

Worplesdon Parish Council Newsletter



WINTER 2025

Our First Few Months as New Councillors

This summer, Worplesdon Parish Council welcomed four new councillors, each bringing their own skills, experience, and enthusiasm to the team. Over the past few months, we've been learning the ropes, meeting residents, and discovering just how much happens behind the scenes to keep our parish running smoothly.

Becoming a Parish Councillor has been both a privilege and an eye-opening experience for all of us. We've each gained a real appreciation for the breadth of work the Parish Council undertakes, from maintaining green spaces and community buildings to supporting local initiatives, reviewing planning applications, and engaging directly with residents.

As Radford Chancellor reflects, "I've been working closely with the Residents' Association in Wood Street Village, discussing the future of the two public houses and sharing ideas for the way forward. I've also supported the Parish Council as we review options for the land at Salt Box Road – a subject of great local interest. Alongside attending meetings, my induction, and the volunteer event in Fairlands, I've been so impressed by how well-organised the Council is, and how much effort goes into ensuring that important issues are raised at both borough and county level. I've also seen first-hand how hard the whole Council works to deliver the best possible value for money while minimising the impact of any price increases on residents."

Richard Watson adds, "As a new councillor, the first thing that struck me was the huge range of activities the Council and councillors are engaged with. Whether it's grass cutting across the parish, purchasing assets for community use, or commenting on relevant planning applications – councillors are involved. I'm also mightily impressed with the sheer volume of knowledge concerning Worplesdon that councillors have at their fingertips."

Geoff Burch, a local historian and long-standing resident, has already put his skills to remarkable use. He took on the complete restoration of the Semaphore stone in St Mary's churchyard, a historic marker positioned where the original semaphore tower once stood. Rather than employing a stonemason, Geoff offered to carry out the restoration himself, the work was carried out at the stone location as not to damage the stone. The result is a fully restored piece of local history, preserved for future generations to enjoy. Geoff has also been active in council meetings and some working groups.

Sally Busby has also thrown herself wholeheartedly into the parish council. Drawing on her professional experience and community connections, she has quickly become an active contributor to discussions on local projects, planning, and community engagement. Sally has taken a particular interest in improving communication between the Council and residents, and in exploring new ways to make information about council activities more accessible and transparent. Her thoughtful, balanced approach and genuine care for local people have already made her a valued member of the team.

Together, we've been impressed by how much time, care, and professionalism goes into every decision the Parish Council makes and by the commitment of councillors and staff alike to keeping Worplesdon a vibrant, well-run, and welcoming place to live. As new councillors, we're keen to listen, learn, and represent our residents as best we can. If you have ideas, questions, or concerns, please do reach out. You can contact us through the Parish Council website or by email via the email addresses found on the website. Your feedback helps guide our work and ensures your voice is heard.

By Cllrs Radford Chancellor, Richard Watson, Geoff Burch, and Sally Busby

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 the Contact Centre on **0300 200 1003**.

To report **crimes** or **anti-social behaviour** do this 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 using  <https://tellus.surreycc.gov.uk/>.

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



**MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.WORPLESDON-PC.GOV.UK**



Volunteer #MakeADifference

Thank You to Our Exhibitors and Attendees!

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who took part in our Community Volunteering Event at Fairlands Community Centre in October – especially to all the exhibitors who gave their time and energy to showcase the many wonderful opportunities to get involved locally.

Their enthusiasm and commitment to the community made the event such a success. It was inspiring to see so many local groups, volunteers and residents coming together with a shared goal – to make Worplesdon an even better place to live.

Thank you once again to everyone who supported, exhibited, and attended – your efforts truly make a difference.

For those residents who were unable to attend or who might not know about the wonderful things these voluntary organisations achieve, they are going to tell you about themselves in a few short but highly informative articles!



Stella Hancock Driving Group RDA started in 1974 and is now the largest in the UK. We are a charity relying upon fundraising and donations. Our current premises on the 700-acre Merrist Wood College campus were purpose-built and officially opened by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh in 2003.

