



**Ottershaw
Society**

**SPRING 2017
NEWSLETTER**

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Our historical article in this edition focuses on The Earl and Countess of Meath and the founding of the Ministering Children's League, now The Meath School. Since the water main replacements have cleared a lot of the land, we thought it would be interesting to learn the history of Dunford Bridge. We also have articles from a local children's author, a local illustrator, 1st Ottershaw Scout Group, Homewood parkrun and of course an all important Planning update. We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter. If you have an idea for a future article or you would like to contribute to the next issue please get in touch with us: committee@ottershawsociety.org



HANNAH RUSSELL MBE

The Ottershaw Society wishes to congratulate Ottershaw resident Hannah Russell for being made a MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) for services to swimming, in the New Year Honours list.

Hannah, a World Record Holder and Multi-medal winning Paralympian who in Rio won gold in the S12 100m backstroke, knocking nine tenths of a second off her own world record in a time of 1:06.06. Hannah followed this up with a bronze in the S12 100m freestyle and then finished off her Paralympics in style with another gold in the S12 50m freestyle.

Congratulations Hannah.

Image credit: Getty Images



MEMBERSHIP OF THE OTTERSHAW SOCIETY

The Ottershaw Society was formed in 1981 and works to help preserve and develop features of historic, natural and public interest in the village. We look at planning applications of a mainly local nature but we also monitor issues that may impact on our community and make representations where necessary. As a member organisation we regard it as essential that members make their views known to us, so that we can reflect this in any submissions we make. Please do get in touch with us via our Facebook or Twitter pages or by email to committee@ottershawsociety.org

If you are not a member, please consider joining. New members are free until August 2017. So please e-mail your name (s), address and tel. no and membership category (single, couple, pensioner) to Roger Pashley at maryandroger@ntlworld.com

OTTERSHAW MAY FAIR

Come and visit us at the May Fair on
Monday 1st May, Noon – 4.30pm
Ottershaw Memorial Fields, Foxhills Road





SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

By Melville Few,

County Councillor: Virginia Water, Lyne, Longcross, Thorpe and Ottershaw. Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care & Wellbeing. Mel.few@surreycc.gov.uk 07889 126439

I am sure you will be aware of the recent publicity and concern over the proposed 15% increase in Council Tax and the subsequent decision to adhere to the Governments approved increase of 1.99% and 3% for adult social care.

Basically, the cause of the funding shortfall is the current formula used by government in allocating grants for various services which the Council receives in addition to Council Tax. This formula is known as “the Core Spending Power Formula”. It has the perverse impact of allocating funds based on the Council’s ability to raise council tax and takes no account of the “needs” of the authority but emphasises “deprivation”.

Interestingly enough, Government recognises that this formula significantly disadvantages Surrey and has undertaken to review the formula: but this will only become effective in 2020.

The Council’s cabinet has been in discussions with all the Surrey MP’s for over six months on the ever-growing cost of providing care to Adults and Children who fall within our remit. For example over the last years the Surrey County Council has coped with:

- 36% increase in people who require support for Learning difficulties
- 12% increase in older people with care needs
- 11% increase in demand for school places
- 8% increase in children with special education needs.

Adult Social Care, the service that I am responsible for, is the largest spending service in the Council. The total spend is £450m pa, which equates to £0.68 in every £1 collected in Council Tax and which has risen by £24m each year!

What is generally overlooked with all the media attention focused on the growing number of elderly is that Surrey historically is home to the largest number of residents who have some form of learning disability. The costs of providing care for this group of residents is between twice and four times the cost of providing care for the elderly. The learning disabilities grant for those residents who were passed across to Surrey from the Health budget of £34m has been removed.

Other outcomes of this funding formula have seen

- Annual grant support for Adults reduced by £2.2m
- Annual allocation for integration with health reduced from £25m to £1.5m
- Public Health budget passed down to Surrey reduced by £7.2m

Based on the above many discussions that were held with the Government to recognise this inequality in funding have resulted in some relief but only for the financial year 2018/19.

We are now faced with balancing the budget for the 2017/18 financial year which will certainly be an interesting exercise.

I recognise that this feedback does have many numbers and would ask if you have need for further clarity on this subject or any other issues with services that the County Council provides please do not hesitate in contacting me.

DUNFORD BRIDGE

By Hannah Lane

The River Bourne is the boundary for both the Parish of Ottershaw, (formally Chertsey) and Borough Council between Runnymede and Woking. Bourne means `river`. Also previously spelt Bowin and Boun. It is this River Bourne that flows to the River Wey via New Haw and Addlestone. It starts as two tributaries, one from Windlesham and the second from Colony Bog near Bisley. They join to flow through Chobham and down to this bridge. It is a different River Bourne that flows from Virginia Water Lake via Thorpe and Chertsey to the River Thames.

Originally a ford, the name means `Hidden ford`, as Dun = Hidden, or `Secret ford`. The ford alongside the bridge seems to have still been there in the 1920`s. In 1237 in connection with a dispute about tithes in Woodham, La Derneford is mentioned as a boundary point. A century later a Walteratte Derneford appears in tax assessments under Chertsey. In 1534 it was Darneford Bridge, which was the first bridge. In a 1548 survey of the Manor of Walton Leigh it is Darneford. On later maps it is Dunforde, Dunford, Darnford, Drunford and Durnford. Dunford Bridge appeared on the 1870 map and has continued to the present day maps. (Durnford is the present spelling of the farm on the Woking side up Martyrs Lane).



The postcard image above shows an earlier bridge taken from the Woking side, the bridge is called Durnford. The road is a very narrow unmade track, in spite of being such a main road!! A bit different to the present A320! On the left are Dunford Cottages. On the right is Old Farm, formally Dunford Bridge Farm. It is a Grade II listed building of the 17th C to 18th C. The farm itself goes back to the medieval period when it was part of the Anningsley Estate.

The earliest settlements for this area occurred along the River Bourne. To the west of the bridge is the original Anningsley Park Estate. This is first mentioned in 1321 as Annyngelegh, meaning a clearing in the woods of the people of Anna. On this northern river bank, just above the edge of the river`s floodplain, is an `enclosure` clearly marked on some of the early maps. It is now nearly eroded away.



The current bridge was built in 1958 due to a serious accident on the original bend on the Woking side when a driver was killed. The barriers were added to deflect cars should the need arise as it is a fast corner.

Durnford Mill

The first mill in this area was built in 1783 by Sir Thomas Sewell of Ottershaw Park about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile upstream of the bridge on the south bank of the river. By 1797 the south bank was no longer in the ownership of Ottershaw Park, so the then owner Edmund Boehm built a 2nd new flour and saw mill on the north bank adjacent to the bridge. The River Bourne was dammed to provide a second channel for the Mill River to give a millrace to drive the mill. This improved the flow of water to drive the mill from a fairly sluggish small river meandering through its flood meadows. A few bricks remain of the dam in the river bank.

