



# PARISH NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the 68th 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.

Winter 2023

## REPORTING ISSUES

If you notice any 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** ([www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk)). This can be done **online**, 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).

**Thames Water** can be contacted on 0800 316 9800 for sewage flooding.

## ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

**16 December 2023 - Wood Street Village Green Carol Singing - 4pm**  
**1 March 2024 - Worplesdon Flood Forum Meeting - 10am**  
 Worplesdon Parish Council Office  
**18 March 2024 - Annual Parish Assembly - 7pm**  
 FLGCA Community Hall, Fairlands

## New Groundsperson

We are very pleased to welcome a member to our small but dedicated team. Local resident Andy Connor, will be joining Peter Trevena to inspect and maintain Parish Council assets across the parish in play areas and on land we're responsible for, as well as addressing flooding hotspots, where applicable.

Andy is an enthusiastic gardener and enjoys walking his dog around the parish. He is really looking forward to finding out more about the parish, discovering some of the 'hidden' gem

locations which are dotted around the parish, and meeting the residents! Please do say 'hello' to him when you spot him out and about!

The only full-time member of staff is the Clerk to the Council, Gaynor White, whilst the other members of staff are all part-time.



## Provision of Christmas Lights

For a number of years Worplesdon Parish Council has utilised monies from the precept (which is collected through your council tax payment) to pay for two illuminated Christmas trees - one at St Mary's Church, Perry Hill and the other on Wood Street Village Green - together with illuminating a number of the horse chestnuts alongside Perry Hill Green on Worplesdon Road, opposite the former White Lyon and Dragon.

The contract will soon be due for re-tendering and we'd like to consult with residents to find out what residents would really like from the lights - or even if they want them at all! In recent years, due to horse chestnut canker and general tree maintenance, there have been numerous instances where the horse chestnut

trees at Perry Hill Green have had to have the lights removed to have tree works undertaken. This incurs an additional cost. These works are unavoidable.

The existing Christmas lights are already commercial LED lights, so are more energy efficient, and the electricity charges for the current lights on Perry Hill Green are in the region of £250 annually. The church pay for the electricity for the lights at St Mary's Church, and the lights on Wood Street Village Green are paid for by the village association.

The consultation can be accessed via our website (<https://worplesdon-pc.gov.uk/>), <https://forms.office.com/e/t3gQ6gAPwg>, or using the QR code on the poster below. Paper copies available on request from the parish office.



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## Challengers

The Parish Council were very pleased to be invited to attend the opening of the new Challengers play area at their Stoke Park facility on 5 October 2023. Challengers work is greatly appreciated through their provision of truly inclusive fun and safe places where disabled children and young people can spend time with their friends. This offers a positive impact for not just the families, but the wider community.

The Parish Council is pleased to support Challengers through the use of Wood Street Village Green for their incredibly successful jazz festival held annually in July. In Summer 2023 the event raised over £22,000. The new playground features special equipment including a We-Go-Swing which will reduce the social isolation of disabled children. This play space, when not in use by Challengers, will be open for Family Fun Days for local families to enjoy together:

<https://disability-challengers.org/playground/>

## Riparian Ownership & Flooding

Please can we reiterate to residents the importance of clearing out the ditches and streambanks you are responsible for. Whilst you might not be experiencing flooding at your location, the implications of your watercourse not being clear might be inadvertently causing flooding elsewhere. When clearing vegetation, please don't be tempted to put it into the water hoping the water will take it away; it will simply block a grille downstream. Thank you.

## Silverbirch Care Home

The Clerk and Assistant Clerk were invited to have a sneak preview of the exceptional facilities at the new care home located within the Keens Lane development. They received a very warm welcome from the Manager of the home, Louise, and the home's Home Services Advisor, Sally-Anne.



The home hosts 'cake and a cuppa' afternoons on Wednesdays from 2pm to 4pm to help combat loneliness. All are welcome.

## Play Area Consultation

The Parish Council has recently consulted on the play equipment located at Worplesdon Memorial Hall and Grounds. The feedback was very interesting and we would like to thank all those play area users who provided feedback on the existing equipment and the potential options available for upgrade.

The results of the feedback will be available shortly on our website.

Some of the issues highlighted in the feedback are beyond the control of the parish council, such as the holes in the football field, and the location of benches which are not within the play areas.

As a result of the feedback, we will soon be submitting an application for grant funding to undertake upgrading works to this well used and highly regarded play area.

