

The Bookhams Residents' Association

bookhamresidents.org.uk
Tel: 0300 030 9890

November 2023

Working for Bookham since 1926

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www.bookhamresidents.org.uk



Is Bookham a safe place to live? Inspector James Green of Surrey Police provides confirmation that it is.

Following on from some disturbing serious offences in the village recently, the BRA was approached by Surrey Police asking for assistance in communicating with the local community to allay concerns that residents may have. This is something the BRA is more than happy to facilitate and on 25th October a public meeting open to all residents was held at Bookham Baptist Church.

BRA's Geraldine Brassett reports:

This proactive approach by Surrey police was positively received and residents were joined by Inspector James Green, Borough Commander for Mole Valley and the meeting was facilitated by Gil Caldwell, Curate of St Nicolas' Church.

Bookham residents were invited to submit questions in advance of the meeting so that the content was focussed on those areas of most concern.

Before the question-and-answer session however, Inspector Green provided details of

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The Bookhams Residents' Association Newsletter is published twice a year in the spring and autumn and is distributed by a team of volunteers to all BRA membership households.

If you have any comments on the newsletter or any additional reports you would like to see, please e-mail:

publicity@bookhamresidents.org.uk

Or call: 0300 030 9890

Or visit our web site:

www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

On the web site you can sign up for our occasional e-mail service and pay your annual subscription.

We also have social media presence on Next Door and Facebook.

recent crime statistics within Bookham. These looked at the different types of crimes committed and the incidence of these. Most importantly, these statistics evidenced that the number of crimes committed in our area remains very low and that the majority of those are minor in nature.

And whilst there had been a small increase in reported crimes over the summer months this was in line with the experience in past years and the expectation is that numbers will fall again as we progress into Autumn and Winter.

The question-and-answer session focussed on five key areas as follows:

- Knife crime
- Sexual assaults
- Shoplifting
- Anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- Drugs

Inspector Green provided a significant amount of information during this

session and some key points were:

Due to the way statistics are reported, these could be interpreted as there having been sexual assaults in our area but this is not the case and the Inspector was able to confirm that these have been no such assaults in the last three months.

Shoplifting remains a problem as covered by the recent news reports. Inspector Green explained how they are now working closely with affected businesses to address the issues created by shoplifting and are seeking to improve their support in this area.

ASB represents the highest number of reported crimes although numbers unusually decreased over the summer. The statistics on ASB cover a wide range of crimes from nuisance neighbours to rowdy behaviour. Inspector Green emphasised how local organisations work together to try and resolve these issues. In addition for those affected by criminal activity there are services to help, for example Victim Support. (www.victimsupport.org.uk).

As well as discussing past experiences, the meeting also focussed on the steps residents can take to support Surrey Police. These include:

Ensuring all crimes or suspicions of crimes are reported. Whilst an isolated incident may not seem important these reports can help police in spotting trends and can support preventative action being taken. Evidence is important and Surrey Police have been helped on many occasions by video footage from mobile phones or video doorbells so please include this with any report.

Posting information on social media is not the same as reporting it to the police so the Surrey Police website should always be used.

Related to the above, the BRA's Les Huett, explained that there is now a new page on the BRA website that provides quick links to Service Requests and Reporting. This page includes the link to the Surrey Police crime reporting web page referenced above. **(See page 6)**

Simon Edge, Chair of the BRA closed the meeting, thanking Inspector Green for initiating the meeting and for his open and honest responses to the questions raised.

He referenced the positive feedback for Surrey Police that had been provided by some attendees as part of the meeting and reiterated the key message that Bookham remains a safe place to live but that we must all play our part in helping to ensure that this continues to be the case.

Remembrance Day

Les Huett

On a bright sunny morning on the 11th November, Bookham residents and dignitaries assembled at the War Memorial in St Nicolas Church to pay their respects to the fallen in both World Wars and subsequent conflicts.

Also remembered is Pat Morrish who died earlier this year. Pat will be most remembered for his arrangements of the annual Remembrance Day ceremonies at St Nicolas Church and the following walk by the Bookham scout groups to the Friendship Tree in Eastwick Park Avenue for the laying of wreaths.



Simon Edge, our new BRA Chairman is now in place and following his election, Geraldine Brassett spoke to Simon to find out about his objectives for the Association.



I am delighted to be taking up the reins as Chair of the Bookham Residents Association and would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter Seaward for all the great work he did during his tenure as Chair.

