

BVRA newsheet

from the Banstead Village Residents' Association

Vol. 34 / 2 - Summer 2018

Banstead-BVRA@outlook.com

www.Banstead-BVRA.org

WINKWORTH WOODLAND COMMUNITY PROJECT by Brian Ransom



Well, the verge daffodils are almost out to accompany the snowdrops and primroses planted alongside the footpath, and hopefully road users and other passers by will appreciate the display. The current cold weather doesn't seem to have had too much of an effect on our saplings, as new leaf buds are showing on most of them. Since our last update not much has taken place

as we had to cancel two work sessions due to bad weather, although we did manage to install another bird box and prune some trees which were interfering with the fences and buildings of Winkworth Place.

We are taking further advice on how to deal with the trees that are suffering from Ash die-back and we will seek to have written permission from Reigate and Banstead Council before any work on them is initiated.

We have been given a wildflower seed kit from the GROW WILD team at Kew Gardens. These seeds will be sown into the open area fronting onto Bolters Lane and the mini roundabout. We would also like to try and plant some of these seeds and grow them onto 'plug plant' stage. This will increase the likelihood of producing successful full size plants. Are there any volunteers with greenhouses who would like to help us with this? If so please contact me at brian.bvra@gmail.com



'The beast from the east strikes'

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Executive Committee extends a warm invitation to all members of the Association to the

71st Annual General Meeting to be held at:

Banstead Preparatory School (formerly Greenacre), Sutton Lane, Banstead
on **THURSDAY 17th May** commencing at 7.30pm and concluding by 10:00pm.

Our guest speaker is **Crispin Blunt MP** for Reigate & Banstead since 1997
and currently co-Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for London's Green Belt.

Please note there is free parking available in the school car park and tea / coffee will be served from 7:15pm

Please bring this invitation with you to the meeting. See back page for agenda.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR by acting Chairman Cliff Glanfield



Welcome to Spring! It is snowing again as I write this report and although we hope for milder weather soon, the snow and ice has taken its toll on the roads, with the potholes multiplying. Unfortunately, we can't see any road resurfacing planned this year in Banstead, so it will be temporary repairs for now. More in David Gradidge's Infrastructure article below.

Talking of Spring and looking forward to summer, Banstead Village in Bloom are planning for a bigger and better show, hoping to improve on the creditable Silver of last year. We understand there will be more emphasis on the Lady Neville playground and the Eastern end of the village this time.

As you will know we have a large network of road stewards who do valuable work in distributing newsletters, collecting subscriptions and feeding back issues to the committee. In order to help communication generally, we are proposing to create a more comprehensive database of members and road stewards. We are mindful of Data Protection Act issues though and will need your consent to hold personal details such as e-mail addresses and phone numbers. We are also looking at the possibility of collecting subscriptions electronically to give you a choice of how to pay and will be running a trial on some roads this year.

Regarding planning matters, the public consultation for the Development Management Plan (DMP) has now finished, and BVRA have made some considered inputs. Please see Catalina Vassallo-Bonner's article for more detail on this ongoing process. You may already have noticed another consultation on local boundary changes. More in David Gradidge's article later in the newsheet. I hope that you had time to comment on these proposed changes.

With Mike Sawyer's retirement from the committee, we are again in search of a Chairman and will have to soldier on with 2 Vice Chairs for the time being. I am hopeful someone might step into the breach after the May AGM on 17th May, which is a little earlier than usual.

INFRASTRUCTURE by David Gradidge

You will all have noticed that since the cold spell at the beginning of March that pot holes have bred and multiplied. The second cold spell can only have made things worse. The worst stretch must have been, and maybe still is, on the A217 going South. Water gets into old badly sealed repairs, freezes, and break up is rapid. I recently reported a problem with a manhole cover breaking up in Sutton Lane. This was cured by covering the offending item with tarmac. Lake Victoria (see picture on right) has made an unwelcome return despite our efforts urging Surrey County Council to expedite action.