## Speeding Traffic

Community SpeedWatch (CSW) and the Speed Data Recorder (SDR) continue to be deployed around the parish. The SDR is deployed to directly respond to the concerns of residents relating to not just the speed of vehicles but also the size of vehicles using particular roads. The data (which does **NOT** include any vehicle numberplate information) accumulated from a number of locations will be used to lobby Surrey Police and Surrey County Council.

## Tree Surgery

Due to a combination of age and disease, together with the ongoing impact of the weather extremes experienced, more tree surgery is being undertaken by specialist contractors at some of the Parish Council maintained sites.

To offset the impact of the tree surgery, together with our focus on enhancing the local levels of tree stocks, we will be planting 420 whips at Nevins Copse, Pinks Hill, Wood Street Village. The Parish Council continues to subscribe to the 'right tree, right place' ethos.

This planting is in addition to a number of additional trees which will be planted as succession planting starting in December 2023 - as well as the trees for the Coronation.





# PARISH NEWSLETTER

## Stella Hancock Driving Group - RDA

Chairman Nigel Mitchell and Gaynor White, Clerk to the Council, were very pleased to be invited to see the facilities occupied by Stella Hancock Driving Group - Riding for the Disabled at Merrist Wood College and the wonderful positive impact the group has on its attendees.

being, self-confidence, independence and personal achievement.

The group has created an outdoor environment of friendship, learning, fun and inclusivity, alongside the therapeutic relationship with horses.

The Parish Council recently provided a grant to the group following a short presentation at a parish council meeting. For more information on making applications to the Parish Council, please see our website: <https://worplesdon-pc.gov.uk/transparency/grants-to-voluntary-community-and-social-enterprise-organisations/>



This driving group provides carriage driving in a safe, happy and friendly environment for anyone with a disability, in order to promote improved emotional well-

For more information, or to volunteer to assist the group, please go to the website: <https://www.stellahancockrda.org/>

## Armistice Day



Above: Merrist Wood Golf Course Memorial

Below: St Mary's Church Memorial

Members of Worplesdon Parish Council and a number of residents gathered to commemorate Armistice Day at both the official war memorials in Queenhythe Road and Harry's Meadow, Jacobs Well on 11th November. All those gathered observed the two-minute silence at 11am.

Wreaths were laid at five key locations across the parish: War memorial on Queenhythe Road, Memorial bench in Harry's Meadow, Merrist Wood memorial, and the war memorials at St Mary's Church and St Alban's Church, Wood Street Village.

*At the going down of the sun  
And in the morning.*

*We will remember them.*

"For the Fallen" - Laurence Binyon 1869 – 1943



Above: Harry's Meadow Memorial Bench, Jacobs Well

Below left: Queenhythe Road War Memorial

Below: St Alban's Church





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## Parish Personnel Contact Details

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@worplesdonpc

Worplesdon Parish Council - 01483 300094

Unit 2 Saxton, Parklands, Railton Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 9JX

## Surrey Connect Bus Service

The SCC replacement for the 17 bus service (serving Wood Street Village and Fairlands) is the "Surrey Connect" service. Populated with electric minibuses which are regularly spotted around and about the parish! There is no defined "route" and no timetable for a direct response bus service. Residents can book journeys when they wish to travel between the operating hours of Monday to Friday 7am to 7pm, and Saturday 8am to 6pm. The [SCC website for the service](https://shorturl.at/jpJ6) contains a helpful video: <https://shorturl.at/jpJ6>

Details have been publicised and a brochure should have been delivered to each house in the area the bus operates. If you, or a neighbour without internet access, require a paper copy of the brochure, please contact the Parish Office: 01483 300094.

The bus still stops at designated bus stops and goes to destinations throughout the Central Guildford area.

## Grants up to £500

Did you know that each year the Parish Council offers local community groups, charities, and voluntary organisations the opportunity to apply for a financial grant of up to **£500** from the Council? There are certain criteria that must be met to be eligible for a community grant, these are set out in the Council's Grants Policy: <https://worplesdon-pc.gov.uk/transparency/grants-to-voluntary-community-and-social-enterprise-organisations/>

Past recipients include: Safe Drive Stay Alive, Citizens Advice Bureau, Crimestoppers, Whitmoor Common Association, Worplesdon Memorial Trustees, St Alban's Church, 1st Rydes Hill (St Mary's) Scout Group, Fairlands Medical Practice Patient Participation Group, Wood Street Infant School, Worplesdon Primary School, and Challengers. If you would like more information please call or email the parish office.