

Albury Matters



The Albury Parish Council Newsletter

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



Albury photographs courtesy of John Powell

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WINTER EDITION - February 2014

Chairman's Report

At the time of my last report we were experiencing one of the warmest summer's on record, with temperatures reaching 32°C. Now there is flooding throughout the south of England following the wettest January on record.

But let's not worry too much about the weather when we are fortunate enough to live in the Surrey Hills, with Albury at its very centre. Famous beauty spots include Box Hill, Leith Hill, the Hurtwood and the Devil's Punch Bowl, not forgetting, our very own, Newlands Corner.

Sadly our heritage is not immune from government spending cuts and inappropriate development. But some developments may have to take place in Albury if we are to meet the future needs and aspirations of the parish.

The Parish Needs Questionnaire identified support for some affordable housing for the young and elderly, but finding an appropriate location isn't going to be easy. There is also the problem of the long term future of the village shop, which won't be commercially viable in its current location if the Royal Mail relocates the sorting office, or the Post Office withdraws its subsidy. The only viable location would seem to be the Village Hall, but an alternative community space would need to be found.

The Parish Plan Advisory Committee is looking at all of these options and hopefully will come up with a plan that can be proposed to the whole Parish.

Whatever we do we must secure our heritage so that future generations can enjoy our beautiful parish and the surrounding Surrey Hills. **Nick Wenman, APC Chairman**

Balancing the Books

The Parish Council sets its budget for the year at its December meeting, and agrees on the Precept request to the Borough Council in January. The precept is the sum of money given by the Borough to the Parish to enable it to conduct its affairs, and is paid for by your Council tax.

The Parish Council is always aware of the fact that we are spending *your* money and endeavours to ensure that it is used in the most effective way. For example, over the past few years we have been able to reduce the running costs of the hall by careful husbandry and increased hiring.

We spend your money in a number of different areas: parish maintenance, for example grass and hedge cutting, maintaining and renovating bus shelters, upkeep of the recreation ground, care of Farley Green including the pond, and other small renovation projects.

We decorated the inside of the library last year, and added a new sink to the kitchen. We also purchased a new cooker for the hall, and the hall will need decorating inside this year.

My salary is paid for from the precept, as is that of the village hall caretaker and the village handyman.

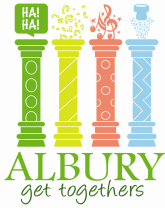
We are also able to give grants to local organisations, and in past years have given money to the Parish Church, the Hurtwood Trust, the Saxon Church, and Surrey Air Ambulance.

In order to fund such items as the external decoration of the hall, and the increased cost of maintenance, we have decided to increase the precept request by 2% this year, in line with the budget agreed by the Borough Council. If you have any questions about the Parish Council's budget, please get in touch with me.

Joanna Cadman, Parish Clerk.



GT's Social Scene



Last year was a huge social success! With this year's diary just released it looks as though the Albury Get Together Girls are going to triumph again.



Join in the fun at the Bunny Run!

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 22 March:

BEETLE DRIVE

Sunday 20 April:

BUNNY RUN (Easter Egg Hunt)

Saturday 10 May:

A.P.A. SPRING PLANT SALE (TBC)

Saturday 17 May:

ALBURY TRUST QUIZ

Saturday 27 September:

"STARS IN THEIR EYES" (TBC)

Saturday 4 October:

A.P.A. AUTUMN PLANT SALE (TBC)

Saturday 18 October:

SAXON CHURCH - RACE NIGHT

Saturday 8 November:

VILLAGE HALL QUIZ

**By popular demand.....
The 'Friends' fund raiser for
the Drummond Chapel.**

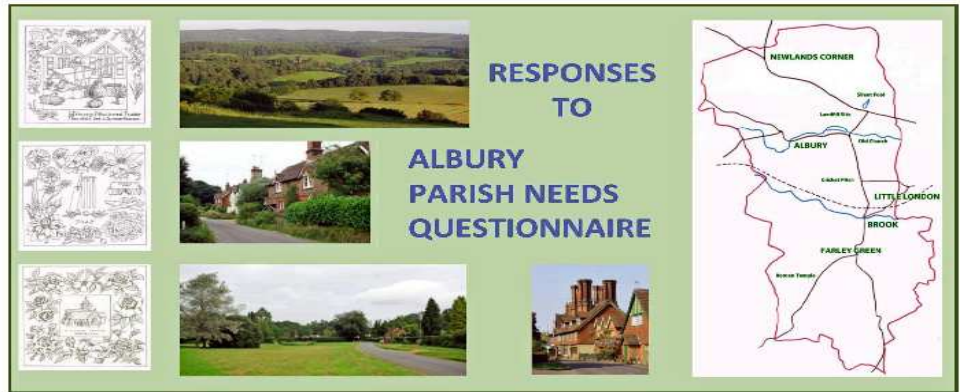


**SAXON CHURCH
RACE NIGHT**

**Saturday, 18 October 2014
Albury Village Hall**

Phone Stephanie Harley 229 045 for
information to become a Sponsor

Albury's Housing Conundrum



RESPONSES
TO

ALBURY
PARISH NEEDS
QUESTIONNAIRE

ALL THE RESPONSES AND ALL THE COMMENTS MADE HAVE BEEN COLLATED INTO A SINGLE DOCUMENT

The Terms of Reference for the Albury Parish Plan Advisory Committee (APPAC) include projects that are fairly straight forward and a number of others that are interconnected and too complex to be done on a piece-meal basis.

