

Chairman's Report

What an interesting year for the Residents Association committee. Few would believe the number of emails exchanged and the speed at which business has been carried out regarding Berkeley Homes/ Howard of Effingham plans, the Parish Neighbourhood Plan, our website articles plus meetings and telephone calls.



This year we gave our Newsletter a facelift and as a consequence have raised more revenue through advertising so that, once again, we are able to cover our costs without asking for subscriptions.

We sponsored the first Heritage Trail leaflet for Effingham produced by our Vice Chairman Vivien White and Bryan Sherwood. It was delivered to every home in the village and was circulated in time for the 2015 Heritage Weekend. It was well received by all including the Guildford Tourist Office.

More recently we organised and sponsored a very successful Gypsy Traveller Seminar and created history in so doing. According to the University of Greenwich Sociology Faculty and the Surrey Gypsy Traveller Forum we are the first residents association in the country to organise and sponsor such an event. The event was opened by the Hon. Freeman of the Borough Mrs. Jen Powell and the closing words were given by Her Majesty's Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey Mr. Bill Biddell. The four speakers included our very own Parish Councillor



Hilda Brazil whose clear speaking and quick sense of humour gave the event a real buzz. It was great to see the Headmistress of St Lawrence Primary School Vanessa Walden (pictured above with Her Majesty's Vice Lord-Lieutenant) in attendance with many Borough and Parish Councillors.

Throughout this year we continued to raise serious concerns with the Parish Council regarding their draft Neighbourhood Plan which we still fear is a deeply flawed document. Our concerns surround the selection, inclusion and rejection of potential sites (on protected Green Belt land) ahead of the Local Plan due out as we go to press.

We raised concerns over their Plan because we have to reflect the views of residents that are clear about not wishing to build on the Green Belt. We urged the Parish Council to seek proper legal advice because we considered that Berkeley Homes would try to make mileage out of the Parish's intention to develop part of Effingham Lodge Farm, which indeed they did when their planning application was considered by the Council.

Happily on 9 March 2016 Guildford Borough Council rejected Berkeley's planning application for 295 new homes and a new school.

Our website has continued to be updated on virtually a daily basis and has now reached just short of 1,500 posts since we started 18 months ago.

Your Residents Association has rarely commented on private planning applications as we see that to be more a matter for the Parish Council but we will object to larger plans where our village setting or the openness of the Green Belt is threatened.

Further afield we wrote to Guildford Borough Council objecting to a new Opera House at West Horsley and a new housing estate at the Thatchers/ Ramada Hotel sites as there were no "very special circumstances". This may seem as though we are killjoys but it is essential that EFFRA is consistent with our planning policies. We can't say no to 295 new homes on the Green Belt and then yes to an opera house - even if we might like opera!

We have liaised with and/or attended meetings with Guildford Borough Council, Guildford Greenbelt Group, West Horsley, Wisley Action Group and Save Send Action Group with the objective of preserving our Green Belt. We attended one meeting in Ockham where GBC Leader Paul Spooner spoke. When questioned Cllr Spooner said that Green Belt is "not protected in perpetuity" as the Boroughs can review and change boundaries every time there is a Local Plan process – about once every 15 years. He said that the Borough would lose about 3% of its Green Belt in the latest Local Plan.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Cllr Liz Hogger who has worked tirelessly for our village. We are sorry that due to policy differences, between EFFRA and Effingham Parish Council, Liz resigned from our committee after nearly two decades of serving as a co-opted member of our committee. We hope that this is a temporary resignation and that she will rejoin at a later date when these issues have been resolved. Her experience, great sense of humour and encyclopaedic knowledge of planning policies are sorely missed.

My thanks as always to our team of volunteer Road Wardens for delivering our leaflets, to James and Heather Brennan for their warm and generous hospitality at Christmas with the Wardens. Thanks again to James Brennan for taking the lead with our Road Wardens.

And finally my thanks to David King our Secretary and all the committee members who have put up with me for another year - presumably out of curiosity.



