

Welcome to the 59th edition of our parish newsletter designed to keep you up to date with that is happening in Broadacres, Fairlands, Jacobs Well, Perry Hill and Wood Street Village

Summer 2021

REPORTING ISSUES

If you notice <u>any</u> issues, such as potholes, flooding or leaks, don't leave it to someone else ... please report it!

Potholes, pavements, blocked and broken drains, flooding, fallen trees and overgrown vegetation, can be reported **directly** to **Surrey County Council**.

This can be done <u>online</u>, or if you consider a problem to be an immediate threat to life or limb, or do not have internet access, call their Contact Centre on **0300 200 1003**.

The same applies to crimes or anti-social behaviour. Please report incidents directly to Surrey Police on 101 or via their website (if non-urgent) and 999 (if urgent).

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Items of Special Interest: 26 June 2021 - 150 years Maypole Event, Wood Street Village Green

Maypole dancing, cricket, and races for children will take place on the Green from 11am. Bring a picnic! **17 July 2021 - Wood Street Village Show, Wood Street Village** 12.30pm

Welcome to our new Councillor

The annual meeting in May, the first meeting to be held 'in person' for over twelve months and held in our new council chamber, saw a new councillor, Brigitte Ahier, co-opted to the parish council. Brigitte will be representing Fairlands ward, and has resided in the area for a significant number of years and, as a member of Walking for Health, in amongst numerous other volunteering roles, is very familiar with some of the slightly less well-known areas of the parish!

Brigitte is looking forward to engaging with residents on parish matters, as well as assisting with the Community SpeedWatch initative.



Councillor Brigitte Ahier

Applications Open! Your Fund £100,000,000

Support for YourFund projects can **still** be given by clicking on the ideas already plotted on the online <u>map</u> [Search: yourfundsurreymap]. Already included for our parish are the following suggestions:

- Adult fitness equipment, and play equipment, at Wildfield Close, Wood Street Village
- All-weather footpath to improve existing access between Broad Street to Fairlands (providing better access to and from Wood Street Infant School and Worplesdon Primary School)
- Community orchard at Harry's Meadow (behind Jacobs Well Village Hall), and Slyfield screening through native tree planting scheme
- Cycle track access across Broad Street Common to provide a safer route for cyclists heading to or from Fairlands/Merrist Wood
- Heritage fruit trees adjacent to Wood Street Village Green (opposite the pond)
- Worplesdon Heritage Trail (with associated walking maps and signage) to highlight the varied history of the area

All you have to do is to click on the map pin, and give any projects you like the sound of a **thumbs up!** Further details will be included in the Residents' Survey later this Summer.





Parish Groundsman

The parish groundsman has spent a significant amount of his working hours clearing up following multiple instances of anti-social behaviour across the parish. More than ever, the groundsman is having to clear up discarded nox canisters (found at multiple locations), generally litter pick as there is so much litter (not being disposed of in bins, or taken home if the bins are already full), and there have also been multiple instances of fly-tipped rubbish, which requires reporting to the appropriate authority, and clearing up, where necessary. There has even been a case of youths leaving a campfire burning on Broad Street Common, that warranted Surrey Fire and Rescue Service to attend. All cases of anti-social behaviour, should be formally reported to Surrey Police (101, if non-urgent, and 999, for instances where there is an immediate threat to life or limb).

The increased amount of discarded litter can have a multitude of other, unforeseen effects, such as contributing to drains becoming almost completely obscured by rubbish rapidly during a downpour, wildlife becoming trapped in the debris, or it contributing to fires on the commons. Please dispose of all of your rubbish responsibly.

More terrapins have been spotted at Moat House Pond in Jacobs Well. Please do not release invasive species, such as terrapins, because they decimate the local wildlife, eating the goslings and ducklings, and native species: fish, newts, toads, frogspawn, and dragonfly larvae. There are no natural predators for terrapins, and they can live for decades, even in open water rather than captivity. Please can we also remind residents that there should be no fishing between 15 March and 15 June, because it is close season.

Fairlands - Alleyway Maintenance

The alleyways of Fairlands are going to be the next focus of parish council work parties. In the past, the residents of Fairlands have been very supportive, and have kindly volunteered to assist with these initiatives. Work parties will be arranged by the groundsman, and advertised on social media (Facebook @FLGCA, as well as Worplesdon Parish Council's own page @WorplesdonPC). Please do come along and help! It's also a great opportunity to get to know some of your fellow residents, whilst making a visible difference to Fairlands! If you don't have access to social media, and would like to help, please contact Victoria (Assistant Clerk - 01483 300094) to be kept up-to-date.

