



Onslow Village Residents Association

The Village Voice

Spring/Summer 2025 - Issue no. 78

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A big thank you to Chantries & Pewleys
for kindly sponsoring this issue!



Chantries & Pewleys

Hello from OVRA!

What a busy term we've just had! It started with the hugely enjoyable Valentine's Jazz Night, followed by the well attended AGM, the wonderful Hedgehog Highway Launch Event, the fascinating local history talk, and finally the ever-popular Easter Egg Trail. If you missed any of these events there are reports of them all on the OVRA>Past Events page of the website.



Our next big event is **Onslow Open Gardens Afternoon** on **Sunday 8th June**. This is going to be a fantastic event. It's a joint venture with Onslow Village Garden Club. I'm so excited, it combines all my favourite things - being outdoors in beautiful places, meeting people, being a bit nosey, and cake! My husband on the other hand (the gardener), is looking forward to seeing which plants thrive in the area and getting some top tips on vegetable growing and some inspiration for garden design. This is an event for everyone - keen gardeners, beginner gardeners and non-gardeners. It's going to be a great social event for the village (and our friends and family). We're raising money for the upkeep of the village defibrillator and the Garden Club. Tickets are on sale at ovra.org.uk. Fingers crossed for lovely weather, but it goes ahead in rain or shine!

Once the summer holidays arrive there will be

another Summer Holiday Treasure Trail to get you out and about exploring the village. We'll let you know once that's on the website and ready to be downloaded.

OVRA's aim is to *Strengthen Community in Onslow Village* so our priority for this year is to make sure everyone knows about OVRA and as many people as possible have signed up to receive our emails. We send out a monthly 'What's on in Onslow' calendar of events, and a less regular 'Local Focus Update'. We don't want anyone to miss out on all the great things going on in the local area, or knowing about changes that may impact the village. **It's completely free to sign up to OVRA**, just visit ovra.org.uk and click the **Sign Up** button. You can unsubscribe whenever you want.

Inspired by the Open Gardens event, this issue of The Village Voice has a bit of a horticultural theme. We really hope you'll enjoy reading it and will feel motivated to get involved!

Best wishes,
Jo x

Jo Rew
OVRA Chair



A big thank you to Janet Bangs for providing this lovely photo of her garden, which will be open for visitors on Sunday 8th June.



Onslow Open Gardens

Sunday 8th June - 2 – 5pm

Joint event with Onslow Village Gardening Club.

Explore the beauty and creativity of 9 stunning private gardens in the Ellis Avenue and West Meads area!

Tickets available via our website.

Rain or shine – we go ahead whatever the weather!

🔖 Tickets just £3 per adult 🧑 Kids go free!

🌱 Refreshments & plants on sale 🌿 All proceeds support the Onslow Village defibrillator and the Gardening Club.

Watch out for the Summer Holiday Treasure Trail 2025



Available to download from ovra.org.uk
from the beginning of the summer holidays



Onslow Village Garden Club By Janet Bangs

The History of the Club

Onslow Village Garden Club was founded in 1946 following the Second World War and not long after the village itself was built. It was run with the backing of the Surrey County Garden Produce Committee. It had about ten members who met round the gas stove in the kitchen of the old Village Hall and is thought to have evolved from what was then known as the Chicken Club - a group of residents who kept chickens during the war.

One of the founding members was Mr R S Woodcock and the Club still awards a trophy in his honour in the annual Spring Show. The flower and produce shows are a key feature of the Club which held its first Autumn Show on 25th September 1948.

The Club gradually grew and became very popular with residents. In 1966, when the annual subscription was five shillings per family, the club had over 160 members.

Club activities contributed to the success of the Club. Flower arranging classes, jumble sales and table-top sales were regular events. There were quizzes held between Guildford's Horticultural Societies, one of the most popular being the Jacob's Well Rose Bowl Quiz which the Club won in 2004. Outings to gardens of interest were also organised.