Chris Dick, Chairman

COUNTRYSIDE PROTEST

The procession was over one mile long
And we sang and we sang as we marched along,
Waving our banners at the watching throng,
Listening to the words of our protest song,
Delivered with fervour, loud and strong,
Telling the Council they are wrong
To plan to build on the countryside.

Heed us Council, open your eyes,
You'll find there is no place to hide;
Listen with care to the words we've cried
For this protest song is nationwide.

So listen folks to what we say;
If these destructors have their way,
We shall all forever rue the day.
Come on everyone, join my side
To defend our precious countryside.

Both by: Hon. Sec. David J. King

COUNTRYSIDE THREAT

As man and boy I've roamed these hills
In summer heat and winter chills;
I've explored the paths and bridleways,
And the pill-box defences from wartime days.

On the chalk-land slopes where the beech woods grow,
I've seen the seasons come and go,
From the shoots of Spring to the withered leaves
Blowing around in Autumn breeze.

But now these hills are under threat
From a Government that seems dead set
On despoiling the English countryside,
Not just in Surrey, but nationwide.

They're sticking turbines in the air
And building houses everywhere
In a policy leaving us in despair.
Are they really unaware
That with their plans and devious plots,
We'll hit them come the ballot-box?

A HISTORY OF EFFINGHAM LODGE FARM (By Vivien White)

So what is the history of Effingham Lodge Farm that is currently so much in the news locally? Did you know that this land was once owned by Sir Benjamin Maddox, the 17th century magnate after whom Maddox Street in London is named, who was also lord of the manor of Little Bookham? Since records began the land has been in the civil parish of Effingham, but in the manor of Little Bookham, and owned by that lord of the manor as farming land. This was not an unusual situation and marks the closeness of the two villages with many people owning land in both villages. The land is not far from the manor house of Little Bookham (now Manor House School) and Manor Farm which also belonged to the lord of the manor.



In the early nineteenth century the owner of the land was the Reverend George Pollen who was both rector and lord of the manor of Little Bookham. He was a typical Victorian paternalist. In 1835 he turned one field of the land into allotments. This is the field on the Lower Road next to The Vineries. Each allotment was a quarter of an acre, and was available to labourers for the yearly rent of 12s or six days labour on strict conditions. They had to regularly attend Church (where he could preach to them) and "conduct themselves with sobriety and to bring up their families in a decent and orderly manner as long as they are under their

power." "Any Occupier who may be convicted of poaching, thieving, drunkenness or any other offence will be deprived at once of his garden without any allowance whatever." The one plus point was that refreshments were provided when paying the rent each October at the Castle Inn (now the Windsor Castle).

In the late nineteenth century the Effingham Lodge Farm land formed part of Dunglass farm, with the farmhouse (which still survives) being at the end of Water Lane. The tenant of the farm was Amos Loxley, who also farmed Manor Farm and Preston Farm and whose brother, Uriah, was the tenant of Home Farm in Effingham.

In 1906 the incoming lord of the manor sold the land to George Pauling, a railway engineer, who had made his fortune in South Africa. In 1897 he had bought and extended Effingham Lodge or The Lodge (situated in Effingham Place and now divided into two houses). The land then became known as Effingham Lodge Farm. George Pauling died in 1919 and much of Effingham Lodge Farm was sold soon afterwards by his widow. The part nearest Lower Road was used for many years as a horticultural business using the large glass houses built on the site, but these have not been in use for many years. On the death of George Pauling's widow in 1938 another part of the estate which is now the King George V Playing Fields was sold to be used by the village for recreation, headed by a group of residents which included Dr Barnes Wallis, the inventor of the bouncing bomb.

In a later Newsletter we hope to publish the recollections of a member of the family who owned the farm for much of the twentieth century and who still lives in the village.



Photos of the Farm in the Second World War showing a Land Girl and packing of produce.

EFFINGHAM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL & PUBLIC GENERAL MEETING

St. Lawrence Church Hall

8 pm Monday 18th April 2016

Plus

A Talk By Helen Jeffries on Wisley & Guildford Borough Council Local Plan
followed by questions from the audience
AND, if that wasn't enough followed by
Wine, nibbles and chatter time

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