

# BVRA newsheet

FROM THE BANSTEAD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION – TAKING ACTION TO SUPPORT OUR VILLAGE

Vol. 34 / 3 - Autumn 2018

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www.Banstead-BVRA.org

## **BANSTEAD VILLAGE IN BLOOM** by Marion Hayns (BVIB) and Brian Ransom

Hopefully nobody can have failed to notice the fantastic transformation that has taken place in our Village over the last few months!

We hope the photos on the collage give you a flavour of all that has gone on over the summer. There has been such an outpouring of goodwill as at last something seems to be happening and the BVIB team are tremendously grateful to our sponsors: Ray Harwood of Centro PLC, Specsavers Banstead and Waitrose.



Their generosity, together with the literally hundreds of hours given by so many volunteers has enabled us to achieve so much in this, our second year of entering this competition. We have already identified two projects we should like to 'have a go at' next year and if you have any suggestions or would like to join with us you would be most welcome.

Please look on the website [www.bvib.co.uk](http://www.bvib.co.uk) for lots more photos and ideas of how you can get involved – available to all ages and abilities..

The judge's informal comments were encouraging and effusive, citing the importance of this RHS initiative which has restored our pride in where we live and work. It has also demonstrated what we can achieve if we work together as a team – concentrating on where we can make a difference. We will know at the Awards Ceremony in mid September whether we have achieved that coveted gold!



## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR by new Chairman David Talbot**

Welcome to our Autumn edition as I write this update, it has just started raining...!! Well, what a year of change. I was just an ordinary committee member last year and now following our AGM, I am your new chairman!

Our AGM is also the time that our Executive members decide whether to continue for a further year or not and this year several members took the chance to step down from the committee. So special thanks go to Graeme Ward, Tony Ford and Roger Collins. Thanks also to Marion and John Hayns who decided to leave after our AGM. All these changes leave us a little short on our committee, so I would ask everybody if they could spare some time and help us make Banstead great, by joining our committee. We hope to make our meetings informative and enjoyable – so if you want to have an input to what’s going on in our village please get in touch – our email address is on the front cover.



It’s been another busy time with much excitement in the village due to our Banstead Village in Bloom entry in the Royal Horticultural Society Britain in Bloom Competition (see our front page article). Our work on our infrastructure and our planning matters continue, as does our campaign for a new village sign to celebrate the work that Brian Ransom has been doing at the end of Bolters Lane. The final chance to input to the Local Government reorganisation will be over by the time you read this article, but for more detail, please see David Gradidge’s article later in this newsheet. Special thanks also go to James Crouch for investigating all our war heroes and for commemorating each loss – see more on James’ article later in the newsheet and please make time for the commemoration services in November.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE by David Gradidge**

Back in early May I did my usual whistle stop tour of Banstead roads to establish a worst 10. This was later than usual as “the beast from the east” had caused havoc and Surrey CC was busy making good in April.

In reporting the list now, it will obviously be out of date, but it is better than nothing! Some are long standing whilst others are new to the list.

1. Avenue Road – as usual,
2. Shrubland Road – multiple pot holes, entrance very poor,
3. Garretts Lane – multiple pot holes, exit to A217 very bad,
4. Wellesford Close – entrance terrible as usual
5. The Gables – multiple pot holes and multi patched
6. Court Road – very poor throughout
7. Courtlands Crescent – west section long stretches breaking up
8. Bolters Lane – very poor after road works
9. Salisbury Road – many pot holes and road breaking up to rubble
10. Gale Crescent – many pot holes.

The obvious damage caused by the frosts may be over, but I wonder if there are some longer lasting concerns. For instance, I noted that a bit of the High Street close to the letter box at the east end is on the verge of breaking up. On other matters, BVRA is trying to get permission from Surrey County Council to remove redundant iron work that litter the village. We managed to get much removed about 3 years ago, but now have a new list of a dozen or so posts. We are also at an early stage in deciding the best method of replacing dead trees along the road sides. They will all be on Surrey County Council land so will again need their permission. Obviously the extreme temperatures cause major stress to newly planted trees but the ten in Sandersfield Road all look very healthy.

## **PLANNING MATTERS by Catalina Vassallo-Bonner**

The last few months have seen the usual crop of planning applications and requests for tree work, most of which are such that there will be no problems for Reigate and Banstead Planning Department.

We have notification that the Permitted Development (PDE) planning application which allows for larger than normal domestic extensions will be discontinued after May 31<sup>st</sup> next year,

We now have the information that the Examination in Public (EiP) of the Development Management Policies (DMP) will start on 30th October at the Town Hall in Reigate and that the Inspector will be Helen Hockenhull. Anyone who has indicated an interest in speaking at this EiP will be informed nearer the time. At this moment we don't know how many individuals and representatives of construction companies have requested permission to speak. The final number will dictate the length of the EiP.

The revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has just been released. This is a 73 page document that dictates planning policy nationally and covers Green Belt regulations, climate change, the historic and natural environment, sustainable development and more. To accompany this there is a new Housing Delivery Test Measurement Rule Book that will produce an annual measurement of housing delivery in the area of relevant plan-making authorities.

## **BANSTEAD RAILWAY STATION by Gerald Bridge**

The railway first came to Banstead in 1865 being on the Sutton to Epsom Downs line which was built primarily for the benefit of the racing fraternity going to Epsom Downs' racecourse. The station was opened on 26 May 1865 by the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway. The management of the station for this licence is now jointly between Network Rail and Southern.

The old building is now showing its age and is very much in need of some TLC. The lack of repairs and maintenance over a long period is clearly evident resulting in the very poor external condition which will deteriorate further if action is not taken. Each station has an identity code name which for Banstead is "BAD". How appropriate at this moment.!

In August 2017 the BVRA Executive deputed me with the task of looking into the poor condition of the station. Southern and then Network Rail were contacted and appraised of the poor condition of the station. Six months later, despite telephone and email communications expressing concern, no progress. The Office of Rail and Road was then approached. Part of its remit is to hold Network Rail to account through the network licences it grants, one of the conditions being to set out Network Rail's core obligations to secure maintenance. After acquainting them with the problem they agreed to look into the matter and after providing photographic evidence to support my concerns, HM Inspector of Railways became involved and a meeting was held at the station. The inspector now has a set of photographs each with a short narrative to assist him in the matter. I am now awaiting to be advised of further progress.

Significantly in Surrey County Council's Local Transport Strategy and Forward Planning report issued this year there is reference to Banstead station which includes proposals to encourage use of the station by improving its appearance. Be assured every avenue will be thoroughly explored in the hope of having a station befitting our great village.



The BVRA Newsheet is supported by;

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## **WINKWORTH WOODLAND COMMUNITY PROJECT by Brian Ransom**

We've had lots of complimentary comments about the wildflower patch on the corner of Bolters Lane and Winkworth Road, it seems people do appreciate our efforts to improve this small corner of Banstead. Despite the long period of hot, dry weather we don't seem to have lost too many of the hedging saplings we planted last year and the wildflowers we grew on in pots and then planted to create the present patch have survived. Very few of the seeds we scattered early in spring have taken root as birds and the dry weather have taken their toll but maybe we will see some come up next year if we are lucky.



We do intend to enlarge the present wildflower patch on the corner and even extend it along the Bolters Lane pavement for 2019, so if there are any volunteers out there who will grow some seeds on to pot plant size in their green houses please let me know, my email is [brian.bvra@gmail.com](mailto:brian.bvra@gmail.com).

We also have carried on with the usual work of keeping the brambles at bay and footpaths clear of overhanging tree branches now that the Elder trees are full of berries and hanging low overhead. We also carried on hardening the footpaths with wood chippings from the site, at least we did until my shredder jammed solid! I'll eventually free it off and carry on during the next working session. Our plans for the autumn include planting more daffodils along the Winkworth Road grass verge and also planting a lot more native English Bluebells within the shaded central clearing so that we have a much better bluebell display next spring.

Remember volunteers are always welcome, we hold our working party sessions for a couple of hours on the 2nd Saturday and 3rd Monday of each month, both starting at 10am. Come along and join us, it keeps us fit and benefits the community at the same time.

## **BOUNDARY COMMISSION CHANGES – An update by David Gradidge**

The Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBCE) produced draft recommendations on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Consultation on these closed on Aug 13<sup>th</sup> and final recommendations are due on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>. The local elections in May 2019 will then be for the full Council.

The key proposal is that there will be 45 Councillors down from 51 at present and that there will be 15 wards down from 21 at present. Four of the 6 Councillor losses will be north of the M25. LGBCE looks at forecast changes in the Borough electorate in 2023. The major changes will take place in Horley and to the east of Redhill. Their remit states that must maintain electoral equality (interpreted as +/- 10% on the average per ward) and in addition they must take account of established local boundaries. The average electorate per Councillor is forecast to change from 2100 in 2017 to 2600 in 2023. So they are going to work harder as they will represent larger geographical areas. The original proposals made by Reigate & Banstead for changes in the boundaries have been superseded by the LGBCE draft recommendations, and these in turn by the latest draft produced by an all party Reigate & Banstead committee.

