

BVRA newsheet



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

Vol. 39 / 2 - Spring / Summer 2023 Banstead-BVRA@outlook.com www.Banstead-BVRA.org

LET THE SUMMER BEGIN! by Marion Hayns (BViB)

We know, from the countless words of appreciation that we receive, just how much residents and visitors alike, value the contribution that the ever-growing team of volunteers has brought to our lovely village over the course of the last few years. Now, for me, we have the icing on the cake! A newly refurbished children's play park which includes a mini scooter track (the first in the Borough!) but sadly not the designated stand-alone scooter park for which we have been campaigning. We are sure that these developments would entice even more visitors to come here and in so doing contribute even further to the local economy.



Pistachios in the Park, in common with the other cafeterias in the Borough, is in the process of being completely revamped with a view to re-letting it in early summer; - closely adjoining the play park this is sure to prove a great attraction for families of all shapes and sizes. We are very grateful to our local councillors who have taken on board our increasing concern at the neglect and run-down appearance of the Lady Neville and worked together with us to obtain the necessary funding required to bring forward the scheduled date of total refurbishment by at least two years.

I am very pleased to announce that the park is to be formally 'opened' on June 10th at 2.30pm by celebrated local children's author Octavia Lonergan whose best selling first book 'A Cats Eye View of Lockdown' was then followed by 'A Cats Eye View of Litter' (a subject very close to our hearts) – together with our own Cllr Eddy Humphreys who, at the time of writing, is Mayor Elect for 2023-24.



Octavia Lonergan

We hope that you have noticed the increased number of smart and low-maintenance benches now appearing around the Village. These have proved very popular as families have sought to place a permanent memorial to a much-loved relative with connections to the Village. If this is of interest to you please do get in touch. We look forward to hearing from you.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Executive Committee extends a warm invitation to all members of the Association to the
75th Annual General Meeting to be held at The Church Institute
(80A High St, Banstead SM7 2NN) at 7:30pm on **Monday 5th June 2023.**

Our guest speaker will be Dr Subo Emanuel from the Longcroft Clinic
to talk to us about healthcare in Banstead

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR by David Talbot

Welcome to our Spring / Summer edition of our newsheet. My thanks to all our contributors, especially Marion Hayns, Vicki Hollands, James Crouch and Mike Sawyer for their articles.

By the time you read this, the Banstead May Queen Fair on 29th April will, probably, already have taken place. We hope to have met a good number of you at our stand in the Orchard. If you missed this, there'll be another opportunity to meet BVRA committee members and volunteers at the Village Fair on Saturday 2nd July, also in the Orchard. As you will read elsewhere, we are keen to include more direct involvement of families and younger committee members to truly represent Banstead's population and encourage anyone with an area of expertise that may be useful to BVRA to come along and meet us. If you wonder what is involved in being a volunteer or committee member, please come and have an obligation-free chat – you may be pleasantly surprised at how easily you can add value to your Village.



Just a quick reminder that our AGM is planned for Monday 5th June, please see the notice on the front page. Please see our website for more details.

FINANCES by David Talbot

Our year end accounts close on 31st March. The draft accounts below will be subject to revision over the next few weeks as these are finalised. As with last year's accounts, I've tried to present the accounts in a more simple summarised way and I've included the past two years for comparison. A finalised and more detailed version will be available at the AGM.

Highlights:

- Subscriptions and donations. Slightly lower than previous years, although we are still trying to manage this situation following the sad loss of our treasurer, David Gradidge, who managed this area so well in past years. Some subscriptions are still to be collected.
- Running costs. Our main expenditure is for our newsheet. Additionally, we have web costs, room hire charges, stationery costs, insurance costs and sundry costs.
- Donations. Slightly higher than last year although we have donated to the RBL flagpole project, but may get this back as it's now fully funded by Luke Bennett from his SCC allocation. Our main donation is, as in previous years, to Banstead Business Guild to support the Village Christmas lighting. Additionally, we sponsor Banstead Village in Bloom and support the Banstead Royal British Legion and the Banstead May Queen.
- Projects. An expensive year. Our main cost this year (2022/23) has been stump grinding. Additionally, we have supported the restoration of the old Village signs and we pay membership subscriptions to the Banstead Federation, Business Guild and the Campaign to Protect Rural England.

