

## **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2016**

**MINUTES** of the **BETCHWORTH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held on **MONDAY 18th April 2016**, in the Geoffrey Browne Room of the Betchworth Village war Memorial Hall at 7:45pm.

#### **1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

The Chairman (Julie Hardy) welcomed everyone to the Meeting and particularly the invited guests. The total attendance amounted to 38 people.

#### **2. RESPONSE BY MVDC CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Margaret Cooksey did not attend as council is in run up to elections.

#### **3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Sir Paul Beresford, Mole Valley District Councillor Margaret Cooksey, Corinna the Lady Hamilton, Councillor Charmian Stowe, Gill Sperrin (Barley Mow Residents Association), Jane Douglass (Head, North Downs Primary School), Councillor Ian Docwra, Alison Higgins (Betchworth & Buckland Children's Nursery).

#### **4. SURREY POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Dave Sadler gave a brief update. Betchworth continues a very low crime area with 17 crimes reported in the last year, three of which were at the Shell garage. Following the recent reorganisation, while there is no longer a neighbourhood office, dedicated officers will continue to cover rural areas, and the desk at Mole Valley offices at Pippbrook is retained. Police can be contacted using the 101 number or on 01483 630370, email [molevalley@surrey.pnn.police.uk](mailto:molevalley@surrey.pnn.police.uk).

#### **5. TALK BY ALEX BAGNALL**

Alex Bagnall gave a riveting talk about the Deepdene Trail, the Mole Valley project relinking the Deepdene estate in Dorking. Once a large estate owned by Thomas Hope, arbiter of regency taste and boasting one of the earliest Italian gardens in the country, the estate was sold off, the house demolished in the '60s, and the mausoleum buried. Following a revival of interest in Thomas Hope, and a £1mn lottery grant, the Grade 2\* mausoleum's restoration is nearing completion and paths through the landscape are being sensitively reopened. Anyone interested in helping can join the volunteer group 'Friends of Deepdene'. The coade stone statue of a lion has been located in Jersey and replacement copies are being made. There is also a project to collect memories of Deepdene, a NADFAS sponsored childrens' competition and a website, including a digital recreation of the Deepdene in 1825. The project will feature on Countryfile in July.

#### **6. MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2015**

Copies of the minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. They were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

## **7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Julie Hardy gave the following report:

The Annual Parish Meeting gives us the opportunity to tell parishioners what the Parish Council has been doing, on their behalf, over the past year, so it is lovely to see so many of you here. A previous regular attendee, Gordon Hill, sadly died in November. Gordon was very supportive of the Parish Council, often had a pertinent question to ask and we miss him.

This meeting also gives me a chance to thank some of the people who work so hard for our village.

I must first mention Jacquie Sims, our Parish clerk who resigned in September to much consternation among the councillors. Jacquie did sterling work keeping us all in order and we are very grateful to her. We were extremely lucky however, that Adria Kinloch was looking for a Parish Clerk role. Adria is a Parish Councillor in Leigh and knows exactly what Parish Councillors are like, so we are delighted that she has joined us.

Next, of course, I must thank the rest of the council; Ian Wilson, Martin Higgins, Charmian Stow, Ian Docwra and Hilary Edwards. Hilary joined us in November and has immediately been pressed into organising the Crazy Crown tea party on the Goulburn Green; more of that later. I am very grateful to the support that the other councillors give me, and I include here Andrew Taylor and Richard Savill who have both had to stand down from the council over this past year.

We are delighted to have appointed Bernard Hawkins as our designated Burial Ground caretaker. Bernard also supervised the second phase of the resurfacing of the church path and will be giving his own report.

Deserving of a special mention is the fabulous John Foreman, our footpath officer.... and part time bartender. John looks after the footpaths, repairs fences and stiles, reports fly tipping and organises the twice yearly litter picks. He also had the glass replaced in the telephone box opposite the Dolphin when it was vandalised at New Year. He has had help this year from Rick Lawrence after a plea in the Parish magazine

I am sure that you are aware that the agenda and minutes of all our meetings are posted on the three village notice boards, as well as on the Betchworth village website, along with information about events and societies. We are hoping to set up a new website soon which is more user-friendly, and we would like some recent local photos to go on it, so please send them to Adria if you have any.

We would also urge you to join the village email list for up to date news if you have not done so already.

At the Annual Parish Meeting two years ago we were asked to look again into the possibility of a small play provision on the Goulburn Green. This has taken up a lot of our time. We held a public meeting in September and then had a village-wide vote which attracted attention from local and national press! 85% of those eligible to vote were in favour. The money for the equipment is especially designated money for play provision from Mole Valley District Council and we are also delighted to have had a donation from the Betchworth and Buckland Society.

We have had the holly and laurel pruned, the fence fixed, and we very much hope that our small scale swings and slide frame will be in place before the Crazy Crown tea party on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Talking about the Goulburn Green, I would like to thank the WI who have planted a small fruit tree to replace one that was rotten and fell. The other fruit trees have also had a well overdue prune.

We have had the usual couple of dozen planning applications and appeals to inspect and we have commented to Mole Valley District Council where appropriate with expert advice from Martin and Richard.

