



# ALBURY MATTERS

The Albury Parish Council Newsletter

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

## FROM THE PARISH CLERK

Over the last few years, the Parish Council has been able to achieve an increase in Precept (the money we receive from the Borough Council which is taken from your Council Tax) of 2% or less, whilst still fulfilling our obligations to provide new facilities for the parish. In the last eighteen months, we have refurbished the Village Hall, installing a fully equipped disabled toilet and provided a much improved kitchen and toilet in the Library. We have also installed a new multi play facility in the Recreation Ground. We continue to look after the pond and common on Farley Green, maintain verges and grassed areas throughout the village and liaise with Borough and County Council on matters that affect us all.

We support local organisations and initiatives, and have recently given a grant to SALV (Shere and Local Villages Health Trust) and one to B4SH who are working to provide broadband to the Surrey Hills. We also support the Parish Church, the Hurtwood, Surrey Air Ambulance and the Saxon Old Church. The Parish Council term comes to an end with elections on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, when all members must be re-elected for their seats on council and new members are welcome. If you are interested in learning more about getting involved, please get in touch with me:

Joanna Cadman, Parish Clerk  
 clerk@alburyparish.info  
 07711 566458

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that despite changes, the council retains equilibrium and continues to move forward in the best interests of the parish. As Chairman I think it is very important for me to hear, first hand, what you think and what you want to see happen. To this end I now hold a council "surgery" session on the second and fourth Monday of the month in the Memorial Library from 2pm - 3pm.

Newlands Corner is a precious landmark site in our parish. We made strong representation to Surrey County Council (SCC), objecting to their proposals for over development. SCC have stated that income from car parking charges will be used to fund improvement to the facilities and maintenance of Newlands Corner, but this has yet to be demonstrated. We continue to challenge SCC to demonstrate how and when they will honour this commitment.



Traffic within the parish will continue to increase as new housing development in Ewhurst, Cranleigh and Dunsfold comes on stream. This issue affects the entire parish and we are working with SCC Highways Department to find ways to alleviate the impact. Sadly, to date, traffic calming measures in The Street have failed to reduce traffic speeds. Hopefully, the newly installed VAS (vehicle activated sign) will be more effective and provide much needed traffic data to help us develop further measures.

We now have a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee comprised of local residents who are ready to start work on our Plan. This very exciting opportunity will enable us to develop a vision for the parish for the next 15 years. The project cannot progress without public engagement so I urge everyone to "have their say" when the consultation process begins.

It is very encouraging to see the growth of local business in the parish and the council has given a grant to B4SH (Broadband for the Surrey Hills) to support the introduction of superfast broadband. Going forward we will be setting up a Local Business Forum where a cross fertilisation of ideas and opportunities can be explored.

Since 2012 the prospect of the Royal Mail closing the Sorting Office has threatened the viability of our village Post Office. The Parish Council has always, and will remain, strongly supportive of Pratt's Stores, and the retention of the Sorting and Post Offices. We are delighted that in response to recent letters from the Estate and Parish Council, Royal Mail have confirmed that they currently have no plans to close the Sorting Office in the foreseeable future. When the fishing shop became vacant last year, Hari was asked if he would open a new general store on the site, but he chose to stay at Pratt Stores. This led to a period of uncertainty, and we were delighted when Albury Village Stores opened in the village. It fulfils the need identified by residents in the 2012 Parish Plan for a shop that provides a wider range of goods, and it has parking. Many local villages have more than one shop which exist side by side and thrive. I encourage all of us to support both our local shops. *John Rowland APC Chairman*



## ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The Parish Council Annual Assembly will take place on Monday April 15 at 7pm in the Village Hall. It's a great event for parishioners to hear what's happening, put forward suggestions and seek answers to questions.

In addition to the Mayor, our Parish Councillors, our Borough and County Councillors attend and we have updates from many of the community groups and associations within the parish. This year we will also have speakers from SALV and B4SH who will be able to tell us the latest on where high speed internet will be installed in the parish.

## LITTER PICKERS



On the morning of Sunday 10 March a happy band of litter pickers assembled at the Cricket Pavilion car park in response to an advert in the Parish Magazine, and word of mouth.

I would like to acknowledge those who gave up a couple of hours to rid our local area of litter and various large items that had been dumped. Michael Bound, Graham Cook, Georgie Field, Geraldine Firth, Helen Mills, Caroline Grayburn, Alice Purvis, David Small, Pat Webb, Barbara Watkinson, Paul Yeoman, Sarah and Alan Whitefield, Roger and Pam, the parish owes you a vote of thanks. *John Brockwell, APC*

## HIGH SPEED BROADBAND

Broadband for the Surrey Hills are currently expanding their superfast broadband through the parish, but they report low levels of interest in Albury village. To date they are only including Weston Yard! If you are interested and don't want to be left out, then please contact them as soon as possible on [www.gigupanddown.net](http://www.gigupanddown.net).



