



Onslow Village Residents Association

The Village Voice

Autumn 2026 - Issue no. 82

In this issue: Onslow Village WI, Surrey Search & Rescue
& Arboretum News...



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



Chantries & Pewleys

Hello everyone!

And welcome to a new term in Onslow Village! I hope you're feeling refreshed after our hot and sunny summer, and ready to make the most of life!

In this issue we get to know Onslow Village WI before discovering more about their chosen charity of the year: Surrey Search and Rescue. Two very different organisations but both excellent ways of getting out and feeling part of something bigger! At the end of this issue you'll find a complete list of all the different clubs and societies that meet in the village so if you fancy trying something new and meeting some new people here's what is on your doorstep!

But of course staying connected is only one part of maintaining our health and happiness. On Monday October 5th come along to our talk in All Saints Church to get some top tips from 3 local experts on Sleep, Nutrition and Exercise. Once again, we should be immensely grateful for the wealth of talent and expertise here in the village and the community spirit to share it!

Have a good look at all the adverts to see what else is coming up this term and don't forget to sign up to OVRA at ovra.org.uk to receive the monthly 'What's On' diary and other OVRA mailings. I hope to see you all soon!



Jo Rew OVRA Chair

A Fond Farewell... But Another Opportunity to get involved!



In August the OVRA Committee waved Goodbye to Alan Robins and his wife Sheena as

they moved to Dorking to be closer to family. For the last 8 years Alan has done a wonderful job as OVRA's Minutes Secretary and he will be greatly missed!

However this means we're looking for a new recruit on the OVRA Committee!

We would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in joining our enthusiastic and friendly team of 12. We meet about 10 times a year and responsibilities vary according to your interests and the events being organised. The goal of the current committee is to 'Strengthen Community in Onslow Village' but we are mindful that our role also includes 'Safeguarding the amenities of Onslow Village'. If you would like to join us or want to know more before making a decision I would love to hear from you! Please email me on info@ovra.org.uk or call me on 07508 261160.

We're very excited to welcome a new member to the team! Jo x

Many thanks to Chantries & Pewleys for the wonderful drone photograph of the village used on the cover of this issue.



PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY BRIEFING FILM

6pm Friday 2nd October All Saints Church

Book your free ticket in advance at <https://allsaints.short.gy/peb>

For more information visit ovra.org.uk (Recommended age 16+)

An unfiltered assessment of the latest threats to UK food supply, health and national security due to the climate crisis, and the solutions available.



Staying Healthy with the Onslow Experts

Monday 5th October 8-10pm

All Saints Church, Vicarage Gate (N.B. Not Village Hall!)



Derk-Jan Dijk

is a professor of Sleep and Physiology at the University of Surrey, and the Director of the Surrey Sleep Research Centre. He has studied sleep for more than 40 years, has been a resident of Onslow Village for more than 25 years and is keen to share the wonders of sleep with OVRA.



Joanna Abel

is a Nutritional Therapist with a passion for helping people improve their gut health, boost their energy, and build a healthier, more positive relationship with food. She moved to Onslow Village 2 years ago and is passionate about supporting her local community to feel their best.



Hannah Hayward

is a Personal Trainer and Fitness Instructor, with a special interest in women's health. For the last 8 years she has been running a variety of classes in Onslow Village for men and women. She is keen to share the many benefits of strength training with her local community.

**Join us for some top tips on Sleep, Nutrition and Exercise
from Onslow's very own experts!**

Everyone welcome, entry by donation



Free Resuscitation and Defibrillator Training

Saturday 10th October: 2.45pm to 5.15pm

Johns Hall by Onslow Village Hall

Limited places: To book a place email info@ovra.org.uk



Volunteers needed for Advent Windows!

To volunteer email info@ovra.org.uk

To find out more visit 'Events' at ovra.org.uk

The more the merrier!

All volunteers are invited to 'Thank You Drinks' at Jo's house on Sunday 3rd January.



Join us for Community Carol Singing and Mulled Wine

Friday 11th December 2026

Mulled wine from 5.45pm

Singing 6.15pm to 6.45pm

Under the twinkling lights outside the Village Hall – if wet we'll be in the hall.

SAVE THE DATE...

OVRA'S FAMILY

BINGO NIGHT

Saturday 30th January 2027

6pm to 8.30pm

Arboretum News...



4 New Benches

The four new benches that OVRA have facilitated for the arboretum have finally been installed! We hope this will make the arboretum more accessible for people with limited mobility as well as providing more places for friends to sit and chat or individuals to sit and ponder!

