took place. In the late afternoon the outside of Crossroads Stores was a buzz with feverish activity. Over 30 children came to make and decorate their lantern accompanied by parents and grandparents. We had many fascinating traditional and abstract designs in all sorts of colours which made stunning lanterns when the lights came on. Huge thanks to Jenni at Crossroads for hosting the lantern making. Then came our parade. And what a sight it looked as we filed along The Street to the Orchard with sabre lights flashing at the head and tail!

The traffic paused. Several passengers & drivers waved & smiled as the column made its way along. It all looked very Christmassy. Finishing in the Orchard for mulled wine, (orange juice for the children!) and mince pies to warm us all up, beautiful singing of *Away in a Manger* and a hearty rendition of both *Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer* and *Jingle Bells* then rang out.

It felt the build up to Christmas was well and truly underway. The Parish Council was delighted to welcome so many children, their parents and grandparents. Please come again this year, details will be published nearer the time, to make this event a tradition in our village.

Elaine Best



ADOPTING HORSLEY TRAIN STATION

Yes, you have read the title correctly! During the autumn of 2019 West Horsley Parish Council was invited to join the Rail Task Group set up by East Horsley Parish Council. The Task Group is focussed on a number of aspects associated with Horsley & Effingham Junction Stations and is working with South Western Railways and Network Rail to try and improve the experience of using the stations.

An early success has been the approval in February 2020 to "adopt" both stations and a working group for each station has now been convened to develop projects to improve the look and experience of using them in an environmentally friendly way. Funding from the rail companies is available on submission of business cases so work is now underway to draw up appropriate plans.

Watch this space!!

Meanwhile, a specific group is also looking at how both stations can be made more accessible for people with disabilities and, although this work may take longer, it is very much a focussed priority for the Rail Task Group.

Elaine Best



Grace + Flavour



In the past twelve months a lot has happened at Grace & Flavour, the Horsleys Community Kitchen Garden. 2019 marked the 10th Anniversary since the project was founded by Sue Johnston and in the summer on a beautiful sunny day the garden was open to the public with refreshments available to all who came. Entry was free, but visitors were very generous and an unexpected bonus was added to the garden's funds!

The spring of 2019 was colourful due to the wonderful bouquets of daffodils harvested and indeed more flowers continued throughout the year. Otherwise it was a challenging year- not everything in the garden rosy and perfect, mainly due to the cold spring followed by the hot dry summer. Nonetheless, many varieties did well and there was always produce available. As well as the community garden, the allotments continue to be well used and productive, but likewise suffered from weather influences. Improvement/extension to the drainage system of the allotments is planned for the fore coming year.

Garden manager, John Whitlock, has in recent years achieved his ambition of having vegetables, and fruit when in season, available every week of the year. It is quite astonishing to see what

is grown and in September no less than twenty three varieties of fruit and veg were on sale. Needless to say the flavour of freshly grown and picked local produce exceeds anything available to the supermarkets.



From July to September, as in previous years, a tithe from the garden was distributed each week throughout West Horsley by The Wheel of Care to the elderly in the village. Over thirty boxes were sent out providing fresh fruit and vegetables which was greatly appreciated by the recipients.

Aside from the garden the project team were busy taking care of the garden's infrastructure. Water supplies

were improved and buildings maintained, but the most important task in hand has been the stabilisation of the west wall.

The brick wall is not as substantial as traditional walled garden walls are, and indeed most of the east wall had collapsed before Grace & Flavour took possession of the garden.

Team leader Rob Treble designed a structural solution, which was approved by the National Trust, and over the winter this has been constructed and should keep the wall in place until the end of the lease. Maintenance of the perimeter fence is vital to keep out rabbits and deer, whilst a section of garden outside the north wall was enhanced to improve the secluded 'wild' areas for bugs, insects and birdlife.



The photo shows an aerial shot of part of the community garden.

THE HORSLEYS COMMUNITY BUS ASSOCIATION



HCBA was very proud to welcome *Bamber Gascoigne* to inaugurate the new bus and to meet a few of its regular passengers.

The Horsleys Community Bus Association (HCBA) is a charity which started in 1999 to provide transport for the elderly residents of our villages to enable them to go shopping, to help them to maintain their independence and to socialise. Initially it used a minibus that Surrey County Council had previously operated to support their residents of the sheltered housing at St Martins Close East Horsley and the care home that is now Limegrove. It provided a service to the residents of these locations but this was quickly extended to support all the elderly residents in our area.

Minibuses that provide local community transport are not classed as public service buses nor are they a form of taxis but they operate under a permit provided by Surrey County Council. Currently a group of over 20 trained volunteer drivers drive the bus and it is used most weekdays.