General Fund	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
Income (subscriptions and donations)	4,015	4,295	4,787
Running costs	-2,216	-1,273	-2,033
Donations	-2,100	-1,600	-2,600
Projects	-3,357	-1,703	-2,000
Balance (added to / taken from reserves)	-3,658	-281	-1,846

PLANNING MATTERS by **Catalina Vassallo-Bonner**

We have finally heard the result of the Appeal against the council refusal of the Shanly application to build 26 dwellings on the Wellesford Close site. The Inspector has refused the Appeal. He ended his report by saying, "However, the benefits are outweighed by the harm that has been identified in respect of the character and appearance of the scheme and the associated conflict with Reigate and Barnstead's Development Management Plan Policy DES1. In reaching this planning judgement, it is important to recognise that the harm relates to the layout and design proposed and is not an inevitable consequence of a residential scheme on the site. In these circumstances, the material considerations in favour of the scheme are insufficient to justify a decision contrary to the development plan".

Reigate & Banstead Council has just started work on a new Local Plan (Core Strategy) as the existing plan expires in 2027. There is a large list of areas to be covered, namely: Climate Change, Ageing Population, Air Pollution, Biodiversity, Obesity, Social Isolation and Clone Towns (towns where all the High Streets appear to have the same shops). It is a slow process that requires a number of consultations with borough residents and developers and an Examination in Public, conducted by one of HM Planning Inspectors, before it is approved in June 2027.

Recently, the Conservation Department of Reigate & Banstead council has received permission from the Planning Committee to carry out a consultation with the various towns and villages across the borough for the increase of the local conservation areas. Currently, the Banstead area takes in Park Road from the Well to the Mint and the Longcroft Clinic and the nursing home on the North side of Woodmansterne Lane as well as the Old Barn, the Well Farmhouse and the Well Nigh with garage on the South side. The new area will not only cover the existing area but also encompass various buildings among which are the War Memorial, All Saints, the churchyard with specific table tombs, and the war memorial in the church, the cricket pavilion, the Church Institute, and several buildings in Garratts Lane and Court Road as well as one in De Burgh Park all of which are already on the National and Locally Listed Building Register.

In the last few days, we have been notified of a major outline planning application on the Bentley site in the Horseshoe. Surrey County Council, who owns the land, want to build a 4/5 storey building to house 53 flats in an Extra Care Housing Development complete with a dining room. Extra Care means people like physiotherapists are available for the residents, they can have help with getting up in the morning and going to bed and still retain an independent life. You might remember the preliminary consultation at the end of last year. Outline planning allows people to comment and, hopefully, for Surrey County Council to listen and make amendments to their plans before a full application is submitted.

BANKS by **David Talbot**

We understand that Barclays is offering a pop-up service in the Civic Centre in the Horseshoe from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.



ESTABLISHED 1997

The BVRA Newsheet is supported
by Richard Saunders and Company

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BANSTEAD FLOWER CLUB by Vicki Hollands (Banstead Flower Club)

The Flower Club held its AGM in January with a good attendance by many of its members. The meeting was preceded with a two-course hot lunch followed by tea and cake, all generously provided by Signature Living.

It was an interesting afternoon with plenty of questions and discussion from the floor. Our in-house competition (entered by several club members) was titled 'Pandora's Box'. This was a petite class with each exhibit measuring no more than 25cmsq. Judge's Choice was awarded to Sune Larsen-Walsh. His beautiful exhibit was made entirely of paper flowers all cleverly handmade by Sune.

Our meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month at Banstead Community Hall, Park Road, SM7 3AJ. Doors open at 1.30 for 2pm. Visitors (£9) are always welcome.

April 26th - In-house demonstration - 'Colour Me Beautiful'

May 24th - Helen Hare presents 'East to West'

June 28th - Yan Skates presents 'It's All Come from the Neighbour's'

If you require more details contact us on bansteadflowerclub@hotmail.co.uk or call Vicki on 07845250308



INFRASTRUCTURE by Cliff Glanfield



We were pleased to see that Harbourfield Road has recently been re-surfaced [see photo left].

We were hoping that some of the pavements around the village might also be resurfaced, but there are apparently higher priorities elsewhere in Surrey.

Let me know if you can find one worse than Glenfield Road though [see photo right].



NEWS SHEETS by David Talbot

We are considering reducing the number of newsheets to two per year - Spring / Summer and Autumn / Winter. This would make it easier for us and for our road stewards - no more deliveries in the middle of winter..!!

If you have any comments on this proposal, please let us know - our email address is shown on the front page.



TREE STUMPS by Cliff Glanfield



Following another survey, we now have a list of 17 stumps remaining to be ground out around the Village. Removal will cost about £3,400.

We have heard that Surrey County Council have instructed Connick Tree Care to remove some stumps left over from trees recently felled after storm damage, using up some remaining budget. They have no instructions though to remove the older stumps. BVRA currently have funds to grind out about half those remaining, which we will do this year.