In 1827 it was sold to Thomas Weeding, but after various owners, it came back into the Ottershaw Park Estate in 1887 under Lawrence Baker. But when he sold the estate in 1909 the mill was no longer and the pond had been filled in. The modern maps still have the name of Decoy Plantation just to the north of the river where the original artificial pond was built to attract ducks to make them easier to shoot. Lawrence Baker built four cottages on the site of the second Dunford mill between 1887 and 1890. Eckstein had them converted into one house in 1910 to a design by Niven and Wigglesworth, the architects of the new Mansion. Like the bridge it was Dunford Lodge, then House. It was converted for Charles Winslow Taylor, who was the Bailiff at Ottershaw.

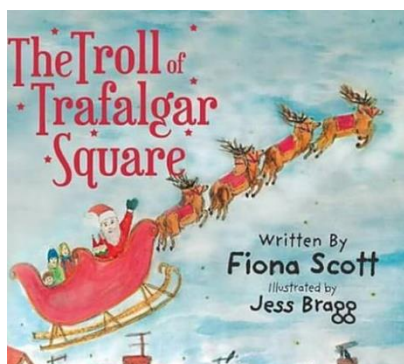
LOCAL AUTHOR PENS BOOK'S FOR CHILDREN

By Fiona Scott

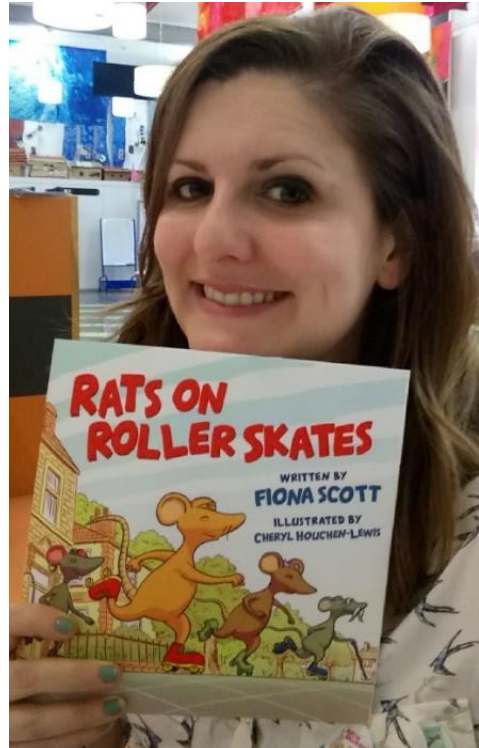
Fiona Scott has always written stories, poems, songs, notes from a very young age but mostly in private notebooks and floppy disks! After university Fiona changed her path and left Roehampton Uni after just 1 year to go travelling. Whilst travelling she wrote a travel journal calling it 12 Crazy Months. In December 2003 Fiona went to Thailand to put the finishing touches to 12 Crazy Months, whilst in Koh Lanta she was caught up in the Boxing day tsunami and came home putting the notebook away as it was not a nice experience. Days after coming home from Thailand, 2 weeks early, she met her husband and life took over! Their first child duly arrived and Fiona spent a great deal of time reading to her, which

led her to begin collecting her own ideas for children's stories. She then began attending book fairs, meeting and talking to a variety of people in publishing and being offered the chance to write a series of books which she called I Wish I Were..... Sadly, after putting in a lot of effort the deal fell through, although a series of very similar books was published not long after by the same publisher! More visits to book fairs offered further opportunities and eventually led to Fiona registering a trade name under which to market books from an Indian company, which she adapted for the UK market. She came up with the name Stupendous Books which she now uses. Fiona had written a book called Rats on Roller Skates and managed to find a local artist, Cheryl Houchen-Lewis, to illustrate it. Her next book was The Troll of Trafalgar Square, which she dedicated to her late father. She still hadn't got a publisher but not willing to give up; she found people who could help her put together a portfolio of illustrations and text, Shades Photographic based in Fairoaks industrial estate.

Off again to another Book Fair with her portfolio she met up with a company which helps authors to self-publish. Not really wanting to do that, Fiona nevertheless decided to bite the bullet and was then offered a partnership which was more like a traditional publishing deal. She signed a contract for Rats on Roller Skates with Silverwood Publishers.



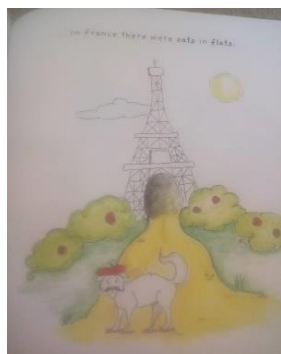
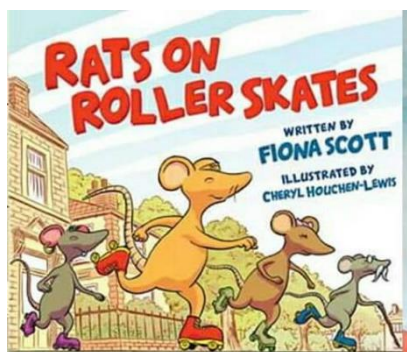
From there, things moved quickly with illustrators and others working to produce and print The Troll of Trafalgar Square for a Christmas launch. Rats on Roller Skates was launched in September 2016. She was fortunate to be able to launch The Troll of Trafalgar Square at Waterstones in Trafalgar Square in December.



Fiona is currently engaged in her own ideas and re-writing and editing stories by Indian writers based on works by the Brothers Grimm, making them suitable for the UK market. She has many ideas for more books including another series of books of her own called The Stinkety Ink Brigade.

Fiona has just signed a contract with Silverwood Books to publish her third book, Willow and Her Magic Owl Pillow in April/May 2017. This is an exciting story about music and dance through the decades.

Fiona is trying to think of a fun plot for a story called The Otter of Ottershaw because she loves the village so much but isn't sure where the story will take her as yet. Signed copies of her books are available from her home just off Murray Road, please feel free to get in touch for a signed personalised copy or you can order from Amazon.co.uk.



Rob explained his speed theory to the gang and made some test skates. "Roller what?" asked Old Ray. "Roller skates" explained Rob, "I've seen them on children. They go super fast as they zoom past."



ILLUSTRATING HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY PASSION

By Cheryl Houchen-Lewis

Illustrating Rats on Roller Skates by Fiona Scott was a fantastic opportunity for me, bringing the characters to life with watercolour was really enjoyable and seeing my drawings in a published book was something I feel very proud of and hope to do again in the future.

Art has always been a great interest of mine, I remember having a fantastic art teacher whilst I was at Abbeylands Secondary School who introduced me to the art world. I remember doing art projects and learning different art styles and techniques which inspired me to further my learning of art. I attended Brooklands college and expanded my knowledge around different art styles, completed a national diploma in fine art and sculpture.

