



Woodmansterne Green Belt and Residents' Association Spring 2017 Newsletter

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter

Planning issues in the surrounding area have been on our agenda, including the Burial Ground proposed on land adjacent to 16 Croydon Lane. There have been several proposals submitted, each of which has been rejected with hundreds of objections submitted by local residents. However there is to be an appeal due to be held at the Town Hall on 19th April. To see details of this development go to Reigate and Banstead website planning section.

The Sutton and East Surrey Waterworks project is well underway with the lagoon being completed and work beginning on the main site in Outwood Lane. Local residents have been consulted about the landscaping of the lagoon site which will include a wild flower meadow. Registering the footpath at the bottom of the field is still in progress.

The Community Award money has been used to purchase benches to replace the broken ones overlooking Solom's Court Wood, plus two others. They will offer a welcome sit down for walkers so that they can have a rest and take in the view. Many thanks to Anne Coward and John Dixon for managing this project. Thanks also to Anne for refurbishing the "entrance gates" to the village on Carshalton Road and Woodmansterne Lane.

Parking at the top of the village has become an issue when cars from the Sports Club and Walcountians spill out on to the surrounding roads. This is due to these sites not having enough in house parking. Unfortunately many drivers park inconsiderately, blocking footways and using the church car park on Sunday mornings and even obstructing driveways. There is no easy solution to this other than more double yellow lines.

WGBRA AGM will be held at Woodmansterne Baptist Church, Pine Walk on Thursday 20th April at 8 pm. The speaker will be Sandra Ash from KOSHH (Keep our St Helier Hospital). All residents welcome.

Subs 2017

If your subscription (£2) has not been collected you may wish to pay it directly into our bank account referencing your address (Account number: 17645609; sort code: 23 05 80) or at The Look In or to your road steward or directly to the treasurer at 13 Prestbury Crescent. Thank you.

Name.....

Address.....

Saint Peter's Church has been a part of the village for hundreds of years and is still a very active and valued part of the community. The Rector Rev Doug McHardie has kindly written the following about the various aspects of the church's work.

*St Peter's is a family and we love to welcome others and share with them – hospitality and Good News. Come and share breakfast or a morning coffee at **Bus Stop Café** on a Thursday morning. We watch films together at our increasingly popular monthly **Film Club**. For the over 60s the **Diamond Club** has a full programme of events and activities, meeting monthly on the first Thursday afternoon. A programme of social events includes a **Walking Group** on a Monday morning and monthly **Lunch Club** who meet in a local pub.*

*The **Church Hall** has a new roof, refurbished toilets and entrance also replacement doors and windows. Plans to upgrade inside and out are being actioned over the next year or so. We enjoy strong partner relationships with our user groups and welcome the opportunity to offer the hall for further **community use**.*

*St Peter's is a Church for all-ages and activities for **children and families** are one of our priorities. Hopscotch **Baby and Toddler Group** for the under 4s and their carers, that meets on Wednesday mornings. **New activities** include a monthly **Tot's Praise** including bible stories, songs and fun for the under 3's and carers. **Messy Church** is every second Saturday afternoon in conjunction with Whitethorn Methodist Church.*

*We always welcome the opportunity to pray for specific needs in our community, gathered through our regular **prayer walks**. Ask us! If you would like prayer (with or for you) please just let us know.*

*St Peter's is a place to **CELEBRATE!** All are welcome!! We mark all of life's key events in the name of Christ including **baptisms, weddings and funerals**. **New for 2017** are **two informal All-Age services**: with **Baptism** on the second Sunday and Holy Communion on the third of the month.*

*Our **Music** is a varied mix of **modern songs of worship** and **traditional hymns of praise**. Whether you sing or play an instrument we are always looking for **new musicians** to lead us in our worship group and in the Choir.*

*Our beautiful **church building**, highlighted by new external lighting, needs some **repair work** and minor changes to seating to enable greater flexibility.*

May we invite you to join us in our events, activities and worship at this exciting time. Details of services and church activities can be found on our website: www.saintpeterschurch.org.uk.

Rector Rev Doug McHardie

NEED HELP WITH FUEL PAYMENTS?

If so, 'Woodmansterne Charities' may be able to assist. We are a local charity and we may be able to help with your fuel payment, if you are struggling to pay your fuel bills. In order to qualify, you must have resided in the Parish of Woodmansterne for a period of at least three years. If you would like to be considered for assistance, then please contact us by post or by e-mail, as follows:

Woodmansterne Charities
C/O St Peter's Church
Rectory Lane,
Woodmansterne, Banstead,
Surrey. SM7 3NR

e-mail: office@saintpeterschurch.org.uk
web: www.saintpeterschurch.org.uk

Registered Charity Numbers: 239690 and 239691

Surrey County Council, as you will no doubt know, is in financial difficulties. The following is an explanation of some of the reasons why.