Speeding - Community SpeedWatch

Community SpeedWatch has been deployed at numerous times throughout the last three months, despite the inclement weather and roadworks trying to intervene on occasion! Surrey Police have moved onto a new reporting platform, which has allowed a significant number of improvements. One such improvement is that the training can now be undertaken online, so there's no need to worry about parking in central Guildford! Additional information about motorists can be readily recorded, and, once entered on the system, can be shared across the many police forces who are utilising the system.

To benefit the parish council, there are advanced analysis tools so the wide variety of general information harvested during deployment can be utilised (i.e. total number of vehicles passing the site, weather conditions, etc.). The accessible data is all GDPR compliant.

There are numerous active deployment locations across the parish, and our teams see the visible effect on driving habits during their deployments, with the bonnets of speeding vehicles dipping significantly as the brakes are heavily applied.

We have been saddened to hear of an increase in cats being knocked over by vehicles, particularly in Wood Street Village, in recent weeks. Please can we remind residents that speed limits are in place for a reason. More volunteers are always required to join Community SpeedWatch. Contact Victoria (Assistant Clerk) for further information.



Commemorative Pigeon Release

On Saturday 17th April 2021, at 12 noon precisely, a commemorative pigeon release took place on the village green at Wood Street Village, in honour of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.

Bill Carr, who keeps pigeons and lives in the village, released 10 pigeons, one for each decade of Prince Philip's life. Despite a Red Kite circling overhead, the pigeons all flew straight across the Green towards their loft.

Bill was assisted in the release, by local resident Jackson West (age 3).

Approximately 30 people attended the event, whilst adhering to social distancing protocols. The event was blessed with good weather.

This was a nationwide initiative and reflected the keen interest which the Duke of Edinburgh showed in the pigeons that were always kept at Sandringham.

More information can be found on the Royal Pigeon Racing Association website: <u>www.rpra.org/hrh-the-duke-of-edinburgh-</u> <u>pigeon-release/</u>.



Jackson West releasing the ten commemorative pigeons with Bill Carr from the village sign bench

Nervous anticipation...

Sarah Bunce looks forward to summer on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area, but the stakes are high! There are more than 30 heaths and heathland plantations, including Whitmoor Common and Ash Ranges...

I always approach spring and summer on the heaths with a mixture of excitement and trepidation! Excitement because there's so much to look forward to. The return of nightjars from Africa, tantalising glimpses of reptiles and an explosion of butterflies and dragonflies. Trepidation, because dry weather can bring wildfires. If we have another long, hot, dry summer, I'll be worried about seeing heathland fires in the headlines again, like the terrible incident at Chobham Common last year. All the legal protection in the world won't stop accidents or acts of deliberate vandalism. Local planning departments can protect the heaths with a robust planning strategy, land managers can work hard keeping habitats in great condition and our wardens can ask everyone to give nature space. But it only takes one carelessly discarded cigarette, or one thoughtless BBQ, for all that work to go up in smoke. Wildlife will suffer, people will be put in danger and homes in jeopardy. It's with good reason that lighting fires is illegal, except in designated areas. The heaths come alive in summer, as the different heathers start to bloom. My personal highlight is the end of July when huge swathes of common heather, or ling, come into flower, turning the heaths purple. It must surely be one of Nature's 'must-see' spectacles.

Heather is beautiful, but it's also highly flammable. To avoid more horrific incidents, we must all take this issue seriously

and do our bit to prevent fires. <u>Remember the code</u>: No BBQs or fires, ensure cigarettes are out and take all litter home. And if you see a fire, however small, report it via 999 <u>immediately</u>. <u>Never</u> assume someone else has reported it. Your swift action could make all the difference...to people, wildlife, and our local environment. Enjoy the heaths, keep safe, and please spread the word. Find out more at www.tbhpartnership.org.uk by Sarah Bunce





Parish Personnel Contact Details

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Victoria Fear (Assistant Clerk)	07718 479409	<u>admin@worplesdon-pc.gov.uk</u>
Peter Trevena (Head Groundsman)	07308 658882	groundsman@worplesdon-pc.gov.uk
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There are currently two vacancies. Please contact the **Clerk to the Council** for further information.



@worplesdonpc

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@WorplesdonPC

https://www.worplesdon-pc.gov.uk 01483 300094

4 September - Dog Show - Jacobs Well

A dog show will be held at Harry's Meadow in Jacobs Well on 4th September 2021. Harry's Meadow is located behind the Jacobs Well Village Hall and Scout Hut. There will be stalls with dog related items and charities, as well as the wide variety of show classes!

There are lots of different classes, with entry registration from 1pm, and the event starting at 2pm.

Free parking will be available. All dogs welcome!





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