Gatwick is often on our agenda, and we have attended meetings about flight paths and the proposed second runway. There looks to be some resolution about the flight paths but we will monitor the situation carefully. The second runway issue may be decided upon this summer, so we will need to be vigilant. We continue to support organisations such as The Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign and Plane Wrong.

We ran a 'Heartstart' course where 20 parishioners learnt CPR and other lifesaving skills. There seems to be enough interest to put another course on and we will send out a village email about it and put it in the Parish magazine. We have applied for a defibrillator to be put on the outside wall of Betchworth Village Hall for easy access in an emergency and are awaiting funding from the British Heart Foundation for this.

We have joined with the Hamilton Estate to have a new water supply to the Burial Ground and allotments after many repairs, mainly by John and Ian, to leaks in the old supply.

We are still waiting for Pebble Hill to be closed again for more resurfacing and perhaps some traffic calming measures. There is a problem with the drain in Station Road between the roundabout and the station which needs investigation as I'm sure most of you have noticed, and the path from there up to the Coombe is also awaiting some attention. However, the Street has been resurfaced and although we still need to address the problem of the sloping pavements, which have needed attention for years, it looks much better.

The Parish Council has been asked to help residents who live on Leigh Road near the Atlantico car wash and who have been suffering intolerable noise and water pollution. We have supported their claims to Mole Valley and the Environment agency and hope for a resolution to this ongoing problem.

I am sure that you will be interested to hear that the sand extraction in the Common Field is well ahead of schedule. They expect to finish the extraction at the end of summer 2017 although the land filling will take another four to five years.

So, a busy and quite a productive year for the Parish Council and the same, I expect, for our village organisations whose reports we will hear after Adria takes us through the accounts.

#### **8. BETCHWORTH PARISH ACCOUNTS 2015/16**

The draft accounts were displayed. Adria Kinloch briefly reviewed income and expenditure over the past year.

#### **9. BETCHWORTH UNITED CHARITIES**

Carol Coslett provided a report in Andrea Brown's absence:

During 2015, the Trustees of Betchworth United Charities continued the various benevolent activities as approved by the Charity Commission. The assistance consists mainly of making grants of money or providing appropriate items, services or facilities to residents of Betchworth and Brockham who are elderly, in need or suffering hardship or distress. Small grants are also awarded for educational purposes.

The majority of the BUC's income comes from The Henry Smith Charity. It requires that only the equivalent of one year's grant (currently £12,075) can be held in reserve. I am pleased to announce that The Henry Smith Charity has agreed our grant for 2015 to the sum of £12,075.00.

The only other assets of BUC are the result of several small ancient bequests held in an investment account.

The Trustees met three times during 2015 to review cases of need in the Parishes of Betchworth and Brockham.

Figures can be found in the accounts and cover grants for specific cases of need and helped to make the life of severely disabled, terminally ill, and elderly parishioners more comfortable or enjoyable. Christmas gift vouchers and birthday cards for residents of Broome Park and Old Wall Cottage were given. Local beneficiaries of around 35 people received payments in June and December.

The Trustees look forward to continuing their work in the coming year. Further information about Betchworth United Charities along with contact details can be found on the village websites.

#### **10. REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS**

Representatives of the following local organizations gave verbal reports.

**Barley Mow Residents Association.**

The following report provided by Gill Sperrin, Secretary of BMCRA, was read by the clerk:

It has now been 2 years since the entrance to the lorry yard that was shared with the Barley Mow Court entrance was closed. The Moores replaced the fence separating the yard from Barley Mow Court in March 2016, but we are still awaiting the planting of shrubs to mask the old entrance and to create a better barrier between the close and the yard.

There is less noise, light, and dust pollution now, but we are still waiting for the sign to be removed at the old entrance, and for the 'Old Reigate Road' address in the Parish magazine advert to be updated to the A25 entrance, as lorries still come into Barley Mow Court looking for the yard.

We are still disturbed by noise on occasion, as early as 6am and at weekends, despite the working hours for the site being from 7am to 6pm weekdays and 7am to 1pm Saturdays only (not Sundays/Bank Holidays).

The fencing that separates the Old Barley Mow Pub site from the Old Reigate Road has been repaired, and a new fence has been erected to block off the site, as it is hazardous because of the open cellar that still remains. Unfortunately, the occasional fly tipping occurs, despite the fencing. Nevertheless, life at Barley Mow Court has definitely improved!

### **Betchworth Archives**

Karen Wilson gave the following report:

Last November we lost our most stalwart supporter – Gordon Hill. It is not an exaggeration to say that without Gordon's keen desire to ensure that the materials collected by Meg Ryan were properly conserved, they would be still languishing, uncatalogued, in an unsuitable environment. Gordon gave us (Jane Le Cluse, Diana North and myself) unconditional support; he and Rhona would visit us every Tuesday in the Hamilton Room as we beavered away at the cataloguing and he came to every exhibition at least twice! Like so many people in the village, we miss him.

We continue our regular work at the Archives. We are in the Hamilton Room every Tuesday in summer and every other Tuesday during the winter months. Alongside cataloguing documents and photographs, we work on our annual exhibitions. Last year's exhibition 'Medieval Betchworth' was extremely successful; much of it was based on Jane's translation of the court rolls, and it revealed fascinating details life in Betchworth (and Brockham) from 1066 to 1485.