If I was asked to summarise my immediate objectives in three words these would be visibility, collaboration and action and I will explain why this is the case.

The BRA undertakes a significant number of projects and initiatives on behalf of the village and its residents, some take weeks, some months and some years. I want to ensure that the community that we serve knows what we are doing on their behalf and see us as a trusted place for help, information, and positive change.

In summary to raise the profile of the BRA. It is important to me that Bookham residents view the Association as approachable, and as an organisation they want to support. Everything we do is the work of our volunteers, and my hope is that through visibility of the initiatives we are involved in, more people will come forward to join the BRA, and also to help, for example, on a committee, delivering our Newsletters, litter picking or supporting young people. Being part of what we do does not have to represent a significant time commitment, please do talk to us if you are interested.

I also want to provide increased awareness of the activities and events that take place in our village so expect to see a calendar of these appear on our website soon. We have also released a new page on our website (see page 6) summarising who to contact if you have a question or need to raise something with the County or District Councils, the Police, and other organisations.

Collaboration is key to our ability to deliver change. The BRA has worked hard to build good relationships with local organisations and the county and district councils. I recognise that this has been key to our past achievements and is something therefore I need to support the BRA in maintaining and developing. But this is not the extent of our collaboration and some of the other relationships that we have built are also important. An example of where this collaboration has been effective has been our work to install speed warning cameras.

The BRA is a catalyst for change and getting ideas and feedback into our committees is the way to achieve this. As an example, feedback from young people in the community is helping us to plan a new facility (a 'bump track') at the Lower Road Recreation Ground, to replace the skateboard facility that has become redundant so we can feel confident that what we propose will meet the needs of our young people.

At present we are involved in a variety of other projects including cleaning the war memorial (more on that later in this Newsletter), lobbying Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) to improve and regenerate Lower Shott. Top of my list is supporting the Bookham Youth and Community Association in getting the long awaited and much needed new youth centre built. And there are plenty more that I could list here; but I do need to manage expectations, the amount of action the BRA can take is directly linked to the amount of

awareness we can achieve and the level of collaboration that this drives particularly in terms of local residents engagement and their participation in the BRA.

Notwithstanding the above, my personal primary objective is to continue to work to sustain and enhance our lovely village, and to support all residents living here. With a sustainable and growing BRA I'm sure we can achieve that. I look forward to meeting and working with you over the coming months and years.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon" with a horizontal line underneath.

AGM Report

Minutes of the 96th Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 9th August 2023.

(Abridged. Full report is available on the BRA website).

1. Chairman's Welcome

Peter Seaward welcomed everybody on this his last AGM as Chairman.

2. Apologies for absence:

Apologies were noted from members unable to attend..

3. Minutes of the 95th Annual General Meeting:

3.1 Accuracy: The Minutes were ACCEPTED as a true record of the meeting.

3.2 Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

3.2 Chairman's Report:

A full copy of the Chairman's Report is may be seen on the BRA website.

Simon Edge replied giving his fulsome praise for the sterling and inspiring work carried out by Peter over the last 20 years as Chairman.

5. Financial Report for 2022:

Neil McDowall stated that he had taken over as Treasurer from Chris Pullan. On behalf of the Board he would like to

thank Chris very much for all his hard work over the last 15 years.

Income & Expenditure Account:

5.1 Income:

Subscriptions were £10.1k (2021 £10.9k) a 7% decrease. However the subscriptions for the year to date 2023 are ahead of the 2022 figure, which is encouraging, and have been driven by a communications exercise with all the residents earlier in the year.

In addition to subscription income, we received grants from MVDC for specific purposes together with donations from Bookham Traders totalling £13.9k (2021 £10.4k)

The Income and Expenditure Account showed a deficit for the year of £7.2k (2021 surplus £5.5k)

5.2 Expenditure:

The principal reasons for the movement, year on year, were payments of £4.6k for the power supply to St Nicolas Lychgate, £3.7k on the Vehicle Activated speed signs, and £3k for the Local Plan consultation.

Funds were also spent, as in prior years, on provision and maintenance of the village benches, trees and shrubs, hanging baskets, Christmas Lights, litter picking, the newsletter and the website.

5.3 Balance Sheet:

The Balance Sheet remains strong and at £19.2k, is at a similar level to the years prior to 2021.