Two of the benches have been sponsored in memory of much-loved members of our community.



One is in memory of Nick Triggs who was a regular in the arboretum with his little dog Monty before his untimely death in January of this year. The other is in memory of Vera Attwooll

and Lorraine Gould who had been walking their rescue dogs in the arboretum since the trees were first planted!

The last 2 benches were paid for by OVRA using funds that were raised from the Pimms Stalls at the village Jubilee and Coronation celebrations!

OVRA would like to say a huge thank you to James Heaphy who has liaised tirelessly with the various parties to make this happen.

Arboretum Work Party

We would love to hear from anyone who would like to get involved in an Arboretum Work Party. The group will be under the direction of the council Tree Officer, and the aim is to offer the extra time and man-power needed to keep the arboretum well maintained. If you would be interested in getting involved please email info@ovra.org.uk

Autumn Term Book Recommendations...

This term Martyn Parker, OVRA's Book Guru, has chosen books to make you chuckle. Nothing frivolous, but books with humour as well as heart. To whet your appetite here is a taster of the books he has recommended, but go to the '**Book Groups**' page, under the '**Local Initiatives**' tab of ovra.org.uk for the full inspirational experience!

- **The Heart's Invisible Furies** by John Boyne – This funny book carries its themes of loss, guilt, and the redemptive power of human relationships, with a light touch.
- **Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine** by Gail Honeyman – A compelling central character who is on a journey of self-discovery, written with humour and warmth.
- **The Wedding People** by Alison Espach – A literary romcom, well written with wit and intelligence and reminding us that we have to be honest with ourselves and others.
- **The New Confessions** by William Boyd – The pleasure is following the rollercoaster life of John James Todd as he pursues his artistic vision and abundant experiences.
- **You Think It, I'll Say It** by Curtis Sittenfeld – An excellent collection of short stories that deploys sharp wit to skewer modern mores.

Onslow Village WI

By Shiela Zazarra et al.

Famous for jam, Jerusalem and *lots of* tea, The Women's Institute has been bringing UK women together since 1915 to craft, connect, learn and have a voice. Whilst Onslow Village has had at least one group in the past, the current group was started in 2015 by Janet Hockley:

"I decided to start a new WI in the village after asking friends if they would be interested in joining. The interest was overwhelming and at our first meeting over 70 ladies attended.

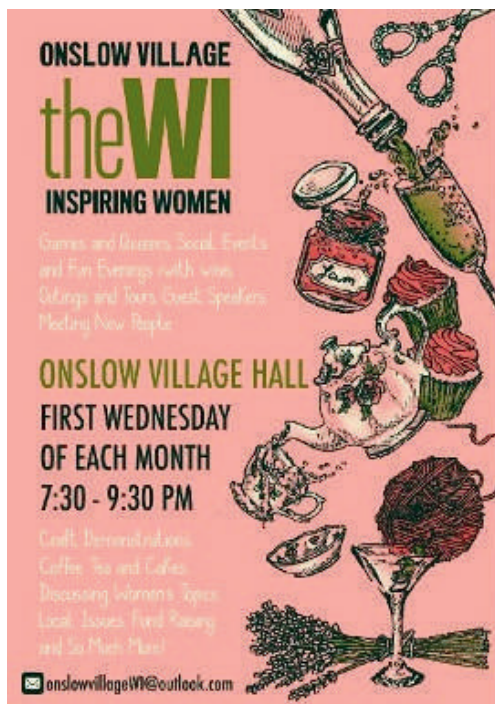
My mother, mother-in-law and grandmother were all keen WI members and gained a lot socially and educationally from their membership.

I was the first president and we had a committee of 10. Three of us are still on the committee 11 years later!

It has been a great way to connect with local women.

We have lots of fun meetings including dancing, crafting and interesting speakers and each year we support a different local charity.

It has been a pleasure to have re-established a WI in our village and I hope it continues to thrive."



Our group has the core principles of the WI at heart, providing educational opportunities through a wide range of speakers and voting to support the national resolutions etc. However, we also put a lot of effort in to providing opportunities for people to get to know each other. In addition to our monthly meetings we offer outings, coffee mornings, tea afternoons and pub nights. We also have a craft group that meet monthly to chat as well as craft. We don't sing Jerusalem and not many of us make jam, but we do enjoy a selection of cakes at each meeting with our tea or coffee and we enjoy Prosecco whenever there is an opportunity!

Since our formation we have raised over £13,000 for local charities including Mulberry House, Guildford Street Angels, The Halow Project and The Cheryl King Trust. This year our members have voted to support and raise money for Surrey Search and Rescue.