Our exhibition this year will be held in just under three weeks' time on May 7th and 8th in the Hamilton Room. It is exactly 200 years since Henry Goulburn bought Betchworth House and we have been working for the last few months in the Betchworth House archives with the kind permission of Lady Hamilton. We hope to highlight the lives of some of the Goulburns who have lived in Betchworth House through a selection of the many documents, photos and

delightful sketchbooks that are contained there. Entry is free and all are welcome!

### **Betchworth & Buckland Children's Nursery**

Alison Higgins sent apologies

### **Betchworth & Buckland Society**

Trevor Cooke gave the following report:

It was a busy year for the Betchworth and Buckland Society with 104 households signed up and paid (£10 per household). The Society is best known for its programme of events, but engagement in a number of locally important issues have occupied the committee since the last village meeting, including:

- Flanchford Solar Farm
- Threats to Reigate Heath's SSSI status
- Park/Tapwood pits (represented on Buckland Liaison Group)
- Gatwick Airport issues (members and funders of the GACC and Plane Wrong) – which is still the possible choice for airport expansion in the South East
- Monitoring of the Parish Council minutes in both Betchworth and Buckland to ensure that the Society plays its part in community issues.
- Financial support for a variety of local events and initiatives:
  - FABB Group children's' Christmas party*
  - Buckland Reading Room refurbishment*
  - Tadworth Children's Trust*
  - Goulburn Green play area*

In addition to responding to specific local funding requests, the Society aims to distribute 40% of event profits to local charities.

There is also a full Social Diary and since the last Betchworth Village meeting the Society has organised and hosted:

- AGM in May – guest speaker Tim Murphy (Chairman CPRE)
- Summer BBQ – Buckland Village Green
- Autumn Lecture October – Sir Brian Unwin (Fanny Burney and the French Connection)
- Annual Dinner – RHGC
- Christmas Drinks Party – Buckland Reading Room
- Quiz Night – 2016 - Betchworth Memorial Hall (Charles Hardy Quizmaster)
- Valuations Tea Party 2016 – Betchworth Memorial Hall - Steven Stockton, Senior General Valuer, Bonhams.

All events have proved very popular and have been well attended.

However, the main message to Betchworth tonight is that the Society started as the Betchworth Society in the fifties and Buckland only added later. Betchworth represents at least 60% of the Society's catchment area, but is only 40% of the membership. Also, the Committee is unbalanced. After the departure of Julie Hardy (to become Chair of the PC) and Patricia Moss (moved away) we were lucky enough to have the services of Charmian Stow, as the representative of the Betchworth PC and Vice Chairman, and more recently Jackie Ellson and David Lynch, both from Betchworth. However, those are only 3 out of 11 committee members, the others from Buckland or (the Chairman) Reigate. We really want to hear from Betchworth members who would like to be candidates for the Society's Committee.

Also, if you are not a member, this is your chance to get the Betchworth batting average up. Membership forms available. Thank you.

### **Betchworth Burial Ground**

Bernard Hawkins gave the following report:

It is perhaps a little incongruous to report that it has been a good year for the Burial Ground. However, there have been a number of significant changes this year which I would like to mention: -

- With Jaquie's resignation we have reverted to having a Burial Ground Caretaker. This is a role which differs significantly from John Bylett's stewardship, and who was the previous holder of this office. I have been undertaking this duty for the last six months.
- The Jubilee Pavilion (conceived in 2012) has at last been completed, and we now have some shelter in the Burial Ground along with a lovely spot to sit and embrace the beauty and the tranquillity of this peaceful location. *Note a few folk still miss the old green corrugated shed which had been there for some 60 years*
- Much of the ivy clambering over the Walled Garden wall has been removed and the area generally tidied up
- The problems with the water supply for the Burial Ground and the adjacent allotments are very nearly solved with the installation, in conjunction with the Goulburn Estate, of a new water main.
- Income from our eleven Burials in the year has neatly exceeded our maintenance expenditure, and as a result of the interments in the last 3 months of the year we start the year with some £1500 in hand

I must leave you to decide if it has actually been a good year, or not, for our Burial Ground.

### **Betchworth Decorative and Fine Arts Society**

Ian Caldwell gave the following report

Over the past year we have held ten lectures on different aspects of the arts at the hall and last year we included an extra Charity lecture in December, Designing Costumes for Film and Television, given by one of our members, which raised around £1,800 for the Shooting Stars Children's Hospice. We also held a Special Interest Day in January, How Time was Told Through the Ages, with three lectures and with a lunch in the Geoffrey Brown Room.

With around 150 people attending our lectures we have parking problems and have wondered if there is any possibility of purchasing more land and extending the car park. We also wonder if we could have some specially designated disabled parking spaces in the car park.

We contributed £1,760 towards the new overhead projector and the sound loop system.

### **Betchworth Operatic and Dramatic Society (BODS)**

Pam Patch gave the following report:

It has been a memorable year for BODS in that we won the National Operatic and Dramatic Association's award for the best musical production in our region of the South East. This was for our November 2015 presentation of "The Beggar's Opera" by John Gay, the first opera to be written in English.