At the year end, as well as the General Fund £7.5k, we have specific funds for Bookham Heritage, Trees and shrubs, Christmas Lights, Benches and Hanging Baskets totalling £11.8k

6 Election of Directors:

6.1 The meeting noted that Andy Freeman and Peter Seaward had resigned from the Board of Directors.

6.2 The meeting was asked to ratify the appointment of Neil McDowall to the Board of Directors. On being put to the vote, this was AGREED

6.3 There were no nominations received for any other appointments to the Board.

7. Election of Officers to the Company:

7.1 Election of Chairman: Simon Edge was nominated as Chairman. On being put to the vote this was AGREED.

7.2 Election of Vice Chairman: No nominations have been received.

7.3 Election of Treasurer: Neil McDowall was nominated as Treasurer. On being put to the vote this was AGREED.

7.4 Election of Honorary President: Peter Seaward was nominated as Honorary President. On being put to the vote this was AGREED.

7.5 Election of Honorary Vice President:

Michelle Smith has confirmed that she is willing to continue as Honorary Vice President.

8. Determination of Membership Subscription for 2024:

It was AGREED that the membership subscription for the year 2024 remain at £5 per household.

9. Any Other Business:

There were no other items.

After 20 years Peter Seaward retires as BRA Chairman

Simon Edge - our new Chairman pays tribute to Peter Seaward

I've known Peter since 2016. I very quickly saw what an untiring force for good Peter is across Bookham and how respected he and the BRA was, and still is, by MVDC and SCC officers, members and other local groups alike.

His knowledge of Bookham and the north of Mole Valley, as well as his list of contacts is encyclopaedic. He is also a skilled and determined 'arranger' – which explains why I'm

standing here now!

Peter's retirement marks the end of an era for the BRA. Clare Curran remembers Peter took on the chairmanship in 2003 and the energy and enthusiasm he brought to the role right from the start.

Peter forged new partnerships in the village and across the district, joining forces with Residents Associations in



Peter (right) is presented with a photo montage by Simon Edge, of images from Bookham Common taken by Eddie Hyde of the Bookham Camera Club

Fetcham, Ashtead and Leatherhead to form an umbrella group known as BLEAF which became a powerful and articulate mouthpiece for residents in the north of Mole Valley, interacting effectively with MVDC and SCC on a number of issues especially planning and highways.

Peter drove forward relationships with council officers - he was behind the creation of the consultative group called LIMBRA (Locally Involved Members with the BRA) which met with SCC highways officers and drove forward highways improvements in the village, including the safety improvements in the High Street and the drainage work at the Squareabout (although that did take a few years to actually get done).

Peter was also instrumental in the creation of Bookham's Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Working alongside Trevor Sokell who chaired the neighbourhood forum, Peter oversaw the drafting, agreement and adoption of the plan, approved by a village referendum in May 2017. It may be the case that the influence of the NDP has not been as great as those who spent many hours in producing it would have liked, but Peter has used the plan to really good effect for the benefit of the village in all the work he has done since on the draft Mole Valley Local Plan and the proposals for the future of Bookham.

We should also recognise Peter's contribution to the Village sign; his support for the new Youth and Community Centre and for the redevelopment of the Howard of Effingham School; saving the Garstons' triangle; the regeneration of Lower Shott (still work in progress); use of neighbourhood CIL for a number of projects in the village, like the noticeboards and the renovation of the many benches; the renovation of the War Memorial; the closing of the roads for the annual Act of Remembrance; and working with the Bookham Traders especially on the Christmas Lights and Hanging Baskets.

Peter has consistently maintained a strictly apolitical position, insisting that when elected councillors work with the BRA, they do so collectively as

representatives of all Bookham residents and put political differences aside.

Peter has been an exceptional local leader as chairman of the Bookhams Residents' Association. He has been completely committed to the role, ambitious for the village, professional in his approach to every task and always positive and enthusiastic.

He has raised the profile of the BRA as a community organisation, raised the bar for civic pride and participation in our village and brought together others locally in a powerful community partnership. He has put Bookham on the map and deserves our wholehearted thanks.

What an act to follow!