BANSTEAD TEST-PITTING CONTINUES by James Crouch (Plateau)

The local archaeology group's project to discover more of Banstead's history continued in 2022, with small test pits in Shrubland Road, Park Road and Garrard Road and a larger excavation in Court Road, near the site of the medieval manor house. The picture shows a late 15th century Tournai-made jetton from Court Road. Slightly bigger than a £2 coin, the coin-like jettons were counters used in medieval accountancy. Did this come from the counting table of the manor house?



We already have some bookings for the 2023 digging season but if you would like to volunteer a 50cm square of your garden to be investigated over a weekend, please do get in touch with James on 01737 361541 or by email to james.crouch@btconnect.com.

TREES by Cliff Glanfield



The trees planted in Winkworth Road in late November last year seem to be budding and hopefully, we may have some blossom by the time we come to press.

We will be identifying priority locations for more tree planting later this year focusing on empty verges, or replacement trees where stumps have been ground out. If you spot an area crying out for some trees, do let me know.

We will be working with Surrey County Council to secure funding, but we don't yet know what the budget is and how many trees we can plant.



BVRA SUBSCRIPTIONS by David Talbot

Many thanks to all our members who are increasingly paying the annual subscriptions via bank standing orders. This helps our road stewards.

If you are planning to set up a standing order please ensure that:

- The payments are set to repeat on a yearly basis.
- The reference is completed with your address (abbreviated where necessary) - **really** important, so we know the address for which you are paying.

Our bank details are as follows: Sort Code: **30-98-90**, Account Number: **16716560**

Account Name: **Banstead Village Residents Association**

Our subscription amount is: **£3.00** Our preferred payment date is **1st July**

NEW ARMED FORCES VETERANS HUB by Mike Sawyer (RBL)



We would like to hear from any veterans local to Banstead.

As the Vice chairman of the Banstead and District Royal British Legion branch, Tim Snuggs and a small team are setting up a Veterans' Hub for serving and ex-service personnel and their spouses. A vital part of the Legion's work is the welfare of those who have been, or are currently, keeping us safe and for whatever reason are in need of help as they integrate into civilian society. Many just need company but others have more complex needs, be they financial, health-related or retraining and we intend to be a conduit for their support. There are three main categories of need:

- The older and less-active people who need a social outlet and perhaps needing help to make life safer and easier...they need a meeting place and friendship;
- Active people who may want to be handy and make things and may be retired either from the Services or their civilian role and enjoy maybe a meal and a drink;
- Serving members or more recently demobbed personnel who need housing and other more complex needs that we can help to signpost to agencies.

We have sourced a meeting place and we have a small group of local Legion volunteers who can help to get the project started. In due course, the groups themselves should become self-motivated and operational with just a light hand from the Legion. Our catchment area is all the villages in Reigate & Banstead North of the M25, and we will start off in Banstead but other locations will be no doubt emerge.

To make this a success, though, we now urgently need all interested veterans, their close friends, or anyone interested in helping to let us have names, contact details and ideas. Please respond to Tim Snuggs - timsnuggs@icloud.com



ROAD STEWARDS by David Talbot

Huge thanks to our army of road stewards who deliver our newsheets and collect our subscriptions.

Vacancies come up from time to time are we are now looking for road stewards to cover the following roads:

- Banstead Road, Barn Field, Chatsworth Park, Chipstead Road, Flint Close and Harbourfield Road
- Holly Lane West, Lambert Road, Pound Road, The Oval and Yewlands Close.

The role involves delivering newsheets to members in the road, collecting subscriptions from members who don't pay via standing order and sending the amount collected and the details back to us.

If you would like to take part, or know anyone who might be interested, please contact us at the email address on the front cover.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

BVRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman - David Talbot

Treasurer - David Talbot

Secretary - Catalina Vassallo-Bonner (interim)

Planning - Catalina Vassallo-Bonner

Data Records Manager - Cliff Glanfield

Membership Records - Mel Ramsay

Supported by: Ben Martin, Brian Ransom, Richard Heath, Sally Hull, Shelia Cox and Razya and Aman Kirmani.

Group email: Banstead-BVRA@outlook.com

LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Luke Bennett – Surrey County Councillor
email: luke.bennett@surreycc.gov.uk

Nadean Moses - Borough Councillor
email: Cllr.Moses@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.

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38-40 Bell Street, Reigate RH2 7BA

FUTURE EVENTS - APRIL TO MID- MAY

Saturday 22nd April - Banstead Horticultural Society (BHS) - Spring Show - Community Hall

Monday 24th April at various times - **Curzon Country Cinema** - Film 'Banshees' - Church Institute

Wednesday 26th April - Flower Club - in-house demonstration: 'Colour Me Beautiful' - Community Hall

Saturday 29th April - May Fayre including May Queen - The Orchard, High Street.