During the autumn of 2018 a group of local residents formed the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. It will be their responsibility to give direction to the process of our plan. A new Housing Needs Survey was commissioned and it confirms the need for a small number of affordable homes. The average sale price for smaller houses in the parish is £600,000 which makes buying open market housing difficult for young people and families. Affordable housing gives them the opportunity to start on the property ladder, and we need to keep our



young people in the community. Too many rural parishes are abandoned by local people when they can no longer afford to live in them, or when older residents move to be near their younger relatives, and a sense of community is lost.

However, building affordable homes represents a challenge for us. Albury Parish lies in the Green Belt and within the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which restricts development and confines it to Settlement Areas only. In our parish there is only one, and it's in Albury Village which is already densely developed, leaving little space for new homes. Unlike many of our neighbouring villages Albury has not been "inset" from the Green Belt in the Guildford Borough Local Plan, this means there is no anticipated provision for new housing, however we need to reflect on the outcome if we don't. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was updated by central government recently, and it appears to provide for limited affordable housing to be built in rural areas, but this conflicts with the Guildford Borough Plan.

At present, with the help of our NP Planning Consultant, we are trying to establish what, if any affordable housing can be built in the parish and where, and if we can restrict its allocation to our parishioners. Once we have clarification, the Steering Group will be able to include their recommendations in a report which will go out to all residents of the parish for public consultation. Ultimately it will be parishioners who make the decision on whether or not we can accommodate affordable housing.



We will continue to keep you posted. You will find more information on our NP website [www.alburyparishneighbourhoodplan.org](http://www.alburyparishneighbourhoodplan.org) *Sandra Dennis, Chair Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group*

[www.alburyparish.info](http://www.alburyparish.info)

**B4SH** | **BROADBAND  
FOR  
SURREY HILLS**

## RECREATION FACILITIES

We have a hidden gem in the parish! In Weston Fields there is a Recreation Ground. We have installed a new children's multi play climbing frame and are planning to expand this to include equipment for all ages in both the Recreation Ground and the Riverside Meadow. The Recreation Ground is ideally situated for residents in the village, but all parishioners are welcome to use it. Park in the Village Hall car park and access the Recreation Ground via Tuppens Alley and Weston Fields.



The spring and summer are also perfect to take advantage of the Tillingbourne Riverside Meadow which is on the opposite side of the river bank from the Village Hall. We have provided picnic tables and chairs, so just bring your picnic. *John Rowland, APC Chairman*

## NEW RESIDENTS WELCOME

Pat Webb is compiling an information pack for new residents which will contain information about Albury Parish and is designed to help newcomers settle into the parish comfortably.



The screenshot shows the Albury Parish Council website. At the top left is the council logo with the text 'Albury Parish Council' and 'Including Albury, Albury Heath, Brook, Farley Green, Little London and Newlands Corner'. To the right is a search bar labeled 'Search Site'. Below the search bar is contact information for the Parish Clerk: 'To contact the Parish Clerk: Tel: 01483 268627 or Email: clerk@alburyparish.info'. A large landscape image of trees and a field is featured below. A navigation menu includes 'to Albury', 'News', 'Parish Council', 'Planning', 'Village Hall', 'Parish Facilities', and 'Events'. The main content area has a heading 'Welcome to Albury Parish' followed by a paragraph: 'The Parish of Albury, in Surrey, is set in the middle of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, flanked by the North Downs Way and with the Tillingbourne River running through the village.' Below this is another paragraph: 'The parish has two churches, one set in the heart of the village and the other on Farley Green, both of which have a lively and active congregation. There is a popular village shop, and a village hall, run by the parish council for the benefit of the village.' To the right of the text is a small map and satellite view of the parish.

## PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

We decided to give the Parish Council website an overhaul and update. Apart from the contact details for Parish, Borough and County Councillors and our Parish Clerk, you can also find a wealth of other useful information including how to book the Village Hall and Allotments, Shere Surgery times, local shops and pub details, the dates of our parish council and planning meetings, where to find defibrillators and parish news. Check it out at [www.alburyparish.info](http://www.alburyparish.info).

## MAINTAINING OUR BEAUTIFUL PARISH

We work hard to maintain verges and open spaces for the enjoyment of the parish. The biggest job for council is grass cutting. The main areas are Farley Green and Albury Recreation Ground, the Riverside Meadow by the Village Hall, the grass as you enter Albury Heath and the Triangle at the top of Little London. A number of different contractors are employed to do the work and over the winter we have reviewed the contracts, so we get the best value for the community. Mat Hiley strims the footpaths and has done this for a few years and does an excellent job. I would like to make an appeal on his behalf; please don't allow your dogs to foul these paths. Mat has to use a strimmer to cut and it can be very unpleasant for him! Mat also does our general maintenance jobs such as keeping road grips cleared out, putting up signs etc. Last year we did a lot of work reconstructing those grips and it has worked a treat.