The minibus is used for regular weekly and fortnightly shopping trips to various local supermarkets and towns. Passengers pre-book the service and they are collected from their homes in the Horsleys, Effingham and Ockham. Having a blue disabled badge the minibus can stop right outside the various destinations so that passengers do not have to walk too far. The drivers help the passengers and their shopping back onto the bus, and return them to their homes, in most cases helping them with their shopping to their front door. Because it is a community service vehicle, HCBA cannot formally charge a fare, but it does ask for a voluntary contribution to the operating costs, typically £2.50 for a return trip.

Additionally the minibus is used to enable the elderly to go out, socialise, and attend local community meetings and activities. From time to time it is

used for one-off outings, for occasional days out in the summer, for christmas shopping trips and enabling the elderly to attend the summer fête.

HCBA also regularly enables residents of the local care homes, many of whom used to live in the Horsleys, to have a short outings from their home with their carers to the countryside or a café.

HCBA currently has space on most of its routes for new passengers. It currently has enough drivers but inevitably will soon need more due to drivers retiring. Any potential passengers or drivers should contact [Kelvin Hayes](mailto:Kelvin.Hayes@hcba.org.uk) on 01483 283314.

In the past the minibus was renewed every 5 years or so, using a combination of funds from the voluntary contributions plus Surrey County Council and parish council grants. In a new initiative in 2014, the government committed to supply 300 minibuses to community organisations. HCBA's Chairman, Kim MacKenzie, learnt of this scheme and HCBA successfully applied for one of these new minibuses, which finally arrived in early 2017. Besides being much more reliable it uses the latest low emissions hi-tech diesel engine. It is fitted with easy-access steps, a modern disabled person's lift that retracts under the rear of the bus and a reversing camera to help the driver manoeuvre safely.



PLANNING MATTERS ...

Local Plan Update

The GBC Local Plan: Strategy and Sites (2015 – 2034) was controversially adopted in April 2019, a month before the Local Elections.

Driven through by the then Conservative administration, it means that West Horsley is no longer ‘washed over’ by the Green Belt, and all protection afforded by this crucial planning constraint within our amended settlement boundaries has been removed.

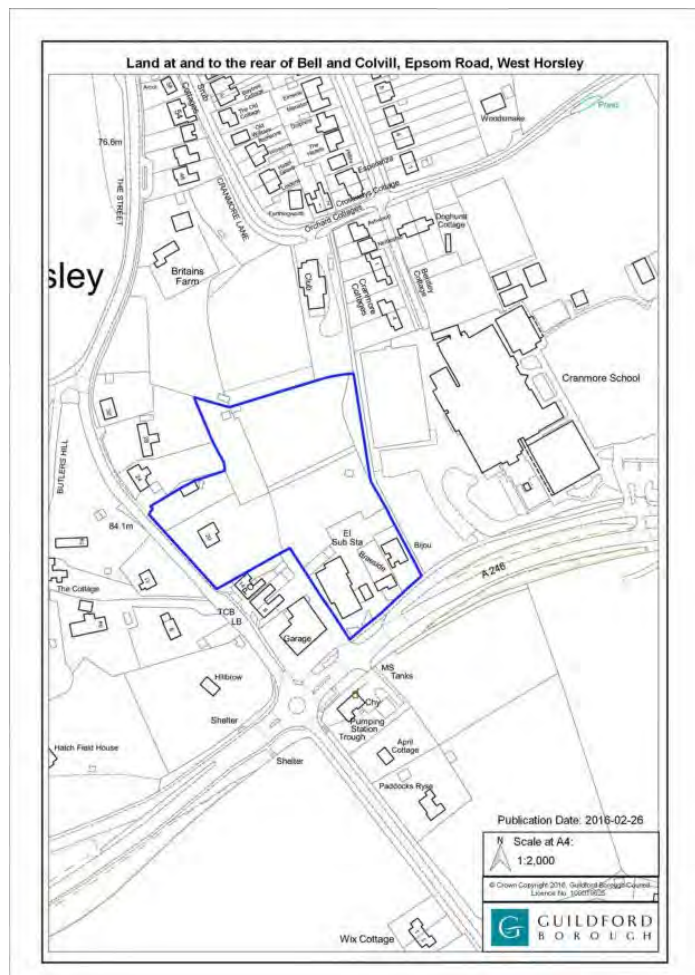
It was also extremely disappointing that the three Judicial Reviews challenging the allocation of the strategic sites at Wisley and Blackwell Farm, and the inseting of the villages from the Green Belt, were unsuccessful. A huge thank you to our local resident Jules Cranwell who lead the fight for the villages.

Our Neighbourhood Plan is our last defence. As part of the total ‘Development Plan’ for the Borough its policies must be taken into consideration. We are now relying heavily on this to defend inappropriate development and retain our rural village.

The Parish Council remains firm in its stance to protect green spaces, our environment, our heritage assets, and preserve our local character and landscape setting.