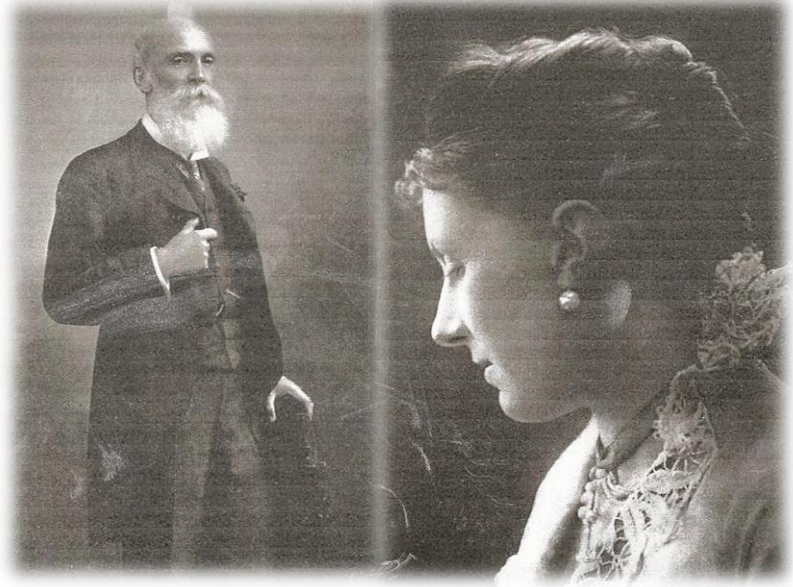
I took a career path in retail but still kept art as my hobby with occasional paintings on request for friends and family, painting bedroom murals and designing children's birthday cards for a company.

In 2015 I was given the opportunity to paint scenery for the Secombe Centre in Sutton for their annual pantomime as well as helping to paint the set for an adult panto performed by The Ottershaw Players at Brook Hall. I also often help paint pictures and scenery for Christ Church, Ottershaw.

THE EARL AND COUNTESS OF MEATH AND THE FOUNDING OF THE MINISTERING CHILDREN'S LEAGUE (NOW MEATH SCHOOL)

By Hannah Lane

The 12th Earl and Countess of Meath were major benefactors of the late Victorian era. The Earl was a great supporter of the Empire, he founded and organised 'Empire Day'. The family estates are still in Ireland, but they spent most of their time at their London house at 83, Lancaster Gate, where there is a statue of the Earl. The Countess, Lady Mary Jane Meath, was a wealthy heiress in her own right being the daughter of the 11th Earl of Lauderdale. They had married in



Earl of Meath

Countess of Meath

1868 and she was recognised as one of the "most remarkable and successful philanthropists of her age". She worked tirelessly in her mission to help the less fortunate and to relieve poverty. Her Ministering Children's League is but one example.

She had visited a colony for people with epilepsy at Bielefeld in Germany, founded by Pastor von Bodelschwingh as a refuge where residents could lead a sheltered and useful life. Up until then people with epilepsy had been considered 'mental' so were housed in the lunatic asylums. She raised the money, (she would have used her own finances as well as extolling her wealthy friends from the top echelons of society), to buy and equip Westbrook House near Godalming. Called the Meath Epileptic Trust for women, it was opened in 1892. It is still the only other Meath Institution still existing for its original purpose. A similar home for men with epilepsy was the object of another charity but is no longer in existence.

Looking for a country home for their growing family, in 1882 they leased Ottershaw Park from Lawrence Baker. Lady Meath formed an instant love for Ottershaw. She used her visits to have the poor and sick children from the slums of East London under the auspices of another of her charities, called the Convalescent Committee, to stay at Ottershaw Park to give them their first ever visit to the countryside, and to benefit from the cleaner air from the pollution of London at that time. She records "glad that they enjoyed such beauty". By 1884 they rented the 'cottage' built by the Rev. Baron Hitchens, which is now No. 240 Brox Road, he being the Vicar of Christ Church. They called it 'Ardee Cottage' after their eldest son, (Reginald Le Normand Brabazon, Lord Ardee). But she wanted a more permanent home in the village, so in 1898 she bought Ottermead House, Guildford Road, also built by the Rev. Baron Hitchens in 1893, on what is now Chaworth Road off the Guildford Road.

Lady Meath very much wished to “build her own cottage in Ottershaw”. So she bought 15 acres of former nursery land from Alfred Gray and Thomas Tillier on the west side of Brox Road. By 1912 they had built ‘Chaworth House’ named after another of the Earl’s titles, on the site of the present Chaworth Close. She gave both homes to the Ministering Children’s League, but with the proviso that her husband could continue to live in them until he died. True to form, at the outbreak of WWI in 1914 she turned both homes into convalescent homes for wounded soldiers. She also owned the land on which in 1905 she financed the building of the new Infant School (on the corner of the two arms of Brox Road in 1906) for her ‘children’ and the local children.

The Countess of Meath founded the Ministering Children’s League on 10 January 1885. It was to be a worldwide series of children’s orphanages. She worked so hard to raise the funds, using all her social contacts of the upper echelons of Victorian Society, BUT not from the adults. It was to be funded by children.



The original 3 buildings of the Meath School before they were joined together



The Meath School

The aim of the League was to encourage children to develop the habit of helping those in need, both at home and in the wider world. Its motto read: 'No day without a deed to crown it' and the expressed objects were 'To promote kindness, unselfishness, and the habit of usefulness amongst children, and to create in their minds an earnest desire to help the needy and suffering. To aid the necessities of the poor by supplying them with warm clothing, comforts etc.'.

The first branch was opened at the home of the Countess of Meath. The movement spread rapidly throughout Britain and abroad. Numerous local branches were formed and by 1903 membership numbered over 40,000 worldwide. The local branches encouraged children to carry out deeds of kindness to their families and friends and to become involved in some kind of charitable work. This might take the form of making items of clothing for the poor, comforts for the sick, toys for poor children etc., or by maintaining a cot in a children's hospital or at one of the MCL homes which were soon established. However, each branch was free to choose whatever form of benevolent work it wished to support.

The Countess bought a field of 7 acres in 1887 on the east of Brox Road, that had been part of Brox Farm, for the 1st Meath Home for Destitute Children. The Countess of Lathorn opened the first 'House' on the 23 June 1888, a cousin by marriage of Lord Meath. At the same time she laid the foundation stone for the second 'House' for the boys, opened 1890. The third house was opened in 1895. They were called 'Maitland' after her parents, 'Brabazon', one of her husband's titles, and 'Verulum' after one of the Meath's daughters who married the Earl of Verulum. Some were orphans, but many were the children of a widowed or single parent who was too poor to care for them.

The children attended the local schools and church in the village. On leaving the children were placed in employment. Until her death in 1918, the Countess funded the Home to a great extent from her own purse, although a number of branches of the MCL had undertaken the support of individual cots. Although the League was endowed by the



Children at the Meath School

Countess, following her death the trustees became increasingly dependent on public support to continue the work at the Home.