Our spring revue made up of a comedy thriller and a musical medley was well received, as was Gilbert and Sullivan's masterpiece "The Yeomen of the Guard" which combined drama and beautiful music in November. We were looking to expand our line up of beefeaters and in the process managed to recruit our vicar, Carol Coslett, as a member of the chorus — one of the ladies on Tower Green.

This year we celebrate our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary continuing the proud record of music and drama in the village. Rehearsals are well under way for our May drama production of "Mixed Doubles", an entertainment on marriage which includes short plays by Alan Ayckbourn and other famous authors. Several members put on one of the plays in last week's drama festival at the Harlequin theatre in Redhill and did very well, so we look forward to the whole programme. "Silas Marner", a new operetta based on George Elliot's famous book will be our November production, with an introductory talk and music here on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June. Please come along if you are interested in joining us: we are always pleased to welcome new people to our friendly group whether in an onstage or off-stage capacity. There are always plenty of jobs to do, from set construction through to costume and make-up, and very important front of house duties.

Social functions in the shape of a Christmas after show party and an auction of promises, plus a cabaret and quiz evening meant that we raised enough funds to pay for a new extension to the stage here, cutting out the ever present and unwelcome noises of many feet should the company venture forward. Sadly we lost our oldest member Mary Street MBE, who lived in Betchworth for 85 years, sang in all the Gilbert and Sullivan productions of the time and was a strong supporter. Her favourite G & S melodies were played at her recent funeral attended by many old friends from BODS Our drama production "Mixed Doubles" runs from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May and this year, for the



first time, will take place at North Downs Primary School, Brockham, starting at 7.45 p.m. We will be back to normal here for our November production of "Silas Marner" and hope to see you at both shows.

### **Betchworth Parish Crockery**

Councillor Julie Hardy gave the following report:

In the last year, the hire of crockery and cutlery has raised £155 for church funds. However, the most exciting news is that after 22 years of being stored at Ravenleigh, the crockery and cutlery will be rehoused in the village hall, making it easier for people who have hired the hall to use it. A huge thank you to the Village Hall committee and especially to John Maud for reinforcing the shelves to take the weight.

I will still hire it out to raise money for the church, so if anyone needs the crockery or cutlery from the Village Hall, or the tablecloths, table runners, candle holders and tea light holders still kept at Ravenleigh, my details are on the Betchworth Parish website, or the back of the Parish magazine.

### **Betchworth Parish Magazine**

Ros Rokison gave the following report:

There has been a Parish Magazine in Betchworth since 1892! Beautifully bound copies of all these magazines can be viewed in the Hamilton Room. Parishioners and their helpers have always run the collating of articles, editing and publishing the magazine on a voluntary basis. Printing has always been done by an outside firm.

The magazine's aim is to give information to and about the whole village. As well as Church matters we report on village activities such as the Parish Council, WI, North Downs Primary School and the Betchworth and Buckland Society. It also embraces any local, non political, news, events and activities that it is felt might be of interest to the readers. We are always delighted to receive articles, including photos if relevant, which would be of interest to parishioners for possible inclusion in the magazine. Several copies have now been complemented by colour photographs.

Articles for the magazine now arrive almost exclusively by email to [betchworthmag@hotmail.com](mailto:betchworthmag@hotmail.com), We also publish appropriate small ads from parishioners at a nominal cost for a limited number of issues, with proceeds going to church funds.

The magazine is delivered to every house in the village by an invaluable team of 32 people headed by Susie Redburn. Pam Armitage is the Chair of the Committee, Sarah Chalker is the Secretary. Bernard Hawkins, Jaquie Ellison and Karen Munroe deal with advertising and Bernard deals with the finances. Our editors, myself, Sian Winter and Joan Bird, have the task of collating, editing and sometimes retyping all the various articles.

Since David Hill has been unwell Jacquie Sims has been the main desk top publisher and she has been responsible for liaising with the printers. Unfortunately Jacquie will be leaving the village soon so I have now volunteered to act as a Desk top publisher as well as an Editor .I have produced three copies so far, under Jacquie's expert and patient guidance, and Alison Higgins has produced two editions, but we are now looking for two more DTPs.

The magazine continues to be very professional in its construction and production and this is thanks mainly to David Hill, who put down very strict guidelines as to how it should be done to the highest possible standard. Despite this we still make mistakes although we check and double check each month. We understand that thankfully David is feeling better and may be prepared to publish the occasional magazine if we have a problem. If anyone is interested in joining the team as a DTP we would be delighted to hear from you. The more people involved in the production of the magazine the easier it is for everyone involved. Training will be given if anyone is interested in joining us. In fact if we had a few more volunteers, our hard working team might even be able to take the occasional holiday now and then.

### **Betchworth Village War Memorial Hall**

Linda Slater gave the following report on behalf of Jean Hurman:

This has been another successful year although our revenue is slightly down on 2015 when we picked up a lot of extra booking due to other hall renovation projects. We are still very popular with Mums for their children's parties. The bookings we picked up due to the fire at Reigate Rugby club are still with us. I am pleased to say we still have our delightful booking of The Mulberry Club and our children's dance classes. We recently gained a new booking for a back clinic run by a local chiropractor which seems to have taken off. We have gained some new regulars users to join our much valued existing regulars which is very rewarding. The hall continues to be well used and we have already a substantial number of bookings for this year and some for 2017/2018.

