



Albury Parish newsletter

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

Quarterly Report June '08

Chairman's report

When I first moved to Albury from Guildford, I looked forward to settling into rural village life with my family, which I imagined would be quiet and uneventful, comprising beautiful countryside walks, the occasional pint in the local pub and watching the odd game of cricket. Quiet and uneventful! How wrong could I be and I'm not just referring to the busy road through our village!

Five years later it seems to me that anything and everything, good and bad happens on Albury's doorstep. We are rightly proud of our AONB status and the magnificent walks and views available to all, yet there remains the horrendous blot on the landscape which is the landfill. And if that's not enough we have had to mount an enormous campaign to try and to stop a gas company industrialising Blackheath and Albury Park.

On the plus side we are blessed with a huge number of active associations, a thriving local cricket and football club which

attracts so many youngsters, and a bowls club perhaps with a broader spectrum of members! It was fantastic to see so many new residents, as well as those of you who have lived here all your lives, turn up to the Village Hall at the end of April to the Fair of Albury Associations combined with the Albury Produce Show plant sale. Thanks must go to Gasrec, sponsors of the event, who will be turning the methane from the landfill site into reusable energy in the form of LNG. This should result in Albury becoming one of the first carbon neutral parishes in the UK!

Let us also not forget that we still have a village post office and shop, two pubs in the parish, a thriving small business community and an ever increasingly popular parish church which is bucking all the national attendance trends. And soon the Albury Produce Show will be upon us, which must be one of the most impressive parish shows in the South of England.

The reason I'm sounding like an advert for Albury is that, together with the Albury Trust and the PCC, we have decided to enter the Village of the Year competition. This is not the "pretty village" competition that might come to mind but is far more wide

ranging and assesses how we are enhancing facilities for People who live in the parish, what we are doing about improving the Environment, how we work with local Business and how good we are at Communicating with everyone. Please let us know if you feel there is anything we can do to improve in these areas. We might not win this year, but we believe it will provide invaluable input to the evolving Parish Plan which will map out how our community should develop over the next 10 years. We hope to be able to publish something on this in the autumn, following further discussions with Albury Estates who are actively exploring with us ways in which we can improve the community environment.

No chance of a quiet and uneventful summer!

Kind Regards
Nick Wenman
Chairman



VILLAGE HALL FOR HIRE!

Albury Village Hall is available to hire for parishioners and non residents alike.

It has excellent facilities, a fully equipped kitchen and parking. It has been used for all kinds of activities in the past from 40th Birthday parties, Salsa Dancing Lessons, Cookery Demonstrations and even Corporate Training.

With fantastically affordable rates for hire you won't find better value anywhere else around the Surrey Hills.

Contact Mrs Ellen Balshaw on 01483 831568 for more details.

Councillors contact details

Nick Wenman (Chairman) 01483 202017
nick@wenmans.com

John Brockwell (Vice Chairman) 01483 203586
John.brockwell@dsl.pipex.com

Jackie Chapman 01483 202123
jaquichapman@aol.com

Jeremy Croucher 01483 202607
aldershotfan@btinternet.com

Peter Gellatly 01483 202689
peter@lockhurst-hatch-farm.co.uk

Roy Hogben 01483 202636
royhogben@tiscali.co.uk

Domi Nicholson 01483 202949
Domini.p@dnxmarketing.com

Grahame Robinson 01483 203704
Hoff-man@tiscali.co.uk

Prue von Radowitz 01483 202003
pruvon@yahoo.co.uk

Parish clerk

It only remains for me to do the admin! And remind you of the routine of the Local Government year, which means that we held our Annual Meeting in May — in an election year the meeting would sensibly be as soon as possible after an election, and so in every other year the routine remains the same. At the Annual Meeting the Parish Council elect their Chairman, and the Chairman and members of committees, and decide on meeting dates for the coming year.

Nick Wenman was re-elected as chairman of the Parish council, and committee chairmen were elected as follows: Finance: John Brockwell; Planning: Peter Gellatly; Highways and Byways: Roy Hogben; Recreation, Open Spaces and the Environment: Pru von Radowitz; Community Development and Communication: Domi Nicholson. All councillors play an active role in these committees and you will find their contact details, should you need them, on our web site as well as on the front of this newsletter.

The monthly meeting will continue to take place on the first Monday of the month, at 7.30pm, in the Memorial Library. There are obvious exceptions to this, such as when the first Monday is a bank holiday, or when we are entertaining the Mayor, when we use the hall instead, and there is no meeting in August.

The village hall is shortly to be decorated, although this work will be done in phases as the kitchen is also to be renovated — new work surfaces and tiling, and some structural work is needed in the ladies' toilets. Once the decoration is complete there will be new curtains — partly funded by a grant from Guildford Borough Council — and

a new advertising campaign to promote the hall to a wider pool of potential users. We know that those people who use the hall very much appreciate its size and amenities, and we are sure it would be a great deal more popular with a bit more promotion.