Your 2023 –2024 BRA Committee

Following the AGM your Directors and Committee members are:

Directors

Simon Edge	Chairman
Neil McDowall	Treasurer
Les Huett	Company Secretary and Communications
Geoff Tranter	Projects
David Smith	Noticeboards Co-ordinator
Cllr Clare Curran	Surrey County Council nominated Councillor
Cllr Roger Adams	Mole Valley District Council nominated Councillor

Committee

Carolyn Elson	Membership Secretary
David Armstrong	Minutes Secretary
David Cox OBE	Education and Young People
Diane Poole	Plastic Free Bookham; Blue Hearts; Effingham RA/PC liaison
Frances Fancourt	Tree Warden and Environment
Gill Caldwell	Churches Together
Julia Dickinson	Education; Cycling
Margaret Lawson	Litter Pick Co-ordinator
Michelle Smith	Vice President; Noticeboards Co-ordinator
Simon Baxter	Vehicle Activated Signs Co-ordinator
Nick Forrer	Project Support (as and when required)

Planning Sub-committee

Keith Whale	Chairman
Julia Dickinson	Member
Peter Whitter	Member
Chris Cunningham	Member
Christine Milstead	Member
Geoff Tranter	Member
Richard Moyses	Member

If you need to contact any Director or Committee Member, you may do so via the BRA website: bookhamresidents.org.uk or call 0300 030 9890

BRA Planning Sub-Committee

Keith Whale — Chair

The role of BRA Planning sub Committee is primarily to review all planning applications that are submitted within Bookham. We decide whether a letter of Representation should be made to MVDC planning to either object, express concerns or support the application. This will be based upon how any application may affect the general principles to maintain or enhance the amenities, ambience and environment of Bookham and its residents, businesses, facilities and services, having particular regard to Bookham's Neighbourhood Development Plan. In addition, it also considers matters falling outside of Bookham that could have a material effect on our village.

The Planning department at MVDC supplies the Chairman with a list of all planning applications, decisions and appeals each week for the whole borough, and those in Bookham are circulated to the Committee Members weekly.

The Committee meets once a month to review these and decide on any action that should be taken and to discuss any other planning related matters that arise. It will also consider all matters that residents raise through the BRA either directly or through its website.

The Committee consists of eight people who reside in Bookham and who have specialist knowledge of planning matters and issues. The Chair also maintains contact with MVDC's planning team to ensure that BRA remains influential and credible.

You may view each week's running order and decision list of applications made to MVDC Planning Department and Minutes of the BRA Planning Sub-Committee meetings on the BRA website via the Quick Links button.

New Quick Link Service Requests and Reporting Portal launched

Les Huett

Not sure who to report a street cleaning request or overhanging branches or a pothole to, or seen something suspicious on your video door bell?

The Bookhams
Residents'
Association

**Quick Link Service Requests
& Reporting Portal**



[www.bookhamresidents.org.uk/
#reporting](http://www.bookhamresidents.org.uk/#reporting)

Our Councils have multiple responsibilities and it is often a challenge to find out which Council and Council department or organisation is responsible for what. To help residents make a service request or report the BRA has developed a Quick Link Service Request & Reporting Portal.

Click on the relevant button in the portal will take you directly to the relevant council department and reporting forms. Also included in the portal are the National Trust, Surrey Police Suspicious Activity, Surrey Wildlife Trust and emergency flooding.

Our portal is mobile optimised so it's easy to report when out and about. Try scanning the QR code opposite on your mobile to see how easy it is.

BRA Projects

Geoff Tranter

Now we are into Autumn, thoughts naturally turn to colder weather, shorter days and key events that occur between now and Christmas, one of which is Remembrance Sunday, an important date in village life when we take time to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life.

In Bookham our Remembrance Day events are centred around our War Memorial which stands in the grounds of St Nicolas' Church. You may not be aware but, in recent years, the BRA has taken on responsibility for looking after the War Memorial.

This important village landmark was last cleaned just over five years ago. We are delighted that the first stage of cleaning work was completed in time for this year's remembrance

reflections.. The second stage of repainting the names of the fallen is to follow.

But this is not the only work currently in progress to improve the facilities in the village. Those of you that use public transport (or just like to stop for a rest) may have noticed that we have refurbished the bench by the bus stop near the St Nicolas Church. This is part of a programme of work to, one by one, restore the 27 benches that are located across the Bookhams.

At the BRA we use different methods to communicate with residents and this importantly includes our noticeboards which I am sure you will have seen around the village. There are actually eight of these sited in different locations and, a little like the benches, these form part of our regular programme of maintenance work. We would be grateful for your feedback on the noticeboards and please do let us know if there is anything in particular you would like to see on these.

BRA Contribution Awards

At the AGM after many years of service a number of our Committee members have retired and to mark the occasion BRA Contribution Awards were presented to Chris Pullan, John Howard and Andrew Freeman.