Over the years the club has planted many of the spring bulbs in the public spaces around the village.



The Club celebrated its 60th Anniversary in 2006. In commemoration of its Diamond Jubilee Anniversary, the Mayor of Guildford planted an English Oak tree (*Quercus Robur*) in the Onslow Arboretum on behalf of the Club. In 2016, the 70th Anniversary was marked by a special evening event. 2026 will mark the Club's 80th Anniversary and no doubt there will again be something special for members and others to enjoy.

The Club has certainly come a long way from its Chicken Club beginnings in 1946.



Onslow Village Garden Club in 2025

As in the early days, club events are at the heart of Onslow Village Garden Club. Meetings take place monthly in the village hall, at 7.30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The club has a friendly and welcoming atmosphere aimed at both novice and experienced gardeners.

An annual programme of talks is published each year. These are given by leading horticulturists on a wide range of topics. As well as being entertaining and informative, these give members and visitors an opportunity to get advice and guidance from those with in-depth knowledge. Every meeting includes a sales table where members can buy indoor and outdoor plants grown and donated by fellow members. There is a monthly raffle, a "seed and magazine swap" table and refreshments are served midway through the evening so members can chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

We also organise visits to local gardens of interest each year.

The Club's Annual Plant Sale (Saturday 10th May this year) is always well attended.

In addition to the wide variety of plants on offer, there are also cakes, books, jigsaw puzzles, toys and craft items for sale. Everyone is welcome.

Club Shows



The Club's three annual flower and produce shows held in the village hall are a feast for the eye and nose! The Spring and Summer shows form part of the monthly meetings but the bigger Annual Show takes place on a Saturday in September. The shows are assessed by independent judges and winning entries receive certificates and prize money. Cups and trophies are also awarded in some classes.



Come and Join us!

Interested in gardening? Why not visit us at one of our monthly meetings and consider joining? Membership offers benefits such as discounts in local garden retailers and nurseries so at only £12 a year it's a bargain. Our meetings are advertised in OVRA's 'What's on in Onslow' mailings, or visit our website - just search 'Onslow Village Garden Club'.



A year in our Onslow C

The year of the OVRA reboot...

This past year has truly shown what we can accomplish as Onslow Villagers when we come together. From events and meetings to initiatives and fundraisers, it's been a remarkable revival for OVRA. **Just in case you missed anything, here's an overview of what OVRA has been up to this year!**



Advent windows



Trails organised



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New website



Defib Training



The AGM 2025



360

Households signed up...
and growing

What's on in Onslow?	
OVRA's monthly calendar of events in and around Onslow March 2025	
Any time before Friday 7th March	Queen Eleanor's School is trying to raise £12,000 to replace the tumbledown and wobbly play equipment in their computer suite. They have launched a crowd-funding page, which finishes on 31st March. They are two thirds of the way to their target and would be very grateful for any additional support the community could give. Click here to find out more.
Tuesday 4th March	Stones Tuesday Pancake Day at All Saints Church 8pm - 4.30pm in the Church Hall. There will be a selection of toppings and a free activity for the children. No need to book, just turn up. Donations welcome.
Tuesday 6th March	Stoneline Towns Club Talk - Uganda - The Pearl of Africa Village Hall, 7.30 for 8pm start. Members Free. Visitors £7 on the door.
Wednesday 5th March	Pop Lullabies - Noddy - Gaily and Piano playing Beethoven and Brahms. 11.00am - 5pm. PATs Studio One, Bag Hill Campus, University of Surrey
Wednesday 5th March	St. John's - A Coffee Funded Revolution Village Hall, 7.30 - 8.30pm Check out the excellent new 2025 programme full of fascinating talks and fun activities. New members are asked their first meeting for free but are then asked to join. If you're interested in coming along for a taster, email OnslowHedgeHighways@outlook.com
Thursday 6th March	Pop Cathedral Coffee Concert - George Balaban, Cathedral Organ Soloist Coffee served at the back of the Cathedral from 10.30am, concert 11.15am - 12 noon.
Sunday 9th March	Music Mornings - Social Chorus, 10am - 1pm. Email musicmornings@outlook.com if you'd like to get involved.
Sunday 9th March	Stoneline Concert - V&S Chamber Choir and Chamber Orchestra 3pm at Catholic Union Reformed Church, Portsmouth Road. Admission free with trolley collection.
Tuesday 11th March	OVRA AGM and Social - 8pm Doors open 7.45pm. Village Hall Everyone welcomed. Come and celebrate our wonderful community with an extended interval and complimentary drinks for socialising and giving feedback and ideas on going forward.