Allocated sites (where presumption is in favour of development)

The current situation for each site as at March 2020 is as follows:



Site A36 Land at and to the rear of Bell & Colvill, Epsom Road

Identified for approximately 40 homes, sadly a piecemeal development of this site has been allowed. This is in part due to the uncertainty of the field in the middle, which has resulted in two separate applications, one having to exit directly onto The Street – deemed perfectly safe by Surrey County Council!

Ten smaller homes were approved for development during 2018 on the brownfield land of the Bell & Colville workshops. Work is about to start, with demolition and preparation of the site scheduled early April.

The other part of the site at 20 The Street has also been approved, despite all our best efforts to object and a close vote at the GBC Planning Committee on 6th November, 2019. This is for 24 new homes; packed onto the green fields and set to be a blot in the middle of our Conservation Area, this will have a severe detrimental impact on this part of our village.

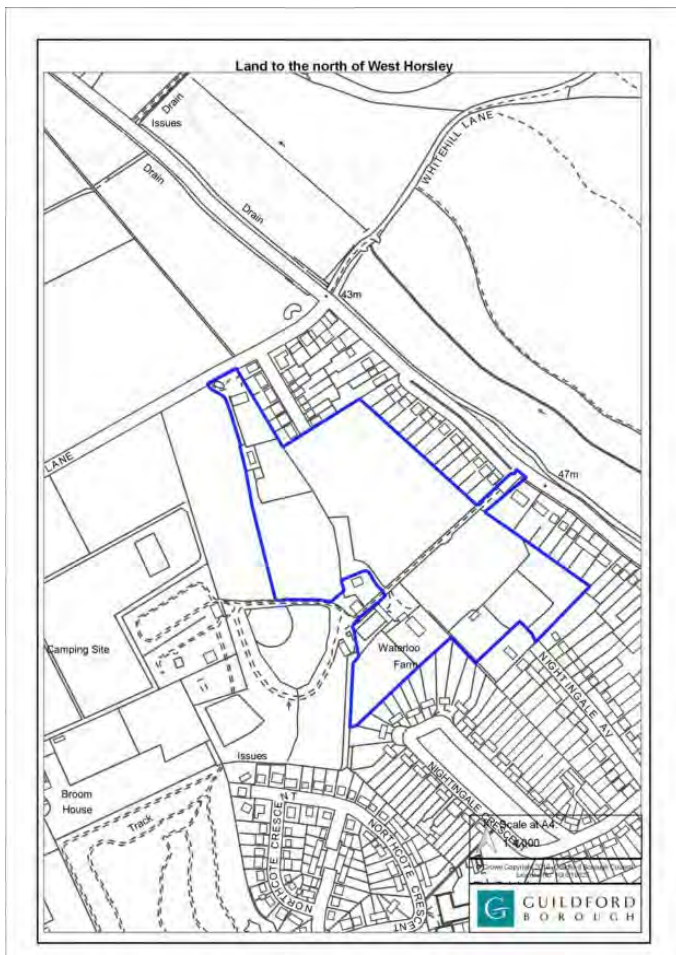
We await the proposal for the remaining field.

Site A37 Land to the west of West Horsley, Manor Farm

An application for 138 (net) houses, alongside provision of suitable alternative natural greenspace (Ben's Wood) and ancillary teaching and sporting accommodation was submitted in November last year by Thakeham Homes Ltd. Many residents came to the public meeting that we held, voicing a number of concerns, and so far, 166 objections have been submitted.

Key considerations for this site include the setting of the Grade II Listed Building, surface water flood risk and the need for additional green infrastructure. It was also noted by Thames Water that there is a lack of sewerage capacity at their site in Ripley to support this development.

We have had a small success with this site following the submission of our detailed objection in that the application has been withdrawn. We can only hope that Guildford has finally listened to our residents and that whilst we are unlikely to prevent any future development of this site, the design, character, density and access will all be reconsidered.



Site A39 Land to the north of West Horsley (around Waterloo Farm)

Identified for approximately 120 new homes, we believe this site will be put forward by Persimmon Homes. At time of writing, we have not heard anything from this developer – let's hope for early community engagement!

Key considerations for this site include flood risk, surface water flood risk and access.

Waterloo Farm sits within this allocated site. Despite the Parish Council objecting, an application for four new homes in the front courtyard of the Farm was approved early last year. A further application was submitted by the landowner last December for five large houses in their back garden. We have once more objected and await to hear the outcome.

Site A38 Land near Horsley Railway Station, Ockham Road North, East Horsley (Lollesworth Fields)

An outline application for the demolition of two dwellings and alterations to access, with all matters reserved for up to 110 new homes and 99sqm of office space etc was approved in November 2019. The promoter of the site is Catesby Estates Ltd, the developer remains unknown at present. Concerns remain over access and flooding. Along with East Horsley PC, we have objected to each reiteration of this application and we now await the full application.