Driving sessions take place every Wednesday morning between April and October. Our drivers have won classes at the National Championships on several occasions.

The group has a very friendly, inclusive and supportive ethos, with over 70 members, including 22 disabled drivers (including those who are wheelchair-bound) and 25 regular, active volunteers. We are always looking for new volunteers for a variety of roles including fundraising for those who are not "horsey". Volunteers' duties usually include grooming, head holding, harnessing, and loading wheelchair-bound drivers then going out with the carriages. We would welcome any company or organisation who would like to come and see what we offer and discuss how they could support us.

Please contact us if you would like to visit, donate or volunteer.

Group Organiser: Fiona Stuart – fionaannestuart@gmail.com – 07788504934



Could you be a mentor to a young person?

A national mentoring programme is quietly transforming lives and is looking for volunteers in the Guildford area to mentor for just 1 hour a week.

MCR Pathways is an award-winning youth mentoring charity, working to level the playing field so all young people can achieve their ambitions. When you've had the most unfair start in life, it's easy to lose your way for the rest of your life. For too many young people, an unfair start means navigating life's toughest challenges alone.

The charity offers a regular, 1-2-1 relationship with a mentor. Sessions aim to help build a young person's confidence, motivation and ambition. Mentors meet with a young person for 1 hour a week during the school day. No experience is needed – just the ability to listen, empathise and encourage. Volunteers must be 21+ and complete a DBS check. Training, resources and ongoing support are provided.

Mentoring not only improves a young person's educational attainment, career aspirations, and life chances, it's also incredibly rewarding for the mentor. Supporting someone to reach their full potential can increase your own confidence, develop communication skills, and give a deep sense of fulfilment and purpose.

The programme launched in Surrey schools in 2022, and since then, nearly 600 young people have been supported with dedicated mentors contributing over 7,600 hours of mentoring.

Get involved – Email Liz Grace: liz.grace@mcrpathways.org or call 07483 390702.

Or, if you're ready to sign up, go to: mcrpathways.org/become-a-mentor





Voluntary Action South West Surrey

Voluntary Action South West Surrey gives free advice to people who are looking to undertake some voluntary work.

Its staff and its own volunteers have a wealth of knowledge of the many different groups, organisations, and charities across the boroughs of Guildford and Waverley. It advises people on the hundreds of different roles available – from either helping at a lunch club for elderly people or being a trustee for a sizable charity.

It is a charity itself and is known as a council for voluntary services, in that the role it plays in the community it serves is on behalf of its county and borough councils. It also gives a range of free support and help to local charities, groups and organisations. This includes training and advice on the rules and regulations of running a charity or a community group; advice on fundraising and applying for grants; and help writing policies and procedures.



From left: Voluntary Action's Kate Jones, Alice Sheppard & David Rose

It also keeps a directory of local services to help people find out what is going on locally. Its Community Connections project is helping small organisations in south-west Surrey to deliver their services more effectively.

Voluntary Action is funded by Surrey County Council, Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care Board, Guildford Borough Council, and Waverley Borough Council – and also from grants, such as the National Lottery. Its office is at Suites G09 and G10, Old Millmead House, Millmead, Guildford, GU2 4BB.

For more details, or to make an appointment to visit, send an email to info@vasws.org.uk or call 01483 504626.



Phyllis Tuckwell[®] Hospice Care



Volunteers Needed to Support Local Hospice Care

Phyllis Tuckwell would like to thank Worplesdon Parish Council for its kind invitation to a fantastic recent volunteering event, where one of Phyllis Tuckwell's ambassadors, Mike Price, talked about supporting hospice care through volunteering.

Phyllis Tuckwell provides palliative and end-of-life care for patients and families living with an advanced or terminal illness, such as cancer. It is currently in need of volunteer receptionists, retail assistants, home support volunteers, and drivers to take patients to and from its Living Well appointments and sessions. Welcoming receptionists help at Phyllis Tuckwell's In-Patient Unit in Camberley, Beacon Centre in Guildford, and Headway House office in Farnham.