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Hedgehog Highways Launch

ommunity!



Centenary Garden care



Hedgehog monitoring



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Events Held



Valentines jazz night

Local Focus Update March 2023
OWDA, a number of things you might want to know about!
In this issue:
QC Crowdfunding Proposed closure of Powell Close alongside A3 Reconnection of Den Canton Gully Bla Cwmwlau Cwmwlau How to report a Spring Moorland Mole Cwmwlau Reorganisation of Local Government
Queen Elizabeth's Bursary: Contributing to new computers
There are only a couple of days left of QC's crowdfunding page. Adding money to replace that stone and accident computers. They need less than £2000 to reach their final target and would use it if members of the Cwmwlau community could help them get there. https://www.qcwmwlau.co.uk/donate
Property for sale in Powell Close (Independent living for the over 55s)
Contact: John and Sue Evans
After our great experience with an elderly team, we are just wondering if there might be another family in Cwmwlau who could benefit from moving to a more secure, safe and a more comfortable living space available for immediate purchase in Powell Close?
Good condition, new carpets throughout, contemporary driveway, small mature south facing garden with patio. £250,000. If interested contact John and Sue Evans at j.evans@qcwmwlau.co.uk
OWDA committee member James (Jaggy) Mother also lived in one of the Powell Close bungalows for a short time and is now finally successful!
Proposed closure of footpath alongside A3
Plans are underway to temporarily close the footpath that runs alongside the A3 from Edgerton Road to the A3 as shown in the map below, due to works of an extension which are above the larger (internal) road and a subsequent road in the area. The road is a public highway and is currently used as a parking area for the A3. It is anticipated that the closure will not affect the public. Regarding the impact this closure will have on pedestrians and cyclists who use the path, the National Highway, with A3 and A20 are considering ways of improving routes through Cwmwlau village by improving footpath surfaces and road crossing points.
National Highway is intent to protect safety of the local community at a Public Information Event sometime soon. OWDA will ensure the event is widely advertised as soon as we have more details. In the meantime you can find out more at https://www.nh.gov.uk or call 0300 300 3000.

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Local Focus Updates



Community Carol singing...



3500 +

Village Voices
delivered



Tours of the Arboretum

You've heard of Book Clubs but what about Vinyl Clubs?!

By Malcolm Thacker

I am part of a group of friends, mostly from Onslow Village, who meet to discuss music once a month. Founded in October 2018 from an idea by Andy Davey, we are known as the 'OAP Vinyl Club'.



But the name is a misnomer; for a start none of us are entitled to a free bus pass yet. The reason for the title is long forgotten but the 'O' was definitely for Onslow and the 'A' was probably for Album.

We're also not a Vinyl club in the purest sense, most of us listen on Spotify! Although some of us are record collectors, we are interested primarily in the music itself and there's no rule to say the albums we discuss must be on vinyl. In fact the only rule we have is 'No compilations'.

We get together once a month in a hostelry of our choosing (no surprise there), to eat and drink together and to discuss the qualities of an album, nominated by one of us in turn. Having heard all opinions, we all give the music a score at the end. The scoring is sometimes consistent across the group and sometimes wildly mixed.