Conclusion

In summary, these four sites will add over 400 additional new homes to the villages of West and East Horsley, scheduled to be built within the next five years.

With the addition of 'infilling' and 'windfall' developments, as well as the increasing number of 'garden grabbing' applications we are receiving, we could see more than 350 new houses built in West Horsley alone, an increase of over 30% in our housing stock.

We are working closely with SCC and GBC to ensure that the cumulative impact of these developments is considered for infrastructure improvements, especially relating to increasing early years and school places, medical services, road and pavement improvements, car parking facilities at the station, community services and green infrastructure.

Cllr Catherine Young



As we move into a new financial year, at the beginning of April, I thought it would be useful to set out some of the budgeted spend to help residents understand how their taxpayer money is spent across the County.

Over the past two years at Surrey County Council with hard work, leadership and innovative thinking around half a million pounds every working day has been saved through greater efficiency and better financial management.

Thanks to that work we have a sensible, sustainable and ambitious budget that will deliver real progress. Our net revenue budget for the year has slightly increased to a total £968.4m.

Our greatest area of day-to-day spending by far is on supporting our most vulnerable residents – the elderly, those with special educational needs or disabilities, and children in care.

We spend over £1m every single day on Adult Social Care.

We also spend around half a million pounds every day on looking after children.

These are services that many Surrey residents may never have any direct experience of, and whilst it is our statutory responsibility it is also our moral and civic duty to support those people with greatest need.

Our Environment, Transport and Infrastructure portfolio is the more



‘universal’ area of our revenue spend – the things that nearly all our residents see and experience pretty much every day.

It is this area that will focus on our Greener Future ambitions, rethinking the way we provide and use transport in the County and improve the way we maintain and enhance our countryside. That means a thorough review of our existing infrastructure and more particularly our public transport system. Transformation funding will be used to support the development and delivery of this important work.

In our ambitious capital programme we are looking to invest hundreds of millions of pounds in a series of projects:

- An extra £92 million on improving our 3000 miles of roads and pavements.
- £84 million on projects to protect the environment and help tackle the Climate Emergency, including a Solar Farm, Ultra Low Emission vehicles and electrification of transport services including buses and school transport.
- £270m to protect over 30,000 homes and businesses from the

risk of flooding – enhancing the environment, attracting investment and keeping residents safe.

● £100m to regenerate high streets and invest in local communities. Funding that needs to support projects that our communities actually want and not projects that we think they need. We will genuinely engage with them in partnership to ensure that we collectively deliver real local initiatives.

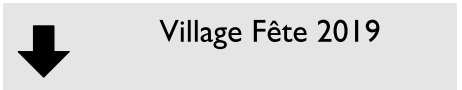
● £31m to provide 883 additional places for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, including a new SEND school.

● A further £70m to provide additional school places and improve school facilities across the county.

● £7m in the first phase of a programme to deliver 725 specially adapted homes for elderly residents, to increase independence and hopefully reduce hospital admittance.

This, alongside already identified capital investment, takes the total capital spend over the next five years to £1.4bn, and signals our absolute intent to deliver a better place for all Surrey residents.

I send out a monthly update on email so if you would like to receive a copy please sign up at contact@julieiles.uk



WEST HORSLEY IN BLOOM 2019

What an exciting evening we had of it on Friday June 28th 2019. Not only did we have the pleasure of the Mayor and Mayoress' company, but we had a special guest in the shape of Sarah Squire of Squire's Garden Centres. Not only did their presence add a certain sense of it being a special evening, but the glittering gold chains of office added their own sparkle to the evening. All three guests were especially gracious and friendly during the interval. They circulated with the other guests and gave us all a sense of it's being a bit of a party.

We somehow managed to arrange the weather to be at its best. The tables were all decorated with finely embroidered cloths and graced with posies of flowers created for the evening by Claire of Plant Passion. With a glass of wine in hand and the circulating canapes kindly provided by Hilly's, one got the impression that everyone was having a good evening.

We always begin the evening with a report on the Childrens' Competition from Celia



The Mayor, Cllr Richard Billington, with Rosemary Tribe with the Roxburghe Cup

Chapman, who is helped by Janet Clayton. The show-stopper 'Potato in the Pot' is always hugely successful. Last year was no exception. There were a record number of entries. The tipping and weighing was done in the Village Playground and yet again, we had ordered fabulous weather. The competition winner was a delightful young man of four. He already showed the dedication of a true gardener by getting up especially early on the day of the weighing, to water his potato one last time. He achieved a record over 800 grammes!

In the adult section, whether the gardens were large or small, the overriding impression in every case was of a sense of space enjoyed and loved for its own sake. Each year has its own particular flush of plants that are the current fashion, but last year, it wasn't so much fashion as the traditional English Rose which prevailed. They had enjoyed the mix of weather and gave a spectacular show wherever we saw them.

