

BVRA newsheet

from the Banstead Village Residents' Association

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www.Banstead-BVRA.org

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY EVENT by Marion Hayns



Having succeeded so well last year, Michelle Cass from the Natural Way together with other members of the Banstead Business Guild, managed to bring the High Street alive once more – despite temperatures falling well below freezing! Excited children were able to enjoy decorating Christmas biscuits or having their faces painted at Christchurch, there was a children's decorating competition outside Edibles, various furry creatures with collecting buckets outside the charity shops, a couple of Storm Troopers were frighteningly engaging outside Pizza Express, a juggler on stilts strode above it all and wandering up and down was to be found Queen Kalista, evil stepmother of the hero of this year's pantomime Snowy ... aka Neil Allison from All Saints Church! Further details and how to book tickets can be found on the back page.

Most of the shops had remained open and were thronged with families availing themselves of the free drinks on offer, in addition to browsing the shelves for ideas for Christmas, taking advantage of the reduced prices on the night. It was the most wonderful community event and highlighted just why Banstead is such a popular place to live!



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR by Mike Sawyer

After seventeen years on your Executive committee it is time for me to retire and make way for new blood.

I have been honoured to have worked for so many years and to have seen the Association's influence grow under both Peter McLaren and Roger Collins' chairmanship. I am sorry that it has not been possible for me to finish my last full year as your chairman.

It remains only for me to give my sincere thanks to the many committee members, especially to Roger Collins, Catalina Vassallo-Bonner, David Gradidge, Cliff Glanfield and Sally Hull (our previous vice chair) who have given such kind support and with whom I have had so many good times. I wish the Association (and its vital road stewards) well in the future. I am truly sad that this can no longer include me.

Please let any committee member know how you can support the aims of the Association. New members are always welcome.

MIKE SAWYER by Roger Collins, Catalina Vassallo-Bonner and others

It is sad news that Mike Sawyer, our Chairman and leader of our planning group, has resigned from the Executive Committee owing to pressure of events and his expanding commitments elsewhere. He took on the acting role three years ago and then the full chairmanship at the beginning of this year. We knew he would only act until the AGM in May but we will miss his contribution between now and then, in particular with the DMP consultation process.

Indeed Mike will be a very hard act to follow as our leading advisor on all things to do with planning. He knew more about local authority planning matters than anyone and has been invaluable to us on many, many tricky applications and above all on our response to the Core Strategy preparations. Perhaps his main strength was to understand how the Council officers think and thus to line BVRA up with their own views, bringing us more influence on their decisions.

Mike has worked for BVRA for over 17 years of which he has served 11 years as vice chairman and latterly shared this position jointly with Sally Hull from 2014 - 2017. Has also done an excellent job of steering BVRA through the difficult period following the resignation at short notice of our previous chairman after his three months in the role. Mike also was editor of this newsheet for many years and has only last year handed this job over to your current team (David Talbot and Marion Hayns).

The Association owes Mike an enormous debt of gratitude and we wish him well in his continuing work for the voluntary sector and we look forward to hearing from him in the future.

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INFRASTRUCTURE by David Gradidge

The problem we all have with reporting defects to Surrey CC is that they have little or no money to carry out repairs. But it does get put on a list.

My list includes the following – lack of white lines on Sutton Lane going north from the roundabout, narrowing of Sutton Lane, east side from Croydon Lane to the High St, broken down rustic railings on Winkworth Rd by Sutton Lane roundabout, leaning finger post on Bolters Lane, lamp post in middle of pavement o/s No 2 Harbourfield Rd, missing lamp post Holly Lane West etc. Let me have your list of your items.

I add to this the project in Operation Horizon to repair the pavement on the south side of the High St and in Court Rd. Defects were marked up many months ago.

The review of Parking Regulations was published in the recent Local Committee papers. We had hoped this would include DYL down one side of Salisbury Rd, but it only includes a small section outside Forge Steading. We will pursue this when it comes up for public consultation. Omitted from their list is our request to convert the taxi rank outside Waitrose into much needed disabled parking spaces. Some say taxis only stop here to do shopping. If they do carry those wanting to shop in Waitrose, they can surely park inside. Do taxis actually ply for trade there?

PLANNING MATTERS by Ben Martin

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council are in the process of producing their Development Management Plan (DMP) for the coming years. The BVRA Planning Subgroup submitted detailed comments on an earlier version last year, along with around 1000 other organisations and individuals.

