



PARISH NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the 69th 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.

Spring 2024

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).

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

1 March 2024 - Worplesdon Flood Forum Meeting - 10am

Worplesdon Parish Council Office - Open to all.

18 March 2024 - Annual Parish Assembly - 7pm
FLGCA Community Hall, Fairlands - All welcome!

5 July 2024 - Flood Forum Walkabout - 10am - Meet at Halifax Close, GU3 3FN

EXTREME FLOODING

As we settle into the new year, it's essential to be aware of the potential risks that come with changing weather patterns, particularly in our Parish. Flooding poses a significant threat to life, property, and the environment, especially with the predicted increase in extreme weather events due to climate change

Storm Henk, which followed a few months of wet weather, caused flooding to a significant number of properties at locations across the Parish on 4 January 2024.

Due to the number of properties that flooded (whether they were completely flooded internally, or outbuildings or cars were affected) access to government funding through the Flood Recovery Framework has been triggered. This can be accessed by following this link: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/community/emergency-planning-and-community-safety/flooding#section-7> - available are Community Recovery Grants for residential properties, and Council Tax Relief, together with grants through the Property Flood Resilience Scheme.

Each year sees too many families affected by floodwaters, highlighting the urgent need for proactive measures to mitigate risks.

One crucial step you can take is to assess whether your home is at risk of flooding. You can do this quickly and easily by visiting the [Gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk). By inputting your address, you'll gain valuable insights into the potential flooding hazards in your area. Once informed,

it's essential to take proactive steps to prepare for and respond to flooding events. Here are some practical measures you can implement:

Stay Informed: Keep abreast of Met Office weather warnings and sign up for free flood alerts from the [Environment Agency](https://www.environment-agency.gov.uk). Being aware of potential threats allows you to take timely action to protect yourself and your property.

Seek Expert Advice: Explore the detailed flooding advice available on the [Surrey County Council Flooding web pages](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk) and the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk).

These resources offer comprehensive guidance on preparing for, responding to, and recovering from floods. Additionally, if your property is near a watercourse, you'll find specific instructions on how to manage this risk effectively.

Report Incidents: If you encounter flooding in your area, don't hesitate to report it via the [Flooding Emergency page](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk) on the Surrey County Council website. Your prompt reporting can help authorities assess the situation and provide assistance where needed.

Community Engagement: [Worplesdon Flood Forum](https://www.worplesdon.org.uk) was set up in 2005 to address areas of concern. This initiative plays a role in coordinating efforts to mitigate flood risks, raise awareness, and advocate for necessary improvements in flood defences/improvements.

By working together and taking proactive measures, we can better prepare ourselves for the challenges posed by flooding. Let's stay vigilant, informed, and proactive in safeguarding our homes and communities against this ever-present threat.



**SURREY
PREPARED**

For information on how you can protect your home, or advice on how your community can work together to prepare for flooding, please visit [surreycc.gov.uk/surreyprepared](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyprepared)

Surrey Prepared is made up of councils, emergency services, the Environment Agency, utility companies and the voluntary sector who work together and with communities to plan and prepare for potential emergencies.



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What can I do to protect my property?

We encourage all residents to take responsibility for maintaining their land, understanding that some neighbours may face challenges such as ill health or other circumstances which prevent them from doing so. It's vital for everyone to offer support to their neighbours whenever possible, as joint efforts can help reduce flood risks in the Parish.

Residents who have experienced internal flooding or are worried about rising floodwater levels near their properties can find helpful resources online. One such resource is the Blue Pages website: <https://bluepages.org.uk/>. This site offers a comprehensive directory of property flood products and services aimed at providing guidance and assistance in reducing the risk of flooding to your home.

Within this directory, you can explore various categories of flood products and services. Each category includes a brief description of the intended function of the product or service, along with any relevant standards or criteria that should be met. There is a wide range of items available, such as air brick protectors, temporary flood barriers for doorways, emergency flood kits, specialist flood doors/gates, insurance providers, pumps, sandbags (both traditional and alternatives), and products to prevent foul water surging inside toilets - to list but a few.