Entries were again high, but the real joy is that we continue to get new entries each year as people realise that this is a friendly event which is more about bringing like-minded villagers together, than a nail-biting competition. There is something for everyone so that everyone can garden at their own level of pleasure and energy.

We hope that many of you reading this will give serious thought to joining in this year. The entry form is the back page of this Newsletter and even if you mislay that you can pop into Crossroads Stores, where Jenni will give you a new one. When it is filled in, take it back to Crossroads Stores, because that is our main collecting point. Others may find it more convenient to post it at the Village Hall in the Parish Council letter box and that is fine too.

Let's see if we can't get YOUR name on the list next year. Come and join the fun

WHIB Committee

WEST HORSLEY IN BLOOM

2019 Winners

Children's Competition

Potatoes in a Pot *name withheld*

Schools' Competition Glenesk School

Adult Competition

Best New Entry Nick and Sarah Kennedy-Scott

Best Front Garden Rosemary Tribe

Best Back garden Neil Conisbee

Best Allotment at G&F John Lillywhite

Best Veg Garden Sue Whitfield (Mike Chapman Memorial prize)

Best Container Rosemary Tribe

Best Non-residential St. Mary's Churchyard

Community Cup Crossroads Stores

Judges' Prize Grace and Flavour (Adam Aaronson Trophy)



Adam Aaronson presenting the unique "Judges' Award"

2019 Overall Winner of the

Roxburghe Cup

Rosemary Tribe

CLANDON WOOD NATURE RESERVE & NATURAL BURIAL GROUND

A local nature reserve which is also an award winning cemetery – and it's on our doorstep.



Comprising thirty-one acres of traditional wildflower meadowland, lakes and young woodland, on arriving at Clandon Wood it is hard to recognise it as a cemetery. Opened in 2012 this award winning naturally managed burial ground was created to appeal to a wide range of people wishing to be buried or have their ashes interred whatever their faith, belief or thinking.

However, it has also been designed as a nature reserve and is thoughtfully managed by a professional team who are experts in conservation and arboriculture. Their aim is to create an ideal and protected habitat for indigenous flora and fauna to flourish which local people will be able to enjoy for future generations to come. As a cemetery, Clandon Wood provides a peaceful and natural environment to be laid to rest and a place those left behind will feel welcome and at ease visiting for contemplation and remembrance.

Plots can be chosen wherever one wishes within the grounds which could be amongst the flowers and grasses of the meadows, between the trees or near one of the two lakes. Plots are identified using an electronic and paper based plot recording system to ensure each grave is easily located and securely logged.

Many people ask what the difference is between a natural and a more traditional burial or interment. There are three key differences at Clandon Wood; a three feet deep grave (18 inches for an ash interment), a biodegradable coffin or urn and finally only a horizontal memorial plaque is permitted. These steps allow for remains to swiftly return to the earth and for the natural integrity and beauty of the burial grounds as a nature reserve to be maintained.



There is an attractive modern glass pavilion within the grounds which is used for funeral services which can seat up to 80 people and which is also used for gatherings or wakes after a committal. Unusually for a cemetery there is an on-site office which is open and staffed by Clandon Wood's friendly team seven days a week to provide advice and assistance as and when required. There are also a number of 'aftercare' events throughout the year including a monthly 'Tea, cake and company' event on the last Sunday of every month, open for anyone experiencing loss. Christina Lawson, who manages the on-site team says: "We work hard to provide a warm and welcoming environment for any visitor be they bereaved, someone who is planning ahead and thinking about securing a plot or if just to visit us as a nature reserve." Christina adds: "When it comes to choosing a final resting place, we deeply respect that such decisions are intensely personal and private. The most important thing for us is that the choice someone makes is the right one for them and if that happens to be Clandon Wood we are of course very happy to help. The only way to really appreciate what Clandon Wood has to offer is to come and see it first hand. And in Christina's words: "You will always be very welcome".

www.clandonwood.com

TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC

If you went down to the Orchard, You're sure of a big surprise, If you go down to the Orchard, You'd better go in Disguise, For every bear that ever there was, Will gather there for certain, Because there was a day in West Horsley, the Teddy Bears had a Piciiiiinic!

Well we hope that 2020 Teddy bear picnic will be as successful and fun as last year's, with the amazing Punch and Judy show and prizes for the best dressed Teddy. A wonderful age range of children played games with Mums and Dads and there were treats for them all!

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The reason poppies are used to remember those who have given their lives in battle is because they are the flowers which grew on the battlefields after World War One ended.

This is described in the famous World War One poem "In Flanders Fields".

Ever since then, they have come to be a symbol of remembering not just those who gave their lives in World War One, but all those who have died on behalf of their country.