The Council has now completed the process of responding to these comments, and the latest version of the DMP was approved by the full Council on 14 December 2017.

The Public Consultation Period on the DMP is to run from **January 5th until February 16th** and any responses have to be registered by this date. Every household will be receiving a leaflet during the first two weeks of January outlining the proposals and giving full details as to how to register your comments. Since there is very little change from last time (despite all the detailed inputs), there are no proposals from the Council to mount another public display.

The BVRA Planning Subgroup will be considering the DMP and making our observations. If you feel there are any specific points that should be included in the BVRA input, please contact us (email address on front page) or see our website for further updates.

UPDATE ON THE ‘SOS – SAVE OUR STEEPLE’ APPEAL by Susan Major



At the close of the year Susan Major, Church Warden of All Saints Church writes to thank all who so generously supported the ‘Save Our Steeple’ Appeal which has now ended. Close to £99,000 has been raised since May when the appeal began, starting with the selling of several hundred ‘shingle sponsorships’ and concluding with a grand Festive Celebration at Banstead Preparatory School featuring the Norwood Wind Ensemble and the Banstead Show Choir. In between there were open garden days, a supper talk, a sponsored walk around the Parish, a performance of Stainer’s Crucifixion, a special showing by Curzon Country Cinema and a talk on Icons by Andrea Chance, talented artist and wife of the previous Vicar. In addition many very generous donations were given by both local organisations and individuals for which the Church gives thanks.

COMMUNITY CORNER by John Kemble

A big thank you to all who turned up, armed with their own equipment, to embark on clearing some footpaths. We were blessed with good weather on the day and the workforce set about clearing the two longish footpaths at the end of Mellow Close. Team morale was good and the difference between initial appearance and final finish was great. I got the feeling that all involved enjoyed themselves. I know I did.

I am planning another clearance for **Saturday 10th March 2018** to clear the footpath at Hengest Farm starting at **10 am** so please pencil this in your diary if you would like to help. We will meet up in the Community Hall car park, Park Road as before. johnckemble@btinternet.com



The BVRA Newsheet is supported by;

Richard Saunders and Company
2 High Street Banstead SM7 2LJ

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WINKWORTH WOODLAND COMMUNITY PROJECT by Brian Ransom



Work has continued clearing back the plants encroaching onto the Winkworth Road footpath and re-planting with low growing native plants. After the autumn leaf fall we had to rake up leaves in this area to help the new plants survive, once established they can be left to their own devices. A large area of the plot has been left untouched as a "wildlife island" and we are building "bug hotels" and woodpiles to keep this area isolated from the areas we are managing. Sadly all the Ash trees on the site have been identified by SCC's Arborist as suffering from "Ash dieback" and will need to be taken down. The trunks of these trees will be used to delineate the footpaths and so will not be wasted. It's not all work with the WWCP, we

had a pre-Christmas "do". Volunteers and their partners came along and we had a very enjoyable evening. If you would like to join us please contact me by email on : brian.bvra@gmail.com

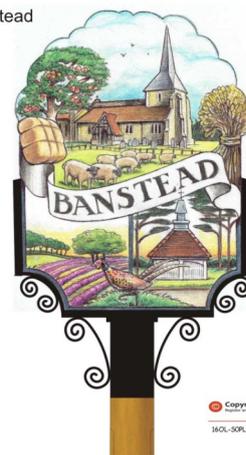
A NEW BANSTEAD VILLAGE SIGN PROPOSAL by Brian Ransom

SCC have decided that the woodland site location of the proposed sign is owned by Reigate and Banstead Council and not by SCC Highways Department. Therefore I have written to both Cllr Eddy Humphreys and Cllr Lynne Hack, both of whom support the proposal, and requested that they obtain permission to erect the sign. I have also presented the proposal to the Banstead Business Guild and various members of the U3A Wildlife group and received many positive comments and promises of support.

We have our first donation! After presenting to the Business Guild, the local High Street Solicitors COPLEY CLARK decided to contribute a significant sum to our fundraising, the main effort of which will start after we get permission to erect the sign from R&B council. See the site location plan and other images at the BVRA website: Banstead-BVRA.org/projects

For further information or contributions please contact me by email: brian.bvra@gmail.com

Proposed Village Sign for Banstead



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BANSTEAD LIVE AT HOME SCHEME by Tracey Baxter

Banstead Live at Home is a charity that offers services and support to help older people lead independent, active and fulfilled lives, whilst remaining in their own home.