You don't have to live in the village to be a member. We have 3 ladies who travel in from Woking, and several members who have moved out of the village but still return each month for WI. One such member is Di Laker who now lives in Cranleigh, this is what she has to say about our WI:



"I saw the posters up around Onslow Village advertising a new WI and since at the time it was only a 50 yard trip across the car park from my home on Orchard Road I had no excuse not to go! It was great to re-connect with mums I'd met outside the school gates more than 30 years earlier.



11 years on and I'm so glad I made the effort – great friends made, fabulous trips out and plenty of cake! The outings are legendary and the talks offer something for everyone. In June we had a talk from a Tiller Girl and some of us got the chance to join in, not something I'd ever thought I'd do! Come along and join us, you never know what you might end up being part of!"



The WI meet on the first Wednesday of every month. If you would like to come along to see if it's for you please email us on OnslowVillageWI@outlook.com



Surrey Search and Rescue (SURSAR)

By James Sutton

Surrey Search and Rescue is a voluntary specialist search team that assists Surrey Police and Surrey Fire & Rescue Service in finding missing, vulnerable people, both adults and children. My name is James, I'm what's known as a Search Technician i.e. someone who goes out to try to find missing people. I've lived in Onslow Village for three years.



Sometimes my friends think I'm a bit strange that I spend a lot of time roaming round woods in the middle of the night in all weathers looking for missing people. But with an average of 2,100 people going missing in Surrey each year, there is a really high demand for our services.

The team is on call 24/7 365 days a year and has approximately 80 operational members. When called out we can deploy a variety of assets: foot teams, water team, dog teams, and drone team. We have fully trained medics across the team as well, to help deal with any situation we encounter.

We cover the whole of Surrey and also assist with neighbouring counties including Sussex, Hampshire, Berkshire, and London. The entire team is composed of volunteers. The team receives no formal funding despite being a crucial asset to the Emergency Services. In the last 10 years alone, the team has assisted with 1,000+ searches, wildfires, and transportation of vulnerable people during COVID.

People have often never heard of us, or when they do, they have a common

misperception: "But hang on, there's no mountains in Surrey!" is one line I always get. Rather than people who have injured themselves hiking mountains, we tend to search and locate missing children, people experiencing mental health issues, people feeling despondent, and people with dementia.

As dramatic as it sounds, search is an emergency because time = survivability. That's why we respond as fast as possible to a callout, with SURSAR sending on-call volunteers to a search from across the entire county. There are a multitude of factors that affect searches: terrain, weather, time of day, search intel and (most importantly) the particular behaviour of the missing person.

SURSAR is a UK registered charity. We receive no funding from the Government, the emergency services or the council. We are a charity that relies wholly on donations to purchase and maintain vital lifesaving equipment and to continue to provide the best training for our team.

This year we are trying to raise an extra £80,000 for a new Incident Command Unit vehicle, and are being kindly

supported by the wonderful members of Onslow WI group.

We work hard to try and reunite missing people with their loved ones. It's a very rewarding thing to do.

My 7-year-old still thinks I'm a member of the Paw Patrol. I hope you'll never need us – but hopefully it's nice to know we're there all the same. You can find out more about SURSAR at surreysar.org.uk



Wanted: Volunteers for 'Care for Guildford'

By Mandy Smith

I have lived in Onslow Village for the last 39 years and have been volunteering with Care for Guildford for the last 8 years. It is a local charity providing Guildford and Onslow Village residents with lifts to doctors, dentists, physiotherapy and well-being appointments, both locally and as far afield as Cranleigh, Haslemere, Milford and even London. I have enjoyed meeting many interesting people from all walks of life as a driver, with the flexibility to choose how often I drive, and being a telephone operator one day a month taking requests for lifts and finding available drivers

The Charity is currently on a mission to recruit 50 new volunteers to celebrate it's 50th year and meet the growing demand for services. They are looking for both drivers, with their own car, and telephone operators so please contact administrator@careforguildford.org.uk to find out more.



The OVRA Index!

We at OVRA have always been blown away at the sheer amount of Societies and clubs that meet in Onslow Village, once you really look!

More details of all the clubs listed below, including links to their websites, can be found on the OVRA website (ovra.org.uk) under the Kids Activities and Adults Activities tabs .