The most problematic is trying to get to grips with local housing needs. As part of the Committee's remit, it is clearly understood that any housing that would be supported by APPAC and the Parish Council would be on an 'Exception Site' basis and, therefore, be used in perpetuity, only for Albury residents or those having a specific connection with Albury.

The 2012 Housing Needs Survey that was undertaken by Surrey Community Action, clearly showed the current local need was for 1 x 3 bedroom, 1 x 2 Bedroom and 6 x 1 Bedroom units. However, if one looks at Guildford's Housing Needs Register there are some 21 households with an Albury address, representing a breakdown of 1 x 3 Bedroom, 3 x 2 Bedroom and 17 x 1 Bedroom requirements, many of which are from elderly residents?! So whichever set of figures one takes it still clearly indicates that there is a real need for some sort of local development.

In addition to this, the high number of responses to the Albury Parish Needs Questionnaire, although not

with a specific breakdown, certainly indicated that there is an overall need, within the community, for additional affordable housing, both for starter homes and homes for the elderly.

To complicate these figures is the fact that the evidence base for Guildford's Local Plan consultation has stated clearly that Albury, with its lack of services, amenities and infrastructure, is not suitable for any sort of housing development. This ultimately means that with the present tight Settlement Boundary of the village there is virtually no possibility of even a small ergonomic growth. Of course, this thinking may change in the future but, at the moment, any housing development would be contra to both the proposed Local Plan and the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework).

Judging by the recent furore that has been caused by Guildford Borough Council's draft proposal for their Local Plan, which potentially will create greater housing development by removing the Green Belt status from a number of neighbouring rural villages along the Tillingbourne Valley, it would seem extremely doubtful that the opinion from the great majority of Albury residents would be any different, and therefore presents the APPAC Committee with the **housing conundrum!**

Editorial Comment



SUPERFAST broadband

Well, we certainly saw lots of activity late last year with the Open Reach vans plying their trade across the Parish and placing their new cabinets in discrete locations!



Unfortunately, the promise of Superfast Broadband being available to everyone by the original date, has slipped!

It now looks likely that it will come on stream by the end of March.

Keep up-to-date by logging onto:
www.superfastsurrey.org.uk

To compliment the Parish Council's interest in tele-communications for the business community, mobile phone reception by the various providers will be looked at to see if reception can be improved.

Cllr. Steve Scott

Community Transport

Several of the responses to the recent Parish Needs Questionnaire highlighted a desire to see a better community transport service. The committee formed to review these responses is considering what can be done to respond to this requirement, however, I felt it would be helpful to bring to the attention of residents two already existing services which may be of help.

For anyone over 60, and those suffering from a range of mobility, health or disability issues, Guildford Borough provide a door to door on-demand mini-bus service, **Dial-a-Ride**. This can be pre-booked and used for a wide range of shopping, health-related or social journeys. Dial-a-Ride can be contacted on **01483 458052**.

In addition, several of the neighbouring parishes are served by the **WASP bus service**, which provides fortnightly scheduled trips to Sainsbury's in Merrow and Tesco's in Broadbridge Heath, along with monthly trips to Cranleigh market. If there is sufficient demand within the parish to access this service it should be possible for us to arrange to work with the 'WASP' parishes to extend their coverage to Albury.

If you are interested in accessing the WASP bus service, or need further information please contact me on **01483 202106**.

Grahame Cook, APPAC

Poppies Galore

The Parish Council is currently working on plans to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Great War on the 4th August 1914.

The first part of the plan is to plant red poppies throughout the parish, with the aim of creating a sea of red through the whole of the summer.

We are going to sow the poppies on grass verges and banks, and would also like your help: if you live next to a street in the parish and would be able to sow seeds where the poppies will be seen from the road, please let the Clerk know: joanna@joannacadman.com or 01483 268627, and we will deliver some seeds to you. They should be sown between March and early June, and will flower between July and September.

E-Mail Registration

Peter Lucas is the

Winner

To keep everyone up-to-date with all that is happening locally, the Parish Council asked residents to register their e-mail address on www.alburypc.com. As at the end of January more than 100 had registered, and at a special prize draw at the last PC Meeting Peter Lucas's name was drawn. He has won a meal for two at the **Drummond Arms** to the value of £40.00, very kindly sponsored by them, together with a couple of glasses of Silent Pool Rosé, sponsored by the **Albury Vineyard**.