Chairman Simon Edge presents John Howarth with his BRA Contribution Award



Chairman Simon Edge presents Chris Pullen with his BRA Contribution Award

BRA Noticeboards

The BRA has eight noticeboards around the village and we are happy to display community events and notices on them. To find out more and how to submit your posters, please visit the BRA website:

www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

There is no charge for this service.

BRA Community Event Calendar

The BRA has an Community Event Calendar on its website and we are happy to display community events. To see events and to find out more and how to submit your event please visit the BRA website:

www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

There is no charge for this service.

Community Events Calendar

DATES	EVENT TYPE	LOCATION	HOST
November 2023			
NOV 11	COMMUNITY Community Fridge	10:30 - 11:30	Bookham Baptist C., Bookham Eats Ltd, Bookham Open Ga..., Bookham Communi...
NOV 11	COMMUNITY Remembrance Day	10:45 - 11:15	St Nicolas Church
NOV 13	COMMUNITY Community Fridge	10:00 - 11:00	St Mary's Church Feltbam
NOV 14	COMMUNITY Community Fridge	11:15 - 12:15	Bookham Baptist Church
NOV 14	PERFORMANCE Barbie	14:00 - 16:00	Old Barn Hall
NOV 16	SEMINAR Come and See	14:00 - 16:00	Eastwick Road Church
NOV 16	SEMINAR Come and See	19:15 - 20:45	Bookham Baptist Church

Can you help?

Digital Services Administrator, Road Stewards and Legal Advisor needed.

Digital Services Administrator

The BRA has a number of digital services that it uses to manage its online operations. This includes our messaging services, community event calendar and blog posts on our website. Being a member of the busy Communications and Membership team is an ideal opportunity for someone who has technology skills and would like to learn some new skills and apply them for the good of the community. Typically the commitment will be 1-2 hours per week.

Full training will be given.

Road Stewards

Our team of Road Stewards are responsible for the delivery of the BRA Newsletter twice a year and/or collection of the annual BRA subscription. Unfortunately we do not have Road Stewards to cover all roads in Bookham.

All we need is a commitment of a few hours in the Spring and Autumn to deliver to around twenty homes.

Legal Advisor

We would like to appoint a Legal Advisor to the Directors who can assist in clarifying points of law which can arise, particularly when dealing with local government and planning.

If you are interested in any of these voluntary positions please get in touch via the BRA website: bookhamresidents.org.uk or call 0300 030 9890



**Join the BRA Litter Pick
keep Bookham tidy!**

We meet on the first Sunday of the month at the Lower Shott car park at 11.00 a.m. If it's a Bank Holiday weekend, then we meet the following Sunday.

Gloves, grabs and high-vis tops will be provided and a session usually lasts around 90 minutes.

The Bookhams Residents' Association
bookhamresidents.org.uk
Tel: 0300 030 9890

Please note participants must be aged sixteen or over or if under 16 assisting as part of a recognised organisation or with a supervising adult.

Community

There aren't many pubs like The Anchor in Bookham!

David Cox

Following a donation by the Anchor Pub to the BRA to uplift our noticeboards, we found out more about the amazing fund raising that has been undertaken by this local pub which has a true community spirit.

Tony Mann, an Anchor regular, and BRA Road Steward, organises the quiz nights, manages the funds raised, distributing to and liaising with beneficiaries whilst keeping the regulars informed of how the funds are being used. He told us more about this community success story.

The Anchor pub in Bookham has raised money for local good causes since the mid-90's through a weekly quiz night and occasional raffles. The quiz only raised between £20 and £40 per week, but it soon mounted up enough to make significant contributions to local schools, hospitals, hospices, youth clubs, churches and various causes for the elderly and infirm, like Help for Heroes, Surrey Air Ambulance and Mid-Surrey Alzheimer's Society.

Debbie Bancroft and her husband Paul took over the management of the pub in October 2011 and Debbie was more than happy to continue with and promote the quiz. Then, on the first weekend of December that year, she introduced a weekly Bonus Ball draw and Sunday meat raffle, both of which have continued (with the quiz) until today. Customers warmly welcomed the two new fundraisers plus a few odd raffles and draws thrown in and wholeheartedly got behind them, so much so that over the last 11 ½ years the pub has, as at the end of July 2023, made donations to local good causes totalling £55,000!

Sadly Debbie Bancroft retired in August but her loyal band of fund-raising customers will no doubt continue to honour her very worthy legacy!