For the little ones (Under 5s):

- All Saints Baby & Toddler Group — Fridays (term time), 10-11.30am, All Saints Church, Vicarage Gate
- Guildford Dance (pre-school ballet) — Monday afternoons (term time), Onslow Village Hall
- Godalming School of Dance (pre-school ballet) — Saturday mornings (term time), All Saints Church Hall
- Be You Mini Sports (toddler multi-sport) — Saturdays (term time), 9-9.45am, Onslow Infants School

For children ages 5+:

- Onslow Football Club — various times/venues, see website
- Onslow Village Lawn Tennis Club — junior membership & lessons
- Talon Taekwondo (age 10+) — Wednesdays 7.30-8.30pm, Onslow Infant School
- Surrey Karate — Thursday evenings, All Saints Church Hall
- Guildford Dance (ballet) — Monday (term time), Onslow Village Hall
- Godalming Dance (ballet) — Saturday mornings (term time), All Saints Church Hall
- Computer Xplorers (coding) — Saturday mornings (term time), Johns Hall

Scouting & Guiding:

- Squirrels (4-6) — Tuesdays, Scout Hut, the rec
- Beavers (6-8) — Wednesdays, Scout Hut, the rec
- Cubs (8-10.5) — Tuesdays, Scout Hut, the rec
- Scouts (10.5-14) — Fridays, Scout Hut, the rec
- Brownies (girls 7-10) — 2 groups in the village, see Girlguiding website
- Guides (girls 10-14) — contact Girlguiding for details

Adults Music & Dance:

- Guildford Symphony Orchestra — Tues (term time) 7.30pm, Queen Eleanor's School
- Occam Singers (auditioned choir) - Sun 7.15pm Village Hall
- Guildford Scottish Country Dance Club - Mon 8-10pm Village Hall

Adults Sport& Exercise:

- Onslow Village Lawn Tennis Club
- Talon Taekwondo: Wednesdays 7.30-8.30pm Onslow Infants School
- Surrey Karate: Thursday evenings, All Saints Church Hall
- HH Personal Training: Various group sessions, including Strength and Tone, HIIT, Circuits on rec and in Scout Hut, see website
- Anna Coates Yoga: Mondays 8-9.15pm , All Saints Church Hall
- Joanne's Yoga Class: Mondays 12.30-1.30pm, John's Hall
- Tai Chi Class: Mondays 3.30-4.30pm, All Saints Church Hall

U3A Classes (St Johns Hall):

- Mondays: Russian (intermediate)
- Tuesdays: German, Spanish & Recorder Group (all intermediate)
- Wednesdays: Italian (intermediate) mornings; Wednesday Art Group (bring your own project), afternoons — Village Hall

Other groups:

- Gardening Club — 3rd Wed/month, 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Travel Club — alt. Tues, Oct-Apr, 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Onslow Village WI — 1st Wed/month, 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Guildford RSPB — 4th Wed of Sep, Oct, Mar, Apr, May, 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Craft Group (Karen Telfer) — 4th Sat/month, 10am-3pm, Village Hall
- Season's Art Classes — Thurs, 10am-1pm or 2-5pm, All Saints Church Hall

News from All Saints Church

We've had a lot of focus on buildings recently. Over the past couple of months the Vicarage had a thorough revamp. This was in preparation for Beverley, our vicar for the last 11 years, to move in following the sad death of her husband, Bishop Andrew, in March.

Beverley has now unpacked and is settling in with visits from her ever-growing family (another grandchild born this summer!), making the Vicarage feel like her new family home. She is happy to have visitors and to show people around the house and garden.

Meanwhile progress is being made behind the scenes on the Church's 'Big Build' project. We've been working with our team of professionals to design a package that should be going out to tender in the coming weeks. It now includes plans for keeping the church cool in hot summers, as well as warm for the rest of the year!

We don't yet have a date for "spades in the ground" but it will probably be in the New Year.

Why Sign Up to OVRA?



Your voice makes us stronger.

Onslow Village Residents Association (OVRA) is your direct line to everything happening on your doorstep. But when it comes to speaking up for Onslow we are only as strong as our membership. We currently represent over 400 homes in the area.

We want to represent YOU.

Help us reach 100% of the homes so we can truly represent the voice of Onslow.

Sign up in seconds for:

- What's On in Onslow: Your monthly local events guide.
- Local Focus: Essential updates on your local area
- Community Voice: Have your say when it matters most.

It's **FREE**, It's For Everyone And you can unsubscribe whenever you want!

Website: ovra.org.uk

Facebook: @OVRAInstagram: @onslowvillageresidents



Local experts. Modern approach.

Fantastic estate agents, incredibly helpful, communicative and thorough - Mr Heasley

