



# ALBURY MATTERS

## The Albury Parish Council Newsletter

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

### The Parish Clerk

At the end of March, we say farewell to Joanna Cadman who has been Parish Clerk for 27 years. We are very grateful to Joanna for her dedicated service and wish her well for the future. Chloe Bishop-Wright (or Cj as she likes to be called) has joined as our new Parish Clerk. We are delighted to welcome her. Chloe can be contacted at

[cj.bishop@alburyparish.org](mailto:cj.bishop@alburyparish.org)



### From the Parish Council

It was with great sadness we learned of the death of our former Chairman John Rowland. John gave his time very generously to support the community and particularly enjoyed the rural countryside. We are indebted to him for upgrading the Recreation Ground and enhancing its fitness facilities. He is a great loss to the Parish Council, and we extend our sincere condolences to his family. All our meetings have now resumed at the Village Hall.

Recent heavy rain brought flooding in Westonfields and Surrey County Council (SCC) will inspect the drains that failed to cope with the capacity of water. SCC have also confirmed they will repair the “dips” on the A25 near Silent Pool car park. We await a date. Residents had requested the Parish Council plant a tree on Farley Green to commemorate the late Duke of Edinburgh which we have agreed to do. In addition, we are considering planting a further 7 trees, one to mark each decade of the Queen’s reign in recognition of her Platinum Jubilee.

**Please join us for the Annual Parish Meeting on April 11 - 7pm at the Village Hall**

### Dogs in the Recreation Ground

Some local residents are persistently exercising their dogs in the Recreation Ground in Westonfields and allowing their dogs to foul. In addition to mess on the ground the rubbish bins are often full with dog poo bags. Please note **dogs are not allowed in the Recreation Ground under any circumstances.** This is because dogs can be intimidating, and dog faeces are very dangerous to children. Guildford Borough Council policy is clear. *“Dog fouling is an offence and carries a fine of up to £1,000. We visit areas that have been reported as fouled. You can report someone who does not clean up after their dog, or to let us know about an area that is fouled. All details are confidential.”* Report online at [www.guildford.gov.uk/article/24848/Dog-fouling](http://www.guildford.gov.uk/article/24848/Dog-fouling) This is a serious issue, and offenders will be reported to GBC.





The Village Hall and Memorial Library are once again open now that Covid restrictions have eased. Booking them is really easy and you can find prices and a booking form on our parish website [www.alburyparish.org](http://www.alburyparish.org) or contact our Parish Clerk on [clerk@alburyparish.org](mailto:clerk@alburyparish.org) or call 0785 6010600. Our allotments in the village also have a couple of vacancies at present and it's the ideal time to get planting. Again, you can find prices and details on the parish website or by contacting the Parish Clerk.

## Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)



*Photo: Isphi Blatchley*

OPM was accidentally introduced to the UK in 2005, it spread rapidly and has now been found locally. This has resulted in the Forestry Commission revising and upgrading its advice for OPM in our area, placing onus on the public for vigilance, reporting sightings and management by tree owners. It may not be possible to eradicate OPM from the UK and limiting its spread is important because OPM could seriously impact our enjoyment of the countryside. The moth isn't the problem, but its caterpillars and nests. The caterpillars have thousands of tiny hairs that are blown in the wind. They cause skin rashes, serious allergic reactions and sore throats and breathing difficulty if you inhale the hairs. Nests can fall to the ground, so animals are susceptible too. The greatest risk period is May-July, but hairs can remain in old nests all year.

*Photo: Isphi Blatchley*



The Forestry Commission advice is clear:

- Keep yourself, children and animals away from OPM caterpillars and nests and report sightings
- If you are in contact with OPM call NHS 111, a pharmacist or visit a hospital.
- Animals in contact with OPM should visit a vet
- Oak tree owners must inspect trees for OPM regularly from a safe distance. Find out how at [www.gov.uk/guidance/oak-processionary-moth-plan-and-manage-risks](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/oak-processionary-moth-plan-and-manage-risks)
- Never remove a nest or caterpillars yourself. Contact a professional contractor for removal. Find them on the Arboricultural Association website [www.trees.org.uk/ARB-Approved-Contractor-Directory](http://www.trees.org.uk/ARB-Approved-Contractor-Directory)
- If you find OPM anywhere advise the landowner
- Report an infestation on the Forestry Commission website, so the spread of OPM can be monitored [www.treelert.forestresearch.gov.uk](http://www.treelert.forestresearch.gov.uk) You will need to upload a clear, well-lit photograph

The public should familiarise themselves with what each stage of the OPM lifecycle looks like. You can do this on the Forestry Commission website: [www.forestresearch.gov.uk](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk) This site also has a useful manual for owners of Oak trees.