Its friendly drivers collect patients from their homes across West Surrey and North-East Hampshire and take them to the Beacon Centre for Living Well sessions. Compassionate Home Support volunteers visit patients at home once a week, providing companionship and taking them out shopping or to medical appointments, for example, and its amazing retail assistants help in its 18 shops, sorting and pricing donated stock, and helping customers.

"Our volunteers play an important role in helping us provide our care, and we are hugely grateful for the support, skills and knowledge they bring to our organisation," said Julia Morpeth, voluntary services manager at Phyllis Tuckwell. "We provide them with initial and ongoing training and guidance to help them understand their role, develop their skills and really feel they are making a difference."

To sign up or find out more, please call 01252 729400, email voluntary.services@pth.org.uk, or visit www.pth.org.uk/get-in-touch-volunteering.



Public Consultation – Salt Box Road – Horse Field Disposal

We would like to thank all the residents who responded to the public consultation the Parish Council undertook regarding the potential acquisition of this land from Guildford Borough Council.

Disappointingly, Guildford Borough Council have made the decision not to further the Parish Council's Community Asset Transfer application. We will continue to pursue this matter.



Helping Local Families Thrive – Together in Worplesdon

At Home-Start Guildford, we're proud to support families right here in Worplesdon and across the borough – because every child deserves the best possible start in life.

Guildford

For over 25 years, we've been here for parents of young children when life gets tough. Whether it's postnatal depression, loneliness, illness, or family breakdown, our trained volunteers offer emotional and practical support – visiting families at home and walking alongside them through challenging times.

One local mum told us: "I didn't know where to turn. Home-Start gave me hope – and someone who truly listened."

Families can access our support through a simple referral system – either by self-referral or via health visitors, GPs, nurseries, or other professionals.

We also run friendly Family Groups where parents and children can play, connect, and build confidence together. We also offer a Get Active group, which encourages movement and wellbeing, as well as Baby Bubble, a group specifically designed for parents with babies under 12 months.

Volunteers are the heart of what we do. If you have a few hours a week and a passion for helping others, we'd love to hear from you. Full training is provided, and the impact is life-changing – for families and volunteers alike.

Know someone who might benefit from our support? Or want to get involved yourself?

📞 01843 511181

✉ office@hsguildford.org.uk

🌐 www.hsguildford.org.uk



Together, we're building brighter futures – because childhood can't wait.



**FAIRLANDS PRACTICE
PATIENT PARTICIPATION
GROUP**

In October the Worplesdon Parish Council hosted a 'Drop In' Community Volunteering Event at the Fairlands Community Centre. The Fairlands Practice Patient Participation Group (FPPPG) attended this event which was also well supported by other local voluntary organisations.

The purpose of the event was to inform residents of what the community has to offer and hopefully inspire others to get involved with local organisations and perhaps commit to becoming a volunteer themselves.

So how about joining the FPPPG committee?

We support the Practice by running events to publicise medical services/treatments, and importantly, we also receive feedback from patients about those services with a view to agreeing any improvements. We also liaise with the Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care Board (SHICB) who commission all the services, as well as with organisations concerned with health and social care. Being a member of the FPPPG committee helps one better understand and influence the issues facing patients and both our own surgeries as well as those of other PPG groups within the SHICB.

If you are interested in learning more about what the FPPPG does, please contact the Chairman Richard Broughton at fpppg@icloud.com or join us at our AGM on Tuesday, 9th December 2025, at 7.00 pm at St. Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road, Wyke, Normandy. GU3 2DA.

Our thanks go to the Worplesdon Parish Council who gave us the opportunity to promote our voluntary organisation and hopefully to attract new committee members.

Preparing for Change

Worplesdon Parish Council Budget

2026/2027

We are working on the Parish Council budget for 2026/2027 at a time of significant change for local government. With the forthcoming removal of both Guildford Borough Council and Surrey County Council, and the creation of two new unitary authorities; East Surrey and West Surrey, parish and town councils like ours will take on greater responsibilities and manage more local assets than ever before.