The group has been meeting since 2018, including meeting on zoom and outdoors during lockdown and the immediate aftermath, and we have grown in number over the years, we started as nine, now there are thirteen of us, so we each get to nominate an album about once a year.

Various strategies are used when choosing the album (we always discuss why the album has been picked). Some of us go for music we already know and love, with an emotional connection with the past; sometimes the choice is based on what's brand new, even not yet released; sometimes it's intellectual curiosity and sometimes the idea is to pick a genre or an era that we haven't listened to before. As a result, we have reviewed albums from mega-selling classics to virtual unknowns. It's always exciting to find out what the next album choice is.

In the end though, the albums chosen reflect the tastes of the group; from Rick

Astley to Led Zeppelin; from Dutch/Turkish electric folk to gangsta rap; from the 60's to bang up to date. The first album we chose back in 2018 was Look Now by Elvis Costello, the current album to be discussed at our next meeting is Anxiety Replacement Therapy by The Lottery Winners. All genres supported!

So, out of over 80 albums so far reviewed, which have scored the most? The top three at the moment are Led Zeppelin: II, The Proclaimers: This is the Story, and at number one, pop pickers,

last year's release by English Teacher: This Could be Texas. If you haven't heard it, it's safe to say that the group would recommend it, apart from those who wouldn't.

Apart from the camaraderie, the beauty of Vinyl Club is that it makes us listen to things we otherwise would not, adding to our musical knowledge and appreciation, and even if we don't always agree on the merits of the music under discussion, there is always time for another pint!

And speaking of Book Groups.....

OVRA's Book Group Guru, **Martyn Parker** has added his latest recommendations to the Book Group page of the OVRA website. This term he's selected books that have won literary prizes, not always an indication of a good read, but he assures us that these ones are! The books he's selected are:

- **Girl, Woman, Other** By Bernadine Evaristo (Booker Prize 2019)
- **Scrublands** By Chris Hammer (UK Crime Writers Award for best debut novel 2019)
- **Kala** By Colin Walsh (Irish Book Award for Newcomer of the Year 2023)
- **Trust** By Herman Diaz (Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2023)
- **Small Things Like These** By Claire Keegan (The Orwell Prize for Political Fiction 2022)

To find out more about these books and discover why Martyn has chosen them go to ovra.org.uk and look under the **Local Initiatives** tab on the main menu.

Hedgecare Reminder!

We all love Onslow's hedges but please remember **Daniel Lowe's** top tip about keeping our hedges under control so they don't block the pavements. In his article last Autumn he suggested that we give our hedges **2 trims over the growing season**; one at the beginning of summer, in May or June, and another towards the end of the summer in August or September. This will help to maintain its width over the years. Daniel and his team specialise in bigger jobs, but if you want to arrange with neighbours for a group trim he can offer a competitive price. His details are in the **Local Business Directory** of the OVRA website.

The Hedgehog Highways Project

By Jo Rew



Hedgehogs are under serious threat in the UK. Since 2000 their numbers have dropped by about 30% in urban areas and up to 70% in rural areas. So here in Onslow Village we want to do our bit to help them.

The Hedgehog Highways Project is a joint initiative between All Saints Eco Group, OVRA and the University of Surrey.

At our launch event on 6th April, Dr. Tara Pirie, Ecology and Conservation lecturer at UniS, spoke to us about the problems they are facing and how we can make our gardens as hedgehog-friendly as possible.

Beetles, earthworms and caterpillars are their favourite food, although they'll eat lots of other things. So the more of these we have in our garden the more appealing it will be to hedgehogs. **Piles of logs and leaves and areas of long grass** not only give hedgehogs places to hide away safely but they also provide the perfect habitat for their food source.