Why all the difficulty? It all goes back to the plan for 15 wards. Whichever way you draw the map someone will be upset. For instance LGBCE have proposed that Kingswood shops, station, pub and village hall all be part of Tadworth. Clearly unacceptable as was cutting Woodmansterne in half and allocating the guts of it to Banstead. Just as important will be the decision on ward names. These must represent where people know they live and not erase some village names altogether.

As far as Banstead Village is concerned, in the latest Reigate & Banstead draft, the electorate will be enlarged from 6337 in 2017 to over 7600 in 2023. The additions will be along Croydon Lane, Park Road, Woodmansterne Lane and Queen Elizabeth Way off Holly Lane. BVRA will press for the whole of Banstead Woods to be included as part of the established parish boundary.

## **PROPOSED BANSTEAD VILLAGE SIGN APPEAL by Brian Ransom**

Well we are nearly there! We have now raised £4211, that's 87% of our target of £4850 which is brilliant! This includes £302 raised on Tuesday 10th July by the Banstead Community Junior School (BCJS) and Banstead Infants School from their 'Mufti-day' collection and donated to the Village Sign fund. Tuesday 10th July was the judging day of the Banstead Village in Bloom competition and instead of school uniform, the children were allowed to wear Red, White and Blue which is the colour theme of the Banstead Village in Bloom in 2018. The children again entered the competition, so when the judges arrived at the school all the children were a sea of colour! It was great!

By the time you read this, BVRA will have applied for planning permission for the village sign and hopefully by autumn we shall have had permission granted and can then go ahead and order the sign itself. Planning permission and its rather swingeing, associated fee of £462 is a requirement prior to the erection of any Village Sign. We have been told that this cannot be waived by Reigate and Banstead council. It seems harsh that an additional 10% is added to the project when BVRA is a non-profit organisation but there are indications that some assistance may be given to meet this fee.

If you would like to support this project and have not done so already [or even if you have] please go to the website: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/bansteadvillagesignappeal>

## **HEAT WAVE 2018 by David Gradidge**

Today – 27th July – the first real rain this month, and it's wonderful. By the time you read this, the heat wave may be history or, more likely there will be talk of a hose pipe ban.

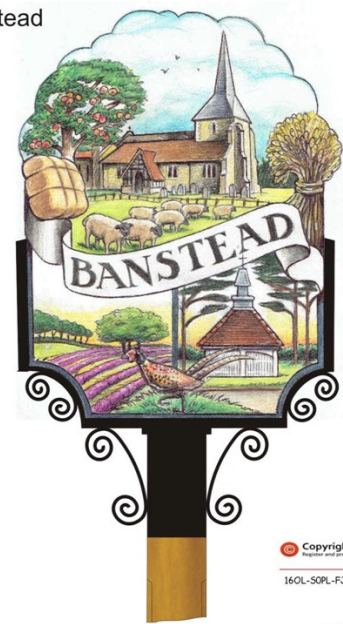
Having a long memory, I just want to put the summer so far into context, but before that, I referred to a Science Museum publication entitled "Our Changing Climate". At the bottom of the first page it states "An understanding of how and why climate changes take place has never been more urgently needed". Sounds familiar, except the date line is ..... 1977. Nothing new then.

Comparisons have rightly been made to 1976, the last time there was such a lengthy hot and dry spell. The records show that somewhere in England 32 C (90 F) was exceeded every day between 23rd June and 8th July with a maximum of 35.9 C. So far this year it has been 35.1 C. The cause that year was not just the summer heat but the fact that the lack of rain stretched all the way back to the start of 1975. Much of the water we get is drawn from chalk aquifers. These rely on replenishment from winter rainfall so if the coming winter is dry it may cause problems next summer. 2018 started with reasonable winter rains and it is the ability to meet the demand for water rather than the lack of it that will be the problem. All that turmoil on the A217 may have been just in time.

## **ROAD STEWARDS by David Gradidge**

There are two vacancies for road stewards. One is in a part of North Acre – 25 members. The other is in Basing Road and surrounding little roads where we have 20 members. There are also 2 other vacancies that will be much more difficult to fill. One is in Wingfield Court where we have 12 members. Ideally the volunteer there should be a resident as access is restricted. There is also a vacancy in Cheviot Close and the adjoining Tyrolean Court. If you would like to volunteer or know anyone who might, please contact me on 353981 or email [dgradidge@waitrose.com](mailto:dgradidge@waitrose.com)

Proposed Village Sign  
for  
Banstead



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## **LOCAL HEROS - James Crouch**

You may have been made aware of the regular tolling of the bell at All Saints Church over the last 4 years commemorating the life of a Banstead resident whose life was cut tragically short in the First World War, but did you know anything about the young man James Crouch, a member of the Banstead History Research group who has set about collecting all the information on these young men? Here is HIS story.