The latest update of Operation Horizon as recorded by the Surrey / Reigate & Banstead Local Committee details the following... The pavements in Court Road and the High Street in the 2017/18 programme have been deferred to the current year (2018/19). New for 2018/19 is the footpath from the High St to Sandersfield Gardens and the pavement on the North side of Winkworth Road. No roads are scheduled. They have all been included in the possible future programme. Avenue Road, as ever, is included and we will press Surrey County Council to bring this forward. It has been a major irritation for as long as I can remember. Other roads include Court Road, Garratts Lane, a stretch of the A217, then surface treatment in Pound Road, the pavement in Kingsley Avenue and one that could bring Banstead to a standstill (again you say) drainage in Holly Lane and Garratts Lane.

PLANNING MATTERS by **Catalina Vassallo-Bonner**

We started the first part of this year with a public consultation on the Development Management Policies (DMP) as the second most important part of the new Borough Local Plan, the first being the Core Strategy approved in 2014. As the name implies the DMP deals with the infrastructure, transport, building development and shaping of the areas in which we live in the borough. The residents of Banstead have been much concerned with the Horseshoe and Community Hall while those living towards the south of Banstead are concerned with the old Wellesford Close allotment garden which has been taken out of Urban Open Space and thereby makes it more vulnerable to development.

When the consultation closed on February 23rd the residents of Banstead were given an extra four weeks to make their comments as, thanks to problems with the agency tasked with notifying everyone, many hadn't received the official notice from Reigate. This extension closed on Friday March 23rd. It was vitally important that all documents were in the hands of the Planning Inspectorate by March 31st otherwise there was the strong possibility that the housing figures agreed in the Core Strategy would be increased. At the moment there is no information on who will be the Inspector heading the Public Examination of the DMP, or when it will be. That information will be put on the website when it is made public.

The latest consultation, this time from central government, is the review of the proposed revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework. This is a document which states the national planning requirements; sustainability, transport, new towns, infrastructure, green belt and so on. There is a lot in the NPPF which does not actually concern Banstead but it is important that we study it and make such comments that we think are important for the area.

Looking at this current consultation and the DMP are part of the work of the BVRA Planning Sub Group. On the major consultations we also work with the Federation to make sure that our part of the Borough remains as we want it and we support the other Residents' Associations. As the BVRA Planning Sub Group we meet regularly to discuss and make decisions that we feel will be of benefit to Banstead. As well as the important consultations we also read all the planning applications submitted and visit the sites to see whether we feel that the application is sound or will cause problems to neighbours or disadvantage surroundings. Generally there is little to worry about but occasionally there are problems which cause us to comment adversely to the planning department of Reigate and Banstead Borough Council.

BANSTEAD WILDLIFE FIELD by **David Gradidge**

I have increasing concerns about the future management of the wildlife field. Reigate and Banstead manage the site in co-operation with the Downlands Partnership. I have acted as the one who gets the parties together and agrees a schedule for work days.

For many years Ian Wright as Country Officer was the main contact, but after he left, the problems started. Two very competent rangers followed on, but both have now left at short notice. The last one, Sally Jones produced an excellent management plan. In my opinion, both were given 5 days of work to be carried out in their 3 day part time employment. So we now have no one in Reigate & Banstead with any knowledge of the site. This could be compounded by staff changes at Downlands. These sites do not look after themselves.



The BVRA Newsheet is supported by;

Richard Saunders and Company
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BANSTEAD VILLAGE IN BLOOM (BVIB) by Marion Hayns

Plans are already being drawn up for this, our second foray into this prestigious national competition. As I write we are just emerging from one of the coldest March weeks for many years and spring flowers are reluctant to make much of an appearance so instead I have included a photograph of the poignant soldier silhouette alongside the War Memorial at the eastern end of the Village. These are entitled 'There but not there Tommies' and smaller Perspex replicas can be purchased to raise money for veterans' charities – similar to the very successful ceramic poppy appeal in 2014.



Later in the year the council is to create a flower bed there delineating the numerals 1914 – 1918 in red, white and blue flowers which will be the overall theme throughout the High Street.

Banstead Horticultural Society are again running a best front garden competition; entry forms can be downloaded from their website www.bansteadhorticulturalsociety.com where you will find all the terms and conditions. Previous winners are excluded from entering for 2 years but please consider having a 'go' – a high proportion of the final marks for BVIB are awarded for community involvement. Closing date for entries is 30th May 2018 .