By 1946 it was felt that the work of the League was being carried out by other organizations such as Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Youth Fellowships, and it was decided to close all branches of the League by the end of 1947. The League continued only for the purpose of administering accumulated funds, particularly by supporting the work of the Invalid Children's Aid Association (ICAA) at the Meath Hospital School, formerly the Meath Home.

In 1945 the Home was let to the Invalid Children's Aid Association (ICAA) and became the Meath Hospital School, a home for children suffering from broncheasis. The ICAA, like the MCL, was a charity and voluntary society which, at that time, supported and administered 7 convalescent homes.

By 1958 it was found that beds in other hospitals were being offered to these children so the Home became a preparatory school for boys aged 7-11 with severe asthma and eczema, again being let to the ICAA. Schooling was done in house under the headmaster Mr. R. V. Thomas. Some of the children died from their illnesses and are buried in Christ Church graveyard.

In due course Meath School in 2003 was taken over by I CAN as a non-maintained day and residential primary special school for 76 pupils aged 5 to 11 years, where severe and complex communication disabilities are the primary disability.



I CAN & THE MEATH

I CAN is the children's communication charity. They are experts in helping children develop the speech, language and communication skills they need to thrive in a 21st century world. Children and young people can fail to reach their potential because communication difficulties are not visible, often mistaken for something else, or not noticed at all. I CAN's vision is a world where all children have the communication skills they need to fulfil their potential. At the very heart of I CAN are its two 'Outstanding' special schools which give expert care and education to children with problems so severe their needs cannot be met elsewhere; The Meath in Ottershaw and Dawn House School in Nottinghamshire. I CAN's schools encourage pupils to make the best possible progress in all areas of learning. The individual needs of young people are assessed, met, monitored and reviewed within a consultative framework that includes the young people and their parents as well as professionals. As well as supporting children directly within their settings, I CAN schools also support the parents and families of these children, provide outreach to mainstream schools and facilitate academic research.

I CAN also provide support via its Talking Point website which is designed for parents, people that work with children, and children and young people themselves and receives funding from The Communication Trust. The website contains everything you would need to know about supporting children's speech and language development. Some children struggle to communicate, and Talking Point helps identify if a child is having difficulties or falling behind. If they are struggling, then it tells you what to do.

I CAN relies on voluntary donations to help children with speech, language and communication needs. For more information on I CAN and The Meath School please visit www.ican.org.uk



HELLO FROM OTTERSHAW!



By Jo Hastings, Headteacher, Ottershaw Infant & Junior Schools

I arrived as the very excited new Headteacher at Ottershaw in September 2014. I still arrive at work very excited every day, but I'm not the new girl anymore!

I grew up fairly locally (Staines), and attended the sixth form at Salesian in Chertsey, so had friends in Ottershaw from my teenage years and felt I knew the area.

I guess teaching and Headship are in my blood. My mum was a Headteacher of 4 Surrey schools before she retired, and my sister is also a Surrey Headteacher (in fact, at one point, the 3 of us were all Heads of Surrey Church Schools!). I didn't grow up wanting to teach, I wanted to save the world, and the animals in it, from extinction. My first degree was in Geography and Environmental Studies and I then went on to study Conservation Management at



Masters level. Unfortunately, a back injury meant I wasn't able to work outdoors anymore. I gave finance and office work ago, but didn't enjoy it, and so turned to teaching. I absolutely loved it, and still do!

I started my teaching career in Heston, then moved to Hampton and then to Surrey in 2000. My favourite subjects to teach are Maths and Science, but I am also deeply interested in children's social and emotional well being. I completed my MA in Social Studies (with a focus on child development and psychology) in 2009, and have found this study invaluable in my role as we strive to develop the 'Whole Child' and rounded individuals who can become successful adults in the future: This remains my main aim and hope for the children at Ottershaw. We focus very much on teaching our 7 Rainbow Values alongside academic subjects as we want our children to learn how to treat people, learn how to be a good friend and achieve well. It is our wish that all Ottershaw children gain the qualifications they need for the jobs they want to do, and that they live in loving relationships.

Prior to coming to Ottershaw, I was the Headteacher at Bisley CofE Primary School for 9 years and had been a Deputy Head in Woking before that. Although I loved Bisley, after 9 years I was ready for a new challenge. Ottershaw perfectly fitted the bill – it was a Church of England school (it was very important to me personally that I remained within the family of Guildford diocese schools), a little bigger than Bisley and not too far from home (as a working mum the journey time matters, and I only live in Woking!) At that time both Ottershaw Schools had been judged by Ofsted to be Requires Improvement Schools and I knew that it was my immediate mission to improve that rating. We were so proud last Spring when both schools were inspected and rated as 'Good', the Infants with an outstanding Early Years department and the Juniors with outstanding Leadership and Management and Pupil Welfare, Behaviour and Safety.

The whole school community contributed to those reports and the improvements we made together have transformed the learning, whilst still holding on to our community spirit and sense of togetherness

A year on from Ofsted, both schools continue to flourish: We have excellent support from the church, our parents, governors, active PTA and the whole local community.

When I'm not being a Headteacher (it's not a button I can easily switch off – I even dream about work!) my family are everything to me. As I said, I live in Woking with my partner, our gorgeous 6 year old daughter and our rescue dog (now 10 years old). Both sets of Grandmas and Grandads live nearby and my sister is not far away.

HAPPY'S CIRCUS IS COMING TO OTTERSHAW



Sunday 11th June 2017

Last year Ottershaw Parents & Teachers Association (OPTA) raised a fantastic amount of money for Ottershaw CofE Infant & Junior schools. This year they want to raise more. Where does the money go? Well, last year the OPTA funded new interactive white boards in all classrooms. These cost over £24,000, and is equipment the children would not have without parents & carers raising money through the OPTA. There are many items that the school would like to raise funds for this year such as new ICT and outdoor equipment. This summer the OPTA have arranged for the Circus to come to Ottershaw! The Summer Event will feature food stalls and bouncy castles from noon, followed by a Circus from 2pm.



CALLING ALL MARSHFIELDS & CHRISTCHURCH PUPILS FROM YEARS GONE BY!

We would like to reach out to ex-pupils of our Junior School and invite them back to enjoy a cup of tea with us to celebrate our 50th Anniversary on Friday 16th June 2017 from 1.30pm. The school are hoping to make a special memory book of the event and will be asking visiting old boys and girls to bring a story and/or photo to share with us!

If you are an ex-pupil or are in touch with someone who is do please spread the word and ask them to contact the school office to let them know they are coming (advance booking is essential so that the school can manage the halls capacity and numbers!)

