

Albury Matters

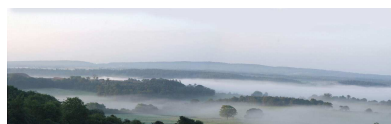


The Albury Parish Council Quarterly Newsletter

Serving Albury, Farley Green, Brook, Little London & Newlands Corner

Autumn 2010

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Albury Photos, courtesy John Powell

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Special points of interest:

- SITA Briefing
- Village Hall Shake-up
- Emergency Plan
- 4x4's & trial bikes, illegal off-roading
- Allotments for Albury!

The 'Big Society' and Albury

The recent government spending review includes a significant reduction in local government grants, which will undoubtedly result in major cut-backs in services provided by Guildford Borough Council and Surrey County Council.

The coalition government uses terms like the 'Big Society' and 'Localism' but what do these ideas mean in practice for Albury? The answer seems to be unclear at the moment but undoubtedly parish councils and other local groups will be encouraged to take on more responsibility for delivering local services. Services such as the clearance of footpaths, the maintenance of grass verges and even the repair of potholes are likely to get even less attention by Guildford and Surrey than they do at present! With the winter on our doorstep the lack of snow clearance and gritting on our country roads could be a real problem. As a parish council we will be exploring ways in which we can minimise the impact of these cut-backs, and there may be opportunities to work with other neighbouring parish councils to pool resources and improve the delivery of some services currently delivered by Guildford or Surrey.

Local communities will probably be given more power to take responsibility for their own destiny. It may surprise many of you that parish councils already have the power to finance ideas which have the support of the local community. Some have already undertaken projects like the purchase of a village shop, affordable housing and the development of a new school.

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Nursery Manager co-opted onto Council



Sallianne Robinson is married with two children and has lived in Albury for the last eight years.

She is the manager at the 'Friends' day nursery in Shere, and has recently completed a degree in 'Early Years Teaching'.

In her spare time she enjoys activities with family and friends, is a member of the 'Rock Choir' & has sung at 'Guildfest' & The New Woking Theatre. She also annually sings The Messiah at the Royal Albert Hall.

Sallianne is looking forward to her new venture as a Councillor for Albury & hopes that she can serve the local community with commitment, fun & ease.



The 'Big Society' & Albury

(Continued from Page1)

As a parish council we are coming to the end of our 4 year term and next May you will be able to elect new councillors. I would encourage anyone living in the parish who feels they could make a contribution, to seriously consider standing for election.

Alternatively, why not get involved now and join one of our committees. If the 'Big Society' and 'Localism' are to mean anything, it is essential that we have a strong parish council to help minimise the impact of the current austerity measures and take advantage of new exciting opportunities.

Nick Wenman, Chairman

Landfill Up-Date

The downturn in the economy has had a knock-on effect on the status of the landfill site, with filling not now due to complete until June of next year. This is because the site is accepting less building waste, and less waste from Heathrow and Gatwick.

In the meantime, the application for restoration of the site is with Surrey County Council, and a decision is expected in December.

If you would like to see the application and the plans, they are all available in the Memorial Library, where I am every Tuesday afternoon between 1.30pm and 3.30pm and you are very welcome to pop in. If an afternoon is not possible, please let me know.

The Parish Council often uses the room for evening meetings, when you would be able to come along and use my desk to review the file.

SITA are currently filling the cell nearest the village and this has caused some odour problems for the village, particularly in the very wet weather. The new flaring compound, which has just received permission from Surrey County Council, should deal with much of this by drawing off the excess gas and disposing of it, but if you are still experiencing problems please let either me or **Steve Horton**, the Site Manager, know. Steve's telephone number is 07970 233464.

Joanna Cadman, Parish Clerk.

Village Hall Shake-up

Albury Parish Council hires the village hall and Memorial Library from Albury Estate for the benefit of people in the village and in the surrounding area. We have done this for the best part of twenty years now and plan to continue into the future. However, the hall currently makes a loss of nearly £8,000 per annum, which the Parish Council cannot continue to sustain, particularly in the current economic climate, and we have had to make some hard decisions.