One of the major criticisms last year was that too few people were aware of the existence of the competition. It is hoped to rectify that this summer with many banners being placed at strategic spots around the Village and posters on display in local shops. Local school children are planting up displays in colourful wheelbarrows specially built by students from Nescot. These will be found on the green in front of the library and the grassed area at the top of Sutton Lane.

This year the local allotment groups are also participating – check out the exciting projects being trialled there! It would be so encouraging to welcome as many of you as possible to our reinstated 'get together' on **Saturday April 21st** at the United Reformed Church Woodmansterne Lane 3:00 to 4.30pm and I apologise in advance for those of you who might sadly be reading this after the event.

Lastly please put **Saturday June 23rd** in your diaries. We are again organising a Megaclean to tidy up the grot spots and wash down the signs prior to the judging in early July and will be meeting at 9.30am in the car park of the Community Hall as before. Please check our website (www.banstead-bvra.org) regularly as the weeks go by for information as to work dates planned for specific tasks that require organising nearer the time, or email me at marionh.bafs@hotmail.co.uk for further details.

BUS ROUTE 166 by David Gradidge



Many will know that the threat to bus route 166 to Epsom Hospital has been lifted for the next 5 years starting Sept 1st. The contract has been awarded to Arriva again.

Surrey County Council are reported as subsidising the route to the tune of £130,000 a year. It seems that the buses will not be new and there may be changes to the timetable. What we really wanted was an improved service, as 1 an hour does not exactly encourage shopping in Epsom. Many have put pressure on Surrey County Council and Transport for London and we did our bit. I would like to especially mention Gerald Bridge who spent many an hour tenaciously cutting through acres of officialdom to get to those people who really matter.

PROPOSED BANSTEAD VILLAGE SIGN APPEAL by Brian Ransom

We now have agreement in principle with Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, as owners of the land, that we can raise a new village sign, subject to meeting the conditions of a Licensing Agreement and obtaining planning permission. The planning application for a Village Sign falls into the category of an "Advertisement" and the associated fee is a whopping £462!! This seems outrageous but apparently it cannot be waived even for a non-profit voluntary organisation such as BVRA who are solely trying to enhance the village.

We now have many of the inputs required for the planning application, including a foundation design from a structural engineer who did waive his fee. The application will be finalised shortly.

If you would like to support this Village Sign proposal you can donate to:

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/bansteadvillagesignappeal>

You will see that the site is linked to the Banstead Rotary Charity. This will enable us to receive Gift Aid, if donors are eligible as taxpayers. Cash donations are being accepted at JT Snuggs The Jewellers and Edibles Delicatessen, both in the High Street.

All the funds donated will be ring-fenced by Banstead Rotary and used to fund the new Village Sign. In the unlikely event that the village sign does not go ahead, any unspent monies will be used by Banstead Rotary in consultation with BVRA and BVIB, to fund agreed activities within Banstead.

MEMBERSHIP RECORDS by Cliff Glanfield

As mentioned in previous newsheets, we hold some details of our members. Kerry Garner has kindly volunteered to consolidate and update our databases. As membership is currently by household, we don't hold many personal details and what we do is mostly held by road stewards in a variety of formats.

It would greatly assist us in the future that, if you have not already done so, you would kindly get in touch with Kerry at kerry.garner@outlook.com giving her your name, address, e-mail address and phone number if you wish. This would enable us to alert you to intended work parties or planning issues that may arise requiring urgent attention. Since our newsheet is only published 3 times a year it tends of necessity to be a report back on what *has* happened. It will also enable us to email you papers relating to this year's AGM so that we may cut down on waste and give you the opportunity to peruse them before the evening.