PLANNING UPDATE

By Hannah Lane

At the time of the last Newsletter the major issue for Ottershaw was RBC's decision in their proposed Draft Runnymede 2035 Local Plan to take several sites out of the GB, to fulfil the large increase in the number of houses to be built in the Borough up to 2035, this included a major swathe of Ottershaw land, known as Ottershaw East (to the east of Brox Road). On this land they would propose up to 510 houses to be built. This would be a 33% increase in housing stock in Ottershaw and would have a major impact on the character of our village. A well supported campaign by the Society for the 1st Consultation on the Local Plan in August 2016 resulted in a major amount of representations being made to RBC. The details were:-

- **Total responses 762, of which over 650 were on the Green Belt (GB).**
- **428 from Ottershaw on Ottershaw East, 98% objections.**
- **126 Rowtown sites, 99% objections.**

There were very few responses on the other sites proposed to be removed from the GB. Well done to everyone for delivering leaflets to the whole village and the massive response to RBC. RBC is now preparing what is called a 'Pre-Submission Plan'. Because of the amount of work still to be done, RBC has postponed the 2nd Public Consultation on the Local Plan from January 2017 until August 2017. The Plan, with the representations from the 2nd Consultation, will then be submitted to the Secretary of State in late 2017. There will be a Pre-Examination meeting and a Public Examination before an Inspector. The Inspector's ruling is expected late in 2018. In spite of the large number of objections to Ottershaw East being removed from the GB, RBC has had all the sites it had proposed to remove from the GB reassessed by Arup, the original assessors, who have said that nothing has changed from their original report in 2014, therefore RBC is likely to proceed to included them all in the 2nd Consultation and in its evidence to the Inspector. **BUT** RBC has indicated that it is looking at the number of proposed houses of 510 on Ottershaw East to reduce due to the effect on the village and infrastructure, i.e. the density on the size of the site will not be the main factor, but NO indication of how much of a reduction there could be.

GREEN BELT (GB) BUFFER ZONES

Now RBC are doing a 2nd review. They say so that they have not missed any small areas that could be taken out of the GB without jeopardising the GB. This is so that they can show the Inspector at the Public Examination that their 'evidence is robust' in that they have not missed any areas of the GB that do not fulfil the purposes of the GB. So RBC have drawn a 400 m buffer zone round all of the towns, e.g. Chertsey, Addlestone etc. and 250 m around the villages, e.g. Ottershaw, Thorpe etc. This may not sound a lot but see the map on page 16!! RBC will be looking at all the sites in these Buffer Zones to see if any can be removed from the GB. The report is due in March and hopefully will be published then as an Intermediate Public Consultation rather than wait for the next full Plan consultation in August. RBC stressed that in many areas there will be no more removals from the GB. **BUT!** Wait and see. RBC have commissioned Aecom to look at the infrastructure needs-transport, schools, doctor's surgeries etc. They will look at the growth areas for Options 1, 3 and 7 and will include delivery, costing's, who pays, time scale etc. All road / junction details have been sent to SCC Highways. The Otter Roundabout and the A320, are the main areas for overload in the RBC area. SCC is also working on a Local Transport Scheme for RBC.

WHAT ABOUT BUILDING ON BROWNFIELD SITES?

Runnymede is, at present, mainly rural/GB with relatively small urban areas, so has very little Brownfield sites compared with, for example, Woking. In RBC's Runnymede Pilot Brownfield Register June 2016 there is only 1 large site. That is Longcross/DERA, which is already in the Local Plan to be removed from the GB with c 1,500 houses. There are a very few 'medium' sites ranging from 50 to over 200, and most of these already have planning permission and are being built, therefore are already in RBC's Local Plan figures e.g. the old Civic Offices site and Aviator Park in Addlestone, Hanworth Lane and Pretoria Road in Chertsey, the old Brunel University site in Englefield Green. Then there are several small sites of 10-40 possible houses, again many are already being developed. Finally there are a mass of tiny sites with only the possibility of 1-3 units or at worse only 1 replacement house. So many of the sites on the Brownfield Register are already accounted for in RBC's Option 3 figures, thus not leaving much more that could be added onto RBC's present housing figures.

LONGCROSS GARDEN VILLAGE

Longcross (DERA) has been selected as a Garden Village (GV). This in no way changes its planning status, it still remains in the GB until the Local Plan is adopted. The money awarded by the Government to RBC for infrastructure as a Garden Village is only £200,000, hence it will only be enough for a review of the infrastructure and possible mitigation, but not



to actually 'provide' any mitigation. Work is progressing on the north site (north of the M3) and the 200 houses are starting to come onto the market for sale. Planning permission and development on the South side (of the M3), will have to wait for this part of the site to be confirmed for removal from the GB as is expected to be in the Inspector's Report after the Public Examination late in 2018. The total number of houses may be increased from 1,500 to 2,000.

