

WINTER



Blackheath • Shamley Green • Wonersh Newsletter • 2015/16

QUARTERLY CIVIL PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Some important changes took place in the structure of the Council over the Festive Period. As reported in the autumn newsletter Kevin Garvey who had served as the Parish Clerk for almost 6 years decided to retire. The Council sought a replacement to start before Kevin left in order to ensure a smooth changeover and were delighted to be able to appoint John Aldworth before Christmas. This also allowed Councillors to bid farewell to Kevin and to welcome John at a Christmas Social held at the Bricklayers Arms in Shamley Green.

There was also a change in Council Chairman when Councillor Anne Powell-Evans handed over to Councillor Peter Neve.



"The new Parish Council Chairman"

"I was rather unexpectedly elected as Chairman of the Parish Council last November after Anne Powell-Evans resigned due to personal commitments. Having previously been a Parish Councillor from 2000 to 2007, I had a pretty good idea of what to expect, but even so it has been a steep learning curve. At almost exactly the same

time, we also changed Parish Clerks, with John Aldworth taking over from Kevin Garvey. So John and I have been learning together. Special thanks are due to Anne and Kevin for all their hard work for the Parish over the last 6 years and thanks to both of them for helping guide John and myself through the handover process.

My family moved to Wonersh in 1995 with 2 small children aged 6 months and 2 years. My wife Nina and I have enjoyed living here so much that the time has flown past over the last 20 years in a really scary fashion. I love the countryside in and around the Parish, being a keen off-road biker, walker and amateur bird watcher. As one of the volunteers working on Gerald's Wood in Wonersh I have been helping turn this long neglected area into an interesting corner of the Parish to visit.

I am particularly enthusiastic about projects that help reduce traffic speeds and improve pedestrian safety in our villages. I am very pleased that we now have joint Resident/Parish Council Traffic Calming Working Parties in all three villages. It has also been very satisfying to see the Council investing in maintaining the two playgrounds in the Parish to ensure they meet the latest safety standards, which along with the many other activities of the council help make life in Blackheath, Shamley Green and Wonersh so enjoyable and rewarding.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the other Councillors if you have suggestions or issues for the Parish Council involvement. I would also ask you to come to the next Parish Annual assembly, which this year is being held in Blackheath village hall on Thursday 21st April - it would be great to see you there."

WELCOME TO THE NEW CLERK

JOHN ALDWORTH



"I was very pleased to be offered the job of Clerk to Wonersh Parish Council, although I realise that Kevin Garvey, will be a hard act to follow. I should like

to say, at the start, that I am extremely grateful to Kevin for his guidance and support, and I wish him well in his semi-retirement.

As to my background, I have lived in Surrey since I was 3 months old. I grew up in Shalford and moved to Wonersh, with my wife, in 1996.

I worked for central government until 2011, initially working on a wide variety of national and regional policies, including housing and inner city regeneration. In 1991, I decided to focus my attention on land-use planning, which I found to be both challenging and rewarding, at national, regional and local levels.

I look forward to supporting the Parish Council in its work, and to the challenges that I will no doubt face in my new role."

DIARY DATE

The Annual Parish Assembly will take place at Blackheath Village Hall on Thursday 21 April at 7.30pm. All residents of Blackheath, Shamley Green & Wonersh are invited to discuss matters of local interest and concern.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WONERSH PLAYGROUND



Early in the new year improvements were made to the playground in Wonersh. New wooden surrounds were installed and the bark replaced to the required depth of 30cm. This completes all the ground work necessary and the council are awaiting estimates for bringing some items of the equipment up to date. However, parents are advised that for safety reasons, dogs are not allowed in the play area and notices will shortly be erected to reinforce this rule".



CALLING ALL WALKERS AND RIDERS

Cllr. Victoria Young has kindly agreed to introduce the 'Footpaths and Bridleways Volunteer Warden Scheme' at the Annual Parish Assembly on 21st April to be held at 7.30p.m. at Blackheath Village Hall.

The scheme provides volunteering opportunities for local walkers and riders to monitor the condition of footpaths and bridleways, with incorporation of minor clearance work, within the Parish.

Cllr. Helen Kendall will be Team Leader for this project and plans to sign up interested volunteers for training either at the Annual Assembly or via email.

In parallel, WPC is carrying out a feasibility study with a view to introducing 'Localism', i.e. the provision of a direct grant from SCC to the Parish Council, to enable it to make its own arrangements via local contractors for some repairs and maintenance work.

THE PARISH COUNCIL WORKING WITH SURREY POLICE

For many years the Council has maintained an excellent working rapport with our "local Police". Policing practices change but the Council remains eager to maintain a close and mutually beneficial relationship. Cllr Rod Weale, himself a former Police Officer, represented the Council at the recent "Crime Summit" hosted by Police and Crime Commissioner Kevin Hurley and subsequently met with Sgt Melanie Sefton a member of the local Policing Team. There are to be changes to the way that the area is policed and these will be reported in the next edition.

Parish Council at the "Newcomers Event"

Shamley Green Councillor Helen Kendall led the Council presence at the Newcomers Event held on February 9th at the Arbuthnot Hall. The event looks to introduce villagers who have recently arrived in the community to Clubs, associations and local organizations.

Councillor Kendall was very complimentary about the event. "The evening offered a warm welcome and encouragement to join the many organisations at the heart of village life". Our photo shows Cllr Kendall with the display board on which the Council explained some of the projects and responsibilities it undertakes.



KEEPING SAFE

Some excellent advice on how to stay safe from scams and fraudsters has been sent to the Council from our Local Association of Parish Councils. Worth a quick look.

whocanyoutrust.org.uk

The Parish Office at the Sports Pavilion, Wonersh Common, is open every Thursday between 1.30 & 4 pm. Or contact the Clerk, John Aldworth on 01483 892601 or at clerk@wonershparish.org. Please check the village noticeboards for details of meetings. And take a look at our electronic noticeboard on our website www.wonershparish.org and let us know what you think, especially if you have ideas for improvements.