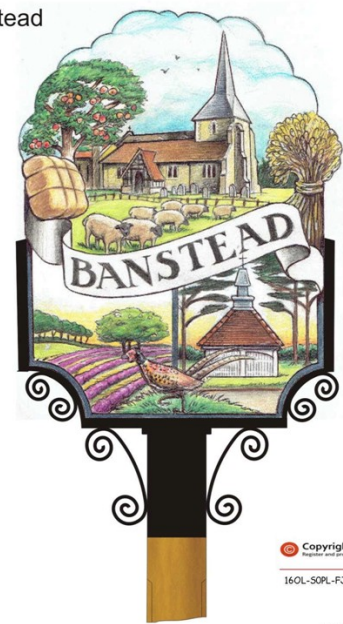
You can be assured that it is intended your details will be held only with your permission in accordance with new data protection legislation effective from May and will not be distributed or shared with any third party outside our Executive committee.

WINKWORTH TRAFFIC CALMING PROPOSAL UPDATE by Brian Ransom

To date I've only had two responses to my request for help in forming an 'Action Committee'. Please reconsider whether you wish to live with these 'Rat-Runners' endangering our families for the foreseeable future or join me in doing what we can to tackle the situation. Please contact me on brian.bvra@gmail.com

Thank you.

Proposed Village Sign
for
Banstead



FINANCES by David Gradidge

The accounts, right, are, to say the least, in draft form. Anything produced 2 weeks before the year end is subject to a degree of guesswork. This year has been especially difficult for those collecting late as 2 of the last 3 weekends have been inhospitable – that is unless a kind person invites you in, gives you a cup of tea and lets you thaw out.

However there is plenty that won't change. This year reflects a full year of £3 subs. So that accounts for most of the increase in income. Richard Saunders & Company have kindly contributed £400 to the cost of the Newsheet and our new printer is very competitive.

Special donations include £500 to “Save our Steeple”, £300 to Banstead in Bloom and £2,000 towards the cost of the Village Lights on a one off basis.

We have initiated a tree replacement fund that will contribute towards the costs involved. It is not meant to cover the full cost, as hopefully we might get help from Surrey County Council, but it will go some way.

	2017/18	2016/17
	£	£
INCOME		
Subscriptions & Donations	5817	5392
EXPENDITURE		
Production of News Sheets	1402	1594
Less Contribution from SAUNDERS & CO	-400	-150
Tree replacement Fund	600	
Insurance	80	78
Subscriptions	116	111
Printing, postage & stationery	146	222
Hire of rooms	339	367
Web Site	130	130
Sundry expenses	44	161
DONATIONS		
Save our Steeple	500	
Banstead in Bloom	300	
Banstead Village Lights	2,000	1188
Banstead Village Finger Posts		400
Clean for the Queen		16
WW1 Remembrance Project		250
May Fayre	40	40
Royal British Legion	70	70
Excess of Income over Expenditure	450	915
	<u>5817</u>	<u>5392</u>

ROADS STEWARDS by David Gradidge

As ever we have some vacancies and will welcome volunteers for this vital task. You don't have to live in the road but it certainly helps. There is Holly Lane West (18 members) and parts of North Acre (25 members). Please phone me on 353981 or email – dgradidge@waitrose.com

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:

May

8th - Frank Winscombe - Shrubland Road
 15th - Albert Seal - Banstead Asylum
 21st - George Powell - Shrubland Road
 26th - Mark Farrow - Banstead Asylum
 27th - Willie Nash - Shrubland Road

July

14th - Jack Hillman - Park Farm

BOUNDARY COMMISSION CHANGES by David Gradidge

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is carrying out a routine review of ward boundaries in the Borough (and no doubt throughout England). The last review was for Surrey County Council boundaries and resulted in the creation of the very illogical area of Merstham and Banstead South straddling the M25 and so unifying communities that had nothing in common.



The proposal this time is to reduce the number of wards from 19 to 15 and for each ward to have 3 Councillors – a reduction of 6 from 51. They will take account of the identity of local communities and their facilities. Clearly you can't do both. Having talked to a Review Officer in Millbank at the time of writing, there will be tolerances so avoiding a rigid mathematical approach.

At present there are 2 wards with 1 Councillor – Preston that is very compact and exists for valid historical reasons, and Salfords & Sidlow covering a large rural area between Reigate and Horley that has its own Parish council.