An overhead projector was installed in the summer and those who have used are delighted with the improvements.

Having sorted the external problems we have concentrated on the interior. Last summer the lobby and front end toilet were painted also the kitchen, chair store and the Meeting Room and Mirror Room have just been repainted, just the main hall left to do.

We have agreed to house the village china in the village hall, when the shelves in the cupboards have been strengthened. Julie has agreed to continue to be the contact for booking china and counting it out and in again.

If anyone has any suggestions how we can further improve the hall please feel free to tell us.

### **Brockham Green Horticultural Society**

Karen Wilson gave the following report:

The Horticultural Society, which, despite its name, is the horticultural society for Betchworth, Brockham and Buckland, continues to thrive. Our membership stands at 242, and we have more families joining, which is good news.

Our links to North Downs Primary School were re-established last year and our newest committee member, Victoria Goody, organised a sunflower seed planting project with the younger children. It was very successful and is being repeated this year with pumpkins. And it is probably not a coincidence that there were more children's entries in last year's Autumn Show!

Our programme of winter talks have been well attended and January's talk on birds of prey – complete with the birds and their poop(!) - was extremely popular.

Last year's AGM in November saw quite a few changes in personnel. Ann Meadows, our longstanding, hardworking President, decided to stand down after 40 years involvement in the society. She is a hard act to follow, but we were very pleased when Hugh Mote agreed to take her place. We also have two new vice presidents and a new chairman.

Last year also saw the society receive an unexpected and generous legacy from James and Celia Fortune. We are planning to use it in ways which will benefit all three villages *and* involve the children, who are the future of our society.

Our plant sale last year raised £205.05 and once again we were lucky with the weather! The plant sale this year will be held on 7th May outside Brockham House from 10 until 1pm, but come early for the best plants!

Last year also saw a successful 'Members Only' open garden when Gill Sperrin opened her delightful garden in Barley Mow Court. £145.15 was raised for Gill's chosen charity. This year's open garden will be at John and Jeannette Foreman's garden, but you will have to be a member if you wish to come!

The benefits of membership are numerous and include the famous 10% discount from Knights, Buckland Nursery, Reigate Garden Centre, Heathfield Nursery and Farm Supplies in Dorking, all available when you show your membership card.

Membership is open to all people living in Betchworth, Buckland and Brockham and it costs just £4 a year per person, the same cost as it was 6 years ago – we continue to give value for money!

### **Buckland & Betchworth Choral Society**

Margaret Miller gave the following report:

Ladies & Gentlemen

Thank you for the opportunity to report on the Choral Society's activities since last April. I am pleased to say we are thriving as we displayed at last year's Leith Hill Musical Festival and again this year at Brian Kay's Farewell Festival after 21 years as Director. We compete against some very strong choirs and the adrenalin of competition always produces a thrilling day and a superb evening concert. But as with most choral societies we would love to welcome more tenors and basses, particularly from within the village.

Our summer concert last year took the form of a rare opportunity to take part in Mahler's Symphony No 8 at the Fairfield Halls in Croydon under the direction of Stephen Hope. The forces required for this work are so huge that it is rarely performed, and it was an amazing experience for all who took part, successfully raising significant funds for the Hospice movement.

Turning to our current season, we are very pleased to be firmly embedded in the life of the village, making use of its facilities for our rehearsals and other activities. In return, we were delighted to help the life of the village when at our Christmas concert, we raised a magnificent £582 to help support the wonderful work of a most local charity, Broome Park.

For this year's festival which concluded only last week, we had to prepare some quite challenging music, including Haydn's Harmony Mass. We again won the Ensemble Class, for groups of less than 12 singers, and enjoyed the evening concert with the English Festival orchestra. We are having a come and sing Mendelssohn's Elijah on 7th May, to which all singers of this Parish are invited, as indeed they are to the Summer concert which is taking place this year on Sunday July 3rd at St. Mark's, Reigate and will feature movements from Elijah plus Haydn's The Seasons.

Before ending I'd also like to mention the social side of our activities. We organise a Quiz night every November and our annual dinner is renowned for its inventive themes, its bonhomie and superb food, not forgetting of course the quality of the decorations which this year transformed Betchworth Village Hall into little China. Tremendous fun was had by all.

Thank you for your attention.

### **Crazy Crown Tea Party**

Hilary Edwards gave the following report:

The date is Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup> – starting at 2 and ending around 5 o'clock. The theme is Crazy Crowns.....think Mad Hatter but with a Royal Twist. Everyone is encouraged to wear a crown or tiara or some other regal headwear for the day. There will be a prize for the craziest – as judged by the children.

We are hoping to encourage as many people as possible – from all corners of the village – and all ages to come along. It would be lovely if we could re-create some of the Jubilee celebration atmosphere from 2012 – we are due a good old knees up!

We have tried to think of something for everyone – and the main entertainment will include;

- A 5 piece band, playing 60s, 70s and 80s covers,
- The Dolphin will provide a beer tasting
- Face Painting, Crown making activities and lawn games for the children
- A sort of photo booth where you can have your photo taken with Her Majesty – will create a # so that photos can be posted to Facebook or Twitter
- A bar
- And of course delicious tea and cake

This is not a fund raiser – just an opportunity for everyone to re-connect and have fun. The tickets will be £4 each – 16 and under FOC. We just need to cover our costs.