## The Parish Council Annual Assembly

We are delighted to announce that the Annual Parish meeting will take place at the Village Hall at 7pm on Monday April 11th. There will be speakers and updates from local organisations and a chance to meet and catch up once again. Refreshments will be available. All parishioners are welcome to attend. Please join us.

### Ambulance Bikers

Have you seen these guys locally? Philip Morris and Matt Atkinson from Holmbury St. Mary, have set up a volunteer medical response unit, supported by St. John's Ambulance and the 999 service. They ride to medical emergencies faster than traditional services, for off road or inaccessible places across the Surrey Hills. Self-funded, they've invested over £20,000 buying medical equipment. Recently they crowdfunded and bought a portable AED (defibrillator) and have been supported by Shere Cinema.



In the last 5 months they have attended over 50 incidents initiated by 999 calls – from Ranmore Common, Leith Hill, Gomshall, Peaslake, to Albury. Four incidents required the attendance of the Air Ambulance and without their timely intervention more air ambulance call outs would have been needed, which cost at least £1,700 per hour.

When out and about you may see their ATV's (All Terrain Vehicles). Their green lights are only used when off-road to warn people of their presence and they wear yellow high-viz. Phil is a trained Community First Aider including cardiac response. Matt is his logistics “side-kick” supporting with transport and co-ordinating medical services.

Albury PC are working with Phil and Matt to extend their volunteer service and gain access to private land across the Surrey Hills that would otherwise be inaccessible to them – thus reducing the time to get to incidents and help save lives.

### Contact the Parish Council

Find contact details for Albury Parish Councillors and our Parish Clerk on the Parish Council website [www.alburyparish.org](http://www.alburyparish.org) or call our Clerk Cj Bishop-Wright on 0785 6010600

## B4SH Update and Walter Willcox



The steady rollout of fibre broadband across Albury and Farley Green has continued and includes connecting Albury Parish Church providing free service. Work will carry on through the first half of 2022. We'll give an update on B4SH success in the next edition but recent events focused on Walter Willcox.

Walter has been a stalwart of Albury and Farley Green life for many years. His wanderings around the villages, the William IV, and Friday feature Albury cricket BBQ form a lasting memory.

*"He was a Legend"* said one resident – a fitting epithet. Walter had conviction, drive and passion, but his lasting legacy for Albury and the North shows the man he really was.

His frustrations with existing telecoms companies and their lack of support for rural communities led him to Broadband for the Rural North (B4RN) in Lancashire and the creation of Broadband for the Surrey Hills (B4SH) delivering a faster and more reliable broadband service. He has weaved fibre into both environments to reach properties that never dreamt of having such connection. Future generations will look back at his foresight and those involved remember his enthusiasm and get it done attitude.

This YouTube gives you the picture of the man. <https://youtu.be/aHJ2QjGE53E>

## Climate and Environment Update by The Tillingbourne. Earth Team



Our new website and social media platforms are now live for the latest news/events. Our vision remains to establish and support local solutions to climate change and enhance nature through active community collaboration ... and have fun! Check out - [www.tillingbourne.earth](http://www.tillingbourne.earth)

**Garbage Gang** – litter picking across Albury, Gomshall and Shere. Help out or get support to start your own group via the WhatsApp Group. Use the QR code to join.

Free **Thermal Imaging Service** finds ways to better insulate homes and save money. Find out more and book an appointment on our website.

New developments soon around **Eco Schools** and **Expression through Art** projects which engage younger age groups at school and outside.

Finally, don't miss our free **Green Outdoor Cinema** at Albury Sports Grounds showing family movies with an environmental theme! Sign up to find out about the first date in the Spring.