The issue is quite clear in that demographics coupled with planned housing developments are acting against all the wards north of the M25. LGBCE is using the forecast electorate as a basis for change. Over an unspecified time that forecast electorate is expected to change by 180 in Banstead Village or 3%, whereas in Horley West it goes up by nearly 2000 or 33%. Like it or not the power and influence is shifting away from us and all wards north of the M25. Of course it doesn't help that whoever created the Borough boundaries left us with a long thin strip from Gatwick to Sutton barely 3 miles wide in places

The initial consultation period ended on April 9th with a further consultation to consider the Commission's proposals to follow. Forgetting Merstham ward that straddles the M25, there are 7 wards north of the M25. It would seem inevitable that we will lose 1 ward. We must not lose 2 wards. We need to discuss our response urgently and argue for 6 wards and 18 Councillors north of the M25.

Banstead Village ward will increase in size and it looks as if we will regain areas lost in the last review.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

BVRA COMMITTEE

Cliff Glanfield – acting Chairman & Vice - Chair
& High Street Management & Internal Affairs
email: cliffglanfield@yahoo.co.uk

Marion Hayns – Vice - Chair & External Affairs
email: marionh.bafs@hotmail.co.uk

David Gradidge – Treasurer
& Transport & Infrastructure
email: dgradidge@waitrose.com

Catalina Vassallo-Bonner – Secretary & Planning
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.
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38-40 Bell Street, Reigate RH2 7BA

FUTURE EVENTS

Our AGM - Thursday 17th May

AGENDA

1. Welcome by the acting chairman
2. Minutes of the 70th AGM - summary distributed to members at the meeting
3. Address from Crispin Blunt, our local MP, following which he is happy to answer questions from the floor.
4. Report by the acting chairman.
5. Presentation of the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2018 – summary printed on page 6 of this newsheet
6. Election of Officers, Executive Committee and Independent Examiner.
7. Welcome to our local Councillors, followed by Open Forum debate
8. Any other business.

BANSTEAD NEVILLE BOWLING CLUB

April sees the start of the outdoor bowling season. We welcome new members and have a team of trained coaches who are available to give you all the knowledge you will need to join in our informal roll-ups or enter our internal competitions. It is a great sport and very sociable. Alongside the bowling events we are planning a full social programme. So, if you join as a Social Member, your diary will fill up quickly. If you are interested, look up our web site at www.bansteadnevillebowlingclub.co.uk or contact our Membership Secretary – Bryce Corp on 01737 370826.

WW1 MEMORIAL SERVICE, 10th November, 2018 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 10th 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 10th and 11th 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 it is hoped to establish a “field of poppies” 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..

BANSTEAD ARTS FESTIVAL by Jeff Young

The annual Banstead Arts Festival will take place from 28th April to 13th May with a wide range of events on offer.

The Festival will include evening performances in the Banstead Community Hall starting with **The Young Musicians’ concert** showcasing our local young musicians; **Tim Vine** - Banstead’s most famous resident making an eagerly-awaited fourth appearance at the Festival for an evening of no-nonsense wordplay and joke telling; and **The Oxford Clerks** - an all-male unaccompanied vocal group, singing everything from classical to contemporary. There will be two **Lunchtime Chamber Music Concerts** at All Saints Church and the **Schools Poetry Competition** will be adjudicated by the professional poet Joshua Seigal. Two **Local Guided Walks** – Birdwatching and Flowers & Butterflies, and coach trips to **Abingdon & River Cruise from Oxford** plus contributions by other local organisations will ensure that there is plenty of interest throughout the fortnight.

Please see the website www.bansteadarts.co.uk for full details. Tickets will be on sale online, at Banstead Library and at the door if still available.

BANSTEAD VILLAGE MAY FAYRE Saturday 5th May 2018

You are warmly invited to join Ruby Doohan, your 2018 Banstead May Queen in raising money for The Children’s Trust at this year’s Banstead May Fayre.

The Fayre starts with a parade down Banstead High Street at 11:30am with the crowning of the May Queen in the Orchard of All Saints Church at 12noon.

For more information about the day, please visit our website www.bansteadmayqueen.co.uk or check out our Facebook page. We look forward to seeing you there!