Why not register NOW?

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

Nick Wenman (Chairman).....	01483 229 159	nick@wenmans.com
John Brockwell (Vice Chairman & Facilities).....	01483 203 586	John.brockwell@dsl.pipex.com
Peter Gellatly (Planning).....	01483 202 689	peter@lockhurst-hatch-farm.co.uk
Prue von Radowitz (Open Spaces).....	01483 202 003	pruvon@yahoo.co.uk
Roy Hogben (Community Dev. & A.M. Editor).....	01483 202 636	royhogben@alburypark.com
Grahame Robinson (Environment).....	01483 203 704	Hoff-man@tiscali.co.uk
Ali Kerslake	01483 202 848	ali_kerslake@hotmail.co.uk
Katie Kinnes	01483 229 161	Katie.kinnes@rentokil-initial.com
Steve Scott (Superfast Broadband).....	01483 203 250	steve@stevescott.me.uk
Joanna Cadman (Parish Clerk).....	01483 268 627	joanna@joannacadman.com





Keith Balcombe

The Parish Council learnt with sadness of the death of Keith Balcombe earlier in February.

Keith, a resident of Farley Green, had been a Parish Councillor for over 27 years until the election of 2007, and for many of those years had also served as Vice Chairman.

As Chairman of the Planning Committee he was tireless in ensuring that the Parish Council carefully considered each plan that was submitted within the Parish, and that suitable responses were sent to the Borough Council.

Our thoughts are with his family.

The 5th Defibrillator is now in Place!

There are now five defibrillators strategically located throughout the Parish. The next Training Session for any of the five fixed **Automated External Defibrillators** will be at the **Village Hall, 2.00pm on 29 March**. This is a practical hands-on session that will give you a good sense of achievement.



Outside the Memorial Library

Details of the more intensive training for the **'First Responders'** programme will also be available during this session.

Come along and see how easy it is to save a life!

All are welcome. Please confirm with Joanna Cadman: 01483 268627 or e-mail: joanna@joannacadman.com



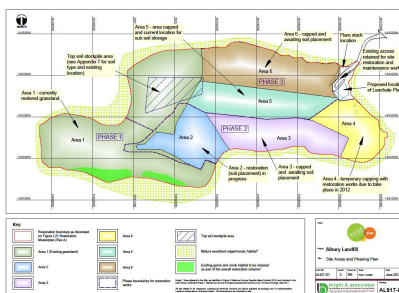
SITA Restoration

Some minor changes to the Land and Ecology Management Plan were due to be submitted to SCC before Christmas but they will not hold up restoration, which is progressing. All capping of the site is due to be finished by March 2014, and all top soils are due to be in place by June 2014, although these dates are somewhat weather dependant. Our present wet weather has also delayed the removal of the large mound of top soil that is so visible from outside the area.

The tall rig that is currently working around the top of the site is being used for re-drilling of some of the leachate wells, and is only temporary, and the visible surface pipes that run to the Gasrec site are due to be buried early in the restoration work.

Planting, subject to the weather, is due to commence this Autumn. Heather for the heathland areas will be planted from cuttings obtained from Surrey Wildlife Trust and Surrey Heathland Project, and as they both work closely with Albury Estate it is hoped that some cuttings will come from heathland owned by the Estate.

At a suggestion from the Parish Council, trees were planted along the northern boundary of the Gasrec site to obscure the machinery and plant from the A25. The source of the light pollution that has been very visible was actually behind Gasrec. Sensors have now been installed to help with this.



A copy of the approved planting plan Cllr. Peter Gellatly, APC Planning

Attention Dog Owners

The dreaded **Alabama Rot** seems to have reared it's head in this area!

Unfortunately, this rare kidney disease carries just a 20% survival rate, so it is important to be extra vigilant when checking your dogs after walks in the countryside. Any cut, lesion, break in the skin or swelling should be shown to your vet straight away - a blood test can check for any signs of kidney failure. These symptoms collectively would indicate the presence of Alabama Rot.

A local dog is presently being treated at Anderson Moores, the leading experts based in the New Forest, however, even they confess there seems to be no common factors of how the disease is transmitted. For further information go to: www.andersonmoores.com/vet/news

The Old Mill bus-stop, uncovered, but don't get too excited!

After five years of bureaucratic frustration, everything is in place to restore the Old Mill bus-stop by creating a small Passenger Refuge with a cantilever structure on the south bank of the mill race. However, there has been a last minute unreasonable wrangle by the original developer. **They have withdrawn their permission for this Passenger Refuge to go ahead.**



After removing the self-seeded sycamore the old bus stop is revealed!

Surrey County Highways are now looking at their legal statutory regulations to see if it is possible to go ahead, with or without the developer's permission.

Roy Hogben Community Development

A Helping Hand.....

Michael Woodhatch has again kindly offered to do small odd jobs, free of charge, for any elderly parishioners who need help. Please make direct contact with him: **01483 202 319**.