We hope that this year you noticed the large poppies round the village showing our support in remembering the fallen. The funds raised from purchasing poppies goes to help servicemen and women who are still alive and whose lives have been changed by wars that they fought.

Lest we forget...

CHRISTMAS TREES in WEST HORSLEY

The Parish Council (PC) having discussed it, thought it a pity that there wasn't a 'public' Christmas Tree in West Horsley and that this should be remedied for 2019.

The Village Green opposite the Barley Mow seemed the obvious place, but it needed to be a statement tree and one that could be permanent rather than buying a new tree every year. A problem then arose as the PC found that purchasing a rooted tree of more than 6ft was difficult and a statement tree needed to be at least 10ft if not taller.



A compromise was achieved by buying a rooted tree of 6ft to be planted and grow in place at the Village Green and a cut 12ft tree that would be put on the triangle on the corner between The Street and Silkmore Lane by the Village Hall.

In the meantime, a resident had offered another rooted tree if the PC wanted it, rather than refuse a gift horse the PC accepted and had that one planted on the wide verge by the junction of East Lane and Northcote Road.

Thus, from having no Christmas Trees, West Horsley ended up with three.!

It was then a matter of how to secure the cut tree. The first attempt was not successful as only 2 days after putting it up gale force winds blew it over. Extra ropes were put in place and the tree then survived the weather and stayed up until the time came to dismantle it.

It is intended to continue with a tall cut tree on the triangle at least until the Village Green tree has grown to a suitable height if not beyond as the reaction of residents seemed very positive.

OBITUARY BOB MATTOCK

It was with shock and great sadness that we learnt of the sudden death of Cllr Bob Mattock on 10th October, 2019. Bob had been elected as a Parish Councillor in May 2015 again in 2019, and served the Council assiduously taking a specific interest in planning, road maintenance and safety. Bob brought wisdom and experience to the Parish Council using his expertise from having had a career in shipping and licensing and his long-standing involvement in the Metropolitan Police Special Constabulary where he held the rank of Commandant. This meant safety was a major interest in his Parish Council work. We miss him greatly and send our heartfelt condolences to his wife and family.

UPDATE FROM YOUR GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLORS



Our picture shows from left to right: Cllrs Christopher Barrass, Catherine Young and Tim Anderson on a site visit to Manor Farm, West Horsley.

Challenging, frustrating, yet at times very rewarding – these words summarise our first months as your Guildford Borough Councillors (GBC) for West Horsley and the Clandon & Horsley Ward!

Challenging, because we are dealing with a wide range of many issues, from helping residents with concerns like housing and noise nuisance, to community problems like parking, anti-social behaviour, illegal burning of waste, fly-tipping and, of course, the *bête noir* for all of us - planning and new developments.

Frustrating, because, following the failure of the three Judicial Reviews, and despite all our attempts, the Local Plan is now set in stone. So we must now focus on minimising its damage as much as

planning law and policies allow.

Rewarding, because we have managed to achieve a number of successes for individual residents and the community.

Motions

We have also been directly involved in motions in the Borough Council to request the Secretary of State to amend the National Planning Policy Framework, to require Guildford Council to be more open and transparent, and to develop a Town Centre Master Plan which will enable more housing on brownfield sites to reduce pressure on our green fields.

We are seeking to lessen the impact of sites across the Horsleys, particularly through the need to address Climate Change and lack of infrastructure,

as well as preserving the local character and landscape setting of the village. We have had some success, with the withdrawal of the application for allocated site A37, Land to the West of West Horsley (Manor Farm) and the refusal of the proposed development of five houses in the garden at Champney's Cottage, Cranmore Lane.

Sensible solutions

And we are working with the Borough Council's officers to arrive at sensible solutions that best meet the needs of residents for issues like individual planning applications, GBC's proposals to introduce yellow lines on the roads around West Horsley Village Hall, and parking and anti-social behaviour at Kingston Meadows.

With the Local Plan instrumental in the potential development of some 400 new houses across the Horsleys we are also working closely with Surrey County Council in seeking to ensure infrastructure issues are dealt with to achieve some joined up thinking across the whole area.

These include school places, medical centre places, the state of the roads, drainage, public transport, and parking at the station.

Although Tim Anderson and Christopher Barrass are with the new Residents for Guildford and Villages (R4GV) group, and Catherine Young is with Guildford Greenbelt Group (GGG), we operate very closely together as a team on your behalf.

Please get in touch if you feel we can help:
Tim.Anderson@guildford.gov.uk,
Christopher.Barrass@guildford.gov.uk,
Catherine-Anne.Young@guildford.gov.uk

WEST HORSLEY VILLAGE HALL



Annual update

The past 12 months have been busy, but productive, for the team at West Horsley Village Hall (WHVH). Due to the sad closure of the Ockham Parish Rooms in September 2019, we welcomed four new regular hirers, three with weekly bookings. The fourth is "Curzon Country Cinema" who have shown some wonderful films in the Main Hall on a huge screen – much enjoyed by many people.