I'm a lifelong Banstead resident and have been a BVRA member for a few years now. I have lived all over the village but have been settled in Lyme Regis Road with my young family for the last 11 years. I went to school at Warren Mead and then in Reigate and I used to work at Legal & General in Kingswood but nowadays mostly work in London as a database developer. My job often allows me to work from home so when I heard that All Saints were going to be commemorating the men of Banstead and Burgh Heath who fell in WW1, I decided to try and get along to as many of the services as I could.

On a commemoration day, the churchyard flag is raised to half mast by the Scouts at 7:30am and a service is held at 11:50am on the centenary of each man's death, during which a bell is tolled 100 times at noon (the service is at 10:50am on Sundays with the tolling at 11am). A standard bearer, Allan Parsons, represents the Royal British Legion at each service. We often have a poetry reading, then the bell is tolled and a eulogy is delivered before a few short prayers are said. If family are in attendance then they will toll, otherwise we ask for a volunteer, and then they may lay a wreath on the memorial in the churchyard or on the man's grave if he is buried locally.

I started writing to a friend of mine in America to chronicle the effect of the war on a typical English country village, not knowing very much about the war apart from what I had read in Lewis Wood's excellent *These Men of Banstead*, and little realising that there would be so many people affected, and that gradually developed into researching the lives of the men, writing their biographies, contacting relatives (we have had people fly in from Scotland and Ireland and will even be having an Australian visitor soon), giving talks at various events, publicising the commemorations and delivering the eulogies at each service. I went part-time in order to fit the research in but even so, it has rather taken over my life!

I'm thoroughly enjoying working on our final year of commemoration (the last service will be on 31st December) and at the moment am busy planning the exhibition we will be holding at the Church Institute on Armistice Weekend, hope to see you all there!

*Editor's Note - James has been awarded the Mayor's Volunteer Award for his tireless work over 4 years to honour the dead of WW1 in Banstead, by researching their lives, seeking their next of kin and delivering (at All Saints church), a very poignant memoir on each day of their death.*



### **The fallen:**

#### **August**

22nd - G. Wigglesworth - Ferndale Road  
27th - John Strong - Burgh Heath

#### **September**

2nd - Edward Garton - Banstead Wood  
2nd - Ernest Mingay - Nork Park  
4th - Tom Dowse - Burgh Heath  
24th - Albert Taylor - High Street  
28th - Charles Reygate - Sutton Lane

#### **October**

2nd - Arthur Paterson - Court Road  
13th - William Farley - Mint Cottages  
14th - Aubrey Balchin - Court Road  
17th - Percy Blunt - Ferndale Road  
17th - Percy Perrin - Burgh Heath  
24th - William Blaker - Burgh Heath  
26th - Charles Sharman - Salisbury Road

#### **November**

9th - Archie Jacques - Buried at All Saints  
13th - Albert Nash - Lyme Regis Raod  
19th - Harry Gurney - Diceland Road  
23rd - Muriel Spiers - Burgh Heath

#### **December**

9th - Stanley Skelton - Pound Road  
31st - Alfred Reed - Memory Cottages  
31st - Herbert Chandler - Court Road  
31st - Thomas Stallwood - Banstead Asylum  
31st - Dick Caselton - Diceland Road

## The WoodChips win an award

In July, the WoodChip Conservation Volunteers received the Forestry Commission's **Community Woodland Award**, which is for woodland planting or management projects that have been inspired, driven, and delivered by local community groups.



This was part of London's Tree and Woodland Awards, which took place at City Hall in London. Nine of our volunteers attended the event, hosted by the Forestry Commission and the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues. Andy Keay wishes to thank everyone for their support of the WoodChips and especially the hard work and commitment of the volunteers, resulting in this deserved success. This prestigious Award was for their work in Banstead Woods, and they were nominated by Vincenzo Delacovo, former Tree and Woodlands Officer for Reigate and Banstead Council. Thanks Vinnie!

I'm sure all the volunteers would like to add that the WoodChips' success is due in no small measure to the inspired and unflagging leadership of Andy Keay over many years. Long may that continue! If anyone would like to join in with the WoodChips' activities in the Banstead Woods and Chipstead Downs Local Nature Reserve they can be contacted by email: [woodchips1@btinternet.com](mailto:woodchips1@btinternet.com)

## **CALLING ALL LITTER PICKERS AND PATH CLEARERS** by Kerry Garner

Over the course of the year, several local groups have litter-picked some of Banstead's roads and tackled overgrown footpaths. These initiatives are good for the community and it gladdens my heart when people come together to improve the village.