### **Family Activities for Betchworth & Buckland (FABB formerly Children's Holiday Activities)**

Catrina Martin gave the following report:

Our new committee of six has had a great year, despite mixed attendance at some events.

#### **Summer 2015**

The summer holidays continue to be a tricky time for big organized events with people seemingly unwilling to commit too far ahead and the August weather being particularly unpredictable. We held a **Nature Trail Walk** over Betchworth Bridge and along the river to view the Betchworth 'Chimney Pots' and a trip to **Gatton Park** for a Story Telling Workshop. Both of these were only attended by our committee mums, but were very enjoyable. Unfortunately our **Picnic and Games** on the Nursery field had to be cancelled due to rain.

#### **Christmas 2015**

With the younger children of the two parishes dispersed amongst some 5-6 local schools, we were keen to bring as many local families together for a really special event. Using a contribution from the Betchworth Parish Council and a donation from the Betchworth & Buckland Society, we were able to hire an entertainer so that our committee of mums could focus on setting up the party and tea preparations. We were able to keep ticket prices affordable for even larger families and our 'Magical Christmas Party' was quickly sold out, attended by 35 children ranging in age from two to nine.

A Mr. Marvel Magic show entertained children and parents alike, followed by tea and a lively snow disco. The highlight was a guest appearance by a very brave 'Father Christmas' with a sack full of presents to round off a wonderful afternoon. It was a fantastic opportunity to gather together the children of the two villages, many of whom had lost touch since attending the Buckland & Betchworth Nursery. Everyone agreed it was a magical community moment and we are keen to make it a regular event.

#### **Easter 2016**

We have just organized a very successful Easter Egg Hunt around the back of Goulbourn Green followed by crafts and games on the Nursery field. This was attended by a record 32 children, many of whom had attended the Christmas Party.

### **Summer 2016**

We are hoping to hold an informal family get together again in June and a few events tbc for the summer holidays: a trip to Dorking Fire Station (popular with mums as well as children !), a walk and picnic at Priory Farm and a games/sports afternoon.

### **Our Thanks for On-Going Support to:**

- The Betchworth Parish Council
- The Betchworth & Buckland Society for boosting enthusiasm for our network of mums and activities and the hands on help with the tea at our Christmas Party from Fiona Brindley and Debbie Jones.
- The Betchworth and Buckland Children's Nursery for allowing us to use their building and outdoor toys & North Downs School for the loan of the school field.
- The Buckland Reading Room for allowing us to use the hall for our Christmas Party.
  
- The brave 'anonymous' Father Christmas volunteer who came complete with his own outfit and specially crafted fluffy eyebrows.

Thank you

### **Goulbourn Cup Tennis Tournament**

No report received

### **Mulberry Bush Music**

Councillor Julie Hardy gave the following report:

Mulberry Bush Music has now been running for 5 years and seems to go from strength to strength.

We meet at 9.30 on Tuesday mornings in the Geoffrey Brown room of the village hall where we have an increasing number of toddlers and their carers come to join in with our themed classes of singing, rhymes, playing instruments and a story.

'Big animals' is a popular theme, with songs about elephants and dinosaurs, and the Christmas and Easter themes with added treats always seem to go down well too!

### **North Downs School**

The clerk read out the following report on behalf of Jane Douglass

I am delighted to have taken up post as Headteacher at North Downs Primary, having joined the school in September 2015, following the retirement

of Mrs Ewing. I have known Mrs Ewing for many years, having worked in the same school with her for 5 years, and therefore feel extremely privileged to have taken over from her. I have been made to feel so welcome by all members of the school community and those further afield. This is clearly a very special community and one I am delighted to now be part of.

I appreciate that the school is in a much more settled position following the reorganisation of classes at the Betchworth, Brockham and Leigh sites. Numbers on roll continue to increase and there are waiting lists for virtually every year group in the school. Early information indicates that our two Reception classes will also be full for this coming September. I have, however, very quickly become aware of the challenges presented by being on three sites and we have taken opportunities for the children at Betchworth to spend some time on the Brockham site, for their 'Transport Day'. The children from Leigh have also recently visited Brockham for their year group curriculum days. We also have events coming up this term where the whole school will be on one site – I am particularly looking forward to our annual maypole dancing on the village green during the afternoon of Friday 27th May when the whole school will be at Brockham for the day and every child will take part in the dancing.

In addition, the Reception children from Betchworth will visit the site at Leigh during the summer term, in preparation for their transfer in September. We are also providing opportunities for the parents from Betchworth to visit the site too – they need to know where to put the book bags and lunchboxes as well – I think we often underestimate how difficult the move can be for the parents!

As I get to know the children, parents, staff and governors we have been working together to identify the school development priorities, in order to improve the school even further. Together we have begun by reviewing the school aims and values which underpin the vision and ethos of the school. Our Whole School Values have now been agreed and shared as being 'Care, Respect Honesty, Freedom and Resilience' with 'Trust' being the key value the children wanted included. I think this says much about the school and people within it, and we have been given a very clear understanding of what our young people believe is key to a successful and happy school and community.