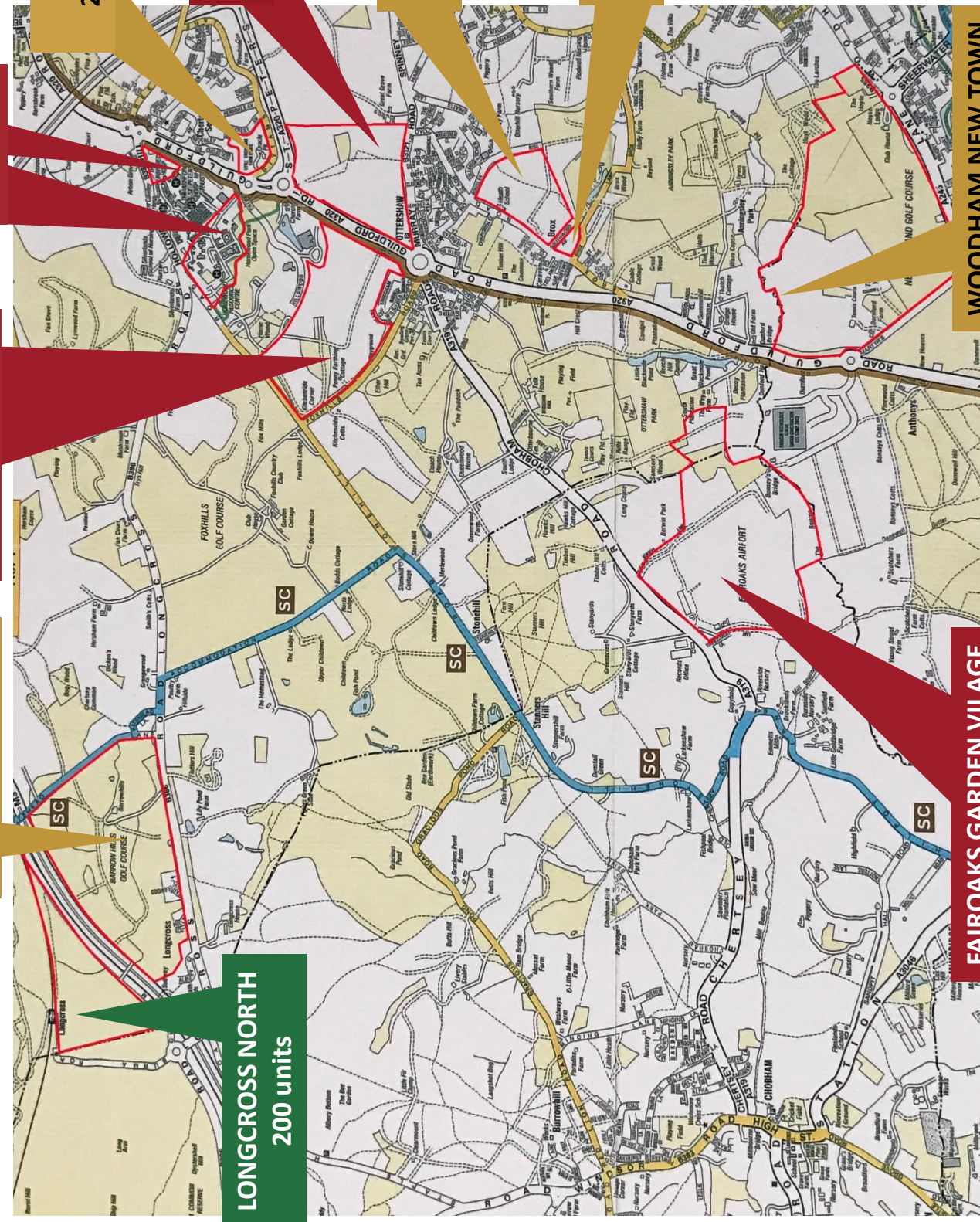
PARKLANDS, BITTAMS LANE

Another site RBC is proposing to remove from the GB for 500-600 houses. The site is under different owners. The end nearest the A320 and St. Peter's Hospital already has a Care Home being constructed on the site by Signature. This is aligned along the curve of Bittams Lane. Between this and the back of the site below Hillcrest Avenue and Waverley Drive, another developer, Chertsey Frontier Estates, is proposing to build 255 x 1 and 2 bedroom flats in 3 to 5 story blocks. They are calling this site 'Parklands'. 25% will be affordable flats but no prices given. The existing entrance off Bittams Lane will be extended through the site to come out further along Bittams Lane, with possible widening of the Lane. There was a Public Consultation on this development in March at the Parish Centre, but only residents in the Bittams Lane area were leafleted about this. The main concern of many was the effect on local infrastructure, especially when all the other sites around Ottershaw are added together.

UPPER OTTERSHAW
500 units

LONGCROSS SOUTH
1500units

ST PETER'S
430 units



LONGCROSS NORTH
200 units

PARKLANDS
259 apartments

GREAT GROVE FARM
500 units

OTTERSHAW EAST
510 units

BROX END NURSERY
12 - 40 units

Approved

Subject to planning application or serious consideration by local authority

Proposal by land owner

WOODHAM NEW TOWN
3500 units

FAIROAKS GARDEN VILLAGE
1500 units

Due to the fact that RBC had opted for a mid-range of houses per year, several landowners/developers had suggested that RBC needed more than the Option 3 housing numbers at the August Consultation, and had therefore put forward their sites to be removed from the GB to build even more houses. RBC has assessed these sites and so far appears to be continuing to state that they will not be removing them from the GB. But the developers are still progressing with their plans.

UPPER OTTERSHAW

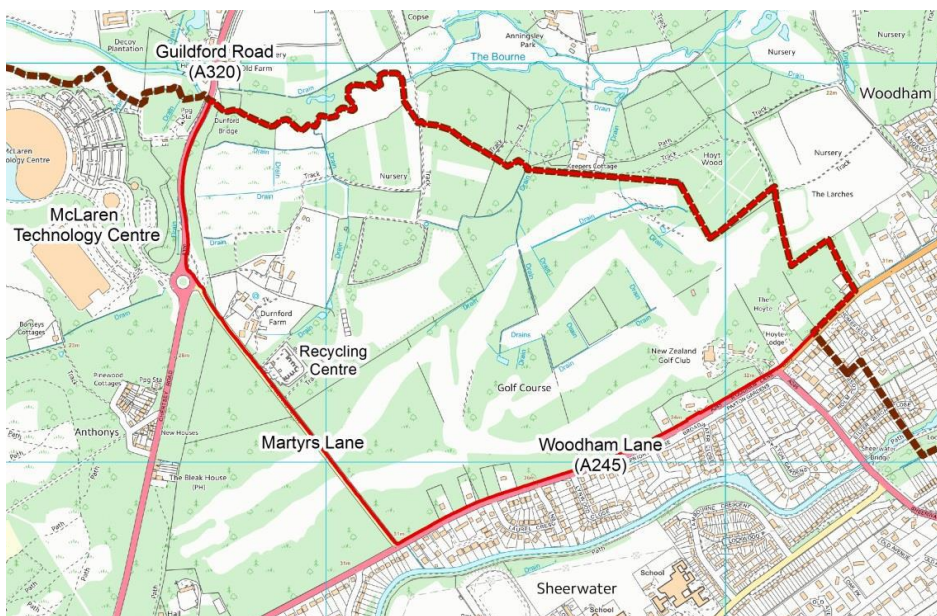
For those sites around Ottershaw, the developer, Ashill, for the CHRISTMAS TREE FARM, now called 'Upper Ottershaw' is well ahead with all its research and subsequent reports, including a glossy brochure, ready for a planning application. It is for 500 houses, new medical centre and pharmacy, primary school, community sports hub, new entrances off the A320



and Foxhills Roads, new ambulance station and much enlarged Otter Roundabout. It has had consultations with Surrey County Council on infrastructure. The southern end of **GREAT GROVE FARM**, have also put forward a proposal for 500 houses in its response to RBC's 1st Consultation. The land has been cleared of the overgrown shrubs but no further details at the time of writing this article. Likewise there is nothing further on:- **ST PETERS HOSPITAL** on possible development of surplus land for general housing; **SQUIRES NURSERY LAND** behind the newly opened café and garden centre ,off Holloway Hill or the **FIELD BETWEEN REAR OF 233 BROX RD** and Guildford Road.

WOODHAM LANE

This proposal by Woking Council to remove the site bordered by the A320, Martyrs Lane, Woodham Lane and the River Bourne (this being the site's northern boundary with Ottershaw) from the GB for future development went to consultation in January. We await to see whether Woking continues with this 1 large site to be taken out of the GB or reverts to its original proposals of taking 6 smaller sites out of the GB that are scattered across the Borough.



FAIROAKS GARDEN VILLAGE

Fairoaks Airport is divided into two owners, the airfield is owned by Albemarle Fairoaks Airport Ltd and the commercial estate has recently been bought by TERE ADP Fairoaks Ltd. These have now combined to propose to close the Airport and develop 1,500 houses on the site. They supported Surrey Heath Council (SHC) in a submission to the Government for this site to be a Garden Village, but so far have not been successful. Like RBC SHC is also saying that it is short of new housing sites.



