

Worplesdon Parish Council Newsletter



SUMMER 2026

Freedom of the Parish

Worplesdon Parish Council was honoured to confer the Freedom of the Parish upon Mary Broughton on 25th April 2026 in recognition of her exceptional service to the community over more than four decades.

A retired clinical nurse, Mary has devoted her life to caring for others — both professionally and within the parish. Through her leadership, dedication and generosity of spirit, she has made an enduring contribution to the heritage, cultural, sporting and community life of Worplesdon.

From her pivotal role in establishing and developing the Sime Gallery, to her longstanding service with St Mary's Church, Worplesdon Memorial Hall and Worplesdon Tennis Club, Mary has brought people together, strengthened community organisations and enriched the lives of countless residents. Her work has supported heritage, inclusion, wellbeing and friendship across generations.

Mary's remarkable contribution has been recognised through a number of civic honours, including the Mayor's Award for Service to the Community and the Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey's Service to the Community Award. Fittingly, the ceremony to confer the Freedom of the Parish also took place on Mary's 75th birthday — a memorable occasion celebrating a lifetime of service, kindness and dedication to Worplesdon.

Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Nigel Mitchell presented Mary with a framed certificate commemorating the accolade.



We were delighted to host so many members of Mary's family and her friends at the unveiling and presentation event.

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.



Mayor's Award

Worplesdon Parish Council was proud to nominate four exceptional people to receive the Mayor's Award for service to the community this year. The award honours outstanding voluntary work and community spirit within the Borough.



The Parish Council
congratulates all the 2026
recipients.



The Parish Council was delighted to successfully nominate: Catherine Ancliff, Janet Sutton, Bob McShee, and Richard Trinnick. Each recipient has given decades of dedicated service to the local community, contributing their time, skills, and energy to a wide range of organisations, activities, and causes. Their commitment has made a lasting difference to parish life and has enriched the lives of countless residents over many years.

The Parish Council extends its warmest congratulations to all four award recipients and thanks them for their exceptional contribution to our community. Their dedication embodies the very best of local volunteering and public service.

Summer Starts Here!

The summer months are shaping up to be another fantastic season across the parish, with a variety of events offering something for everyone. The events begin with **Jacobs Well Fair** on **4 July** at the village hall. Keep an eye out around the village for further information about this popular fair.

On **Saturday 18 July**, the **Wood Street Village Summer Show** will take place on the Green from **12 noon to 5pm**. A highlight of the village calendar, the show celebrates the talents of local gardeners, growers, bakers, and crafters. Anyone interested in entering exhibits for judging can find schedules and entry information at www.wsvhortsoc.co.uk.

Sunday 19 July promises to be a particularly busy day, with both the **Fairlands Family Fun Day** and the **Wood Street Jazz Festival** taking place. **Fairlands Family Fun Day** runs from **1pm to 5pm** at the community hall and will once again provide an enjoyable afternoon for families and residents of all ages. Meanwhile, the **Wood Street Jazz Festival** will fill the village Green with music in aid of Challengers charity, with performances beginning at **1.30pm** and the final artists taking to the stage at 4.50pm. For further information or to book tickets visit www.guildfordjazz.org.uk/listings/wood-street-2026.

Looking ahead to August, the **Worplesdon Yeehaw Country Evening** takes place on **Friday 14 August** from **6pm to 9.30pm** at Worplesdon Memorial Hall Pavilion. Promising an evening of country music, dancing, and good company, tickets and further details are available at <https://sidneysimegallery.org.uk/event-tickets/>.

These events are made possible by the hard work and dedication of local volunteers, organisers, and community groups. The Parish Council thanks everyone involved and encourages residents to support these wonderful occasions, which help make our villages such amazing places to live.

Interested in becoming a parish councillor?

Worplesdon Parish Council currently has three vacancies for parish councillors and would be very pleased to hear from anyone interested in serving the local community. If you have ever thought about getting involved in local decision-making, this is a great opportunity to find out more ahead of the 2027 elections. Worplesdon Parish Council was delighted to receive positive recognition from its auditor in 2026, who described the Council as “a well-managed authority with a robust governance framework that is a model of good practice.”



Further information about becoming a parish councillor is available on the Parish Council's website at www.worplesdon-pc.gov.uk/your-council/meet-your-councillors/becoming-a-councillor/.

Anyone interested either in becoming a councillor now or standing for election next year is warmly encouraged to come along to any Council meeting to see how the Council works and what is involved in the role. Dates of meetings are published on our website.

127 Years of History, 27 Years of Dedication

As the Parish Council prepares to mark another important chapter in its history, it is also a moment to reflect on the remarkable service and continuity that have helped shape the Council over many decades.

Later this year, the Parish Council will bid a fond farewell to its long-serving Clerk, Gaynor White, who will be retiring after 27 years of dedicated service to the community. During her time with the Council, Gaynor has provided steadfast support, guidance and continuity through periods of change and development, becoming a familiar and highly respected figure within parish life.

Her retirement provides a fitting link to an interesting piece of Parish Council history recorded many years ago at the 50th Annual Parish Meeting. At that meeting, Mr Kelly reflected on the importance of continuity within local government and noted that “the clerkship had been in one family for 49 years and 3 months”, proposing that a letter of appreciation be sent to the retiring Clerk at that time, Mrs E. B. Christmas. This is the same Christmas family that owns Christmas Bakery at Fox Corner today!

More than half a century later, it seems especially appropriate once again to recognise the dedication and commitment shown by those who have served the Parish Council over many years. The Council is certain that residents will join them in thanking Gaynor for her outstanding service and in wishing her a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement.

Horse Field – Salt Box Road – Update

Guildford Borough Council (GBC) has now given its formal response and has confirmed that it will not reconsider its intention to dispose of the Salt Box Road “Horse Field”. GBC has said that it does not intend to retain the site in its ownership for community benefit or biodiversity enhancement, and the land is now being marketed for sale on the open market. The Parish Council has made a nominal offer to reflect community feedback.

St Mary's Church – Double Flush Grand Opening

Gaynor White, the Clerk to the Council, and Cllrs Geoff Burch and Bob McShee were delighted to join the congregation of St Mary's Church in celebrating the completion of their significant building improvement project. The works have transformed the church's facilities and include a refurbished kitchenette and two new accessible toilets. The project was completed at the end of May and was marked with a special united service and brunch attended by members of the church community and invited guests.

The Parish Council has been pleased to support the fundraising efforts over recent years and was grateful for the invitation to join the celebrations. These improvements will help ensure that St Mary's continues to serve the community effectively for many years to come, providing more accessible and welcoming facilities for all who use the church.



Particular thanks were paid to Robert Lynch, whose dedication and hard work as Project Manager helped bring the project to a successful conclusion. The photo shows him cutting the ceremonial ribbon.



Bin Collection Calendar

To check your collection day, find out more about what goes in which bin, or what can and cannot be recycled, please go to www.guildford.gov.uk/recycling.

Leave textiles or electronic waste neatly next to your bins. Put them in a carrier bag and keep any textiles dry. Batteries need to be in a clear plastic bag. The Parish Council has received more stock of Borough Council-provided kerbside food waste caddies. Please call ahead to make an appointment to collect one if you require a replacement.

If you would like a brown bin for garden waste, these should be ordered directly from Guildford Borough Council: www.guildford.gov.uk/gardenwastepay.

July				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

August				
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
31				

September				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

RUBBISH COLLECTION WEEK

RECYCLING COLLECTION WEEK

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