### **Pebblecoombe Women's Institute.**

Margaret Miller gave the following report:

2015 was a special year for All Women's Institute members, as we celebrated the Centenary of WI in England and Wales. WI was founded in Canada and arrived in Wales in September 1915, to rapidly spread across the country, arriving in Surrey in 1916. Betchworth WI was one of the first, founded in December 1916, we have our sisters to thank for bringing WI to the village 100 years ago this year. Pebblecoombe, founded in 1970 is still young, however we do have 3 members who have celebrated their 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays — beating the Queen by a short head.

Celebrations for the Centenary occurred during last year, and included a Baton, passed between Federations, and seen in Reigate. Our President attended a Royal Garden party hosted by Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, and

the Annual meeting held in the Royal Albert Hall, but screened on You Tube for the first time, was attended by The Queen, Princess Anne and Sophie, Duchess of Wessex, all WI members in their local villages.

The WI aim is to educate and we learn all sorts of things at our meetings. Here: we had interesting speakers from Dyscover — supporting those who have experienced brain injury, and the RNLI, on the Charity front. We revisited London with slides from a Blue badge tour guide, learnt of sheep keeping and creating hats, life with Bedouin Arabs and useless information about gardening.

Our Teas on the Green had a centenary feel — with some dressing as 100 years ago, however our prices did not reflect those times, and we had a good afternoon. Also this year we have started a Craft group, meeting monthly with some craft, but a lot more creative chatter. All in all, we are a friendly group of ladies who have welcomed new members this year, but sadly also lost a founder member, Mary Street, and a number of very loyal WI husbands, supporting each other through these sad times.

Do keep an eye on the Parish Magazine for our reports, and when a talk of interest to you comes up, all visitors are welcome.

The date for your diaries of Teas on the Green this year is Sunday August 21<sup>st</sup> from 2.30 to 5pm. We hope to see you there.

### **Poland House**

No report received.

### **St Michael's Church/PCC**

The following report was given by Linda Slater on behalf of Graham Williams, Churchwarden:

Every church year seems busy to anyone closely involved but this one has been a particularly challenging one as we have not only seen the departure of Kate Capper, Associate Vicar and the return of Carol Coslett as our Rector but also the death of Pattie Vigers our curate. This happened around Christmas when along with all the usual festive activities it appeared that we were having a funeral every week including the wonderful character, Gordon Hill who was famous for measuring sermons in polo mints. As ever we are fortunate in having a strong team of people who keep the church going and to whom we are extremely grateful.

In the past year we have had 10 weddings, 13 baptisms and 11 funerals as well as 2 organ concerts. We are delighted that the glass screen to complete the new vestry has been installed and looking fantastic and our newly installed loo now takes pride of place where the choir vestry used to be. We are always grateful for the support of the parish council and the Betchworth and Buckland united Charities for many of our projects and maintenance.

As a parish church our constant challenge is to remain receptive and responsive to the needs of everyone in the parish and to provide a form of worship that reflects our wonderful tradition of English church music. We are glad that we can continue to be open to visitors every day, however we are



not complacent about our place in the village and remain receptive to challenge and new ideas from all within the community that we serve.

### **The Hamilton Room**

Karen Wilson gave a brief update on the current arrangements for the Hamilton Room:

Following the sad death of Gordon Hill last November his son David has taken over as treasurer and Rhona Hill will continue with bookings. Income from bookings continues to make enough to support the Archives.

### **11. ADDRESS BY SURREY COUNTY COUNCILLOR HELYN CLACK**

May I take this opportunity of thanking your Parish Council for all the work they do to support residents, work with other local authorities like Surrey County Council and the many hours your councillors and Clerk spend in making a difference in our community.

1. I have now served on Surrey County Council for 15 years on behalf of Dorking Rural residents, most of the time I have also been a member of the SCC Cabinet. 2015 was very important for Surrey as we commemorated the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Magna Carta at Runnymede. I was the political lead for this event at which we honoured with the presence of Her Majesty The Queen, The Duke Of Edinburgh, the Duke of Cambridge, and other members of the Royal family along with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Prime Minister, UK MPs, visiting American and UK dignitaries and many more ordinary folk as well! The day was wonderfully sunny, as the London Philharmonic orchestra played and Surrey Children performed the Giants version of King John and the Knights of England sealing the Magna Carta back in 1215. As lead member for this occasion, I was delighted that our planning worked well and so many people enjoyed the day.
2. Within days of this event the Leader of the Council asked me to take on the Cabinet Portfolio of Wellbeing and Health and Co-Chair the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board which oversees the joint health strategy of the county and leads on integration of Health and Social Care.
3. Residents may not be aware that the County Council delivers Social Services for Surrey residents both for Adults and for Children at a cost of around £570 million Surrey has a population of over 1 million people with a vibrant economy. Surrey has areas of deprivation though and an ever increasing aging population who require services such as community health services, dementia services, enablement services. There are many children and adults living in the county who require specialist assistance for life long and serious disabilities. Our service stations on the M25 also see rising numbers of asylum seekers under the age of 18 who come unaccompanied to the County from countries outside of the EU and who need to be taken into care.