We aim to reduce social isolation, promote health and wellbeing while offering opportunities for companionship and support. We recognise that loneliness is an increasing challenge that affects many of us as we age, and it is manifested physically, mentally and spiritually.

We run two weekly activity clubs, Natter & a Platter Club on Wednesdays and Friendship Club on Thursdays. We offer a volunteer befriending, telephone befriending, signposting service and trips out, and monthly pub lunches. We are actively seeking members to join our community and volunteers to help and expand with our activities and services.

For further information:

please call Tracey Baxter Scheme Manager on 07968 351211 or email Banstead.liveathome@mha.org.uk

HIGH STREET UPDATE by Cliff Glanfield



Regarding the area outside Tesco, the diseased Ash tree has now been removed. This leaves an unsightly stump within the cracked retaining wall and posts and railings surrounding the small patch of unkempt shrubs. We hope to persuade the managing agents to remove the stump, retaining wall, posts and railings and shrubs and replace with paving to match existing. Reigate and Banstead Council have undertaken to earth up and grass the bare area and Banstead in Bloom propose to provide a bench subject to consent from the managing agents.

On the subject of benches there are a number along the High Street, in the Orchard and in the wildlife field, all in various states of repair. We will be looking at how best to bring these all up to a proper standard.

Turning to The Lady Neville playground, it is good to see Reigate and Banstead Borough Council have repaired the oak benches facing the cricket ground and the vandalized benches along The Avenue, however there still remain the “desire line” gaps that have been created in the hedge to Avenue Road. Whilst we felt the hedge should be re-laid where necessary to close the gaps there might be an opportunity of creating an additional entrance with steps, a hand rail and a landing area.



Banstead Village’s children’s play facilities are poor for a village centre location, considering the use they get and compared to others in the borough. We should consider the possibility of creating more of an adventure playground for older children and teenagers on either Chucks Meadow or the triangle bordered by Avenue Road and the cricket pitch although we would be keen to involve other interested parties such as Banstead in Bloom and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council to agree actions and avoid duplication of effort.

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BUS ROUTE 166 – by David Gradidge and Gerald Bridge

An increasing number of you will be aware that there are plans to axe the bus service between Banstead and Epsom Hospital. Most never use the buses on a regular basis (27% per our recent survey) but given our aging population, you never know when you might have to rely on buses. To me, this is not just the withdrawal of a bus route on financial grounds, it is part of a long list of services under threat. The Royal Mail sorting office is rumoured, Nat West is closing next June – what next? Is it not time to say enough is enough?

The main issue is to do with bus routes that cross TfL boundaries into Surrey. There are many of these. Apart from the 166, there is, of course the 420 to Reigate and then the 465 from Kingston to Dorking. This latter was threatened with being cut back to Chessington, until Surrey CC found some money but in so doing chopped the subsidy on the 166.



Now TfL like Surrey is under severe cost pressure. The contract for Route 166 is out for tender with the award due any time now. But it is not too late to register a protest. Representations are being made at the highest level starting with Chris Grayling, Secretary of State for Transport and MP for Epsom & Ewell. We, amongst others, have involved our own MP, Crispin Blunt, Surrey CC, The Mayor of London, Croydon Council, Nork RA and quite a few others.

Please write to Chris Grayling (secretary of State for Transport) at his constituency office – 212 Barnett Wood Lane, Ashted, KT21 2DB or 'phone 01372 271036, or email chris.grayling.mp@parliament.uk before it is too late.

BANSTEAD IN BLOOM by Marion Hayns

I was unable to give you the results of the Banstead in Bloom Competition in my last article but am delighted to report that as a result of the high level of community involvement we were able to demonstrate to the judges, we gained a *silver award* in September for this, our first entry into the Britain in Bloom Competition!