And we hope to get going on some work on Farley Green pond within the next few weeks. You will probably have noticed that the pond is full of silt, and the tricky bit is going to be getting that out without damaging the liner. After long debates with the experts, we plan to use a very closely supervised digger with a 20' reach, to ensure that the middle is reached, and — after drying out at the side of the pond — the silt will then be taken away for disposal. This should hopefully regenerate both the flora and fauna — nothing much is living in there at the moment — for a little while to come.

This is the time of year for the Annual Audit of the accounts from April 2007 to March 2008. The accounts will shortly be available for inspection, should you so wish, and this will be advertised on the notice boards and in the parish magazine. The result of the audit will be published in September.

Joanna Cadman, June '08



Community Committee

We recently met to discuss the production of the Parish Plan and following the research at the end of last year we are now in a position to put some flesh on the bones and start to draft this. It will fall under some main topic areas which will include Housing, Recreation, Amenities, and A Safer Place to Live for All. The website is also under-going some quite extensive updating (www.albury.org.uk) and we would love to

hear from any business or association in the Parish that isn't currently represented on the site and would like to be.

Along the lines of the Carol Singing in December and the recent Community Association Morning, if anyone has any ideas of other events that they would like the Parish Council to put on or help with, please do let us know. We are very open to ideas!

Domi Nicholson, June '08

Highways & byways

Our quarterly report for the Highways & Byways Committee has had some measure of success.

A new list of village maintenance tasks has started with the first mowing of grass verges and triangles. With the growing season in full swing it is expected that there may well be a couple of additional cuts over and above the planned ones that will be required to keep the village looking spruced up.

We are still having problems with SCC as regards the flooding in Little London/Brook and also at the bottom end of Water Lane. Repeated requests have now turned into demands and we hope that there will be a positive response shortly.

After a lot of consultation and persuasion SCC have finally committed to a programme for surface dressing a number of roads in the Tillingbourne Ward. You may have noticed that there

has been a reasonable amount of patching and filling of potholes lately; this is apparently the preparation prior to the surface dressing. The roads to be surface dressed are New Road, Brook Hill, August Lane, Farley Heath Road, Shophouse Lane, Brook Lane, Little London, Park Road and Guildford Lane. Hopefully work will commence at the end of June.

Our Traffic Consultant has submitted a report on traffic calming within the village which is currently under review before submission to SCC.

As far as the Capital Works Schedule for the village is concerned, we are still negotiating for the iron railings along The Street to be replaced with oak posts, and the trees and undergrowth to be opened up to allow views over the mill stream and fishing lake.

The other items that will be receiving attention during this year will be new village 'gateways', replacing the bus shelter at Boundary Cottages, and a bench at the Sherbourne bus stop together with a new fence.

The Committee is still able to accept a few extra projects under our Capital Scheme, so if there are any specific tasks that you feel need attention please contact by e-mail the Parish Clerk at joanna@joannacadman.com or the Highways & Byways Committee at royhogben@tiscali.co.uk. Please let us know as soon as possible so that they can be included in the tasks for this coming year.

Roy Hogben, June '08



URGENT NEWS

STAR ENERGY

Hearing currently
deferred to 9th July

STILL TIME TO OBJECT!

Star Energy has now submitted a new planning application to Surrey County Council for temporary drilling and appraisal at the Albury wellsite.

The application has been deferred from 28th May 2008 and is now scheduled to be heard 10am Wed 9th July

If you haven't objected, please do so now!

The application is for 2 appraisal drillwells at an expanded Albury Park site. The last application was withdrawn because of inadequate noise data, so this application is accompanied by greater details on noise disturbance. However, the details are largely unchanged; therefore the grounds for objection remain the same and the application will be strongly opposed by the Parish Council, SaveBlackheathCommon and other organisations.

For further details visit www.saveblackheathcommon.com

To lodge an objection:

Quote : Application Number: GU08/0483

**Write : Hilary Herbert
Planning Manager
Environment & Regulation
County Hall
Kingston KT1 2DY**

or email : mwcd@surreycc.gov.uk

Planning committee

Apart from the latest developments with Star Energy, of which our Chairman has informed you in his report, it has been fairly quiet on the planning committee.

We have however received consultations regarding BT's desire to permanently remove our three telephone boxes at Farley Green, Brook and Albury. They are among 32 over the whole borough to be under threat. We will oppose this plan but as BT can demonstrate their lack of use, we cannot necessarily be successful with all three.

We have three planning appeals pending, one of which was for a modest extension, admittedly on a previously extended house. The appellants have been told that were they to knock the existing house down and re-build, then there would be no problem. We have recently had three such rebuilds at Farley Green. If this were to be applied throughout the parish, apart from the listed buildings, we could eventually have a very different looking set of villages.

Finally, Gasrec are officially starting production on the 24th of June. There should be no more flaring of gas at the landfill and we wish them every success.

Peter Gellatly, June '08



Landfill liaison group

The next meeting will take place on 17th June in order to look at the first draft plans for restoration of the site which have been drawn-up by SITA's restoration consultants.

We hope to be able to share these with all Parishioners by the end of July.

Minutes of the last meeting are available for all on the Albury website if you would like more detailed information on anything else to do with the landfill site.

Domi Nicholson, July 2008