Tony Mann, BRA Road Steward and Quiz Night organiser; Debbie Bancroft, manager of The Anchor with Simon Edge, BRA Chairman.



Debbie and her team that make it all happen!



The BRA understand from the team at Age Concern that they have had a number of people in Bookham contact them recently who are suffering from loneliness. If you could befriend a fellow resident it would be a lovely community spirited thing to do, particularly at this time of year.

01306 899104 or 07442 017169

info@ageconcernmolevalley.org.uk

www.ageconcernmolevalley.org.uk

You can read this newsletter but do you know someone with a visual impairment who can't?

We can help!

We take our sight so much for granted. Without it, or with failing sight, Talking Newspapers provide a lifeline to the local news that so many enjoy.

In the Mole Valley district there are Talking Newspapers that provide a **free** weekly service of audio recordings using Leatherhead and Surrey Advertisers and other local information such as this newsletter. We include the Bookhams, Effingham, Fetcham, Leatherhead, Dorking and the Horsleys in our circulation area. Talking Newspapers are optimised for delivery to a Visually Impaired Person (VIP) and are very simple to use.

To find out more and to recommend a VIP to receive this **free** service please visit Bookham & District Talking Newspaper at:

www.bookhamtalkingnewspaper.org.uk

Or call: 0300 030 1120

Transport

Bookham Station Accessibility

Andrew Matthews

This year we are seeing delivery of some of the projects at the station that have been worked on over the last couple of years, and eagle-eyed residents will have noticed the station toilets are being refurbished which includes an accessible cubicle, this will be opening very soon.

I am continuing to press South Western Railway (SWR) to commit to the Radar key scheme meaning disabled users can have access to the toilets when the ticket office is not open. Special thanks to SWR for agreeing to complete the toilet refurbishment, and for negotiating with planning and conservation officers to allow the project to be delivered this year.

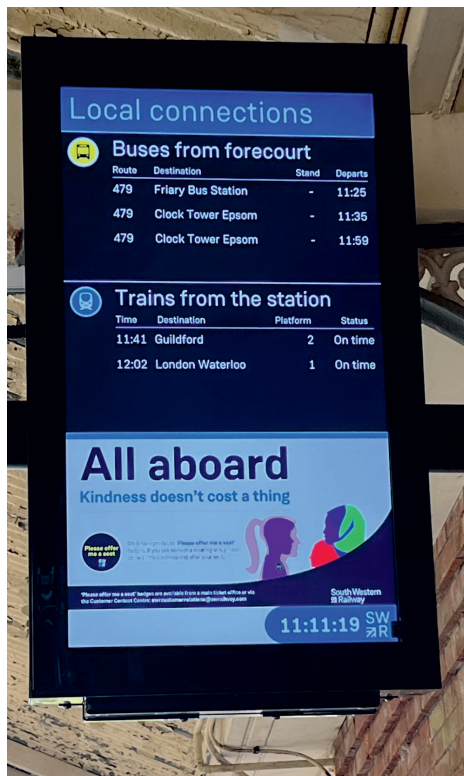
Some of you will have noticed the new bench by the Bus Stop. This was provided through the railway's Customer and Communities Improvement Fund. I was fortunate to win funding which meant SWR could install a bench for passengers waiting for a bus connection.

The project to deliver an additional 32 inch display screen that shows the live train and bus departures on platform one is moving forward. The project suffered a setback due to increasing costs, but following discussions we are pleased that SWR have agreed to provide the additional funding. We hopefully will see the new display screen sometime in the new year.

Ticket Office Closure Consultation

Les Huett

Along with many other organisations and individuals (over 750,000) the BRA contributed to the ticket office closure consultation and on 31st October, the Secretary of State for Transport announced the outcome of the consultation and that the Government has asked train operators to withdraw their proposals. **Good news!**



Destination board on platform two. Plans and funding are in place to provide the same facility on London bound platform one.

Bus services in Surrey to be boosted with £7.8m investment

Report from SCC

Surrey County Council has been awarded £7.8m to further improve and protect local buses.

The council will work with bus operators over the coming month to allocate the funding which is likely to generate more frequent buses, more evening and weekend services and reduced fares for young people to help them access education, training and employment.

The investment will also be used to help ten Surrey bus services with low passenger numbers, to increase their patronage so that people who rely on them for essential services can continue to access their local bus.