The biggest outlay in the running of the hall is the cost of a caretaker. We have therefore, very reluctantly, had to offer the caretaker, Ellen Balshaw, redundancy and this will take effect from the 21st December this year. We are very pleased that Ellen has agreed to continue as cleaner, and so her valuable knowledge of the hall and the users will not be lost.

Ellen is currently completing the hand-over of the hall bookings and invoicing to representatives of the parish council, who will run these on a voluntary basis. The means of access to the hall will also change, possibly to a card system, and we will update you on this and other changes as they occur. Please be assured that we intend to continue to run the hall in an efficient and professional manner, and will also be making enhancements to increase its appeal.

All future bookings should be made by contacting the dedicated village hall line, on 01483 202399. Please leave a message and we will call you back as soon as possible. This number should also be used for any queries or requests regarding the hall.



Over the next few weeks we will be conducting a review on all levels regarding the running and marketing of the village hall, including the fee structure and the terms and conditions of use. We are also reviewing the facilities offered in the hall. If you have any thoughts on improvements to the hall or the day-to-day running of it, we would be very glad to hear from you.

As I am sure you can appreciate, these have been very difficult decisions to make. We do, however, want to be able to continue to offer the hall as a focal point in the village, and cannot do so without a significant reduction in outlay.

Joanna Cadman, Parish Clerk





The Emergency Plan

Winter is approaching all too fast and we are being warned that it is going to be as harsh as last year. The Parish Council is putting together its **Emergency Plan** to ensure that the village can still function in the worst of weather, and that the more vulnerable among us are looked after.

To date we have ensured that all grit bins have been filled by Surrey County Council and have recorded their location and condition. Surrey County Council have allocated a snow plough to the parish and, although at present this is only designated to be used on the main roads, we expect to be able to arrange to use it on the minor and more dangerous roads around the village.

The Emergency Plan records all the facilities that the parish has in its command: those with four wheel drives or tractors who will be able to get through snow, people with generators, residents with skills such as nurses and doctors, and owners of chain saws, to mention just a few things.

But we need much more help: if you have a skill or any equipment that you feel, however remotely, might be of help in an emergency

please let us know.

Conversely, if you feel that you might need some help in the event of some emergency or weather turns appalling and the village impassable, please let us know.

We will have people around the village who will be ready and willing to help others, but it would make our job easier if we know where to go!

Joanna Cadman/Roy Hogben



APC's Summer "Walkfest"

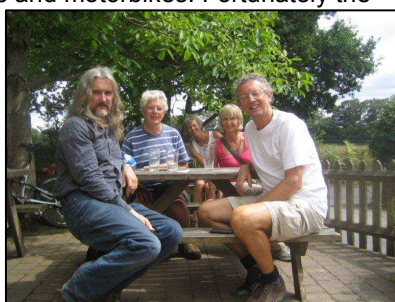
During July, a walk in the countryside around Farley Green was organised. Starting at Albury Heath Cricket Pitch, the route circled round over Blackheath, via Ford Farm and Farley Heath, towards Winterfold.

After crossing the road at Farley Heath and leaving the heathland our small group dropped down through the ruins of Pit House and climbed through the cleared woodland and fields to pause above Mayor House Farm for the glorious views across Winterfold and the North Downs.

Heading east and crossing Shophouse Lane we continued through part of Winterfold Forest and up beside a local vineyard, through the fields until we reached Ponds Lane, (the old road to Shere), now being eroded by off-roading 4 x 4's and motorbikes. Fortunately the weather had been hot so the deep mud was temporarily drier and the track was passable on foot.

Timed to coincide with lunch time we arrived at the William IV pub and had a very good and well earned lunch!

Peter Gellatly



So, what is happening with the Greening Campaign?

Earlier this year all the village societies met to choose the eight energy saving ideas that we, as a village, can carry out in our homes in an effort to reduce energy wastage.

In the Village Hall on **Saturday, 22 January** there will be a Public Presentation of these ideas and, once these are finalised, cards will be printed, delivered to all households in the parish for people to implement, and then displayed in their windows so that the data can be collected and analysed to see what level our carbon footprint is and what level of savings we have been able to attain.