Here in Worplesdon, we're already planning ahead. We're budgeting carefully to prepare for these changes, while also using some of our reserves to help reduce the impact on residents. Despite this, there will be a small increase in the parish council element of the Council Tax next year. While the exact amount can't be confirmed until the budget is approved by the full Council, for most households it will be roughly equivalent to the cost of a bar of chocolate each month.

We understand that the cost of living continues to be a concern for many, and we remain committed to ensuring every pound we spend delivers genuine value for money and visible benefit for our community.

Over the past year, Worplesdon Parish Council has invested in projects that make a real difference, from improving play areas and community spaces, supporting local volunteer initiatives, and enhancing our green spaces, to funding small but important repairs and maintenance across our villages. We've also continued to work closely with residents, local groups, government bodies, the police, and community forums to make Worplesdon an even better and safer place to live, work, and visit.

We'll continue to take that same thoughtful, forward-looking approach as we plan for the future, ensuring our parish remains well-run, well-maintained, and ready for the changes ahead. We will update residents on our website and via the parish newsletter once the final budget has been agreed and confirmed by the Full Council.

Anti-Social Behaviour

When anti-social behaviour (ASB) is taking place at locations across the Parish – whether it be spraying graffiti onto fencing bordering Council-maintained property, vehicles driving onto verges and across village Greens, **every** incident should be reported **every time** it occurs, by the person witnessing the ASB, **directly to Surrey Police** – either via their **website**, on **101**, or, if there is a **risk to safety**, on **999**.

Without the Police receiving reports from those who have witnessed the incident Police cannot be deployed to areas to investigate or patrol more frequently.

Protecting Pond Wildlife

It is with great sadness that we report the recent loss of several birds due to improperly discarded fishing lines and hooks. These incidents have caused the animals severe suffering, and they highlight an urgent issue at Wood Street Village pond.

The Parish Council understands how much residents value the ponds – both as a place to enjoy and as a home to cherished wildlife. We wholeheartedly support responsible fishing, but we must ask all anglers to take extra care to leave no trace at the end of each session. Please use the nearby bins to dispose of all waste – and particularly fishing equipment – safely.

Recent findings include fishing line tangled in trees, discarded hooks, and, most distressingly, the death of a moorhen whose leg became tightly wrapped in fishing line. These tragedies are wholly preventable.

Armistice Day - 2025

Worplesdon Parish Council held a short service of remembrance at Harry's Meadow, Jacobs Well to honour all those who have served, and those who gave their lives, in the service of our country. Readings were delivered by Cllr Nigel Mitchell (Chairman) and Cllr Mike Price (Vice-Chairman). The wreath was laid on behalf of the Parish Council by Mrs Gaynor White, Clerk to the Council.

The Last Post and Reveille were movingly performed by Mr Simon Persin, to whom the Council extends its sincere thanks. The Parish Council is also grateful to local residents who attended and joined in the act of remembrance, despite the grey weather.

Wreaths were also laid at the war memorials at Queenhythe (Jacobs Well), St Alban's (Wood Street), and St Mary's (Perry Hill).

A further wreath was laid at the memorial on Merrist Wood Golf Course by the Cubs and Scouts of 1st Rydes Hill (St Mary's) Scout Group on Remembrance Sunday. The Scouts undertook a sponsored walk afterwards to raise monies for Help For Heroes. **We will remember them.**



Left: Scouts at Merrist Wood Golf Course
Above: Jacobs Well War Memorial
Right: Harry's Meadow, War Memorial

BIN COLLECTION CALENDAR 2025

Residents are reminded that replacement kerbside food waste caddies can be collected from the Parish Council office, by appointment.

November

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

December

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

RUBBISH COLLECTION WEEK

RECYCLING COLLECTION WEEK

Wishing our residents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

**WORPLESDON PARISH
COUNCIL**



01483 300094

www.worplesdon-pc.gov.uk
facebook @worplesdonpc

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