Matt Furniss, Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth at Surrey County Council said,

"I'm delighted that Surrey has been selected as one of the local authorities to receive this essential funding which will help us to build upon our own significant investment and encourage more people to take the bus."

"We're investing in making our buses greener including £32.3m for more ultra-low and zero emission buses and £6.3m for more ultra-low and zero emission community transport minibuses. A further £9m is being invested in bus priority measures to ensure buses turn up on time, and £1.4m in improving information for passengers at bus stops."

"We also recently launched the Surrey LINK card which gives young people half-price bus travel and expanded our on-demand Surrey Connect bus services, giving more options to travel by bus for our residents."

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Funding Approved

Report from MVDC

On 26 September, Mole Valley District Council's (MVDC's) Cabinet approved the funding for Stage 2 of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). The plan, led by Surrey County Council (SCC), aims to develop cycling and walking schemes to enhance infrastructure within the district and encourage sustainable modes of transport.

Part of the plan is a Cycle Corridor for Bookham that will go from Leatherhead via Bookham to Effingham. Two route options are being considered: Scheme 1A which will go via the Guildford Road and 1B which will go via the Lower Road.

MVDC Officers have recommended that the Cycle Corridor for Bookham scheme would have the greatest impact over others being considered.

For the full report visit the MVDC website and search for Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure.

Infrastructure

Roadworks: Everywhere!

Cllr Clare Curran

No one in Bookham can have failed to have noticed works on roads and pavements in the village. Surrey Highways have been busy resurfacing pavements, particularly in the Eastwick area and have also resurfaced the western end of Spring Grove.

Surrey Highways will soon be doing more safety work to build new dropped kerbs in Fife Way, Twelve Acre Close and Sole Farm Road, having just completed the first part of a safety scheme in Eastwick Park Avenue. And residents who have reported or negotiated the long crack in the surface in Eastwick Park Avenue will be pleased to hear that it is scheduled to be repaired in December, though this will be a major piece of work and will probably also need a road closure.

Lower Road has been closed for an extended period to allow SES Water to lay a new water main. The closure has disrupted traffic flows in the village, causing delays at the Eastwick Road/Leatherhead Road junction at peak times. However, the work will be finished by mid November and is an important infrastructure upgrade, replacing ageing pipework that had a number of bursts last winter.

New development on the A246 Guildford Road has necessitated temporary traffic lights from time to time for gas and water connections and SGN will soon be continuing to lay the new gas main on Guildford Road / The Lorne / Griffin Way - again, important infrastructure improvements for the village.

BRA Comment:

It is helpful to read Clare's comments and there are obviously several different projects that are all important taking place. Notwithstanding that the past few weeks have been frustrating for many of us trying to travel around and through the village. The situation has been further exacerbated by the

works on the A3 Wisley interchange and the major diversion route coming through the village.

There have also been an increasing number of private home developments where contractors are parking their vehicles on some over stretched routes and adding more pain to residents trying to travel. Please show some consideration if you are having works carried out and ask your contractors to be considerate when they are parking their vehicles.

Let's hope that the benefits of all of these works outweigh the inconvenience we have experienced.

Infrastructure work is a necessary part of life and we all benefit from the short term pain long term gain as during the recent storms there was no flooding at the Squareabout!

Information about current and planned roadworks can be found on the Surrey roadworks map: www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/roadworks



Water main works continue on the Lower Road.

Don't forget, if you see a pothole or any other highway issue the BRA Quick Link Service Requests & Reporting portal will take you straight to the appropriate service and reporting page. See page 6 for more details.

The Bookhams Residents' Association

Quick Link Service Requests & Reporting Portal



www.bookhamresidents.org.uk/#reporting

Environment



Recycle.bookhamresidents.org.uk

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle News

Diane Poole and Les Huett

We're pleased to announce the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle search tool on the BRA website (under Quick Links) has been updated by us and our colleagues at Plastic Free Bookham to reflect the most recent information. Just type in what you want to get rid of and you should find out what to do with it. If you can't find it in the database, you can email pfcbookham@gmail.com who will try and find out for you.

The latest update now has guidance for over 120 items. The service works on desktop and mobile devices.

Diane Poole of Plastic Free Bookham researched and provided the content and Les Huett from the BRA built the service.