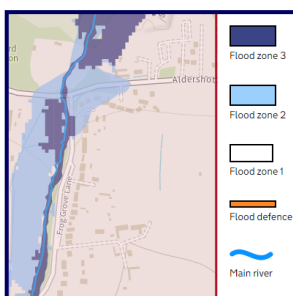
While the National Flood Forum (<https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk>) does not endorse specific products, the Blue Pages platform is provided to empower individuals to make informed decisions. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the National Flood Forum Helpline on 01299 403055.



Photos showing two of the January 2024 floods

Main Rivers

A Main River is usually a larger stream or river. However, locally important smaller watercourses can be designated as Main Rivers, such as the watercourse in Wood Street Village which eventually crosses under Aldershot Road. The Environment Agency has authority, powers, rights and responsibilities for managing Main Rivers in England and Wales; a 'Flood Map' detailing their locations can be found on the Environment Agency website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk.



Did you know...?

Whilst the local councils are under no legal obligation to provide sandbags, there are a limited number of sandbags available at locations around Guildford: <https://www.guildford.gov.uk/floodemergencies>
Guildford Borough Council - Emergency Contact Telephone Numbers [During office hours: 01483 505050]
If you require assistance outside of office hours, the following emergency numbers are available:

- For out-of-hours emergencies (including flooding concerns and sandbags): 01344 949371
- For emergency housing repairs (Council tenants): 01483 532122
- For homelessness or emergency housing situations: 01483 517898



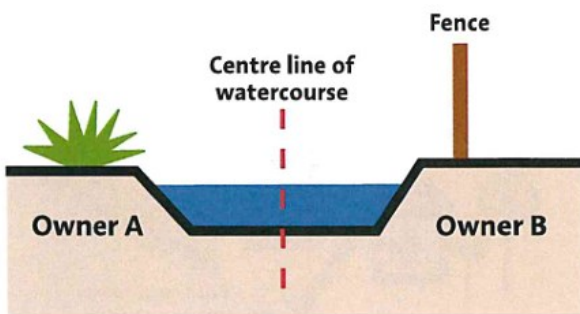
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Do you live next to a watercourse?

Watercourse Maintenance

A watercourse refers to any naturally occurring or man-made channel through which water flows, encompassing rivers, streams, ditches, cuts, culverts, dikes, or sluices. Property owners whose land is adjacent to such watercourses are commonly referred to as "riparian owners".

Ownership Responsibilities: In cases where a property's boundary adjoins a watercourse, it is generally understood that the landowner is accountable for maintenance up to the midpoint of the channel. Conversely, the landowner on the opposite side assumes responsibility for the other half. However, if a watercourse flows through your property, you are solely responsible for all associated maintenance tasks.