2017/18 COUNTY COUNCIL PRECEPT

What is the problem?

- *Since 2010 Surrey County Council has found itself trapped in a financial vice. On the one hand government subsidy has been progressively cut (by 2018/19 -the Rate Support Grant will reach 0 and by 2019/20 there will be a reverse payment of £17 million.) At the same time the ability to replace such loss of funding by gradual rises in council tax has been restricted.*
- *On the other hand demand for services has increased in volume, complexity and cost accompanied by the imposition of new responsibilities (over 60 in number since 2010) whilst by law a budget must be both balanced and sustainable in the long term.*

Loss of funding

- *Government aid to SCC comes as a number of separate grants but the principal one is Revenue Support Grant. Since 2010 this been reduced by £170 million whilst other grants have also fallen. The overall loss to date has been £228 million per annum. Surrey has been the most heavily penalised of all counties because the formula for distribution of grant is based upon the notional ability to raise funds. However, to this formula in recent years an additional filter has been added derived from the notional level of deprivation in the area. This also operates against Surrey. The discriminatory reductions are bad enough, ignoring as they do the higher cost of everything here and the demographic increases, but when combined with the inability to replace the lost grant from council tax the squeeze on resources becomes apparent.*

Increase in demand since 2010

- *the number of learning disability people supported has increased by 36% to 3765.*
- *The population of children requiring school places has increased by 11% to 150,428 and the birth rate has increased by 20% in the last decade.*
- *The number of elderly supported has risen by 12% to 9418 and is expected to double in the next 18 years*
- *the demand for children's services has increased including the unexpected influx of unaccompanied asylum seeker children.*

What has Surrey done about it

- *Real efforts have been made to reduce expenditure. In each of the last 5 years savings of at least £60 million a year have been achieved in costs and by April 2017 the total savings will be £450 million in a revenue budget of £1.5 billion – one third of total expenditure*
- *Intensive lobbying of central government has gone on. Reform of the grant formulae is consequently under way.*

What happened at the budget meeting?

- *Negotiations with the minister were taking place as late as 9.00am on the morning of the meeting. Two assurances were received:*
 1. *That the government had taken on board the severity of the adult social care crisis and would address it in the coming year for all authorities.*
 2. *That SCC would participate in 2018-19 in a pilot of the new Business Rate arrangements. This was just sufficient to persuade SCC that, whilst we would still need to balance the 2017-18 budget with painful cuts, there was a reasonable hope of a sustainable budget for future years.*

Banstead area U3A presents Weather, Wildlife and Warming
The effects of climate change on wildlife locally and nationally
A talk by Ian Currie, meteorological expert and local weatherman

Wednesday 3rd May 2017 – 7.45pm
Banstead Community Hall, Park Road SM7 3AJ

the event will be open to all ages as this is an issue of local and international concern

Woodmansterne Operatic and Dramatic Society (WODS)

Presents "Return to the Forbidden Planet" from 10th to 13th May in St Peter's Church Hall. Box office: 01737 555009.

Woodmansterne Village May Queen Fete 2017

Monday 1st May The Procession will leave The Readons at 12.50pm, arriving at the village green at approximately 1.15pm. This year's May Queen is Sarah Styles. She will be crowned by The Worshipful The Mayor of Reigate and Banstead Cllr David Powell, accompanied by the Mayoress, Mrs Caroline Durance.

Stalls at the fete will include a bouncy castle, children's rides, face painting, tombolas, raffle, refreshments and much more. Please come along and help support the event.

WGBRA website and Facebook page

The Woodmansterne Green Belt and Residents Association (WGBRA) website can be found at www.woodmansternereresidents.com. Contact us at wgbra@hotmail.co.uk. Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/wgbra.

Your Village Needs You!

The Association is looking for new committee members to join us in dealing with issues that affect residents in Woodmansterne. Contact us at wgbra@hotmail.co.uk.

Current Committee members

Penny Hext (Chair/acting Secretary); Chrissy Page (Treasurer); Tina Davis (Minutes); Evan Gregory (Planning); Debra Farrell; Jennie Auston; Anne Coward (Highways); George Jones and Jackie Potter.

Councillors contact details

Keith Foreman cllr.foreman@reigate-banstead.gov.uk) Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
Richard Mantle cllr.mantle@reigate-banstead.gov.uk) for Chipstead, Hooley and
John Stephenson cllr.stephenson@reigate-banstead.gov.uk) Woodmansterne Ward
Telephone Reigate and Banstead Borough Council on 01737 276000

Ken Gulati ken.gulati@surreycc.gov.uk) Surrey County Council

Telephone Surrey County Council on 0345 600 9009

Generally local issues are covered by the Borough Council but matters such as highways and schools are Surrey County Council's responsibility.