But they are stressing that their plans do not depend on getting this designation. On the final weekend in February they held a Public Consultation in Chobham Village hall on the design and lay-out of the new development. There had been strong representations by the Society to also hold a Consultation in Ottershaw but so far this has been refused. The Friday session was attended by a good number of Ottershaw residents. The representatives of the owners “tried” to open the event by presenting what a Fairoaks New Town might look like and consulting on what nearby residents wanted to see, whereas most of the people there wanted to tell them that they didn't want a New Town on their doorstep at all! There were about 125-150 people there, so very well attended. The opening session lasted about an hour and a half. There was an introduction all about New Towns and Fairoaks in particular. This was followed by a “post-it note” session where everyone wrote down what they saw as the issues (mostly Roads and Infrastructure) , before they brought on some Woking High School students who had done a project on what facilities that a new town should have.(Recreation, skateboards park, green space etc.) Because of the size of the development on the A319, which added to all the other sites given above around Ottershaw and Chobham, nearly everyone present was more concerned about the effect on the surrounding areas. As for the ‘Parklands’ Consultation, none of the representatives of the owners where able to answer any of these questions. One particular objector stood up and spoke about the ownership of Fairoaks and how profit was the principal motive. So probably not a very satisfactory session for the owners, who in theory (but probably not in practice), need some support from the locality. The resultant document produced for the Final session on the following Wednesday was again all on the possible design of the ‘village’ with nothing on the local infrastructure.

GOING FORWARD

It is clear that Ottershaw is under the threat of an even larger scale of development than proposed in RBC’s Option 3. The Ottershaw Society will continue to keep you informed over the coming months, so that you can respond as details emerge. In particular, we will continue to express our concern at the erosion of the Green Belt and the local traffic issues. Please do come along to our Ottershaw May Fair stall on May 1st, look at our display about the proposals and tell us your views.

1ST OTTERSHAW SCOUT GROUP

By Heather Howell, Group Scout Leader

1st Ottershaw Scout Group is the Scouting side of the Ottershaw Scout and Guide Group. We meet at The Holt in the Memorial Playing Fields in Foxhills Road, Ottershaw. The group was officially registered with Scout HQ in March 1939, but Scouting was present for some time before that. Between 1916 and 1918 Miss Monica Phillips, the Vicar's daughter, was in charge. After the First World War the Troop lapsed, but it was revived in 1926 by Mr Brighty who became Scout Master at the age of 19. The Troop met and flourished first in a room at the old vicarage and then at Brook Hall. Meetings were also held in a barn belonging to W S Hunt of Ottershaw and then at the delightful District Camp Site situated at Anningsley Park. The Scouts were given the Freedom of the Site for training purposes by the late Sir Wilfred D Vernon, JP, Chertsey District President.

In the late 1930's Mr W Atkin was Scout Master for a short period followed by Mr R Lowe who also became Rover Scout Master and later Assistant District Commissioner for Leader Training. Mr L T (Gig) Williams became Scout Master and Group Scout Master after 1942, with R Ottaway and M J Kingston assisting. M J Kingston became the first King's Scout in the Chertsey District. Mr Williams went on to become District Commissioner.

The little wooden hut in Ottershaw Recreation ground was replaced in the early Seventies by a more substantial Scout Hut. This also became home to 1st and 2nd Ottershaw Brownies and 1st Ottershaw Guides until their association decided that the hut was becoming unsafe. They moved out and met temporarily at Christchurch School in Fletcher Road.

The Scout Group began to try to raise funds to build a new headquarters but this proved quite difficult as the Guiding sections were also trying to do the same. It was felt that if the Scouting and Guiding sections could combine, then all the fund raising could be consolidated and a new meeting place for all the sections could be built. In order for this to happen, it was decided to form a joint 'Scout and Guide Group' – the first (and to date, only) one in Runnymede District and one of only a few in Surrey. Hence, in 1992, the Ottershaw Scout and Guide Group became reality.



*Mr Atkin Junior as
a scout c1948*

The council wanted to reclaim the piece of land where we were sited, but gave us permission to build on the site of the old youth club, about 25 yards away, nearer to the car park. After much hard work in raising funds, the new Scout and Guide HQ, The Holt was built.

The group AGM on 19th May 1995 was the first group event to take place there and was followed by an ‘official opening’ in March 1996 by the Chief Scout, Sir Garth Morrison. Scouting continues to thrive, offering places in Beavers, Cubs (2 packs) and Scouts to the young people of Ottershaw.

The only downside of our success is the size of the waiting list. With more adults to help with our Cub packs, we would be able to take more young people, so if you have a couple of hours a week that you could spare (or once every 2 weeks), please consider helping with our brilliant group.

For further information regarding the Scout Group, please contact Heather Howell, the Group Scout Leader at cubscouts@ottershaw-village.net

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

What is Neighbourhood Watch?

Neighbourhood Watch is about local people working together to create safe and friendly places to live, places where crime is less likely to happen. It’s about you looking out for your neighbours and them looking out for you.

If you think you are interested in starting up a Watch or want to know more about the Watch schemes already in Ottershaw or NHW in general, please email Sandy Stephens (Ottershaw and Addlestone NHW coordinator) on runnymedeneighbourwatch@gmail.com

Similarly if you are interested in receiving links to digital “Keeping Safe” booklets and information from agencies such as Trading Standards about scams and stopping cold-calling doorstep traders, send an email as above.

Did you know you are 78% less likely to be a victim of crime if you live in a Neighbourhood Watch area?



For information and support:
runnymedeneighbourwatch@gmail.com
www.sites.google.com/site/runnymedeneighbourhoodwatch

OTHER VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS UPDATES



THE WI NIGHT OWL 2017 EVENT PROGRAMME

The Ottershaw WI night Owls has a very varied selection of speakers and activities this season, so there should be something for everyone. Visitors usually pay £2 a session and can visit three times and there is no obligation to become a member.

May 2nd - Lost buildings of Runnymede - A member of Chertsey Museum will join us to talk about the origins and history of large country buildings within the area.

June 6th - Ascot themed social evening - Social evening with horse related games. **July 4th - Julia Cameron, 19th Century Photographer of Genius** - Dr Judith Hill will be joining us to talk about this pioneering photographer who discovered her craft late in life but became an influential figure in the art form.

September 5th - Battersea dogs home..... past and present. A volunteer from the home that has been caring for animals for more than 150 years will be joining us to tell some tall tales about the animals they care for.



THE OTTERSHAW PLAYERS

The Ottershaw Players will once again be performing two one act comedies with supper provided during the interval. The summer production will take place at Brook Hall from 20th - 21st July.

More details can be found here: <http://ottershawplayers.co.uk/>

A320 GUILDFORD ROAD, WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT UPDATE

As part of Affinity's programme to replace ageing pipework that has reached the end of its useful life, there are further essential works to be carried out in the Ottershaw area. The nearby water treatment works supplies water to over 61,000 households through three large trunk main pipes, which follow the A320 (Guildford Road) Ottershaw towards Woking. These pipes carry 25 million litres of water a day and were laid between 45 and 75 years ago.