Surrey Environment Partnership have just launched a new scheme that offers a range of rewards for reducing waste – find out more at www.surreyep.org.uk/reduce-waste-rewards/

The government brought in a further Single Use Plastics ban on 1st October 2023 :

www.gov.uk/guidance/single-use-plastics-ban-plates-bowls-trays-containers-cutlery-and-balloon-sticks

so you should see no more single use plastic cutlery nor plastic sticks for balloons. Polystyrene takeaway containers for food and drink should also go. Whilst single use plastic plates, bowls and trays are also now banned, the limit of the exemptions to the ban need further clarification.

Businesses should contact Trading Standards to find out more. They can also contact pfcbookham@gmail.com for information on alternatives and how to become a Plastic Free Business Champion

Bookham Blue Hearts project

Diane Poole

The Bookham Blue Hearts road verge reflowering project has now been running for three years and the designated verges on the A246 and outside people's homes have seen a huge increase in the number and variety of wildflowers, along with the insects and invertebrates that they benefit. The aim is to provide corridors of connectivity to allow wildlife to move and thrive. On the A246 we have seen an abundance of nectar-rich flowers including Pyramidal and Bee Orchids as well as chalk-loving flowers such as Knapweed, Scabious, Trefoil and Ox Eye Daisy to name but a few. In Spring we had a fabulous display of Cowslips and Orchids right in the centre of our village!

There were teething problems when the new mowing contractors this year didn't mow a lot of places that they should have mown. Thankfully this now seems to have been resolved and we look forward to sightlines and path edges being mown on a regular basis. By the time you read this the final cut should have been done.

The Bookham Blue Hearts have a Facebook page [@bookhambluehearts](https://www.facebook.com/bookhambluehearts) or

bookhambluehearts@gmail.com

You can also leave a message on the BRA Message Line: 0300 030 9890.



The Bookhams
Residents'
Association

bookhamresidents.org.uk
Tel: 0300 030 9890

Still time to pay your subscription!

Throughout this Newsletter you will have read about the many examples of how the BRA continues to champion many initiatives in the village.

The BRA is run by volunteers who give their time freely and for free but some of the work we undertake costs money.

For just £5.00 per year per household you can help us to fund our work on behalf of our village and you will be a BRA member.

Ways to Pay

Many of you will be familiar with our Road Stewards who call once a year to collect the annual subscription along with delivering the Newsletters.

However a number of our roads no longer have a Road Steward so below we have listed the ways you can pay.

Even if you do have a Road Steward why not try one of these other ways to pay – it will save them from having to call.

Use the QR code – scan with your smart phone and be taken to the BRA website and click on “Join the BRA and pay 2023 annual subscription” button.

Pay online – visit the BRA website at www.bookhamresidents.org.uk and head to the Subscriptions page. You

Pay your subscription on line at:

www.bookhamresidents.org.uk

Or scan the QR code below on your mobile.



can use a credit or debit card to pay through our secure payment system.

When you are paying online please note the following:

After you enter your card details you have to type in your postcode (this is in the box that has the postcode WS11 1DB) in it, you will be able to type over this). If you do not do this you get the 'Invalid Card' message.

Subscription payment

Subscription only

Subscription + donation of £5

Subscription + donation of £10

Subscription + donation of £15

Subscription + donation of £20

Important: When entering your card details below, please enter your postcode in the last box where it says WS11 1DB. This is used for validation purposes only. Once you have entered your post code click on 'Submit' to complete your subscription. Thank you.

Payment

1234 1234 1234 1234 Subscription payment - Subscription only £5.00

MM / YY **Amount Due: £5.00**

CVC

United Kingdom

WS11 1DB

This does mean that you will have entered your postcode twice on the form. The first time is for our records, but the second time is for verification of your credit or debit card and like your card details, it can not be seen by the BRA.

Pay by telephone using a credit or debit card.

Call the BRA helpline on 0300 030 9890 and leave your name, telephone number and a “code word” of your choosing (something simple like a pet’s name is ideal).

A volunteer will ring you back and will

input your payment card details into our secure payment system during the telephone call. Your payment details are not retained.

Standing Order and Bank Transfers

If you would like further details to pay by standing order or bank transfer please email us at:

membership@bookhamresidents.org.uk

or call our helpline on 0300 030 9890 for further details.

If you pay by this method please put as your reference your surname and the LAST 3 digits of your postcode e.g. Brown3NL

This helps us to record your membership against your address.

A huge thank you to those residents who have already paid this year.

If you have already paid subs to your road steward, don't forget to sign up for our occasional email service on the BRA website or follow us on social media to keep up to date with village news between our Newsletter print editions

Want to get involved?

See page seven for our vacancies