Banstead Rotary organised a highly successful quiz night at the end of October enjoyed by 140 local residents and in so doing raised £1750 which will give us the means to start tackling projects on our wish list. Top of this list you will not be surprised to hear will be that sadly neglected area in front of the parade of shops which includes Tesco's and the Post Office. The diseased ash tree has now been cut down and once we obtain consent from the managing agents we can, together with assistance from Reigate & Banstead Council begin to address the issues involved. Whilst giving mention to the Quiz Night we congratulate the winning team, the mis-named 'Runners Up' and hope that they will return to fight off the challenge from 'Pam's People' at the next event, organised for **Oct 27th 2018**.



We are also working together on enhancing the Banstead Wildlife Field. Were you aware that we have this oasis on the edge of our village? It is to be found in Basing Road which is a turning off Bolters Lane, just across from Banstead Downs Lawn Tennis Club and was opened on Sept 18th 1997. In all that time our Treasurer David Gradidge has been keenly involved with the management of this and who adds that in early September the Downlands Partnership (part of Surrey County Council) carried out 3 days of maintenance work, but this still left a range of outstanding matters including pond work and tacking invasive bramble. Reigate & Banstead own the site and



their Countryside Officer has now produced an excellent management plan, which includes ensuring the area gets visited by local schools and other groups.

Please come along to our 'tea and get together' on **March 3rd** at the **United Reform Church** to hear further details on how you can get involved with some of the lighter tasks required there. Green spaces such as this are vital to our feelings of well being and as we go into 2018 and consult on the recommendations of the local Development Management Plan (DMP) it is imperative that we identify and 'ring fence' these areas and buildings such as the Community Hall which do so much to enhance our quality of life here in Banstead.



Pyramidal Orchid from the Field

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BANSTEAD REMEMBERS by James Crouch

Banstead and Burgh Heath are honouring the memories of more than 130 local men who fell in World War One. A commemoration ceremony is held at All Saints, Banstead, on the 100th anniversary of the death of each local man. Please come and remember the sacrifice that our local community made 100 years ago.

Timetable (dates in table on right):

- 7:30am: The churchyard flag is raised to half-mast
- 11:50am: A short service of remembrance is held
- Noon: A church bell is tolled 100 times
- 5:30pm: The churchyard flag is lowered

Sunday services are held at 10:50am, with the tolling at 11am

The fallen:

February

2nd - Henry Lowe Penson

March

16th - Charles Bateman

17th - Henry Maitland

21st - Frank Mitchell

29th - Arthur Culver

April

11th - Eddie Sopp

WINKWORTH TRAFFIC CALMING PROPOSAL UPDATE by Brian Ransom

I have now contacted all the households fronting on to the access roads and found most are aggrieved but fatalistic about SCC's decision not to go ahead with any traffic calming scheme.

We, the residents of the access roads, have been abandoned by SCC and the Police who refuse to prosecute those who misuse the access roads. We need to come together and see what can be done, within current laws, to reduce the danger to ourselves and our families. If we don't attempt to change things we will be living with these unacceptable levels of traffic and with anti-social drivers speeding past our houses for years to come. If you live on Winkworth Road and would like to be part of an 'Action Committee' please contact me by email: brian.bvra@gmail.com

ROADS STEWARDS by David Gradidge

At the time of writing over 60% of the subs have been received, and as usual, I make my usual plea for the rest to be with me before the end of March.

There are a few vacancies for road stewards, so if you would like to volunteer, I will be delighted to welcome you to our band (what is the collective name for road stewards? – a ring?).

One in particular is proving difficult to fill – that is 86 – 162 Winkworth Rd (even numbers).

The others are -

- Part of North Acre - 25 members – subs collected
- Holly Lane West – 18 members – subs collected

POPPY APPEAL - 2017 by Mike Sawyer

The Banstead branch wishes to thank all those who again gave so generously to this years Poppy Appeal. For the second year running you gave over £42,500, which is a truly outstanding response – thanks to everyone who helped, and to those who gave.

We are always grateful to our volunteers, so anyone who wishes to help with the next appeal can contact me at nms.brbl@virginmedia.com

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APOLOGY - We apologise that the article on page 3 of our Autumn / Winter newsheet should have been attributed to the 3rd Banstead Cub Scouts who were pictured after a clean up on the Downs. Our mistake!



USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

BVRA COMMITTEE

Temporarily vacant – Chairman & Planning
Cliff Glanfield – Vice - Chairman & High Street Management
email: cliffglanfield@yahoo.co.uk
Marion Hayns – Vice - Chairman & Publicity & Internal Affairs
email: marionh.bafs@hotmail.co.uk
David Gradidge – Treasurer & Transport & Infrastructure
email: dgradidge@waitrose.com
Catalina Vassallo-Bonner – Secretary
email: c.vassallo-bonner@gmail.com
Group email: Banstead-BVRA@outlook.com

LOCAL COUNCILLORS:

Ken Gulati – Surrey County Councillor
email: ken.gulati@surreycc.gov.uk
Lynne Hack - Borough Councillor
email: Cllr.Hack@reigate-banstead.gov.uk
Eddy Humphreys – Borough Councillor
email: Cllr.Humphreys@reigate-banstead.gov.uk
Sam Walsh – Borough Councillor
email: Cllr.Walsh@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Crispin Blunt, M.P. Westminster Office: 0207 219 2254
email: crispinbluntmp@parliament.uk
Constituency Office: 01737 222756 Skinner House,
38-40 Bell Street, Reigate RH2 7BA

FUTURE EVENTS

SNOWY - BANSTEAD'S VERY OWN PANTOMIME - JANUARY 24TH TO 27TH

The Pilgrim Pantomime Company is based in the heart of Banstead and has been performing annual pantomimes since 1991. We're made up of members of the Banstead 5 Churches, and we donate a proportion of our proceeds to local charities.

Back in the day, the early pantomimes consisted mainly of adults, with juniors participating as dancers or chorus. Nowadays the cast is nearly entirely made up of teenagers and children, with the odd adult thrown in for good measure (and yes, they definitely are 'odd'!). However, one element that has carried on throughout the years is the commitment from the cast and crew. We hold auditions in July; with rehearsals beginning during September and reaching a crescendo of explosive madness during January.

The Banstead Pilgrim Pantomime is now not only a Banstead tradition, but an Institution in its own right. We depend on the support of the local community and families, so if you are interested in joining us whether it be as part of the cast, backstage crew or costume team we would be delighted to welcome you!

Feel free to browse our website (www.pilgrim pantomime.com) for more information and / or purchase tickets or contact us at pilgrim pantomime@yahoo.co.uk

CINEMA - CURZON COUNTRY CINEMA - Church Institute

January 29th - Victoria and Abdul (times vary)

February 12th - Goodbye Christopher Robin and Dunkirk (times vary)

BANSTEAD ARTS FESTIVAL SOCIETY- Concert Season

The Banstead Community Association Hall, Park Road, Banstead SM7 3AJ - entrance £12.

Saturday 10th February 2018 - 7.30 pm

LEONARD ELSCHENBROICH, cello and ALEXEI GRYNKYUK, piano - **BEETHOVEN:** The Complete Cello Sonatas.

Leonard Elschenbroich is one of the most charismatic cellists of his generation. He gives us the rare and exciting opportunity of hearing all five of Beethoven's masterly cello sonatas at three distinct stages of the composer's career. His regular pianist partner Alexei Grynyuk is both virtuoso soloist and noted chamber musician. This is sure to be an evening of sublime music-making.

Saturday 10th March 2018 - 7.30 pm

JAMES GILCHRIST, tenor AND ANNA TILBROOK, piano - **SCHUBERT:** Winterreise

The chance to encounter Schubert's *Winterreise*, whether for the first or the twentieth time, is not to be missed. This most celebrated of all song cycles, with its haunting portrayal of melancholy and madness, will be re-created for us by the acclaimed partnership of tenor James Gilchrist and pianist Anna Tilbrook. Their performance in Banstead of *Die schöne Müllerin* five years ago is still fondly remembered, so a memorable performance is in prospect.

TWO IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

If you have a heart for the village and would like to know more of what is going on without the pressure of a regular commitment please join us for a cup of tea and slice of cake on **Saturday March 3rd 3pm** at the United Reformed Church, Woodmansterne Lane. If you would like to join a taskforce helping to restore the Wild Life Field, clear back overgrown footpaths or even join in with that never ending task of litter picking we should be delighted to welcome you! We shall also be updating you on the proposed changes outlined in the local Development Management Plan.

Secondly, our AGM is to take place at Banstead Preparatory School (formerly Greenacre) at **7.30pm** on **Thursday May 17th** when our speaker will be our Member of Parliament **Crispin Blunt**. Please come along armed with all your questions for both he and our local councillors.

Please see our website (address on front cover) for further details and other events..