Phase 1: completed - Ottershaw Roundabout – Anthony's Booster

The first phase commenced in January 2016, to replace a 12 inch diameter pipe, which was in very poor condition, with a new 1.6km pipe along Brox road.

Phase 2: June 2016 - April 2017 - Junction of A320/Brox Road and Anthony's Booster (just past McLaren's roundabout)

The second phase of the work to lay new mains along the A320 from the junction of Brox Road to Anthony's booster started in June 2016 and will be completed by April 2017.

Phase 3: 18 April – October 2017 – Brox Road Junction to Ottershaw Roundabout

In the final phase of this work, a 21 inch diameter pipe that is in very poor condition will be replaced. This will consist of laying 1.3km of new mains from the Brox Road junction to the Ottershaw Roundabout.

OTTERSHAW PARK RUN

By Stephanie Muzzall

Ottershaw Memorial Fields is now home to a free, friendly, timed 5k run/walk and is one of the growing number of parkruns held every Saturday across the country at 9am. You can run, jog or walk at whatever speed you are comfortable with. You can even do it with your kids, dog or pushing a buggy. Run totally by volunteers, parkrun is rapidly becoming a worldwide hit with free runs now taking place at over 440 locations across the UK and in 14 countries as far flung as Russia, New Zealand and South Africa.



Since its inception in 2004 at Bushy Park in London, over 2 million people globally have participated, all for fun and all for free. At Homewood parkrun (the name for our Ottershaw Memorial Fields run) we pride ourselves on being part of the community. We support local business and we're always up for a chat and new friendships are forged every week. Why not join us, you can walk, run or, if you don't feel up to running, why not come along and help volunteer – it's easy! You could even just come and cheer to see what we are about. Nobody is ever last as we always have a tail walker volunteer to make sure everyone gets round safely.

If you fancy joining in, here's your simple to do list to get you ready:

- ✓ Register your details for free online here: <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/register/>
- ✓ Print your barcode out (this allows you to be identified and a time allocated when you finish and remember to bring it with you)
- ✓ Plan your travel, directions here: <http://www.parkrun.org.uk/homewood/course>
- ✓ Bring a few pennies with you. parkrun is always free, but we do head to the Old School Café, Longcross Road afterwards to get to know each other over tea. We'd love you to join us.
- ✓ Rope a friend in! parkrun is better with friends, whether junior, four legged or the new ones you'll make while you are with us!
- ✓ Put your trainers by the door Friday night with your barcode and get ready to walk, jog or run with us!



Homewood parkrun look forward to welcoming you at 9am, every Saturday at Ottershaw Memorial Fields, Foxhills Road.



RUNNYMEDE HEALTH WALKS

Run by CornerHouse, Woking & Runnymede, Health Walks is your local Walking for Health scheme. The walks are free, fun and friendly – perfect to help you get active and meet new people. All walks are a maximum of 90 minutes and finish with a chance for refreshments and a chat! We also have ‘starter’ walks (a max of 30 mins) every 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 11am in the Woking area, and every 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 11am in the Runnymede area – perfect if you’re new to exercise, have a health condition or just want to try it out. Many of the walkers start walking to improve their health, but find it easy to keep coming back because of all the new friends they’ve made. So as well as all the physical health benefits, Walking for Health is also great for your social life!

If you would like to take part, come along to the start point of one of the walks a few minutes early. If you want to know more before you start, just get in touch with Tasha Feddery, walks coordinator email: tasha@nextsteps.me.uk or 07473 404 962 / 01483 757461. Details of the walks can be found here:

www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/walkfinder/woking-and-runnymede-health-walks

THANK YOU

Special thanks go to all of our guest writers in this edition, we hope you enjoy reading about their articles. As always a very special mention goes to Mrs Hannah Lane who has once again provided interesting historical articles which we hope you will enjoy reading. Special thanks also to Mr Roger Pashley for providing the beautiful photography featured on the front cover of this edition.

EXPLORE CHERTSEY MEADS

Mead Lane, Chertsey, KT16 8LN

Chertsey Meads is an important site for nature conservation and home to a wide range of plants, birds and insects, some of which are rare in Surrey. In the 70’s and early 80’s its importance was recognised by its status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) but that status was subsequently lost due to ploughing and re-seeding being allowed.

More recently management of the site has improved with the aim of bringing the site back up to the SSSI standard. Since November 2008 the Meads have been subject to a Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement with Natural England through which funding is provided for managing the land in an environmentally effective way. Grazing is a recognised management technique for this type of landscape, it keeps the more vigorous and dominant grasses in check which encourages a wider range of wildflowers to establish themselves. It would benefit the Meads by increasing biodiversity. Plans to re-introduce cattle grazing on Chertsey Meads have been in place for a number of years, but the cost of the fences, gates and cattle grids required has been problematic.

If you fancy taking a stroll around the site, a map and further details can be found over the page.

DISCLAIMER:

This newsletter has welcomed many different contributors from the local area, who in turn each have their own opinions. Please be advised that any opinions expressed in these guest articles may not necessarily represent the views of the Ottershaw Society.

Welcome to Chertsey Meads

This is a flood meadow of botanical importance. Respect and enjoy it – but please;

- keep your dog under control
- protect plants and animals for future generations
- take your litter home or use the bins and dog bins provided.

Grassland
Chertsey Meads is managed as a hay meadow. A variety of grasses get the opportunity to thrive, and flowers to seed before the hay is cut in July. Over 400 species of plant are now found on the site giving a spectacular display in spring and summer.

Frequent flooding bringing chalky deposits encourages species not usually found in the area.



WALKING: The Thames Path which follows the river from its source to the Thames Barrier. In this area it traces the course of the river along its north bank passing through Dumsey Meadow, (across the river from Chertsey Meads) and crosses the river at the Shepperton Ferry crossing.

CYCLING: The National Cycle Route 4 (NR4) is the main spoke of the National Cycle Network (NCN) leading from London to Fishguard via Windsor and Bristol.

NATURE: Bird watching, especially at dawn and dusk. The number of bird species recorded is 111. Uncommon species include; Goosander, Peregrine, Sparrowhawk, Treecreeper and Siskin. Watching other wildlife. Snakes, frogs and rare species of hoverflies have been recorded here, and you may see deer. The meadows are particularly attractive from May to July when the wild flowers are in bloom

CHILDREN: As well as fresh air and nature, Chertsey Meads has an excellent play park with a pirate ship and swings. There are two picnic areas with views across the river Thames. Please take your litter with you. It is a great place for walks and family outings.

PARKING: Two free car parks provide ample parking.

WE HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED THIS EDITION OF OUR NEWSLETTER.
THE NEXT EDITION IS DUE AUTUMN 2017