4. The majority of the County Council's budget comes direct from residents paying Council tax, (annexe 1) and this year the government announced it will withdraw all of the Local Government grant by 2020 and this would be fasttracked in Surrey over the next two years. This has left us with an annual funding gap of £50 million.
5. The County Council has over the last four years made efficiency savings of over £300 million. Whilst we wait for the outcome of the business rates review, our efforts for lobbying government for fairer funding has resulted in two one off annual payments of around £12 million.
6. With the approval of Government this year as well as the general increase in Council Tax of 2%, we were allowed a specific ring fenced precept of 2.0% for Adult Social care. This still leaves a gap of £26 million pa. We will continue our transformation public value review to find the rest.
7. We are also preparing a response to the Governments White paper on Education which outlines the intention to 100% acadamise our community schools. I am particularly concerned that this may have an effect on Rural Schools which are currently subsidised by the County Council and the Schools Forum in Surrey and may be unattractive to Multi Academy Trusts and become un-sustainable. The County Council Conservative administration committed £10 million improvement fund in our manifesto in 2013. This has seen considerable improvement to our children's education with OFSTED now rating 92 % of all Surrey Schools as 'Good'. Academies schools are accountable to an appointed Regional Schools Commissioner. It is important that we lobby government to support rural schools for the future of our communities.
8. Another part of my responsibilities as Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Health is the £38million Public Health grant. This is an important public service aimed at preventative measures to reduce the risk of long term illness. I have spent a lot of time visiting some of our Community Health providers in Surrey and am very impressed with the service and dedication of the professionals involved. Many of these services are provided through our GP surgeries and local 'cottage' hospitals and are important to residents staying well and out of acute hospitals where evidence shows that prolonged stay in acute wards is not good and getting people out of hospital into their own homes with local services helps people live longer and healthier.
9. I also have the EU brief at Surrey County Council, I am President of PURPLE (Peri-Urban Planning in the EU). This lobbying network of over 20 regional members across Europe campaign to make sure that areas like Surrey on the edge of Urban conurbations are not forgotten in the EU world of infrastructure planning. I also sit on the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership European Structural and

Investment Funds Board (ESIF) and the Southern England Local Partnership (SELP) which working with Universities and Local Authorities brings opportunities for project funding from the various commissions in the EU. All these groups work together to make sure funding opportunities come our way.

10. Flooding has become a major concern in Surrey and not least in Dorking Rural Division. Currently there are County led Flood Forums in Brockham, Charlwood, Leigh and Ockley. The work these forums do to understand local drainage systems and identify work required to clear blockages and divert flood water away from homes is very valuable and is another example of good partnership working with Parish Councils, District Councils, the Environment Agency, Thames Water and Southern Water and Surrey Highways.
11. The County Council administration's Project Horizon has continued to roll out resurfacing across many of the roads in Dorking Rural Division over the last year. I would be pleased to hear from residents of any roads still needing the Horizon treatment. This coming year we have announced a similar project for improving pedestrian pavements. Again if residents could advise on where we should propose pavements for improvement I will do my best to get them included in this new programme.
12. Most importantly, is the work I do to represent my residents from Dorking Rural at Surrey County Council, raising the rural voice on planning, transport and infrastructure and protecting the green belt and countryside from unsustainable and unwanted development and listening to your concerns making sure you get the services you need.
13. Grants are still available from the County Council through the local Members Allowance Scheme and the Community Buildings Scheme. They have been reduced though so early applications are advised.

*(see below for annexe 1 for SCC finances)*

## **12. ADDRESS BY MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR PAUL POTTER**

Councillor Potter thanked the parish council for the work they do, without which the village would grind to a halt. He has been active over the last year lobbying the housing association to get the lift at Atkinson House repaired, and to cut back the hedge along the school path. He spoke of his concentration on housing in the local villages, and ensuring that local families have access to local houses. A motion had been passed at Mole Valley for a policy change that priority would be given for local people across Betchworth, Buckland and Brockham.

## **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Carol Coslett spoke about the special church service for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 12<sup>th</sup> June at 11am, with royal music and a display of crowns made for the jubilee in 2012.

Lady Hamilton spoke about the lighting on the beacon on Chimney pots on 21<sup>st</sup> April to celebrate the Queen's actual birthday.

Councillor Ian Wilson thanked the Chairman and Clerk for all their hard work in arranging another successful Annual Parish Meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:42pm.

# Surrey County Council

## Where the money comes from

	<b>2015/16</b>
	<b>2016/17</b>
Surrey council tax £627m	£598m
Government revenue support grant and business rates top up £139m	£171m
Other government grants to support schools and other services £697m	£714m
Fees, charges and other income £147m	£137m
Local share of business rates £46m	£44m
Reserves £4m £25m	
<b>Total income to the council</b> <b>£1,681m</b>	<b>£1,668m</b>

## How the money is spent

	<b>2015/16</b>
	<b>2016/17</b>
Schools and learning £692m	£691m
Social care and health £571m	£560m
People, communities and culture £109m	£112m
Business and consumers £50m	£45m
Roads and transport £73m	£75m
Your council (debt servicing for services and infrastructure, £121m support services for local democracy)	£118m
Environment, housing and planning £65m	£67m
<b>Total spending on council services</b> <b>£1,681m</b>	<b>£1,668m</b>