Hedgehogs can travel up to 2km a night as they look for food, mates and nest sites. So **the most important thing is to give them routes from one garden to the next.** If there are no natural gaps in fences then small holes (about the size of a CD case) can be cut to create a **Hedgehog Highway.**

Whilst their short legs don't stop them from covering great distances, they do stop them from climbing up or down steps, so you might consider providing a ramp for them

if the next garden is at a different level. For the same reason, if you want to put out food and water make sure you use low-sided dishes. You can buy special hedgehog food for them or they will happily eat tinned or dried cat food. However **never put out milk or bread.** They are lactose intolerant and bread fills them up without having any nutritional value. Cats, dogs and foxes will usually leave hedgehogs alone although badgers may not be so benign.

An important part of the project is monitoring hedgehog activity in the area. We have invested in 10 small mammal tracking tunnels which anyone in the village can borrow. They come with everything you need including track identification sheets so you can see if hedgehogs have been visiting your garden. They are usually active between April and October. If you would like to borrow a tunnel simply email info@ovra.org.uk

We have also added a **new Hedgehog page to the website** under the 'Local Initiatives' tab. It features lots more useful information and a map showing where prints have been seen around the village.

Please join in and help the hedgehogs!



All Saints Community Orchard

By Sue Jones

Over the last five years volunteers from All Saints church and the local community have transformed the bottom of the church field by clearing overgrowth and brambles and re-shaping it with new planting. Welcome to the Orchard. Open the gate and come inside.....



First you will see the wildflower bed; this looks amazing in the summer when the poppies, foxgloves and toadflax are in bloom. Go further - to the Woodland Trail and follow the meandering pathway. In spring you'll see snowdrops, crocus, and daffodils waking up and in summer a cheerful array of foxgloves, bluebells, geranium and buttercups.



See the many saplings lining the path - these are wildlife friendly saplings, the majority obtained through the Woodland Trust planting scheme. Look up and you'll discover bird boxes and insect houses. Further down spot a bird feeder, and in the undergrowth a camouflaged hedgehog house.



Next you'll come to the fruit trees. We have planted apple, cherry, plum and pear. These complement the existing mature walnut tree, bent and crooked from its prolonged time in the overgrowth. As you go back up the field you'll see the raised beds. These were built using old pallets, and are now a home for fruit, herbs and vegetables. All the produce we grow can be harvested by the community. We will put up signs to let you know what is ready to be picked.

We're monitoring biodiversity with citizen science participation: the RSPB Big Garden Bird Count in January, the Big Butterfly Count in July, and Churches Count on Nature - a week in June spent investigating what is growing and living in this habitat. Last year we were delighted by a huge privet hawkmoth sunning itself on a fence, and a pyramidal orchid that popped up in the wildflower meadow.

By the raised beds, we have added seating. Do rest your feet and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature.

If you would like to get involved, please do come and join us on a Saturday work morning. We meet on the last Saturday of each month - the dates and times can be found in the 'What's On' OVRA emails and on the church website. Everyone is welcome!

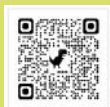
Why Sign Up to OVRA?



OVRA's aim is to '**Strengthen Community in Onslow Village**', so that everyone feels connected and supported, and we can work together to look after our local environment. It is totally free because we don't want anyone to miss out.

When you sign up to OVRA you will receive 3 regular mailings:

- **The Village Voice** - a termly newsletter that celebrates our Village community
- **What's On in Onslow** - a monthly diary of what's going on
- **Local Focus** - a less regular update on potential changes in the area.



For an easy way to
sign up
scan this QR code!

How to sign up?

- Visit the new website at:
www.ovra.org.uk
or scan the QR code below
- Email us on
membership@ovra.org.uk
- Ring us on 07508 261160
(membership enquiries only please)

Follow OVRA

Facebook: @OVRA

Instagram: @onslowvillageresidents

Anyone in the Onslow area can sign up and it's completely free!
You can unsubscribe whenever you want.



Chantries & Pewleys

ESTATE AGENTS

Meet the Guildford team...



"I honestly couldn't endorse them any higher!"

Mr A Jakeway - 5* Google Review

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