

Worplesdon Parish Council Newsletter



AUTUMN/WINTER 2024



Clerk to the Council – 25 year's service

Worplesdon Parish Council's Clerk, Gaynor White, has been honoured for her 25 years' service. At a council meeting in Summer 2024 she was presented with flowers, a gift, and a cake purchased from Christmas Bakery.

Gaynor said: "I am proud to have served the communities in Worplesdon for 25 years and hope that my efforts, and those of the staff and councillors, have helped to make Worplesdon an even nicer place in which to work, live and visit." She is the third longest serving Clerk to Worplesdon

Parish Council, and since 1894 there have only been seven parish clerks; three of them from the Christmas family.

Gaynor has served under three chairmen and 60 councillors. Gaynor is well-known as a dedicated and hard-working clerk who is very well respected. In 2007 she completed her Certificate in Local Council Administration, being the 100th clerk nationally to achieve this qualification. She attained her Certificate of Higher Education (Community Governance) with Merit in 2020.



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**.

To report **crimes** or **anti-social behaviour** 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.

Flooding on highways and footpaths should be reported to Surrey County Council on **0300 200 1003** or contact.centre@surreycc.gov.uk.

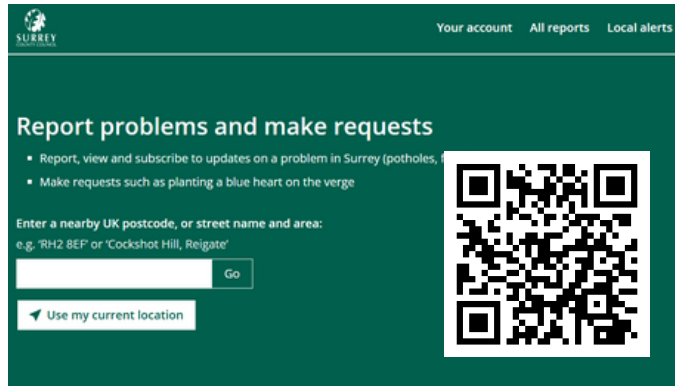
Fly-tipping on public highways or council land will be dealt with by **Guildford Borough Council**: www.guildford.gov.uk/reportflytipping



Commemorative Bench

Freeman John Gunner's memorial bench has been much admired since it was installed near Wood Street Village Pond earlier this year.

The Parish Council would like to thank Guildford Borough Council for their generous grant towards this beautiful and unique bench.



New SCC 'Fix My Street' link

Whether it's a pothole in a road or faulty traffic signals, it is now easier for residents to report and track local issues.

The new highway reporting system allows people to quickly report issues in their area which need fixing, cleaning, or clearing. Fix My Street is accessed via [SCC's website](#). Residents can see issues which have already been reported, sign up for local updates, and track the progress of repairs using their mobile phone or other device.



What's on in Worplesdon!

- **Saturday 7 December 2024** - 3pm and 7pm - **Surrey Police Band's Christmas Concert**, Normandy Village Hall [Tickets from Eventsource online]
- **Sunday 8 December 2024** - 5pm - **Laudamus Carols and Bells** - St Alban's Church, Wood Street Village [Tickets available from 01483 233869]
- **Saturday 14 December 2024** - 10.30am - **Christmas Tree Workshop**, St Mary's Church, Perry Hill
- **Saturday 14 December 2024** - 4pm - **Carols on Wood Street Village Green**
- **Sunday 22 December 2024** - 5pm - **Carol Service at St Mary's Church, Perry Hill**
- **Friday 14 March 2025** - 10am - **Worplesdon Flood Forum**, Worplesdon Parish Council Chamber, Unit 2 - Saxton, Parklands, Railton Road, GU2 9JX



Parish News



Charity Christmas Tree Collection

Let Shooting Star Children's Hospices take the hassle out of recycling your tree - no needles in your car or trips to the tip!

Simply follow the link and register your tree with them. They welcome a minimum suggested donation. They will be collecting your real trees on Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th January, and disposing of them sustainably. Bookings open on 15th November and close at midnight on Wednesday 8th January, so why not book a slot today and make the start of 2025 that bit simpler.

[Book your collection with Just Helping.](#)



Cllr Dr Paul Cragg 1942 - 2024

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Cllr Dr Paul Cragg.

Dr Cragg served as a parish councillor for 15 years, and as Chairman for 10 of those years. During his term of office, amongst a wide variety of other interests, Paul was particularly invested in environmental matters, encompassing ecology, biodiversity, and wildlife, which was his area of professional expertise. He was an ardent allotment holder and was never happier than when enjoying the great outdoors.

Paul represented the Parish Council at the Wood Street Village Association and was also a board member of Surrey Association of Local Councils. He was keen on supporting amateur dramatic performances with the Fairlands Players including playing a very memorable Captain Hook, and he was instrumental in organising and starring in the 2015 VE Day Concert party.



The Blue Campaign

The Blue Campaign aims to increase biodiversity in grass verges. You can get involved by helping to identify land which is suitable to be left uncut. These areas can feature a blue heart, indicating why the grass and flowers are growing longer there. More information, and the link to complete the application, can be found here:



Trees for verges

Residents have been asking how they can request a tree be planted in the grass verge outside their homes. The scheme is now closed for 2024 but applications are open for 2025. More information on the scheme can be found here: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/permits-and-licences/planting-trees>





Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day 2024

Each year, Worplesdon Parish Council commemorates those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. On Remembrance Sunday, the Chairman, Cllr Nigel Mitchell, accompanied the Clerk to the Council, Gaynor White, together with Cllr Saffina Ellahi and Cllr Bob McShee, to the church service held at St Mary's Church, Perry Hill, whilst the Assistant Clerk, Victoria Fear, attended the Service of Remembrance at St Alban's Church in Wood Street Village.

On Armistice Day, the annual Worplesdon Parish Council service was held in Harry's Meadow, Jacobs Well.

The Last Post and Reveille were played by Simon Persin from the Friary Brass Band.

Poppy wreaths were simultaneously laid at the war memorial bench in Jacobs Well, the Queenhythe war memorial, and the Halifax bomber memorial which is located on Merrist Wood Golf Course.

Residents may not be aware that two planes crashed in the parish during World War 2.

One crash occurred near Queenhythe Road in Jacobs Well (<https://worplesdon-pc.gov.uk/lilly-bell-ii-ww2-plane-crash/>) - not far from the war memorial plaque, and the other, a Halifax, crashed in Minty's Field, on what is now Merrist Wood Golf Course as a result of what is now termed 'friendly-fire'.

More historical information is available on the internet regarding both of these incidents, including this comprehensive article by the Normandy Historians on the Halifax crash: <https://normandyhistorians.co.uk/aandp27.html>.

In 2025, the Remembrance Service organised by Worplesdon Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 11th November in Harry's Meadow. All residents are invited to attend.



Thank you for reading!

<p>WORPLESDON PARISH COUNCIL</p>	<p>01483 300094</p>
<p>www.worplesdon-pc.gov.uk  @worplesdonpc</p>	<p>Unit 2 - Saxton, Parklands, Railton Road, Guildford, GU2 9JX</p>