Please come along and **learn how you can easily save energy and money!**

Jeremy Croucher, Greening Campaign

Albury Parish Council.....at your service:

Nick Wenman (Chairman).....	01483 202 017
John Brockwell (Vice Chairman).....	01483 203 586
Peter Gellatly (Planning).....	01483 202 689
Prue von Radowitz (Facilities).....	01483 202 003
Roy Hogben (Community Development).....	01483 202 636
Jeremy Croucher (Greening Campaign).....	01483 202 607
Jackie Chapman.....	01483 203 475
Grahame Robinson.....	01483 203 704
Sallianne Robinson (Village Hall).....	01483 205 485
Joanna Cadman (Parish Clerk).....	01483 268 627

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**QUALITY
PARISH
COUNCIL**



Public vigilance key to controlling illegal off-roading

The campaign to protect the Surrey Hills countryside from off-road vandalism has had a noticeable impact on illegal activity, thanks to the vigilance of villagers living near the BOAT's, (*Byways Open to All Traffic*).

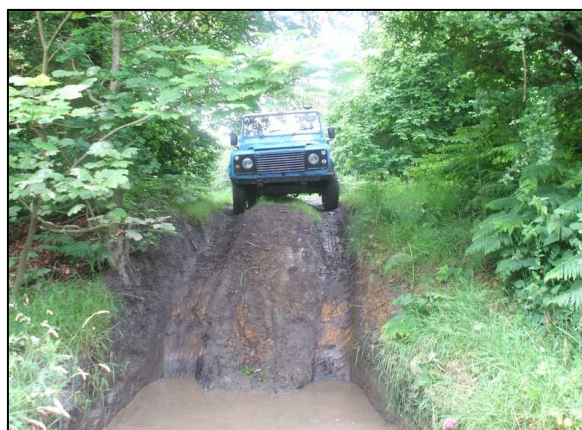
The National Trust, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Surrey Police, local landowners and off-road groups are working together with the Surrey Hills AONB Board, to educate 4x4 enthusiasts and trail bike riders about the need to drive responsibly and within the law.

Signs explaining rights and responsibilities put up on the BOAT's and a continuing police presence on the byways have had a significant effect, but public vigilance will remain the key to preventing illegal off-roading.

While it is legal to drive on a BOAT, all vehicles or motorcycles must be road legal and have a registration plate, road tax, MOT and insurance. Also it is illegal to drive off the BOAT into the woods or heathland.

We need your eyes and ears to help ensure all vehicles are using BOAT's legally. You can check to see if they have a number plate, that motorcyclists are wearing helmets, and that motorcycles unloaded from vans have number plates. **If you are at all suspicious, call the Police on 0845 125 2222. In a really serious situation dial 999. Do not challenge the people involved yourselves.**

For further information on the Surrey Hills please visit www.surreyhills.org



Third time lucky?



Someone keeps stealing the plants! This Drift area, covering the ugly Thames Water inspection covers, opposite the Old Rectory, has been re-planted for the third time!

Because of the location, it is thought that the person stealing the plants from the village would have to be local, and on foot?

It seems to be a great shame that this sort of petty crime exists in Albury. **Any help or information to stop this happening again, will be most welcome!**

Grow your own....

The Parish Council is currently negotiating with Albury Estate to take over the virtually disused Allotments, halfway along The Warren, up at the southern end of the Estate Yard.

It is a beautiful and tranquil site with open views looking north over the Downs.

Our intention is to organise grants from various sources so that there will be no cost to the Parish.

The terraces need to be re-established and mains water laid on to serve the site properly, also the access up the Warren must be made easier and more user friendly.

It is hoped that if there is sufficient interest we can also establish a small community orchard on site, maybe with an apiary, at the best strategic point (bee keepers, this could be an opportunity to produce some 'Albury Downs' Honey)

If you are a keen gardener, we would appreciate your expert opinion on 'best practice', and would welcome your help if you would like to become involved.



Roy Hogben, Community Development.