Saturday 29th April to Sunday 14th May - The annual **Banstead Arts Festival 2023**. There will be no evening concert on the 6th May so as not to clash with the King's Coronation on that day. As in previous years there will also be two mid-week lunchtime concerts in All Saints Church, and local societies will be well represented offering a wide range of events to ensure there is something for everyone to enjoy.

- Saturday 29th April - The opening Festival concert on the 29th April will see the return of the Yehudi Menuhin School Orchestra who will present Benjamin Britten's engaging 'Simple Symphony' and the Giovanni Sollima's sublime 'Violoncelles, Vibrez!' for two cellos and orchestra. Then, after the interval, a performance of one of the greatest of all chamber compositions, Schubert's magnificent 'String Quintet in C Major'.
- Tuesday 2nd May – Lunchtime recital by the Kensington Three piano trio with works by Mozart and Shostakovich
- Tuesday 9th May – Lunchtime recital by the unique ensemble 'Flutes & Frets Duo' begins with a 14th century work followed by pieces by Purcell, Rossini and Glinka and finally a contemporary Irish piece.
- Saturday 13th May - The Festival's concluding concert will be the Young Musicians' Showcase
- Sunday 14th May - The Festival finishes with an evening service of Celebration and Thanksgiving in All Saints Parish Church.

For further details about the Festival please see the website bansteadarts.org.uk.

Wednesday 3rd May - Chipstead Arts Society - Louise Schofield: 'Travels with a Trowel' - Community Hall

Wednesday 3rd May - U3A - '600 Years of Music in 90 minutes' - Community Hall

Friday 5th May - History Society - 'Navigating Banstead's History from Doomsday to Google' - Community Hall

FUTURE EVENTS - MID-MAY TO SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 17th to Saturday 20th May - BANOS - 'Chess - The Musical' - Adrian Mann theatre, NESCOLT

Saturday 20th May - Banstead Horticultural Society - Mini Show and Open Day - Community Hall

Sunday 21st May - Rotary Club - Sponsored Charity Walk - Tattenham Corner.

Wednesday 24th May - Flower Club - Helen Hare: 'East to West' Community Hall

Monday 5th June at 7:30 pm - BVRA AGM at the Church Institute - see notice on front page.

Agenda.

1. Welcome by Chairman, David Talbot.
2. Minutes of the 74th AGM - summary distributed to members at the meeting.
3. Address from our guest speaker, Dr Subo Emanuel, following which she would be happy to answer questions from the floor.
4. Report by the chairman.
5. Presentation of the accounts for the year – summary printed on page 2 of this newsheet.
6. Election of Officers, Secretary, Treasurer and Independent Examiner.
7. Welcome to our local Councillors, followed by Open Forum debate.
8. Any other business.

Wednesday 7th June - Chipstead Arts - Peter Medhurst: 'Vienna: The Melting Pot of Europe' - Community Hall

Saturday 17th June - Banstead Horticultural Society - Early Summer Show - Community Hall

Wednesday 28th June - Flower Club - Yan Skates : 'It's All Come from the Neighbour's' - Community Hall

Saturday 22nd July - Banstead Horticultural Society - Summer Show - Community Hall

Saturday 9th September - Banstead Horticultural Society - Autumn Show - Community Hall

Banstead Commons Conservators are holding four guided walks across the commons as follows:

Friday 9 June, 10am until 12pm Flora and Fauna of Park Downs. On this short walk you will learn more about the management of this Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). You'll find out about how it has resulted in the reappearance of typical chalk plant species and exploding butterfly populations, as well as other much-loved native wildlife which can be found on Park Downs.

Saturday 17 June, 10am until 12pm - Flora and Fauna of Banstead Downs. On this short walk you will learn more about the management of this SSSI. You'll find out about how it has resulted in the reappearance of typical chalk plant species and exploding butterfly populations, as well as other much-loved native wildlife which can be found on the Downs.

Friday 14 July, 10am until 12.30pm - History & countryside management of Banstead Heath. Join Banstead Commons Conservators for a guided walk on Banstead Heath taking you through a mosaic of habitats on the Heath including open meadow, secondary woodland and areas of mixed gorse heathland.

Thursday 7 September, 2pm until 4pm - Historical and archaeological features of Banstead Downs. Join Conservator Cllr. Peter Harp for a walk looking at some of the historical and archaeological features on this part of the Commons. Leaving from Banstead Downs Golf Club, you will take a leisurely stroll through history looking at the Saxon burial ground, Potters Lane and other historical features on the common.

Please see our website (address on front cover) for more details.