In May 2019, an extensive refurbishment of the large flat roof over the Main Hall kitchen was carried out – boring but essential! The previous roof was ancient and had been patch-repaired so many times that it was no longer viable to continue in this way.

A recent development has been the installation of CCTV at WHVH and we are enormously grateful to Horsley Community Fund for the grant of £1,000 towards the cost of this work. This isn't something we really wanted to have to do but it would seem to be part of modern life now. It is there to provide a safe and secure environment for all our users as well as deter, detect and prevent any crime or anti-social behaviour.

Another essential job was to refresh the white lines, arrows and words in our car park. We

hope that this will help people to use the one-way car park correctly – it's one-way for very genuine safety reasons but we've had concerns about this with some visitors driving in and out the wrong way.

We continue to carry out repairs and improvements to the playground. This year, we renewed the safety surface under the large Multi-Play Unit and we also replaced the old wooden children's picnic table with a fantastic, multi-coloured picnic bench. It's eco-friendly and is made from 100% recycled materials.

If you're interested in hiring WHVH, please have a look at the website westhorsleyvillagehall.org which includes lots of information about all the facilities and the current hire charges. We have an online diary and booking request system integrated into the website so you can always see what we have free and when, even when the office is closed.

WHVH is a registered charity and is run by a voluntary Management Committee although the day-to-day running is taken care of by Julia, the Manager. Another couple of voluntary Trustees would be very welcome so, if you enjoy the wonderful village in which we live and would like to get more involved, please e-mail Julia or give her a ring to have an informal chat – whvhbooking@gmail.com or 01483 285454 (9am-5pm Mon-Fri please).

It's not a huge commitment but very worthwhile and a lovely, friendly team / it would be great to have one or two more local residents on board!

HORSLEY ROCKS

There's a new voice in the village! Horsley Rocks is a vibrant local community choir singing a broad mix of contemporary music. It initially started in May 2019 as a pop up project for the village fête but quickly gained such popularity that it continued beyond the fête. There was much festive song over the Christmas season including an evening of pub carols at the King William IV and an open rehearsal attracting a huge crowd.



Christmas at Cranmore

Under the leadership of local jazz musician, Sarah Jane Eveleigh, the choir meets on the first and third Monday of each month at St Mary's church rehearsing for a variety of events throughout the year. New members always welcome. For more information email horsleyrocks@gmail.com



Sarah Jane Eveleigh



St Mary's

WEST HORSLEY

Two years ago, we launched what we believe to be the Mission that God has given us for this next season of ministry here at St Mary's, which was about the kind of people we are becoming –

people who are **Committed** to deepening their faith in God, gathering on Sundays and offering our gifts to the mission of God;

people who are **Connected** with each other, through Home Groups, Men's and Women's groups, and connecting parents with each other as we raise children in a rapidly changing culture;

people who are **Courageous**, stepping out into the world with confidence, sharing our faith in Jesus and seeking to make a tangible difference in the community where we live.

I have been humbled to see God bringing new people into both congregations, seeing people settle into St Mary's, develop new friendships, and beginning to play their part in the life of the Church.

We encourage everyone who is physically able and considers St Mary's to be their spiritual home to be a part of a Home Group. These groups of people meet once a week to get to know and care for one another, study the Bible and learn how to live the Christian life. We launched several new Home Groups over the last year and we now have more than 50% of our congregation in a group. It is inspiring to hear the stories of growth, support and fun that these mid-week communities create.

It is also great to see our children's ministry entering a season of growth. St Mary's is in the top 6% of Church of England churches nationally when it comes to the number of children we have worshipping with us. We will be focusing upon developing our work with teenagers over the next year or so, as more of our young people grow into the 14-18 years age group.

We thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the West Horsley Village Fête last September. A large team from St Mary's cooked hundreds of burgers and sausages throughout the afternoon while others provided and manned the free soft play and inflatables for children and young people to enjoy.

Over the past year, our families have benefitted from Parenting Seminars to help with the challenge of raising children in a changing culture. Recently, we enjoyed a lively session about identifying our children's temperaments and how we can best support and encourage different characters. Some of us learned as much about ourselves as we did our children!

In December we invited the village to celebrate Christmas with us at a variety of traditional and family services over the festive period. We were delighted to have a choir from the Raleigh School lead the singing at our Family Carols Service and a group of St Mary's children and youth teamed up to sing and sign at another family service.

Carols by Candlelight and our Christingle service on Christmas Eve were as popular as ever and St Mary's was full to bursting.

The Wheelhouse Café has been up and running for over a year now and it is a popular weekly event offering a warm welcome, free tea and cake and friendly conversation. If you haven't been before, then you are invited to the café on Friday mornings between 10.30 am and midday at the Wheelhouse on East Lane. If you need a lift, then call the Church Office for help (01483 281898).