Another big project is Farley Green Pond. Several people contacted me about the overgrown state of the pond, so we undertook an inspection. It's clear that the pond has become very silted up with mud. I reported to council and we discussed having it dredged but the problem is the pond has a butyl liner so to put a machine in would be totally impractical. I consulted Land and Water Services and was told the pond is fed from mainly road run off which might have contaminated the silt. So to clean it would cost a lot of money. We are also restricted by the ponds wildlife inhabitants. So I have recommended to council that we hold off dredging the pond until it really needs doing. We have appointed a new contractor to manage the ponds upkeep and the plants in and around, so with better maintenance, and a better water flow we hope this will make a significant improvement.



I took over planting the roadside flower troughs in the village last year and I must thank people who have made lovely comments about them. I have a small team of volunteers who water for me and I thank them very much for their efforts to make such a lovely show. On this subject I would welcome a couple more if you have the time to do so. Please email me on [paul.yeoman.alburypc@gmail.com](mailto:paul.yeoman.alburypc@gmail.com) or call (07967 461090) if you can help. Once again last year we were winners in the Guildford in Bloom competition. We will enter again this year, and possibly the South & South East in Bloom Parishes in Bloom contest too. Fingers crossed! *Paul Yeoman, APC*



The Parish Council donated £2,000 to SALV a charity which raises money for Shere Surgery and of which I am a Trustee. Shere and Local Villages Health Trust was set up over 26 years ago, and helps improve and preserve the health of local people by assisting with the provisions and maintenance of medical equipment, fittings and furniture, training, (including the use of equipment and new technologies) and other medical and health care services. New SALV developments are reported in the Parish Magazine and we run two annual Open Evenings, in the spring and autumn. Specialist speakers address topical medical subjects such as childhood allergies, diabetes, obesity, nutrition and depression. An extremely successful evening was held last autumn when the doctors and other health care professionals introduced themselves and discussed changes at the surgery. Among the equipment and services provided by SALV are a replacement Ultrasound Scanner, a back-up generator, 24-hour cardiac and blood pressure monitors, a breast feeding cafe and a mental health initiative. *Pat Webb, APC*

## PARISH PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Committee meets every three weeks, to review new planning applications. Guildford's planning department have supplied all parish councils with equipment to enable us to view and discuss applications on-line at our meetings, which makes it is easier to see and discuss at the larger scale this provides us.

Members of the public are welcome to attend planning meetings, whether it's your own application or another. We meet at the Memorial Library, next to Albury Village Hall, on a Monday at 7.00pm. Meetings, along with the applications to be discussed, are advertised on the Parish Council notice boards. These are situated on the Library wall in the Village Hall car park, outside the builder's yard at Little London, in the bus shelter on Farley Green and at the Post Office. In the last year we have repeatedly complained to our Borough Councillors regarding the new development at Edgeley Park, and in particular the inconsiderate transportation of lodges on our narrow roads. *Peter Gellatly, APC*

## HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS

New Road has recently been resurfaced, the work having been delayed so that Southern Gas Networks could install a gas pipe from the Albury Well site to the main at the junction of Sherbourne and Shere Road (A25). We hope that the heavy vehicles using New Road will not further erode the nearside bank and create a gully as had previously happened.

Parishioners will hopefully have noticed the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) that has appeared on a post adjacent to Weston House. The VAS indicates the speed vehicles are travelling, recording the speed before the brakes are applied to any speeding vehicles. The equipment records the speed of vehicles, and also volumes of traffic, and even if the speed indicator appears not to be working it is still recording data. This will be used as an evidence base for continuing discussions with Surrey County Council regarding speeds and volumes of traffic in The Street.

## SHOP LOCAL

We are lucky to have two shops in Albury Village, and in order to keep them thriving we need to use them. Pratt's Stores contains our Post Office and supplies basic provisions, papers and magazines and is open Monday to Friday 7.30am - 5.30pm and on Saturday until 1pm. Albury Village Stores stocks a wider range of



fresh and locally sourced foods and general provisions including: meat from John Murray, fresh bread and cakes, meals from COOK and Surrey Spice and is open from 7am-7.30pm Monday-Saturday and 8am-2pm on Sunday. Free customer parking is in the Drummond car park, so why not pop by and have a coffee or lunch in the pub garden in the spring sunshine when you shop.



## CALLING THE GREEN FINGERED

We currently have a couple of allotments available. If you are interested contact the Parish Clerk on 01483 268627 or email at [clerk@alburyparish.info](mailto:clerk@alburyparish.info).

## THE VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall and Memorial Library continue to flourish. Despite the loss of two long time renters, we continue to attract new ones. The upgraded facilities are appreciated all.

## YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

John Rowland (Chairman) .....	07775 950744	<a href="mailto:john.rowland.alburypc@gmail.com">john.rowland.alburypc@gmail.com</a>
Grahame Robinson (Vice Chair) .....	01483 203704	<a href="mailto:grahame.robinson.alburypc@gmail.com">grahame.robinson.alburypc@gmail.com</a>
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Peter Gellatly (Planning/Environment Chair)	07902 608395	<a href="mailto:peter.gellatly.alburypc@gmail.com">peter.gellatly.alburypc@gmail.com</a>
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