I know many people regularly litter pick their own roads and pathways unrecognised. I'd like to bring these people together and recognise them as Banstead Litter and Footpath Volunteers. As a local group, we can tackle litter and overgrown footpaths together. Residents will see us 'out and about' and will know we are determined to look after Banstead as volunteers.

Please may I ask any residents that either litter pick or clear footpaths to contact me at [kerry.garner@outlook.com](mailto:kerry.garner@outlook.com). I'd like to know which roads and areas are being looked after by you, I think it will surprise us all how many people are working hard to keep the village tidy and of course, anyone who would like to join in please contact me too.

### **USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS**

#### **BVRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**David Talbot** - Chairman

**David Gradidge** – Treasurer, Transport and Infrastructure  
email: [dgradidge@waitrose.com](mailto:dgradidge@waitrose.com)

**Catalina Vassallo-Bonner** – Secretary & Planning

**Kerry Garner** - Data Records Manager  
Email: [kerry.garner@outlook.com](mailto:kerry.garner@outlook.com)

**Ben Martin, Brian Ransom, Cliff Glanfield and Richard Heath.**

Group email: [Banstead-BVRA@outlook.com](mailto:Banstead-BVRA@outlook.com)

### **LOCAL COUNCILLORS**

**Ken Gulati** – Surrey County Councillor  
email: [ken.gulati@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:ken.gulati@surreycc.gov.uk)

**Lynne Hack** - Borough Councillor  
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**Eddy Humphreys** – Borough Councillor  
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## **FUTURE EVENTS**

### **BANSTEAD ARTS FESTIVAL by Jeff Young**

**SATURDAY 20th OCTOBER** - LONDON BRIDGE TRIO with GARY POMEROY on viola

Works by MOZART, MENDELSSOHN and BRAHMS.

**SATURDAY 17th NOVEMBER** - EMMANUEL BACH, violin and ALEXANDRA VADUVA, piano

Works by BACH, SCHUBERT, POULENC, DEBUSSY and SAINT-SAËNS/YSAYE.

**All events will start at 7:30PM in the Community Hall, Banstead.** Please see the website [www.bansteadarts.co.uk](http://www.bansteadarts.co.uk) for full details. Tickets will be on sale online, at Banstead Library and at the door if still available.

## **OTHER EVENTS**

**SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER** at 2:00 PM - BHS - Autumn Flower Show - Community Hall

**SUNDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER** at 11:00 AM - Disabled Riders - Autumn Fair - Diamond Centre

**SATURDAY 27TH OCTOBER** at 7:15 PM - Banstead Village in Bloom - Quiz Night

Banstead Community Hall - Buffet provided, bring your own drink, tickets £15

**SATURDAY 17th NOVEMBER** at 9:30AM - BANSTEAD LITTER PICK, meet at Banstead Community Hall,

Litter pickers, gloves and bags supplied. Contact [kerry.garner@outlook.com](mailto:kerry.garner@outlook.com) for any further information.

**THURSDAY 29TH NOVEMBER** at 5:00 PM - Banstead Rotary - Banstead Christmas Community Event

Father Christmas, Street Entertainment, Special Guests, Kids Treasure Hunt and Shopping offers  
Banstead High Street.

### **1914-1918, BANSTEAD REMEMBERS - POPPY APPEAL By Mike Sawyer**



This year's appeal runs from 27th October to 11th November. For each of the last two years the Banstead area raised the amazing amounts of over £42,000. This year is an important anniversary so we would like to do as well, or better. If you feel you can help in any way, please contact Allan Parsons on 01737 211082 or 07939 724644. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

### **WW1 MEMORIAL SERVICE, Saturday and Sunday 10th and 11th November by Mike Sawyer**

**WW 1 Centenary** - In recognition of the ending of the First World War extra events are being planned in Banstead in addition to the usual Remembrance Day Parade. All Saints Church, with the support of the Banstead branch of the Royal British Legion (BRBL), will be hosting a special service at 3 pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November. There will also be an exhibition in the Church Institute, staged by the Banstead History Research Group and Reigate & Banstead Borough Council, on both 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November, and other activities are being planned – you may already have noticed the “Silent Soldiers” at the War Memorial and The Orchard.

Local groups, businesses and schools are being invited to support this event and there will be a poppy themed display in The Orchard. Some funding has already been provided by BRBL and our President, Councillor Richard Mantle (from Reigate and Banstead Council Community funds). Offers of help (and/or finance!) would be welcomed.

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