As Easter approaches, we invite you to join us for our Family Easter Trail and café and Family Easter Sunday Celebration at the church. You are welcome to these special events or to any of our weekly Sunday services. We have a traditional service at St Mary's at 9am and a 10.45am contemporary service with children's groups at East Horsley Village Hall. If you would like to find out more about the many different groups and events at St Mary's, then do visit our website at

www.stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk

It really is a privilege to have been called to St Mary's, to be a part of this Church community. I sometimes shake my head and smile in disbelief at the number of people who demonstrate what it means to be a committed, connected and courageous member of St Mary's. But as I look out at the congregation on a Sunday morning and see the numbers slowly growing, see people deepening their faith, see young people living their faith out, I remind myself that only God can do all this.

Phil Herrington
Rector

DARK SKIES IN WEST HORSLEY

Policy WH15 of the West Horsley Neighbourhood Plan 2016-33, adopted in December 2018, relates to 'Dark Skies', and is reproduced below.

"All development proposals should be designed to minimise the occurrence of light pollution. The Parish Council will expect such schemes to employ energy-efficient forms of lighting that also reduce light scatter and comply with the current guidelines established for rural areas by the Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP).

Proposals for all development will be expected to demonstrate how it is intended to prevent light pollution. Information on these measures must be submitted with applications, and where a development would potentially impact on light levels in the area, an appropriate lighting scheme will be secured by planning condition."

The full detail can be read at pages 51 to 53 of the adopted West Horsley Neighbourhood Plan.

See: http://www.westhorsley.info/_UserFiles/Files/WHNP%20Adopted%20Version%20December%202018.pdf

Although the above relates to new developments the same principles should be applied to all new lighting schemes.

A feature of West Horsley is that there is no street lighting, although some residents would prefer there was, it is one of aspects of the village that maintains its rural character.

Below is the comment in the recent West Horsley Conservation Area Appraisal by Guildford Borough Council. It refers to the Conservation Area, but it applies just as much to the whole of the Settlement Area.

3.3 Dark Skies within the village

Street lighting does not feature anywhere within the village, which nowadays is an unusual characteristic, and thus is regarded to be a feature of the Conservation Area, helping to reinforce the village's rural character. However, the village is still vulnerable to light spill, as evidenced by the research undertaken by the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England). As such, care and consideration must be employed going into the future, to ensure that the level of light spill does not increase any further, which would undermine the character of the Conservation Area.

CPRE's view

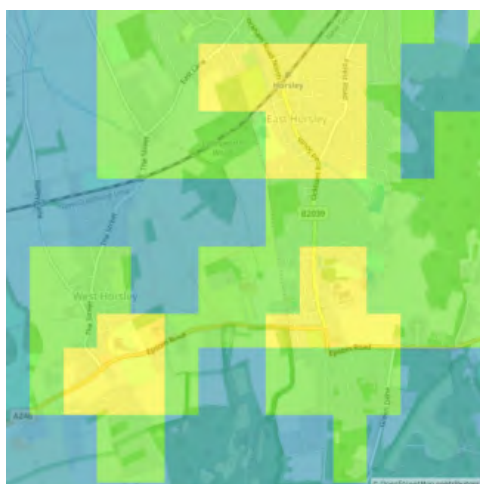
"CPRE believes that darkness at night is one of the key characteristics of rural areas and it represents a major difference between what is rural and what is urban. Security lights, floodlights and streetlights all break into the darkness and create a veil of light across the night sky.

While CPRE agrees that some of this light is necessary, much of it is wasting energy, shining upwards where it isn't needed, spilling into homes, disrupting people's sleep and affecting the behaviour of wildlife. The quality of our lives and natural world is being diminished by light pollution, yet there are simple things that can be done to ensure light shines only where and when it is needed.

Light doesn't respect boundaries; it can spread for miles from the source and blurs the distinction between town and country. Light spilling up into the night sky is also a waste of energy and money - local councils were estimated to spend £613 million on street lighting in 2014-15 - and the lights can account for between 15-30% of a council's carbon emissions.

We're not saying there should be no artificial light at all, but it should be the right type of lighting and only used where and when it is needed. We want to see more done to ensure that our communities are lit in a responsible way, with local authorities considering how they can improve their approach to street lighting, ensuring that new developments are lit appropriately and that areas of existing dark skies are protected."

The map shows light pollution in East & West Horsley



The brighter the colour the greater the light pollution.

Therefore, when putting in outside or security lighting think about how much light spill you are creating and consider the following:

Direct any lighting downwards as far as possible;

Use a movement sensor that restricts the length of time the lights remain on;

Do not use bright white LED lights but rather a warm white, if only bright white lighting is available for the purpose use lighting gel to reduce the glare;

Never leave your outside lights on all night.