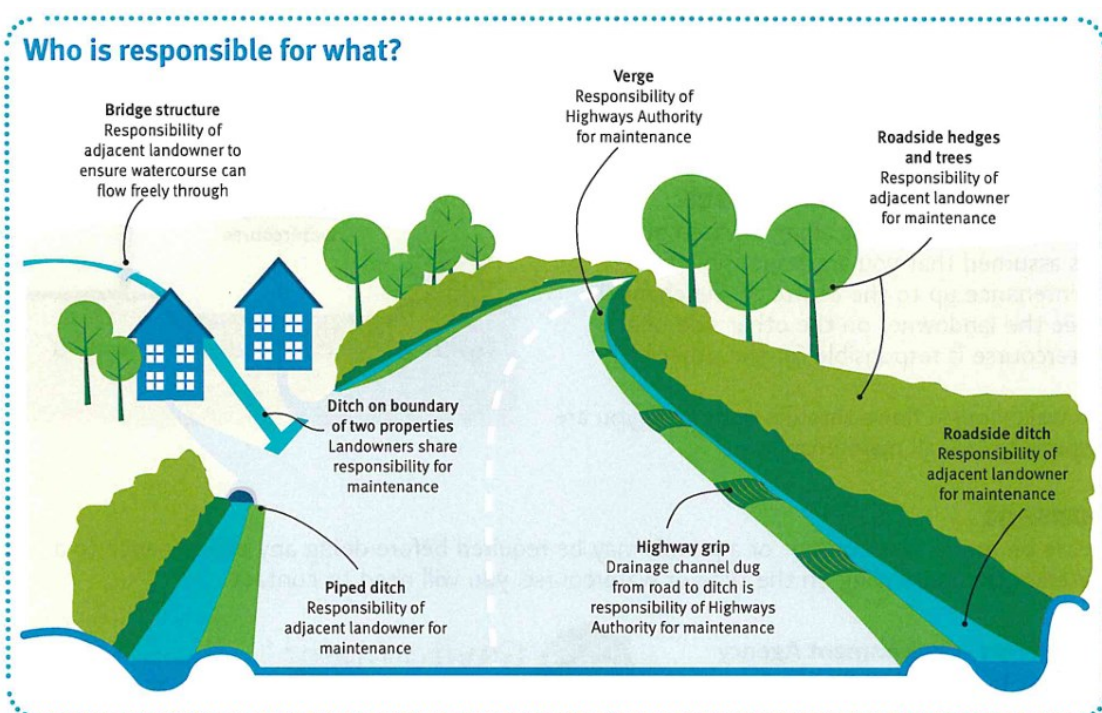
Please can we reiterate to residents the importance of clearing out the ditches and streambanks you are responsible for. Whilst you might not be experiencing flooding at your location, the implications of your watercourse not being clear might be inadvertently causing flooding elsewhere. When clearing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

As a Riparian Owner of a section of a watercourse, you must:

- Maintain the bed and banks, so they are free of obstructions which could cause an increase in flood risk
- Maintain the flow through any culverted or piped watercourses
- Keep any structure free of debris, including trash screens, weirs, culverts and mill gates
- Not allow the watercourse to become polluted
- Control invasive species (such as Japanese knotweed)
- Make sure all work is in keeping with the natural river system - and work must not damage wildlife

A guide and some frequently asked questions are available at surreycc.gov.uk/riparianownership

Are you unsure of your responsibilities?





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Parish Personnel Contact Details

Chairman - Nigel Mitchell	01483 232538	cllr.nigel.mitchell@worplesdon-pc.gov.uk
Vice-Chairman - Gordon Adam	01483 234830	cllr.gordon.adam@worplesdon-pc.gov.uk
Brigitte Ahier	07852 533932	cllr.brigitte.ahier@worplesdon-pc.gov.uk
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Victoria Fear (Assistant Clerk)	07718 479409	admin@worplesdon-pc.gov.uk
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Peter Trevena (Head Groundsman)	07308 658882	groundsman@worplesdon-pc.gov.uk
Andy Connor (Groundsman)	07485 905404	groundsman2@worplesdon-pc.gov.uk



@worplesdonpc

Worplesdon Parish Council - 01483 300094

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

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

ISSUE

WHO TO CONTACT

Someone in trouble in inland water
 Fallen tree on road **NOT** endangering life
 Fallen tree on road or vehicle endangering life
 Fallen tree on property **or** flooding **NOT** endangering life
 Fallen tree on property endangering life
 Unsafe structure overhanging a public highway
 Unsafe structure on a property **NOT** endangering life
 Unsafe structure on a property endangering life
 General flooding
 Significant flooding on a highway
 Foul water flooding (with sewage)
 Flooding involving electrics/with risk to life
 Electricity and power line incidents

Fire and Rescue - **CALL 999**
 SCC Contact Centre - 0300 200 1003
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 Personal Responsibility
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 SCC Contact Centre - 0300 200 1003
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 Thames Water - 0800 316 9800
 Fire and Rescue - **CALL 999**
Stay away from power lines - CALL 105

IF IN DOUBT CALL 999