

Albury Matters



The Albury Parish Council Quarterly Newsletter
Serving Albury, Farley Green, Brook, Little London & Newlands Corner

SPECIAL EDITION - June 2011



Albury Photographs courtesy of John Powell

Albury P.C. Goes for GBC Environmental Enhancement Award

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Three years ago Albury Parish Council embarked on an ambitious plan to enhance the rural environment of the parish, giving particular interest to the main road (A248) through the village.

In close co-operation with **Surrey Hills (AONB)**, the **Albury Estate** and **SITA UK Ltd.** the first stage of the Village Enhancement Programme was to remove all of the self-seeded trees to open up the views across to the fishing lake; the ugly metal railings were also removed and replaced with green oak posts.

The immediate effect of this was to give the gateway into Albury a much more rural feel and a complete sense of place, instead of a through road to somewhere else.

This fully sponsored initial stage has received many positive compliments from both locals and visitors.



The Mill Race, before the project started.



Now, views opened up across to the fishing lake.

Special points of interest:

- GBC's Design Awards
- Creating a sense of 'Place'
- Village Hall Make-Over
- Enhancement, Before and After
- APC/Surrey Hills De-Cluttering

Village Hall and Car Park Make-Over

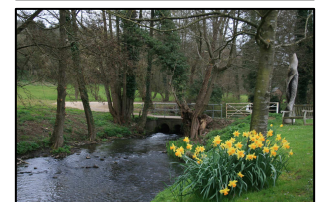
As part of the programme to re-vitalise the appeal of the village hall, almost £20,000 has been spent on up-grading the facilities.

A new boiler has been installed and the central heating system extended into the newly painted Memorial Library, secondary glazing will now help cut down the heat loss, whilst a new computerised booking system, electronic security and up-graded kitchen facilities will all help with future bookings.

The new village hall sign now complements the re-furnished car-park and clearance of the banks of the Tillingbourne.

*All of this has been achieved at **no cost** to the Parish with kind grants from **Star Energy**, **Guildford Borough Council** and **Rural Access to Services Programme (RASP)**.*

John Brockwell / Roy Hogben





Welcome to Albury..... this is what it looked like for almost 10 years!



The very poor state of the bus shelter at the western end of the village was indicative of the neglect that rural communities have suffered over many years. Not only was there no repair or maintenance over the last 10 years but the very urban style was incongruous and totally out of place.

With good sponsorship from **Star Energy Community Fund** and the **SCC Passenger Transport Group** this was replaced with a green oak construction, which is thought to be the first in Surrey.

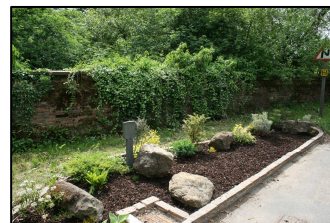
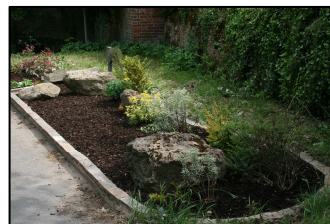


Landscaping the ugly inspection covers

In the middle of the village on The Street ugly inspection covers dominated the pavement scene. With the permission of **Thames Water** and the kind sponsorship of **Star Energy Community Fund** this area is now a pleasant visual amenity. It is specifically designed as a low maintenance garden, that only needs an annual make-over.

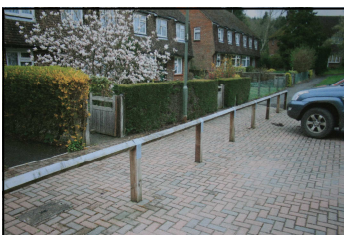


Inspection covers at the Drift, before the Enhancement Programme



One year on, the inspection covers with their annual make-over

Parking barrier problems in Westonfields....



Barrier problems, before.



Today, the problem is solved

For a number of years, residents in Westonfields have had problems with the barrier demarking the pavement. Because there was no through route between the posts, emergency trolleys found it very difficult to manoeuvre around the ends of the rail. GBC were reluctant to act, however, the solution was simple.... remove the rail!

Compliments of Cllrs. Gellatly, Brockwell and Hogben

Thanks to our Sponsors!

None of this Enhancement would have been possible without the excellent grants from our sponsors. All the residents of Albury extend their thanks to: **Star Energy Community Fund**, **SCC Passenger Transport Group**, the **Rural Access to Services Programme**, **SITA UK Ltd.**, **The Albury Estate**, **Guildford Borough Council** & former **SCC Cllr. David Davis**.



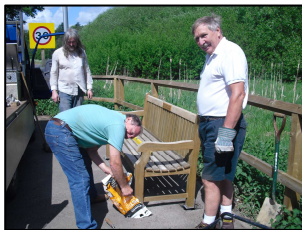
Ten years ago SCC Highways installed a 'temporary' chestnut paling fence at the New Road bus-stop. After a number of fruitless requests it was decided to solve this problem by including it into the Enhancement Programme.

Today a new fence has been erected from the good offices of the **Albury Estate** and a bench with a memorial tablet funded by **Star Energy Community Fund** put in place for the comfort of passengers.



SCC's Solution..... Do Nothing!

APC & Star Energy fund the make-over



Job Well Done!

Before and After Enhancement.....



Before

After

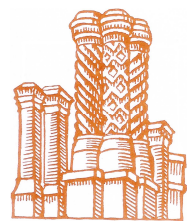
Before

After

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

- Nick Wenman (Chairman)..... 01483 202 017
- John Brockwell (Facilities)..... 01483 203 586
- Peter Gellatly (Planning)..... 01483 202 689
- Prue von Radowitz (Open Spaces)..... 01483 202 003
- Roy Hogben (Community Development)..... 01483 202 636
- Jackie Chapman..... 01483 203 475
- Grahame Robinson (Environment)..... 01483 203 704
- Alison Kerslake..... 01483 202 848
- Joanna Cadman (Parish Clerk)..... 01483 268 627

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De-Cluttering with Surrey Hills AONB, the Final Phase.....

For many decades this rural village has suffered from creeping urbanisation. Inappropriate metal railings, poor quality plastic bollards, and general street clutter have slowly encroached within Albury.

In collaboration with **Surrey Hills AONB** more than 35 local sites were identified and photographed. As many as 50 black and white plastic bollards were removed, some being replaced with green oak posts. Only the necessary highway signs were retained, but the galvanised metal posts were replaced with stout oak posts in keeping with the rural environment.

This initiative aims to promote, enhance and reinforce the rural character of roads within the Surrey Hills. It is designed to create an environment that is more in keeping and attractive. It also helps to encourage a safer and more considerate approach to driving in this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The idea of 'De-Cluttering' is now in popular vogue within central government, through the Communities Secretary Eric Pickles, realising the benefits of clearing away un-necessary signs, railings and general clutter in a bid to restore the streets, to make them tidier, easier and less confusing for both motorists and pedestrians.

Lynne Hack is the SCC Member for the Environment. She chairs the De-Clutter Working Group and is the local co-ordinating Champion for the Surrey Hills. The issue of the Surrey Hills Design Guide and the various other brochures outlining 'Best Practice' are an important step forward into the protection and enhancement of retaining the rural character of the Surrey Hills.

All of this work has been carried out very successfully. However, there still remains the SCC Highways' reluctance to have the 30mph repeater signs put onto consistent low level oak posts, together with a number of other anomalies that need to be consulted and decided upon.



June 2010, Surrey Advertiser Photo and Write-up of Albury's De-Cluttering Project



Albury Parish Map pinpointing all of the items that were in need of attention